

# Life in West Sussex

Quality of Life Indicators  
Report 2008



# Introduction

In March 2005 the West Sussex Sustainability Forum launched 'Time for Action, a Strategy for a Sustainable West Sussex'. The Strategy provides a guide for achieving sustainable development in West Sussex. In doing this, it sets out 12 key principles for achieving a good quality of life for both current and future generations.

In 2006 a new set of Quality of Life Indicators were developed to show progress on each of the principles. This publication reports again on these indicators. All the information given relates to West Sussex, giving a snapshot of what it is like to live in the county, and how things have changed since the last report was last published.

Where it has been possible to obtain new data, trends are illustrated by arrows adjacent to the information box.

Accompanying the data, are suggestions for small steps that we can all take to help achieve our aim of a more sustainable West Sussex, and details of where to look for further information.

We will report progress on these indicators every 2 years. This will let you see how things are changing in West Sussex, and will also highlight areas that we should be focusing our efforts on.

We hope that this booklet raises awareness about local sustainable development and help you to identify actions you can take, both individually and collectively, to work towards a Sustainable West Sussex.

West Sussex Sustainability Forum  
Steering Group

# Adopt and encourage healthy lifestyles

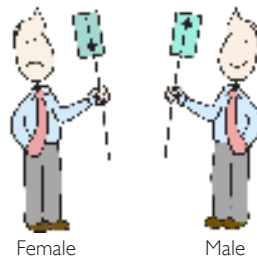
## Life expectancy

Life expectancy is considered to be one of the best indicators of a population's health. In general, the healthier we are the longer we live. Poverty, in particular, has a very substantial effect on life expectancy. In the United Kingdom, life expectancy in the wealthiest areas is ten years longer than in the poorest areas; the gap appears to be increasing as life expectancy for the prosperous continues to increase, while in more deprived communities there is little increase.

Life expectancy for residents of West Sussex is longer than the national life expectancy averages, (shown in the graph below).

Indicator	Results	
Life Expectancy	Male	78.4
	Female	81.9

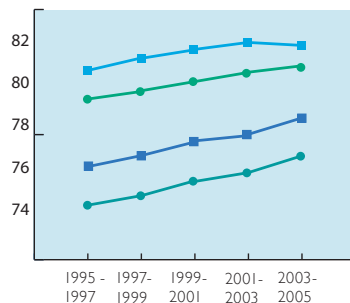
Source: Office of National Statistics 2003-2005



### What Can You Do?

Healthy eating and taking part in physical activity are great ways of living a fitter and healthier life. They reduce the risks of developing heart disease, some cancers, diabetes and high blood pressure, and can help you achieve or maintain a healthy weight. If a conventional gym doesn't appeal, why not join a BTCV Green Gym? The Green Gym is a scheme that inspires you to improve your health and the environment at the same time. It offers you the opportunity to 'work out' in the open air through local, practical environmental or gardening work. For more information have a look at the BTCV website: [www.btcv.org.uk](http://www.btcv.org.uk)

A graph to show the changing trend in life expectancy of residents of West Sussex, in comparison with national life expectancy



- West Sussex Female
- UK Female
- West Sussex Male
- UK Male

# Adopt and encourage healthy lifestyles

**% of people that walk or cycle to work**

Transport plays a key role in everyday life. It enables you to get to and from services within your town or village and beyond. The choices that we make when travelling not only affect us as individuals, but also, have an impact on the wider community.

Choosing to travel sustainably can offer a number of benefits.

Benefits to individuals include:

- Fewer accidents
- Cost savings
- Less time lost due to traffic congestion
- Better health
- Reduced stress and an improved quality of life.

Benefits to the local community and the environment include:

- Reduced CO2 emissions
- Improved air quality
- Less congestion, noise and dirt.

No new data is available, for the percentage of people that walk or cycle to work.



Indicator	Results
% of people that walk or cycle to work	13.23%

Source: Office for National Statistics 2001

## Further Information

There are many safe walking and cycling routes through out the County. You can find out about these on the County Council's web pages: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk). Click on 'Roads and Transport' then 'Walking and Cycling'.

## What Can You Do?

Do you need some help to get you started? Or are you already a regular, confident cyclist who could give a helping hand to someone a bit nervous of taking that first step?

Why not sign up for Bike Budi? Bike Budi encourages individuals who may be concerned about cycling to give it a go. By putting experienced cyclists in touch with those willing to give it a try, they hope to reduce some of the usual reasons for not cycling.

Find out more at [www.bikebudi.com](http://www.bikebudi.com).

# Care for those most in need

## The number of domestic violence incidents

Domestic Violence occurs in both heterosexual and same sex relationships, regardless of race, social status or class.

Sussex Police define Domestic Violence as:

'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are, or have been intimate partners regardless of gender. It will also include family members, for example, Mother, Father, Son, Daughter, Brother, Sister, Grandparents, In-laws and Stepfamily.'

Domestic Violence is a crime that has a devastating impact on individuals and the community and accounts for a quarter of all violent crime in West Sussex.

Indicator	Results
The number of domestic violence incidents	5577



Source: Sussex Police

2006

### Further Information

A lot of work is being undertaken across West Sussex to address the issue of domestic violence.

A Directory of Services in West Sussex for people experiencing domestic violence has been collated to both publicise the work of all the agencies, and serve as a reference guide to help anyone in need, to find information about sources of advice and support.

To access the Directory go to the County Councils website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk), then click on 'Community and Living', 'Making your Communities Safer' then 'Domestic Violence'.

## Care for those most in need

Conceptions to under 18 year olds in a calendar year per thousand females aged 15 to 17

Parents of teenagers continue to be extremely anxious about the risk of teenage and underage pregnancy, but despite the headlines that seem to assert all teenagers are sexually active from an early age, the reality is not so extreme. Only a quarter of teenagers have had their first sexual experience before they are 16, and the number of teenage pregnancies has remained fairly static over the last few years.

Indicator	Results
Conceptions to under 18 year olds in a calendar year per thousand females aged 15 to 17 incidents	30



Source: ONS and teenage pregnancy unit 2004

### What Can You Do?

National evidence shows that if children have been told about sex and relationships from an early age, especially if this is with their parents, they will delay sexual activity. When they do form a sexual relationship, they will be confident enough to discuss contraception with their partner and ensure they have safe sex.

### Further Information

Parentline Plus runs a project, 'Time to Talk', which aims to help and support parents to talk to their children about sex and relationships. Call 0808 800 2222, or visit their website:  
[www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)

## Care for those most in need

**% of households with at least one pensioner, without central heating**

A lot of work is being done, especially by District and Borough Councils, to work with residents in West Sussex to reduce the number of households in fuel poverty, and to increase people's standard of living.

Fuel poverty is where a household cannot afford to keep warm. It damages the health of those living in cold homes and affects their quality of life. The old, children, and those who are disabled or have a long-term illness are especially vulnerable. The main cause of fuel poverty in the UK is a combination of poor energy efficiency in homes and low incomes.

Help the Aged believes that fuel poverty is a significant contributing factor in between 20,000 and 50,000 'excess' winter deaths in the older population every year.

No new data is available since the last publication.

Indicator	Results
% of households with at least one pensioner, without central heating	11.4



Source: Office for National Statistics 2001

### Further Information

There are many sources of assistance available for anyone having problems paying fuel bills or with keeping warm affordably. Contact your local Borough or District Council, or the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012, for more information.

# Minimise waste and aim to consume less

## Total carbon dioxide emissions from energy use

Carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities. (Source: Climate Change Information Kit, UNEP).

In the last publication of this document, there was an error on the data given for this indicator. The published result of 4,205,445 wrongly included emissions from road transport. The actual carbon dioxide emissions from energy use for 2002 was 3,626,641 tonnes.

Comparing this figure to the latest data available shows that our carbon dioxide emissions have increased.

Indicator	Results
Total carbon dioxide emissions from energy use	3,921,000 tonnes

Source: Defra

2004



### What Can You Do?

If everyone took small steps to reduce their energy use, we could make a dramatic savings. For example the Department for Transport has calculated that if everyone only boiled only the amount of water they needed to make a cup of tea, instead of filling the kettle, we could save enough electricity to run most of the street lighting in the whole country.

### Further Information

For free impartial advice on all energy related matters, from reducing energy use to installing renewables contact the West Sussex Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512012.

# Minimise waste and aim to consume less

## Kilograms of waste collected per head

The impact of waste is not just related to its disposal. The processing, manufacture and transport of materials before they end up as rubbish uses energy and resources, and creates pollution.

By reducing the amount of waste that we create in the first place, and reusing and recycling all the waste that we can, we can greatly reduce the demand on landfill sites, as well as saving energy and resources.

### What Can You Do?

18% of household waste is packaging from retail purchases. Shopping carefully, avoiding disposable bags, and choosing re-usable products are some of the ways in which you can avoid waste in the first place. Some tips include:

- take your own bag when you go shopping and help reduce the 10 billion plastic bags that are handed out by supermarkets each year
- try not to waste food - the average UK household spends £424 a year on food which is thrown away uneaten (for example buying things and not using them, or cooking too much for a meal and then throwing it away)
- buy re-usable nappies and help cut waste; washing these in bulk, for example through a nappy laundry service, helps to reduce the energy used - many councils offer schemes providing subsidised nappies or laundry services, which could save you money
- avoid products with unnecessary packaging.



Indicator	Results
Kilograms of waste collected per head	542.9kg

Source: Audit Commission 2005/2006 Best Value Performance Indicator 84



Indicator	Results
% of household waste recycled	20.18%

Source: Audit Commission 2005-2006 Best Value Performance Indicator 82a

### Further Information

For more information about waste and recycling visit the County Council's website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk), Click on 'Environment and Planning' then 'Rubbish, Waste and Recycling'.

# Protect and enhance our natural and built environment, wildlife and heritage

**% of housing completions on brownfield sites**

'Brownfield' land is an area of land or premises that has been previously used, but has subsequently become vacant, derelict or contaminated.

Local authorities use brownfield development to help regenerate urban areas. This approach is deemed preferable to developing on green space and, according to National Planning Guidance 3, can promote "urban renaissance and improving quality of life" and a "sense of community". In addition, a more densely populated community shortens distances to travel to work, is a better use of local infrastructure and is a generally more sustainable environment.

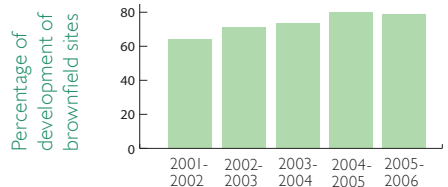
Indicator	Results
% of housing completions on brownfield sites	78.9%

Source: District, Borough and County Council

April 2006 - March 2007



A graph to show the percentage of development completed in brownfield sites in West Sussex since 2001



## Further Information

The responsibility for planning in West Sussex is split between the County Council and the District and Borough councils.

West Sussex County Council is responsible for:

- Preparing statutory land use plans within the new planning system and non statutory planning policy guidance, such as Landscape Character Assessment;
- Managing the county development control function for minerals and waste matters and the County Council's own development proposals;

Each of the seven District and Borough councils in West Sussex is responsible for:

- Preparing a district local development framework;
- Carrying out the main development control function for all applications except minerals and waste applications and those dealing with the County Council's own applications;
- Carrying out the building control function.

# Protect and enhance our natural and built environment, wildlife and heritage

% area of land designated as an SNCI within the local authority area

Many pieces of land which are recognised as being of high nature conservation value are nationally protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest designated by Natural England, the Government's advisors on nature conservation. But what about those areas which are important in a local context, sites which are of county-wide importance? Most counties have a system of protecting these types of sites. In West Sussex we call them Sites of Nature Conservation Importance or SNCI's

There are several reasons for identifying SNCIs. Primarily it is to try to maintain the sites as important places for wildlife. Other reasons include:

- draw the attention of the owners and managers of the land to the importance of the site and encourage them to manage the site for its wildlife
- enable advice and grant aid to be targeted to safeguarding some of the most important wildlife sites in West Sussex
- provide valuable guidance to policy makers and land managers
- record and monitor the wildlife resource of West Sussex

Indicator	Results
% area of land designated as an SNCI within the local authority area	4.88%

Source: WSCC

2007



## Further Information

For more information about SNCI's from how they are identified, to what to do if you own an SNCI, have a look at the County Councils website:

[www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk).

Click on 'Environment and Planning' then 'Heritage, Wildlife and Landscape'.

# Encourage locally produced goods and make greater use of local facilities and services

Number of farmers' markets held in the county

A farmers' market is a market in which farmers, growers or producers from a defined local area sell their own produce, direct to the public. All products sold should have been grown, reared, caught, brewed, pickled, baked, smoked or processed by the stallholder.

Reasons for buying local produce:

- Local products have travelled a shorter distance, putting less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Reduced travel time also means that the products are fresher.
- Buying local products directly supports the management of key landscapes in the County such as the Downs, heaths and woodlands.
- You can talk to the local suppliers and you know where the food comes from.
- Buying local produce contributes towards protecting and supporting the local economy.

Indicator	Results
-----------	---------

Number of farmers' markets held in the county	276
---	-----

Source: District / Borough Councils

2006



## What Can You Do?

Ask your local council when and where a farmers' market is taking place near you. Try going along to see what they can offer.

## Further Information

Sussex Food Finder is a guide to help anyone who would like to know how to obtain locally produced food. It lists food sources and organisations throughout Sussex.

Sussex Food Finder is available on the internet at:  
[www.sussexenterprise.co.uk/foodfinder](http://www.sussexenterprise.co.uk/foodfinder)

# Encourage locally produced goods and make greater use of local facilities and services

Library members as a % of the population

Libraries have much more to offer than just books. Music and audio CDs, DVDs, videos and games, are all available for loan. With on-line services providing access to reference books, and services such as the 'free information and enquiry service' where expert staff access the latest resources to answer enquiries with accurate and up to date information, the library services has something for everyone.

Indicator	Results
Library members as a % of the population	42.26

Source: WSCC

2006



## What Can You Do?

Libraries are free to join. Why not pay your local library a visit, and start benefiting from the many services they provide.

## Further Information

Have a look at the County Council's website to find out more about where your local library is, and what it can offer you:  
[www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries)

## Ensure everyone has access to knowledge, information and skills to enable them to make their personal contribution to society

% of 16 - 74 year olds (working age population) with no formal qualifications

Increasing the skills and qualifications of West Sussex residents will not only benefit individuals by making them more employable and giving them more choice in the job market, it will also benefit the wider economy. Businesses that have well skilled employees can compete more effectively in an increasingly global market.

Indicator	Results
% of 16 - 74 year olds (working age population) with no formal qualifications	8.1%



Source: Nomishweb

Jan 2005 - Dec 2005



### Further Information

The Learning and Skills Council aims to inspire people across England to take control of their future through learning, and to play an active role in achieving their full potential. Their **'Our future. It's in our hands'** campaign, makes it easy for everyone to access the information they need. A dedicated campaign phone line 0800 011 3030 and website [www.inourhands.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.inourhands.lsc.gov.uk) has been created, giving a "one-stop shop" for all skills training, information and support.

# Adapt to changes in the environment of West Sussex

## Water consumption by use per capita

Nothing on earth can survive without water. It also plays a vital role in cultural and recreational activities. Population growth, urban development and climate changes put extra pressure on our water supplies. Our modern lifestyle, with more baths, washing machines and dishwashers, means that we are now using 50% more water than we were 25 years ago. Climate change is also set to impact on our global water resources, increasing both drought and flooding. It is likely to leave us with longer, hotter and drier summers and so it is more important than ever to manage this precious resource wisely.

West Sussex residents took the water saving message to heart during 2006. By following water saving advice and abiding by the hose pipe ban that was in place for residents covered by Southern Water, people used 10% less water during that summer compared with the previous year.

Indicator	Results
Water consumption by use per capita	157 litres per head per day

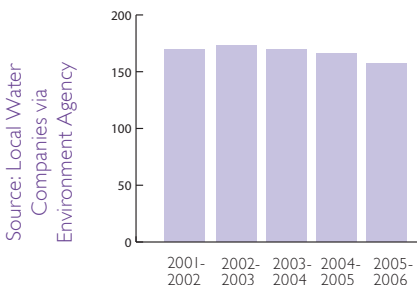
Source: Local Water Companies via Environment Agency 2006-2007



### What Can You Do?

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth. In a household of 4 people, where the tap is left running whilst brushing teeth, up to a bathful of water is wasted every day! Don't clean or peel vegetables under a running tap – use a bowl instead. Check the weather forecast before watering your garden - it may be about to rain!

A graph to show the changing amount of water consumed per person per day in West Sussex



### Further Information

For water saving tips visit the 10% challenge website:  
[www.10percentchallenge.org.uk](http://www.10percentchallenge.org.uk)

# Adapt to changes in the environment of West Sussex

Number of houses with increased protection from flooding

In June and July 2007, the UK experienced its wettest summer since records began, with widespread flooding throughout north and south England and Wales.

Although West Sussex was fortunate in not suffering any major flood events, the Environment Agency continue to plan for more frequent and extreme floods. As well as installing new flood defences to protect high risk areas, the Environment Agency will object to new developments on flood plains, which are likely to be at high risk of flooding.

Indicator	Results
Number of houses with increased protection from flooding	640



Source: Environment Agency

2005 - 2006

## What Can You Do?

Floods occur as a result of extreme rain and are worse in built up areas as more water pours off roofs and patios and along impermeable paved front gardens. We can all help reduce the flood risk by slowing the water down. By capturing runoff water from your roof in a water butt you can reduce the impact of heavy rainfall on the environment and therefore reduce flooding. You can then use the water in periods of dry weather. Try not to pave over your entire front garden as this increases water run off and creates further flooding. Use permeable surfaces like lawns and well composted soils to allow the water to soak into the ground.

## Further Information

Visit the Environment Agency website to find out more about flooding, including how to prepare for flooding, how to receive advance warnings, and to find out if your home is in a high flood risk area. [www.environment-agency.co.uk](http://www.environment-agency.co.uk)

# Encourage democracy and support public participation

**% of electorate voting in local elections**

Local elections are often decided on very small margins - so everybody's vote really counts. The decisions made by your local Councils directly affect many areas of your life - from getting your rubbish collected, the quality of your local roads and footpaths, the library service you receive, support for vulnerable people and the way the area is promoted. Local Council's are central in promoting the economical, social and environmental well-being of the area.

County Council elections take place every four years, so it is not possible to compare data since the last Life in West Sussex booklet was published two years ago. The data shown is for the District and Borough Council elections which took place in May 2007.

Indicator	Results
% of electorate voting in local elections	40.59%

Source: District and Borough Councils

3rd May 2007



## Further Information

For general facts about your vote - what elections are happening in your area, what institutions are being elected, how to register and how to apply for a postal vote visit the website: [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk). Alternatively have a look at the County Council's website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk), click on 'Your Council' then click on 'Elections'.

## What Can You Do?

To be eligible to vote, you must register with your local election office. If you cannot or do not want to vote in person at a polling station, you must apply to vote by post or to appoint someone to cast your ballot on your behalf. Contact your local Borough or District Council to see if you are on the electoral register, and for more information on how to apply for different ways to vote.

Why not go along to your local Parish or Town Council meetings and see what decisions are being made in your local area.

# Encourage democracy and support public participation

**% of citizens surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area**

Sustainable communities are active, inclusive, safe and well run - with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership.

In West Sussex there are 70 County Councillors elected to represent their local communities. County Local Committees are our approach to involving local residents in decision making. They aim to bring County Councillors closer to local people and you closer to your Council. Fourteen County Local Committees are now in operation across the county. Meetings are open for anyone to attend.

Indicator	Results
% of citizens surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area	25%



Source: National Citizenship Survey 2006

## What Can You Do?

You do not have to be a member of a County Local Committee to attend its public meetings. Participation is especially welcomed and encouraged from anyone living or working in the area, and the Committee will actively try and give priority to people connected to the local area.

To find out more about your nearest County Local Committee have a look at their website: [www.talkwithwestsussex.gov.uk](http://www.talkwithwestsussex.gov.uk).

In addition to the County Council you will also be represented on a District Council and a Parish Council. Why not find out when the next meeting is taking place, and go along to hear what is said.

# Create a Society where everyone is included

Older people helped to live at home per 1000 population aged 65 and over

The quality and appropriateness of services that older people receive is critical to their well-being and quality of life. For older people, their homes are often central to their social identity, and the effects of ageing mean that older people spend increasing amounts of time within their homes. Both the feasibility and the quality of the experience can depend on the support older people get in living at home and these services mean a great deal to older people. Even for older people supported by their relatives and friends, these services can help the person to remain in their home and play a full part on their local community.

## What Can You Do?

As an older person, you can ask West Sussex County Council for help. They can also offer help and support to relatives or friends who may be caring for you at home.

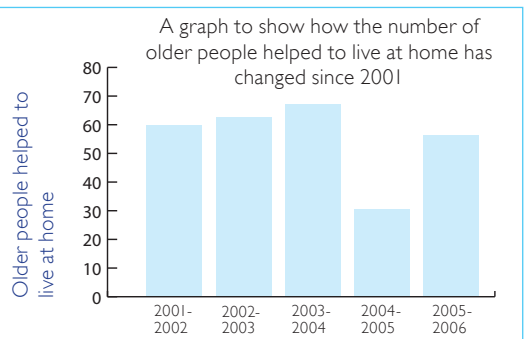
The County Council may be able to help you by giving guidance and information or help you to contact other agencies and private and voluntary organisations. The support may be short term to get you over a crisis, or it may be longer term. For example, you may be living at home or receiving treatment in hospital and want to make sure that the amount of support you receive will help you to stay as independent as possible.

To contact West Sussex County Council call 01243 777100 or have a look at their website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)



Indicator	Results
Older people helped to live at home per 1000 population aged 65 and over	56.38

Source: Audit Commission Best Value Performance Indicator 54 2005 - 2006



# Create a Society where everyone is included

## Economically active disabled residents as a percentage of the population

All employers are bound by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to treat people with disabilities fairly. Some employers make their commitment to employing disabled people clear by placing the Jobcentre Plus 'two ticks' disability symbol on their job adverts. The symbol means that a disabled applicant is guaranteed a job interview if they meet the minimum conditions for the job.

Many employers have equal opportunities policies. If this is the case, the employer will have a certain commitment to recruiting and employing without prejudice. They may include a statement in a job advert that positively encourages disabled people to apply and states that the employer is clear about their legal responsibilities under the DDA.

Indicator	Results
Economically active disabled residents as a percentage of the population	11.3%

Source: Audit Commission  
Best Value Performance  
Indicator 16

2005-2006



### What Can You Do?

If you are a person with disabilities, Disability Employment Advisers can give you help and support, regardless of your situation. They can help you find work or gain new skills even if you have been out of work for a long time, or if you have little or no work experience. Your local Jobcentre Plus office can put you in touch with your Disability Employment Advisers.

# Create a Society where everyone is included

## Number of Dial a Ride journeys in the county

Dial a Ride is a specialised door-to-door travel service for people who are unable to use public transport. It ensures that people who live in rural areas where public transport is less frequent still get access to employment and services. It also helps people who, through a mobility impairment, may find travel on a conventional service difficult.

The vehicles that are used for Dial a Ride can vary from voluntary car schemes to minibuses, but all work on the principal of no fixed route or timetables, and allow you to be picked up and dropped off wherever you want within the area of operation.

Indicator	Results
Number of Dial a Ride journeys in the county	98922

Source: WSCC

2006-2007



### Further Information

A Community Transport Directory is published by WSCC. It contains information about rural and community transport schemes available, not just dial a ride or those supported by WSCC.

The Directory is available online on the WSCC website:

[www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk).

Click on 'Roads and Transport' then 'Public Transport' then 'Community and Rural Transport'.

### What Can You Do?

There are many smaller scale community transport schemes throughout the county. They are non profit making and are often in desperate need of drivers.

If you have some spare time, could you volunteer some of your time to help people get out and about?

## Reduce the causes of crime and persecution

**% of people that think that vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles is a very big or fairly big problem in their area**

Graffiti and vandalism are illegal, anti-social activities that create negative impressions of an area for residents and visitors alike. They can greatly contribute to people's fear of more serious crime, deter visitors and tourists, cost a great deal to tackle and remove, increase insurance/security costs. If left unchecked they can reduce investment opportunities and the County's commercial attractiveness, sending visible signs of decay to the local community.

Indicator	Results
-----------	---------

% of people that think that vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles is a very big or fairly big problem in their area	40%
---	-----



Source: ODPM - Best Value survey

2006

### Further Information

West Sussex County Council have produced, a guide 'Taking Control of Graffiti'. It has been developed to show the experience and information collected by West Sussex County Council to support its commitment to working with partners to remove all graffiti from public view. You can download a copy of the guide from the County Council website [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk), or to request a hard copy, please contact the Community Safety Unit on 01243 382950.

### What Can You Do?

Many graffiti perpetrators are put off re-offending if their work is removed very quickly. Your local District or Borough council may operate a graffiti removal service. Contact them for more information, and to report any incidents.

# Reduce the causes of crime and persecution

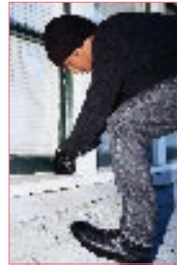
Domestic burglaries  
per 1000 households

Burglary can be a traumatic and distressing experience. As well as the damage and loss it causes to property, burglary impacts on our sense of safety, and heightens the fear of crime.

Indicator	Results
Domestic burglaries per 1000 households	6.58

Source: Sussex Police

2005 - 2006



## Further Information

The Sussex Police website has lots advice on how to make your home more burglar proof: [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk).

If you have been the victim of burglary and want to talk to someone about your experiences contact the Victim Support Helpline on 0845 30 30 900.

## What Can You Do?

You can help by making sure you do everything possible to secure your property, as you are much less likely to be a victim of burglary if you have security measures in place in your home.

For example, the 'Crime in England and Wales 2004/2005 Report' found that while 83% of the general public had window locks, only 36% of burglary victims did. This strongly indicates that the more secure your property, the less likely it is you will be burgled.

Other actions you can take to help keep burglary down:

- Contact Neighbourhood Watch to see what's happening in your area, and how you can contribute to, or even start, a local scheme.
- Speak to a Community Safety Officer at your local authority.

# Reduce the causes of crime and persecution

## Violent offences committed per 1000 population

The crimes that are classed as 'violent crime' are robbery, sexual offences, assault and murder. Most violent crime is relatively low-level thuggery with around half of crimes involving no injury to the person. Nationally, the risk of becoming a victim of any crime has fallen to the lowest level recorded since the British Crime Survey began in 1981, and although violent crime has not decreased in West Sussex it has remained at a constant level.

Indicator	Results
Violent offences committed per 1000 population	14.72



Source: Sussex Police

2005 - 2006

### Further Information

If you have been the victim of a crime, Victim Support is an independent national charity with staff and volunteers who are specially trained to provide victims with free emotional support and practical assistance. They can offer:

- someone to talk to in confidence
- advice on victims' rights
- information on police and court procedures
- advice about compensation and insurance
- links to other sources of help such as counselling

Anyone affected by crime can contact Victim Support for help, regardless of whether the crime, has been reported to the police or how long ago the crime took place.

Victim Support line: 0845 30 30 900

hearing difficulties: 18001 0845 30 30 90

minicom (or text telephone): 020 7896 3776.

email: [supportline@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:supportline@victimsupport.org.uk)

website: [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)

## Respect the diversity of cultures and local distinctiveness in the county

% of citizens who feel their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live harmoniously / get on well together

Everyone who lives or works in West Sussex has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and to live without fear of discrimination.

Indicator	Results
% of citizens who feel their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live harmoniously / get on well together	68%

Source: BVPI survey

2006



### What Can You Do?

Reporting racism is very important, it highlights where the problem areas are, and helps the West Sussex Community Safety partners to improve services to deal with racist/religious incidents. Please report all racist incidents, even those that may not seem serious.

You can report an incident:

- using the on-line reporting form found at [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk). Click on Community and Living, then 'Making your Communities Safer'
- telephoning the Racist Incidents Reporting Line on 0845 0751 021 (calls charged at local rate); or
- e-mailing: [rit@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:rit@westsussex.gov.uk)

If an incident is particularly serious and there is a risk to anybody involved you should report the incident to the police by dialling 999.

You may report an incident whether you are a victim, witness, or third party who has become aware of an incident. You do not have to identify yourself, but if you want to be contacted it is essential that you leave an address and/or a contact number.

# Work in fairly paid employment in a diverse, vibrant local economy

**% of the working age  
population who are in  
employment**

Although the percentage of people in employment in West Sussex has fallen slightly, West Sussex has a higher percentage in work than the national figure of 74.1%.

Of the total percentage of people that are in employment in West Sussex 10.7% of these are self employed, and 67.5% are employees. The highest numbers of people in employment are managers and senior officials, have professional occupations or are associate professionals and technical workers.

Indicator	Results
% of the working age population who are in employment	78.4

Source: Nomisweb

Oct 2005-Sep 2006



## What Can You Do?

If you are looking for a job your local Job Centre can offer support and advice. They can offer a number of services and programmes including advice on career direction and arranging training to help you get the job that you want. For more information about what services are available, or to find your local job centre visit their website: [www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)

A graph to show the changing levels of employment in West Sussex



# Work in fairly paid employment in a diverse, vibrant local economy

Total number of VAT  
registered businesses in  
West Sussex

Businesses are crucial to our quality of life, providing us with a myriad of goods, services and employment opportunities. The quality of our local economy can have a huge impact on our lifestyles.

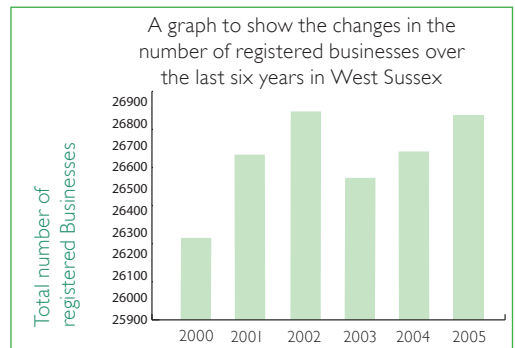
The choices that businesses make about how they are run and operate can also have a huge impact on the local and wider community. Sustainable business balances environmental and social responsibility with economic stability and growth. A sustainable business is a successful and profitable business. It is one that continuously improves its productivity by taking action on the economic, social and environmental impacts of its business.

Indicator	Results
Total number of VAT registered businesses in West Sussex	26,825



Source: Nomisweb

2005



## Further Information

The West Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership (WSSBP) aims to promote and help businesses to implement sustainable business practices.

The business benefits of sustainability are:

- Legislative compliance
- Cost savings through improved resource efficiency
- Maintaining competitive advantage
- New market opportunities
- Relieving supply chain pressure
- Improved public relations
- Satisfied and aware workforce.



To find out more about the work of the partnership, visit the WSSBP website:  
[www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex](http://www.egeneration.co.uk/westsussex)

# Summary

Key Principles	Indicator	Trend
Adopt and encourage healthy lifestyles	Life Expectancy Male	↑
	Life Expectancy Female	↓
	% of people that walk or cycle to work	not available
Care for those most in need	The number of victims of domestic violence	↓
	Teenage conception rates: number of conceptions to under - 18 year olds in a calendar year per thousand females aged 15 to 17	↔
	% of households, with at least one pensioner without central heating	not available
Minimise waste and aim to consume less	Total carbon dioxide emissions from energy use	↑
	Kilograms of waste collected per head	↓
	% of household waste recycled	↑
Protect and enhance our natural and built environment, wildlife and heritage	% of housing completions on brownfield sites	↓
	% area of land designated as an SNCI within the local authority area	↔
Encourage locally produced goods and make greater use of local facilities and services	Number of Farmers Markets held in the County	↑
	Library members as a % of the population	↓
Ensure everyone has access to knowledge, information and skills	% of 16 - 74 year olds with no formal qualifications	↓

Key Principles	Indicator	Trend
Adapt to changes in the environment of West Sussex	Water consumption by use per capita	↓
	Number of houses with increased protection from flooding	↑
Encourage democracy and support public participation	% of electorate voting in local elections	not available
	The % of citizens surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area	↑
Create a Society where everyone is included	Older people helped to live at home per 1000 population aged 65 and over	↑
	Economically active disabled residents as a % of the population who are economically active	↔
	Number of Dial a ride journeys in the County	↑
Reduce the causes of crime and persecution	The % of people that think that vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles is a very big or fairly big problem in their area	↓
	Domestic Burglaries per 1000 households	↓
	Violent Offences committed per 1000 population	↔
Respect the diversity of cultures and local distinctiveness in the county	% of citizens who feel their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live harmoniously / get on well together	not available
Work in fairly paid employment in a diverse, vibrant local economy	% of the working age population who are in employment	↓
	Total number of VAT registered businesses in West Sussex	↑



# Life in West Sussex

This Strategy has been produced by the West Sussex Sustainability Forum. If you would like to know more about the West Sussex Sustainability Forum or if this information is needed in an alternative format please contact West Sussex Sustainability Forum Secretariat at: West Sussex County Council, Environment and Development, The Grange, Tower Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RH.

Tel: 01243 756775, or email: [WSSF@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:WSSF@westsussex.gov.uk)

Photos: [SussexImageLibrary.co.uk](http://SussexImageLibrary.co.uk); (Diverse Business Team) [Phildate/Dreamstime.com](http://Phildate/Dreamstime.com)

If this information is needed in an alternative format please contact us and we will try and meet your needs.

Call 01243 642119

Designed and published by WSCC, Environment and Development  
Printed on 100% recycled paper.

April 2008

[www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)