



December 2025

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Be prepared for winter disruption

Extreme weather such as storms and cold snaps are becoming more frequent due to climate change and can result in disruption to power, water and other services.

Older people – particularly those who are not online or who live alone – can be more quickly and severely affected when services are disrupted.

The Sussex Resilience Campaign aims to help older people across Sussex who are not online, and those who support them, take practical steps to be ready for whatever winter brings.

These situations are rare, but being prepared means they can feel confident and in control.

Taking three simple steps now will help you be ready for whatever winter brings:

- Join the Priority Services Register – free extra support for those who need it
- Pack a “just in case” bag – having some essentials to hand makes all the difference
- Know who you can call – write a list of key numbers to keep with your bag

For more information on staying safe in emergencies, call 0800 998 7103 for free or visit the Sussex Police web page : <https://www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/au/about-us/SussexLRF/be-ready/>

Please help by discussing the 3 steps with friends or family who may not have digital access.

Urgent safety notice - 85,000 tumble dryers still at risk of fire

A nationwide plea has gone out to householders with specific tumble dryers manufactured by Haier to check if their machine needs an urgent safety repair.

An internal short circuit can occur during normal use, causing your tumble dryer to ignite and start a fire in your home. Affected brands include Candy, Baumatic, Caple, Haier, Hoover, Lamona, Iberna, Montpellier.

People are urged to find their model and serial number, and either check online or contact the manufacturer to see if their appliance needs a free repair.

Do not use your tumble dryer until the repair is complete and unplug it if possible.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/urgent-safety-check-for-85000-tumble-dryers>



Maintaining riparian watercourses and public rights of way is good neighbourly behaviour

We're hoping for a mild winter in West Sussex, but we're preparing for a wet one.

Thankfully, we escaped the worst of storm Claudia and the cold snap that's gripped other parts of the country. But we haven't forgotten the winter of 2023-2024 when heavy rain and storms caused terrible flooding and damage to our roads. In recent years, extreme weather has been breaking records at both ends of the scale. While we can't accurately predict what's coming, we can all make sure that any areas we're responsible for are prepared for bad weather.



That's why the county council prioritises preparations for winter weather all year round. As well as our major works programmes to upgrade and repair urban drainage systems over the summer, our teams have been hard at work to make sure our rural roads and public rights of way are ready for winter. You might have seen them jetting drains, clearing ditches, trimming verges and hedges to prevent blockages from fallen leaves and branches

One of our duties as the county council is to make sure any watercourses that are on or adjacent to land we are responsible for can flow freely. The network of waterways around the county helps to prevent flooding after heavy rain by directing excess water away from roads and buildings. But most of the ditches and culverts in West Sussex are not on county council owned land so we can't maintain them; that is the landowner's responsibility.

The legal term used to describe watercourse ownership is 'riparian responsibility' and whoever owns the property they run through or beside has a duty to maintain them. It dates back to the time when people could only get fresh running water from rivers and streams and whoever owned the land the water crossed had to make sure it could continue to flow into the neighbouring land. Nowadays we get our fresh water from taps, but the riparian responsibility to make sure a waterway can flow freely remains, and that includes ditches and culverts as well as streams and brooks. It is the landowner's riparian responsibility to make sure any watercourses on or beside their property aren't blocked to prevent flooding.

The same thing applies to the miles of public rights of way that criss-cross our beautiful county. The county council keeps records of all the public rights of way in West Sussex and as the Highway Authority we're responsible for maintaining their surface, bridges and signposts. But the ground that makes up the footpath, and any vegetation around it, belongs to the landowner. Like blocked ditches and culverts, overhanging branches are the landowner's responsibility to clear. If you come across a blocked or damaged public footpath, please go to the public rights of way page on our website and report it to us.

We all rely on our neighbours to keep privately maintained riparian watercourses and footpaths free-flowing and passable. So, if you do have any kind of watercourse or public right of way running through or beside your property, please check that it isn't getting clogged up with fallen leaves, branches, brambles or litter when you're tidying up in readiness for winter.

Joy Dennis, West Sussex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.

<https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/>

SCAMS

Life can be hectic in the build up to Christmas and, amidst the rush to purchase presents, we may all be less likely to spot scams - some of the following being particularly likely to surface this year:

- The double bluff – this is where fraudsters, having successfully targeted victims, then pose as ‘specialist recovery services’, on condition that they pay an upfront fee and hand over personal details. A legitimate organisation would never do this.
- The CAPTCHA con - fraudsters create fake CAPTCHA screens, designed to trick you into downloading software or sharing personal details under the guise of ‘verifying’ your identity. A real CAPTCHA will never ask for personal information.
- Lookalike links - check links in messages for tiny tweaks, such as swapping letters for numbers like ‘amaz0n.com’ to trick people into sharing passwords or card details.
- Urgent texts from children – messages from unknown numbers claiming to be from your child are designed to pressure you into acting fast. Always call your child on their usual number or another trusted contact to confirm the message.
- AI Voice impersonation - Criminals can now clone voices to sound exactly like a loved one in distress, so agree a family ‘safe word’ to confirm identity.
- Watch out for fraudsters posing as delivery companies claiming that a package is being held due to unpaid fees. These messages often include a link asking for payment, but delivery firms will never request money via text.
- Social media giveaways - fraudsters use these posts to lure people into sharing personal details or paying ‘release fees’ for prizes that don’t exist. A genuine competition will never ask for payment or sensitive information.
- Gift card fraud - always choose gift cards kept behind the counter, and always check the packaging for signs of tampering before you buy.

Remember to “take five” before parting with your money or information; crooks are becoming more cunning than ever and will spend hours on researching you, hoping that you will lower your guard for just a moment. Stay safe, and have a Merry Christmas!

Tim Drew

WaterSafe

Home safety isn't just about security alarms - it also means protecting your water supply and your wallet from unqualified traders. WaterSafe, the national register for approved plumbers, offers simple, friendly advice to help you avoid rogue plumbers and choose a qualified professional you can trust.

Data from consumer safety charities shows thousands of suspected rogue trader reports are made across the UK every year. WaterSafe warns that hiring an unqualified trader who doesn’t carry out the work properly results in having to employ another plumber to put things right, at an average cost of nearly £400. Rogue traders often use scare tactics, claiming there's an "urgent" problem with your water supply to pressure you into immediate decisions.

The good news is that protecting your home from rogue traders is quite straightforward. By following these easy steps, you can stay one step ahead:

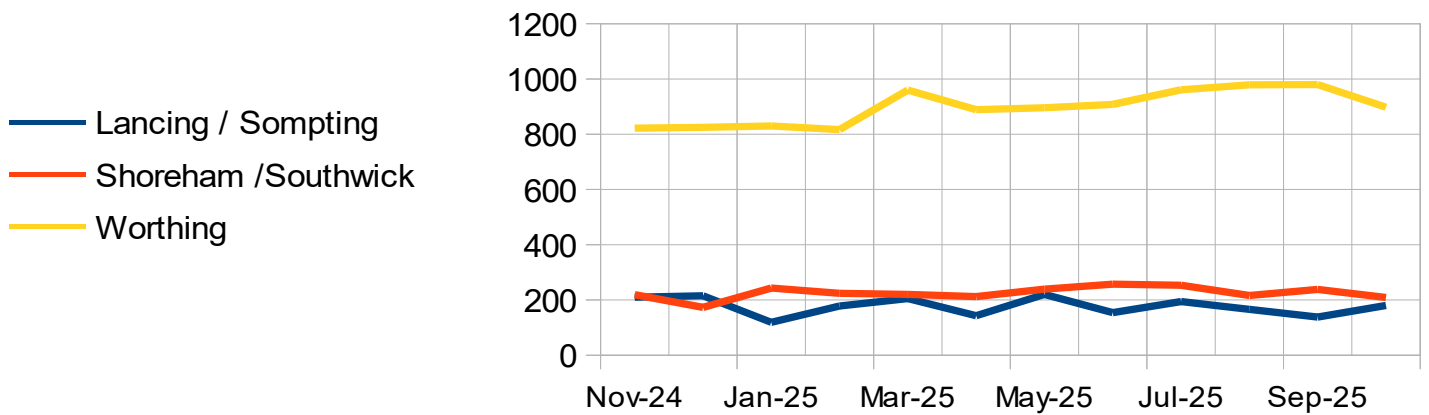
- Don’t be pressured - a trustworthy, reputable professional will never demand immediate payment or pressure you into agreeing to allow him to start work immediately. If someone suggests "urgent" work where there is no emergency involved, take a moment to pause, think and seek a second opinion before you part with any cash.
- Ask for ID - a genuine tradesperson will be happy to show their identification. This should clearly show their name and the logo of the approved trade association to which they belong.
- Get a written quote - for any significant work, ask for at least three quotes in writing. This helps you compare costs fairly and prevents you from being surprised by hidden charges later.
- Use an approved professional - this is the best way to guarantee a safe job. By choosing a WaterSafe-approved contractor, you are guaranteed to be hiring a professional who is fully qualified, insured and trained in the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations, which are in place to keep our drinking water safe.

Tim Drew

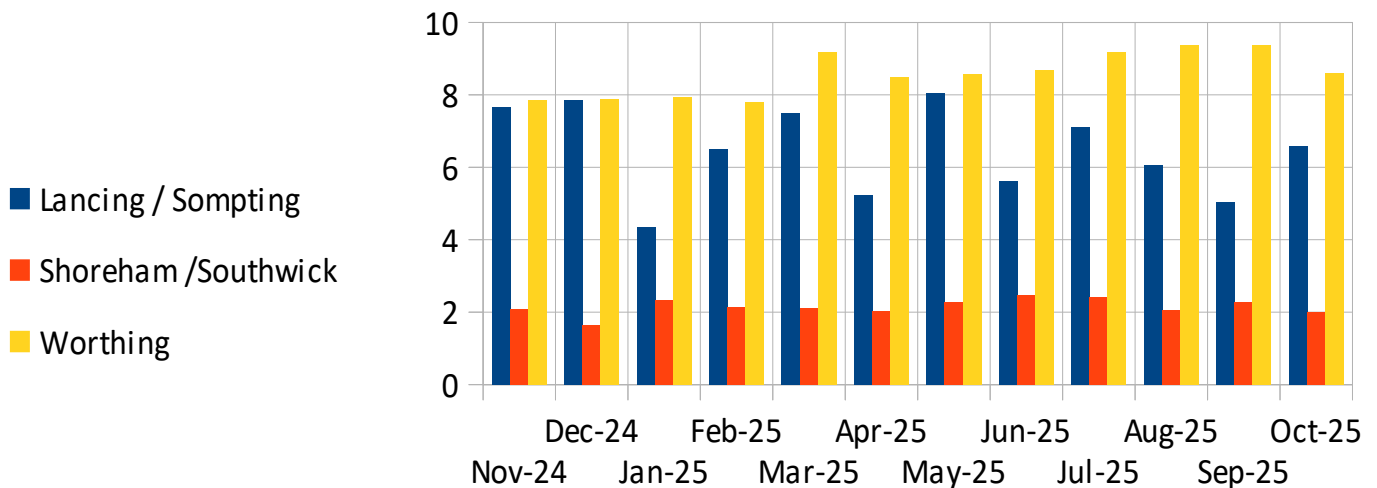
Crime Statistics for October 2025

October 2025	Broadwater	Castle	Central	Durrington	Findon	Gaisford	Goring	Heene	Marine02	Northbrook	Offington	Salvington	Selden	Tarring	Sub Total
					BN Codes										
Antisocial Behaviour	4	15	34	2	2	9	2	13	10	17	10	5	10	12	145
Bike Theft	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	13
Burglary	2	1	5	2	0	2	0	2	1	0	2	1	1	2	21
Criminal Damage	2	6	20	3	2	6	2	4	7	3	2	4	2	0	63
Drugs	2	1	8	1	0	0	1	3	3	6	0	1	0	2	28
Other Crime	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	3	0	1	0	16
Other Theft	1	6	15	1	4	1	1	5	1	1	3	4	2	1	46
Weapons	1	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	13
Public Order	6	5	20	3	0	6	4	3	2	6	2	6	5	5	73
Robbery	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	8
Theft Shop	10	40	22	2	0	8	2	17	13	4	13	1	7	8	147
Theft Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Vehicle Crime	0	3	3	0	1	0	3	2	6	2	9	3	3	4	39
Violence & Sex Offences	12	16	76	13	4	28	12	32	15	28	7	16	22	7	288
Totals	43	100	215	27	13	60	29	84	62	69	55	46	55	43	901

Crimes November 2024 to October 2025



Crimes per 1000 of Population



See the latest Alerts at : [https:// worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/](https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/)