

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

4 Nov 2025	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Planning
25 Nov 2025	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Planning
		7:45 PM	Environmental & Sustainable Travel
9 Dec 2025	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Public Services
16 Dec 2025	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Planning
6 Jan 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Amenities & Tourism
13 Jan 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Planning
20 Jan 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Finance & General Purposes
27 Jan 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Council (including Budget and Precept)
3 Feb 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Planning
24 Feb 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Planning
		7:45 PM	Environmental & Sustainable Travel
10 Mar 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Public Services
17 Mar 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Planning
24 Mar 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Amenities & Tourism
31 Mar 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Finance & General Purposes
7 Apr 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Planning
		7:45 PM	Council
21 Apr 2026	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Annual Town Meeting
28 Apr 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Planning

NOTE:

All meetings provide a maximum of 15 minutes for public questions.

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Meet your Councillors in Queen's Walk on the following Saturdays:

2025:

15th November: 10am to 11:30am

2026:

10th January: 1pm - 2.30pm

7th February: 10am - 11.30am

7th March: 1pm - 2.30pm

4th April: 10am to 11.30am

USEFUL CONTACTS

Age UK East Grinstead	01342 327 046
Being Neighbourly	01342 544 044
Bluebell Railway	01825 720 800
CAP Debt Help	0800 328 0006
Chequer Mead	01342 302 000
Citizens Advice	0808 278 7969
Clarion Housing	0300 500 8000
Community People	01444 258 102
Community Transport Sussex	01444 471 919
Disability Access – East Grinstead Area	01342 322 242
East Grinstead Foodbank	07983 209 940
East Grinstead Library	01342 332 900
East Grinstead Museum	01342 302 233
East Grinstead Tourism Desk at Library	01342 410 121
East Grinstead Town Council	01342 323 636
Kings Centre	01342 328 616
Mid Sussex District Council	01444 458 166
Mid Sussex Wellbeing	01444 477 191
National Dementia Helpline	0800 888 6678
National Rail Enquiries	0345 127 2920
NHS (non emergency)	111
Police (non emergency)	101
Police Contact Point, Chequer Mead	01273 470 101
Quarry Café and Community Fridge	0772 4873 336
Queen Victoria Hospital	01342 414 000
Samaritans	116 123 (free)
The Hope Job Club	01342 488 282
West Sussex County Council	01243 642 122
West Sussex County Council Highways	01243 642 105

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

East Grinstead Town Council

Visit: East Court, College Lane, East Grinstead RH19 3LT

Call: 01342 323636 Click: www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Email: towncouncil@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

East Grinstead Community and Tourism

Visit: Tourist desk, Library Building, 32-40 West Street, East Grinstead RH19 4SR

Call: 01342 410 121 Click: www.visiteastgrinstead.com

Email: communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

THE Line

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST
ON THE MERIDIAN LINE

Winter 2025
Edition 90



Remembrance Day

East Grinstead will come together on Remembrance Day, Sunday 9 November, to remember those who gave their lives in service.

The day will begin with a short gathering at 10am at the WW2 memorial at East Court, where the Town Mayor and the Royal British Legion will lay wreaths. The Last Post will be played.

At 10.30am, the parade will assemble in King Street, with the parade master organising the groups. At 10.45am, the East Grinstead Concert Band will lead the parade along the High Street to the war memorial, to be joined by St Swithun's choir and vicar just before 11am.

The service will feature a minute's silence and the reading of the names of fallen soldiers. Dignitaries, including a Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex, will lay wreaths alongside those of the parade groups. After the service, the parade will continue along the High Street, finishing at Chequer Mead Car Park around 11.30am.

Road closures will be in place from 10.15am to noon along the High Street and London Road. Poppies will mark the parade route and notices will be displayed two weeks in advance.

Motorists should follow closure signs and marshals' directions.

Service sheets will be available on the High Street or can be downloaded from the Town Council website from the first week of November. The Royal British Legion will be selling poppies in the weeks leading up to the event.

Everyone is welcome to attend this important day of remembrance.



Remembrance day (photo credit K Hamper)

East Grinstead Christmas Market

Mark your calendars! This year's East Grinstead Christmas Market takes place on Sunday 7 December from 11am to 4pm at East Court and Meridian Hall.

Browse a fantastic range of festive stalls, perfect for all your Christmas shopping, enjoy the sounds of the concert band performing from 3pm to 4pm, and don't forget to visit Santa in his grotto, especially invited by the Lions.

Bring family and friends, soak up the festive atmosphere and continue your Christmas celebrations in style.



The Big Reveal and Christmas Lights Switch-On

It's almost time for one of East Grinstead's favourite festive traditions - The Big Reveal and Christmas Lights Switch-On.

On Saturday 15 November, the town centre will come alive as traders unveil their beautifully decorated festive windows, lighting up the High Street and London Road with Christmas cheer.

The celebrations begin at 4.30pm on the High Street, where the East Grinstead Concert Band will set the scene with festive music. Then, at 5pm, Town Mayor Cllr John Belsey will switch on the Town Council Christmas lights alongside the Rotary Tree of Light, marking the official start of the Christmas season.

Once the lights sparkle into life, the Big Reveal begins - the decorated shop windows across town are unveiled for everyone to enjoy. Don't forget to vote for your favourite display on the Town Council website.

Stick around for late-night Christmas shopping, enjoy the atmosphere and show your support for local shops and businesses, which are the heart of our town's community.

Road closures will be in place from 3pm to 8pm, with free parking in Mid Sussex short-stay car parks (Chequer Mead, Vicarage, and Queen's Road).

Come along, shop local, and celebrate the start of Christmas in East Grinstead.



Get Ready for a Glass-slipper-full of Fun!

Cinderella is coming to Chequer Mead this festive season from 6 December to 4 January, bringing

laughter, dazzling costumes and magical pantomime moments for all the family. Join the fun, cheer the heroes, boo the villains, and experience the sparkle of this beloved holiday tradition. Grab your tickets now at www.chequermead.co.uk or 01342 302000.

Town Events

For information on town events, contact our Community and Tourism Team on **01342 410 121** communityandtourism@eastgrinstead.gov.uk or go to www.visiteastgrinstead.com

2025

Sunday 9 November

Remembrance Sunday Parade

Tuesday 11 November

Remembrance Day

Saturday 15 November

The Big Reveal and Christmas Lights Switch-On

Sunday 7 December

Christmas Market at East Court

2026 (first half)

Saturday 14 March

Health event at East Court

2 – 4 May

Mid Sussex Marathon Weekend

Monday 4 May

Lions May Fair

7 June, 5 July, 2 August

East Court Live

Celebrate East Grinstead All Year Round

The winners of the 2026 East Grinstead Photo Calendar Competition have been announced — congratulations to all the talented local photographers. Their stunning images capture the changing seasons and the beauty of our town and surrounding countryside.

The calendar is now on sale at the library and East Court, making it the perfect gift for family, friends or yourself. Don't miss the chance to enjoy a full year of East Grinstead through the eyes of our local photographers.

Grab your copy for £5 and celebrate the town all year round.



Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Update

Two major changes are currently shaping the future of local government in Sussex: Devolution, and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). While these are separate processes, they are progressing in parallel and will have an impact on how local services are governed and delivered across the county.

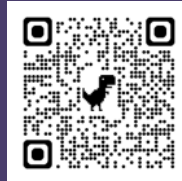
Devolution focuses on transferring more powers and funding from central government to a new regional level of leadership. For Sussex, this would mean the creation of a directly elected Sussex Mayor, providing a stronger voice for the area and greater local control over transport, housing, skills, and economic development. Elections for the first Sussex Mayor are expected to take place in May 2026, with four candidates already having declared their intention to stand.

Meanwhile, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is part of the national move toward unitary authorities, which would replace the existing two-tier system of county and district councils. This aims to simplify local governance and improve efficiency.

On 26 September, all district and borough councils in West Sussex submitted their LGR proposals to government. The majority have expressed a preference for a two-unitary model (Option B), which would see Mid Sussex joining Crawley and Horsham to form one new authority. In contrast, West Sussex County Council has put forward a single-unitary model, covering the entire county.

The government will now review these submissions, with a decision expected around March or April 2026.

For the latest information and official updates, visit WSCC website or scan this QR code.

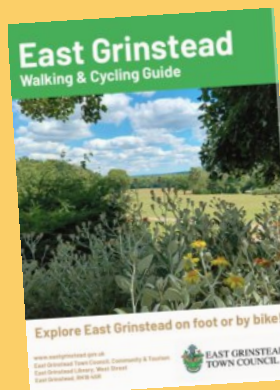


Explore More with Our New Town and Walking & Cycling Guides

Discover something new right on your doorstep! Our brand-new Town Guide is here — packed with local history, must-see spots and a handy town centre map. Whether you're a visitor or a lifelong resident, it's the perfect way to (re)discover what makes our town special.

Feeling adventurous? Grab our new Walking and Cycling Guide! It features a range of circular routes starting from the town and heading out into the beautiful surrounding countryside — ideal for a weekend stroll or a refreshing bike ride.

Get exploring, get active, and enjoy everything our town has to offer! You can pick up a copy of both guides at the library or East Court or view them online via the Town Council website.



Community Revenue Grant

East Grinstead Town Council welcomes and values the work of local voluntary groups and organisations in the town and sets aside a small amount within the revenue budget for specific initiatives. The Town Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee was pleased to be able to award grants to the following groups:

Organisation	Amount awarded
4Sight Vision Support	£255
Arise Counselling Service	£500
Being Neighbourly to fund a Jazz band at East Grinstead Jazz Festival	£500
Bloomin' Arts	£250
East Grinstead Bowling Club	£300
East Grinstead Music and Arts Festival	£450
East Grinstead Town Action Group	£100
HerMove	£350
Imberhorne School (entry fee to the Young Enterprise Company Programme)	£565
Jubilee Community Centre/Church	£180
Menshare Listening Group	£600
SEDS Connective	£250
St Catherine's Hospice	£200
The Greenaway Foundation	£500
Total	£5,000

Youth Sports Grants

There is a £3,500 grant available for youth sports. Application forms are on the Town Council website and need to be submitted by 6 January 2026.



Fairtrade Fortnight

East Grinstead celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight from 22 September to 5 October, highlighting the farmers behind our everyday food. Bright banners and stalls at the library and St Peter's School promoted Fairtrade with treats and gifts supporting global producers. By choosing Fairtrade coffee, fruit, or wine, residents help fund schools, healthcare, and clean water. Thank you, East Grinstead, for showing small choices make a big difference!

Bertie Brings Joy to East Grinstead

Being Neighbourly, EG's community trishaw, Bertie, has been spreading smiles across East Grinstead. With its new livery unveiled in tribute to its namesake, Bertie has visited Greathed Manor, Mill View and Charters Court Care Homes, delighting residents and forging new friendships. It also made a cheerful appearance at Chequer Mead with our favourite pantomime characters having a ride. Though Bertie never got to ride the trishaw himself, his legacy lives on through the joy it brings to others. If you would like to know more about the trishaw, email beingneighbourlyeg@gmail.com



Goats at Queens Road Cemetery

A team of bramble-busting goats recently visited Queens Road Cemetery to tackle the overgrown underbrush. Their five-week stay began with some adventure, as the curious animals tried to explore beyond their enclosure. Once they discovered that life outside wasn't so exciting, they settled back in and focused on their task.

By early September, the goats had completed their work and returned to their home farm, having made an impressive impact on the landscape. True to form, once the buffet of brambles ran low, they tested their escape skills in search of tastier treats.

The cemetery team expressed gratitude for the goats' hard work and playful personalities and are delighted to announce that the four-legged gardeners will return in the spring for another round of natural maintenance.



New Plaques at Mount Noddy Cemetery

Mount Noddy Cemetery has two new plaques to enhance its spaces of remembrance. One plaque marks the Memorial Wall, a tranquil place for reflection and the laying of floral tributes during times of public grieving. The other plaque is for the new Scatter Garden, located behind the wall.

A scatter garden is a peaceful area where cremated remains can be scattered in a respectful and natural setting, providing families with a serene space to remember their loved ones. Please note that scattering ashes must be prearranged with the cemetery.

You can also have a personal plaque added to the Memorial Wall to create a lasting tribute. These new additions offer residents meaningful ways to honour and reflect on those they've lost.



Preserving Our Heritage: Refurbishing East Grinstead's Fingerposts

East Grinstead Town Council is proud to be refurbishing the two traditional fingerposts within the parish. These classic cast iron and hardwood signs, painted in the traditional black and white style, are a familiar and much-loved feature of the West Sussex landscape.

Fingerposts have long served as important way-finding tools for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, helping generations to navigate our countryside. Beyond their practical purpose, they are an enduring part of our county's historical and cultural identity.

One of our local signs had previously been repaired using non-traditional lettering but this has now been corrected. Both posts required significant attention and we are delighted to be restoring them to their former charm.

As responsibility for fingerpost maintenance has gradually shifted from West Sussex Highways to local parishes, East Grinstead Town Council is committed to preserving these distinctive landmarks for future generations.

