

Dear Parish Council Team, (extract of e-mail dated 6th April 2025)

I hope this message finds you well.

I'm getting in touch on behalf of the Sussex Police Rural Crime Team (RCT) as we're launching a new Street Surgeries initiative, aimed at engaging directly with rural communities across the county.

These sessions will give residents the opportunity to:

- Meet members of the Rural Crime Team and learn more about the work we do in rural areas
- Raise any rural crime concerns—such as livestock worrying, poaching, machinery theft, or fly-tipping
- Receive tailored crime prevention advice relevant to farms, smallholdings, equestrian yards, and other rural properties
- Learn about and sign up to initiatives like Neighbourhood Watch and DISC

A member of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) will also be present at each session, so residents can discuss any non-rural matters too—such as anti-social behaviour, scams, community safety concerns, or general policing issues.

We're currently reaching out to parish councils to see if they'd like to bring one of these sessions to their local area. The aim is to provide a visible, approachable police presence in rural communities and offer reassurance, advice, and support.

As we start booking in Street Surgeries for the year ahead, we fully appreciate how busy parish calendars and village spaces can be. That's why we're contacting you early—to give you the opportunity to pencil in a date that works best for your parish and residents.

There are two ways you can take part:

- Host a Street Surgery in your parish – ideally with access to a location where we can park our large engagement van (such as a village hall or public car park). We don't need access to indoor facilities.
- Join a neighbouring parish's event and help promote it locally to your residents.

If you'd like to be involved, just let us know whether you'd prefer to host or attend. I'll then send over a list of available dates for you to choose from, and we'll do our best to accommodate your request.

We'd also be happy to provide materials and support to help you promote the event locally and make sure as many residents as possible can benefit from attending.

We are expecting interest from a large number of parishes across Sussex. While we'll make every effort to accommodate all requests this year, once the 2025 calendar is full, we will begin offering 2026 dates.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd love to bring this opportunity to your community and look forward to hearing from you.

Jenny Edge