

West Sussex Sustainability Indicators

Indicators are tools that measure, simplify and communicate important issues/trends and provide a benchmark against which progress can be measured. They can help people understand sustainable development, raise awareness of key issues and how these interrelate, as well as illustrate what people need to do. Sustainable Development is not something for which Central and Local Government are solely responsible. All of us have our part to play.

The idea of indicators is to set out information on a particular issue for a given point of time. If over a period of time the information is collected a trend will soon appear as to what is happening within that study area. This information can then be used to establish whether the issues being considered are getting better or worse.

Agenda 21

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit, was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. One of the outcomes from the conference was Agenda 21, which set down a plan of action for nations entering the 21st Century towards a goal of sustainable development.

The final chapter of Agenda 21 (Chapter 40) highlights the need for information to assist the decisions to be made in working towards sustainable development. One of the main activities identified is the development of indicators of sustainable development to provide the information to decision-makers.

National Situation

The United Kingdom Government has developed a set of 15 national headline indicators that allow people to see whether sustainable development is being achieved across a range of issues. The Government has broad objectives that set out a vision for sustainable development. These are:

- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment – *so that everyone can share in high living standards and greater job opportunities, and to generate the income and wealth needed to pay for essential infrastructure and future investment.*
- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone – *ensuring that better health, a good education and decent housing, are available to everyone in our society, no matter who they are and where they live.*
- Effective protection of the environment – *limiting the emissions of greenhouse gases which are causing the global climate to change, ensuring that people's health does not suffer from poor air quality or other pollution, and protecting wildlife and the countryside.*
- Prudent use of natural resources – *ensuring that we use resources efficiently and minimise waste.*

Achieving sustainable development means addressing all of these objectives equally, both for the present and future generations.

Sustainability in West Sussex

The West Sussex Sustainability Forum has developed indicators to measure progress on the thirteen objectives set out in the Strategic Local Agenda 21 for West Sussex. A total of 133 indicators were set out in the original Local Agenda 21 document produced by the Forum in 1997. The indicators were formulated by the various organisations in the Forum over a period of approximately two years.

The Forum set up a sub group in 1997 to review the indicators with a revised list of 74 indicators emerging from the exercise based on the following criteria:

- Provided information that was capable of meaningful measurement;
- Use information that was readily available, and regularly collected by the organisations responsible
- Help to inform progress on the thirteen sustainability objectives set out in the Strategic Local Agenda 21 document.

The document includes information on the thirteen objectives. It is not a complete picture, but presents the current “state of play” on the objectives.

The work has been a successful example of a partnership approach, and the following organisations are thanked for their help and support:

Adur District Council, Arun District Council, Chichester District Council, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Crawley Borough Council, Employment Information Unit, Environment Agency, Horsham District Council, DEFRA (MAFF), Mid Sussex District Council, OFWAT, Portsmouth Water, Southern Water, South East Water, Sussex Air Quality Steering Group, Sussex Biodiversity Partnership, Sussex Police, Sussex Rural Community Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust, West Sussex County Council, West Sussex Health Authority, Worthing Borough Council.

The full list of indicators are:

1	overall energy consumption by type and user group
2	total weight of waste produced in West Sussex
3	amount of household waste recycled as a percentage of total household waste arisings
4	number of homes composting their own green waste
5	water consumption by use per household
6	air quality indicators per substance: nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂), particulate matter (PM ₁₀), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O ₃)
7	percentage of local rivers reaching the high standards of cleanliness appropriate to their classification
8	number of designated beaches that meet the standards defined by the EU Bathing

	Water Directive
9	quality of drinking water in terms of reported sample passes as measured by the Drinking Water Inspectorate
10	number of major water pollution or contamination incidents reported to the Environment Agency
11	frequency of flood incidents (coastal and rivers)
12	extent of contaminated land
13	numbers of song thrush , cowslips, otters and butterflies
14	the extent of semi-natural habitat found in the county
15	the changes in land use covered by important habitat types
16	health/viability/productivity of local fisheries
17	numbers of people taking an active part in conservation projects
18	percentage of villages with village halls
19	number of post offices in rural areas
20	number of multi-material recycling centres within 1km
21	frequency of mobile library visits
22	leakage and water efficiency
23	provision of/degree of access to affordable housing (percentage of housing below the national average price)
24	total Homeless acceptances under part VII of the 1996 Housing Act
25	ratio of average house prices to average local earnings
26	average council rents and average housing association rents as a percentage of the average wage
27	level of overcrowding (more than one person to a [living] room)
28	level of unfit/disrepair in housing stock
29	number of houses in multiple occupation
30	number people claiming Income Support
31	number of people in work (in the county)
32	rate of unemployment
33	percentage of people with physical or sensory impairments who are of working age, and in employment
34	average weekly earnings
35	employment vacancies
36	level of local business start ups
37	number of hospital admissions for asthma in West Sussex
38	proportion of population of West Sussex who smoke
39	mortality rates from coronary heart diseases in the under 65's
40	mortality rates for breast and lung cancers in the under 75's
41	prevalence of skin cancer
42	no. of suicides in West Sussex
43	confirmed cases of food poisoning
44	percentage of people without regular access to a car
45	percentage increase in traffic growth (of rural and urban areas)
46	percentage of trips to work by public transport, bicycle and foot
47	number of school travel plans
48	reported deaths/injuries from road accidents
49	number of community transport schemes
50	number of additional train services, and number of bus routes.

51	number of Violent Crimes within West Sussex
52	total number of burglaries in West Sussex
53	number of reported rapes and indecent assaults
54	number of racially motivated incidents
55	rate of reported crimes to rates of detection/conviction
56	rate of detection of violent crime
57	percentage of people who fear physical assault is likely to occur in their area
58	number of people using victim support schemes
59	children under 5 in nursery/pre-school as % of total age under 5
60	number of adults in education/training
61	numbers of pupils/students on training placements, further education and employment (full and part time)
62	percentage of pupils attaining A-C qualifications in English and Maths at key stages age 11, GCSE and A-B grade A level
63	library members as % of population
64	number and opening hours of local advice bureaux
65	number of community newspapers/parish notice boards
66	percentage of electorate voting in local elections
67	degree of accessibility of local authorities/TECs/Health Trusts and Community Health Councils
68	number of allotments available and percentage of allotments in use
69	number of school playing fields, number of leisure centres, number of theatres and number of cinemas
70	length and state of maintained rights of way
71	extent of AONBs, strategic and local gaps between settlements, urban fringe areas and high grade agricultural land affected by new development
72	number of (building) conservation areas and number of listed buildings
73	number of archaeological sites and areas
74	degree of tranquillity in rural areas (definition of tranquillity is an area that is sufficiently far away from visual or noise intrusion of development or traffic to be considered unspoilt by urban influences)

Objective 1: Resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised

Table 1. Indicators for Objective 1

1	Overall energy consumption by type and user group
2	total weight of waste produced in West Sussex
3	amount of household waste recycled as a percentage of total household waste arisings
4	number of homes composting their own green waste
5	water consumption by use per household

What do the indicators tell us?

1. Overall energy consumption by type and user group

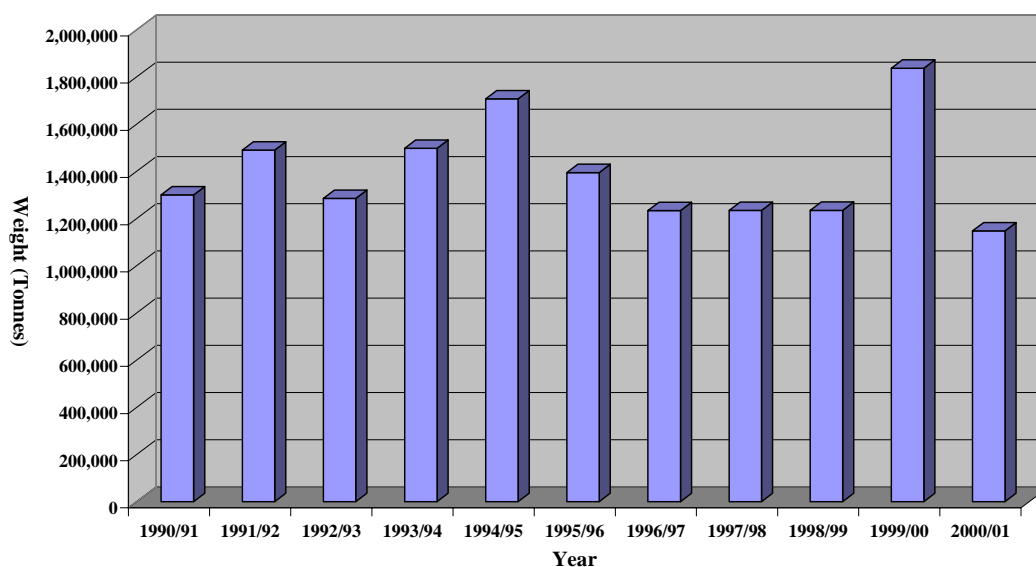
Since the privatisation of this industry and the development of a diverse set of companies, vying for business in this field, it has become practically impossible to monitor this indicator. Therefore, it is suggested that a new indicator be developed and monitored in the future.

2. Total weight of waste produced in West Sussex

It is estimated that about 145 million tonnes of waste are produced each year in the United Kingdom by households, commerce and industry, including construction and demolition. Over 60% of this, amounting to about 90 million tonnes, is disposed of in landfill. (DETR 1998)

Indicator Results

Total Weight of Waste Produced in West Sussex



(Source: West Sussex County Council)

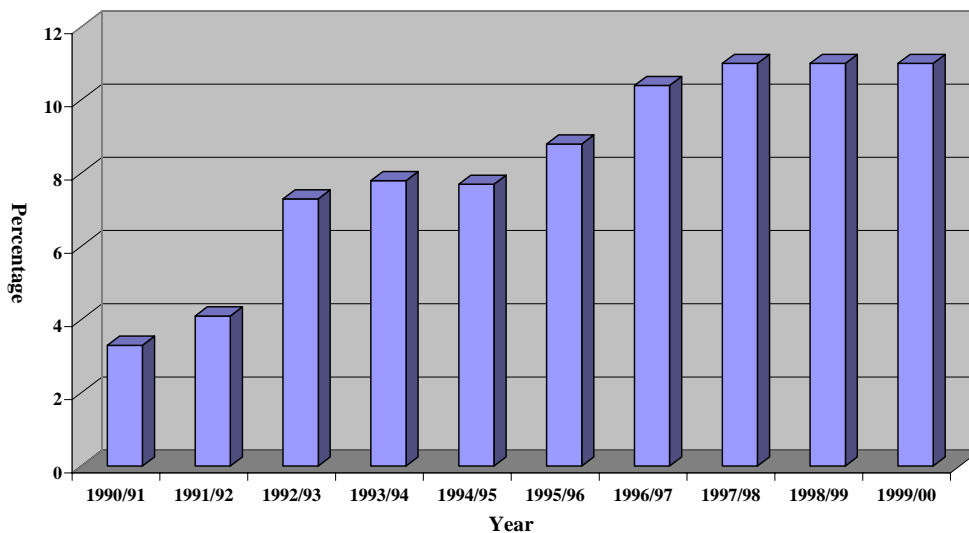
Comments

The amount of waste produced in West Sussex fluctuates considerably over the years. Some changes can be attributed to economic effects, for example, the reduction in construction, commercial and industrial waste tends to decrease in times of recession. Household waste continues to increase not only in terms of the total amount, but also with regard to the amount produced per household. However, this year the figures illustrated a significant fall. This may be accredited to the effects of the landfill tax taking place.

3. Amount of household waste recycled as a percentage of household waste arisings

Indicator Results

Amount of Household Waste Recycled as a Percentage of Total Household Waste Arisings



Comments

From looking at the data above, it is possible to see that the amount of household waste being recycled has remained steady. However, the amount of waste produced per household, has increased. This indicates that the causes of the increased waste produced need to be tackled, e.g. excess packaging. The recycling of household waste is measured in Best value indicators BVPI 82a and b. The reduction of waste is based on the waste hierarchy, which aims to reduce, reuse, recover (through recycling, composting and energy recovery) and finally dispose of what is left.

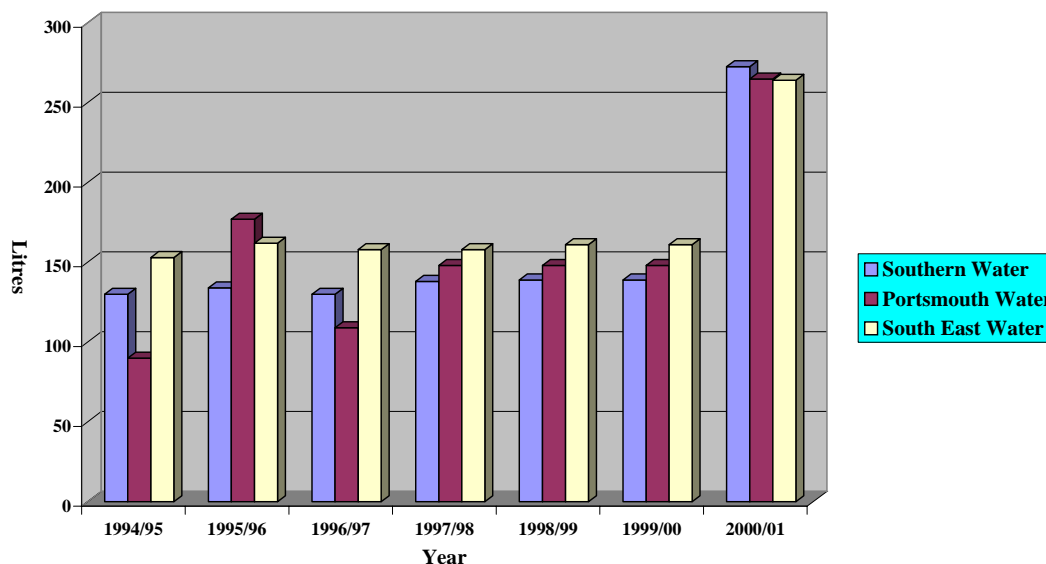
5. Household water consumption (litres/head/day)

Water is a vital renewable resource but there are bounds to freshwater availability. Low rainfall and over use can place pressure on existing supplies in vulnerable parts of the country. This reduces availability and affects wildlife and habitats. Purification for drinking water is also energy intensive.

Indicator Results

Source: OFWAT (1998), Water companies and Environment Agency

Water Consumption by Use per Household



Comments

The annual variation shown by the table can be attributed to several factors including weather conditions, the type of area served depending on. For example, whether it is in an urban or rural area, the longer-term trends in water use and the methods of calculation used to derive the consumption figures which vary between companies. In 2000 demand was up largely due to weather conditions, but could also be attributed to greater demand through increased housing.

Water use is seasonal and is affected by weather. Annual figures should be used, but changes from year to year may be weather-affected and should be interpreted with caution.

There are difficulties in obtaining data for local authority areas but piloting authorities thought this issue was important and should be covered if possible.

Objective 2: Pollution is limited to levels which natural systems can cope with and without damage.

6	air quality indicators per substance: nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂), particulate matter (PM ₁₀), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O ₃)
7	percentage of local rivers reaching the high standards of cleanliness appropriate to their classification
8	Number of designated beaches that meet the standards defined by the EU Bathing Water Directive
9	quality of drinking water in terms of reported sample passes as measured by the Drinking Water Inspectorate
10	number of major water pollution or contamination incidents reported to the Environment Agency
11	frequency of flood incidents (coastal and rivers)
12	extent of contaminated land

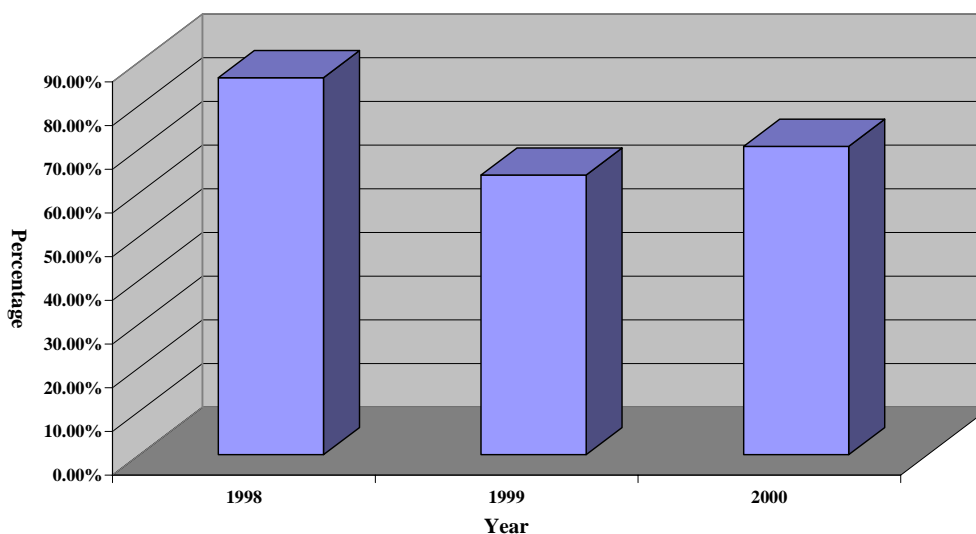
What do the indicators tell us?

7. Percentage of local rivers reaching the high standards of cleanliness appropriate to their classification

River water quality is important because rivers are a major source of water used for drinking and by industry. Rivers also support a wide variety of wildlife and are used extensively for recreation. Abstraction from and discharges to rivers and from the ground waters that support them, affects their flow and their quality.

Indicator Results

Percentage of Local Rivers Reaching the High Standards of Cleanliness Appropriate to their Classification



(Source: Environment Agency)

Comments

From the results recorded for West Sussex, it can be seen that the number of rivers reaching the high standards of cleanliness has risen by 6%. However, the level recorded for 2000 is still 15% below the levels 2 years ago. The rise recorded in 2000 may be due to a reduction in sewage effluent release into the waterways and a reduction in nitrates and nitrites, used in farming, which are often washed from the surrounding land and into the rivers. High levels of nitrates and nitrites, will encourage algal growth, which in turn can affect the BOD of the river. The chemical assessment in this indicator is based on ammonia, dissolved oxygen and biochemical oxygen demand, which are generally indicators of sewage pollution. The chemical assessment does not specifically include metals, organics or sediments although the biological OQA should present a more integrated picture.

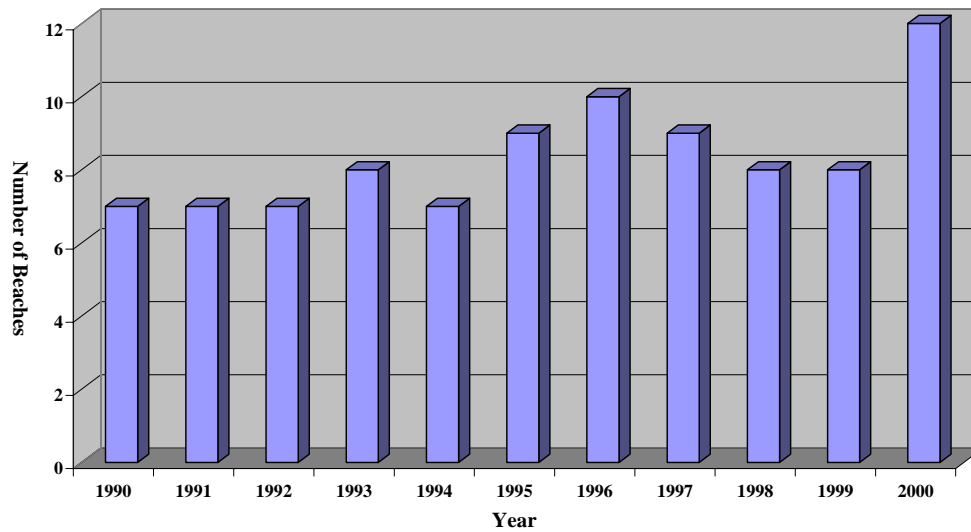
8. Number of designated beaches that meet the standards defined by the EU Bathing Water Directive

In 1975 the European Union produced the 'Council Directive number 8' which was designed to monitor, protect and enhance the quality of bathing waters throughout Europe. Testing for the directive occurs between June and mid-September. The samples taken are tested for the presence of a number of parameters and it is the responsibility of Environment Agency to carry out the sampling and associated analytical work.

Mandatory standard: the water quality standard set by the EU, which Member States must observe. If achieved, a mandatory pass indicates good water quality. The mandatory standard is based on levels of faecal coliforms and total coliforms, which indicate the presence of pollution from human sewage or livestock excrement. For bathing water to pass the mandatory requirements of the Directive, only one failure is allowed in these standards per year.

Indicator Results

**Number of Designated Beaches that Meet the Standards Defined by the
EU Bathing Water Directive**



(Source: Environment Agency)

Comments

In 2000 figures were recorded which indicated that all beaches along the West Sussex coast passed the EU standard for cleanliness. This may be due to improvements to bathing water as a result of investment in sewage treatment works, development of long sea outfalls and improved storm drain facilities by Southern Water. Further improvements may be linked to the Government's intention to require secondary treatment of sewage resulting from the removal of the High Natural Dispersion Area (HNDA) status for coastal water.

9. Quality of drinking water in terms of reported sample passes as measured by the Drinking Water Inspectorate

The Government has set 55 standards for drinking water. Most of these come from an obligatory European Community Directive but some UK standards are more stringent. A few are based directly on World Health Organisation guidelines. The standards generally include wide safety margins.

There are standards for:

- bacteria
- chemicals such as nitrate and pesticides
- the way water looks and tastes.

Water companies must, by law, take water samples and test them to check that quality standards are being met.

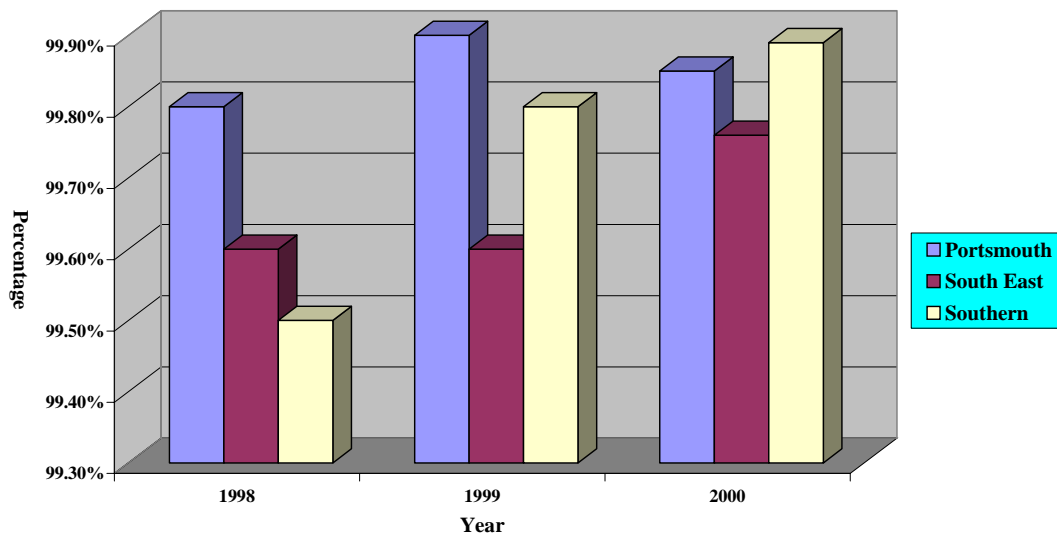
They test for:

bacteria at every treatment works and service reservoir and also at representative consumers' taps in each water supply zone; and
chemicals and other measures at representative consumers' taps in each water supply zone.

Each water company has to keep a public record of all their test results. In 1995, in England and Wales, nearly 3.2 million tests were carried out - about 80% of them on samples taken from consumers' taps.

Indicator Results

Quality of Drinking Water in Terms of Reported Sample Passes as Measured by the Drinking Water Inspectorate



(Source: OFWAT)

Comments

Further marked improvements can be seen from two of the water companies in 2000, regarding the high microbiological quality of water at treatment works, service reservoirs and in zones; virtually full compliance with the pesticides standards has been maintained.

Objective 3: The diversity of nature is valued and protected

13	numbers of song thrush , cowslips, otters and butterflies
14	the extent of semi-natural habitat found in the county
15	the changes in land use covered by important habitat types
16	health/viability/productivity of local fisheries
17	numbers of people taking an active part in conservation projects

What do the indicators tell us?

13. Numbers of song thrush, cowslips, otters and butterflies

Local Biodiversity Action Plans, produced in response to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, aim to ensure that national targets for habitats and species are achieved. In addition to addressing national priorities at the local level they will promote the conservation of species and habitats characteristic of local areas.

Pilots found this indicator useful as a means of stimulating public interest. Some species monitoring provides an excellent opportunity for community involvement in data collection and many wildlife groups run regular public participation surveys. Some existing sets of sustainable development indicators include a species indicator collected by the public e.g. Oldham and the number frogs and newts in ponds.

It is important not to underestimate the potential for technical rigour associated with this indicator.

The information needed for this indicator has not been that easy to collate. This has been due to concerns over evidence for the monitoring of otter numbers to changes in recording techniques and conflicting data for the other areas of this indicator.

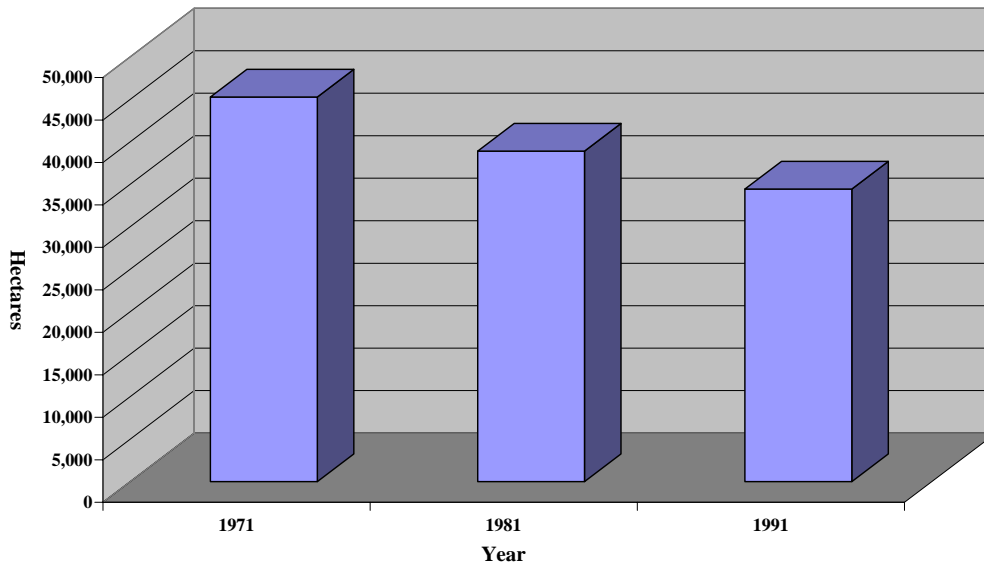
As a result discussions have taken place to develop this indicator and provide a target that can be easily, efficiently and consistently measured.

14/15. The extent of semi natural habitat found in the county/ the changes in land use covered by important habitat types

We value wildlife for its own sake and because it is an integral part of our surroundings and our quality of life. We therefore wish to conserve and enhance the wide variety of our wildlife species and habitats in the UK for future generations.

Indicator Results

The Extent of Semi-natural Habitat Found in the County



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

Habitat surveys carried out in 1971, 1981 and 1991 by the County Council give a long-term record of the extent of semi natural habitat in the county. It is hoped that the study will be repeated in 2001.

The overall picture from 1971 to 1991, was of a continued loss of semi natural habitats, but a slowing down of the trend - the area of semi natural habitat has declined over the past twenty years from 45,254 hectares to about 34,422 hectares.

During this twenty year period a number of “agri-environment” policy changes took place and towards the end of the 1980’s, a number of conservation grant support schemes were introduced such as the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and Countryside Stewardship schemes. In West Sussex, over 6,000 hectares have been entered into the ESA scheme and 2,000 hectares into Countryside Stewardship.

Whilst this will not immediately bring about a response in terms of species change, the amount of land in sympathetic management will enhance the habitat variety and potential for wildlife enrichment. As a result, it is hoped that this habitat enhancement will be reflected in the 2001 survey.

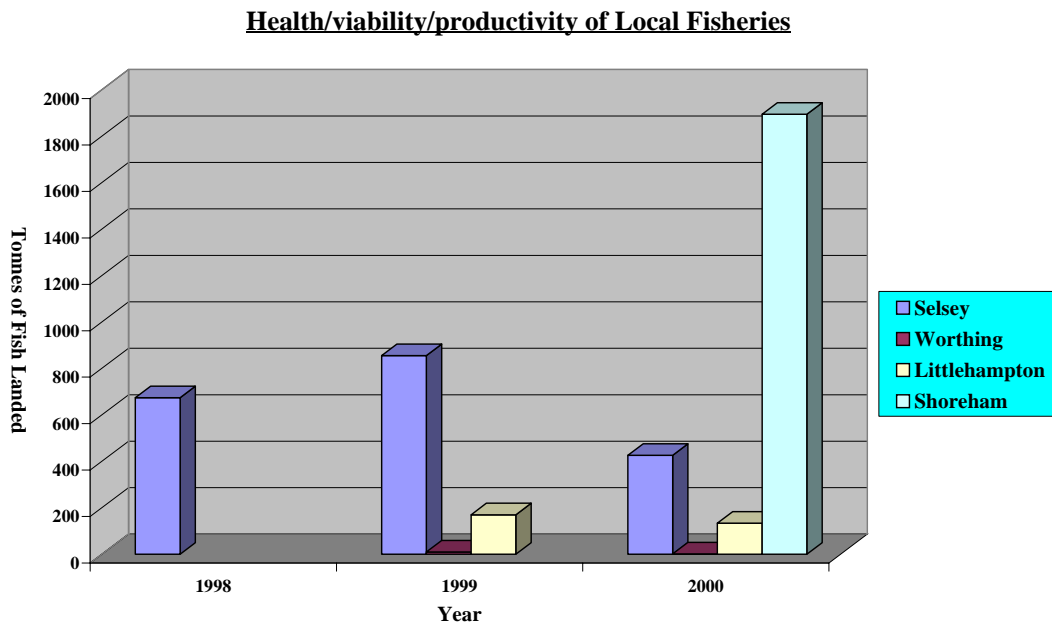
The work of the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership is also assisting in habitat management. Habitat plans for heathland and reed beds have been produced. Plans covering hedges, meadows and flood plain grassland have also been launched. The organisations involved in the Partnership are also working on species action plans that deal with particular plants or animals.

16. Health/viability/productivity of local fisheries

The majority of the indicators that are used in West Sussex, look at the state of the land environment, it is important therefore, to gain information on the coastal region of the county and in particular look at the fishing industry. The fishing industry has experienced some significant changes, mainly due to the changes in fishing grounds to overfishing and subsequent fishing quotas.

Indicator Results

Health/viability/productivity of local fisheries - source MAFF



Comments

It was decided last year that this particular indicator should monitor all ports in the county, in order to provide a more accurate overview of fishing practices. Last year information on Shoreham was not available, however, for 2000 data for Shoreham became available and will be made available for subsequent years.

From the information available, which demonstrates any trend, it is possible to see that the amount of fish landed in West Sussex rose in 1999, but has since fallen in 2000. Figures for Selsey demonstrate that the amount of fish landed in 2000 was lower than two years ago. This fall in catch numbers may be due to fish population sizes crashing from intensive fishing, a tightening of the quotas set or a change in fishing practices. The reason for this fall may also be due to a change in the type of fish caught. In order to allow fish numbers to recover from over fishing, fisherman often target a completely different species from each year.

Objective 4: Where possible, meet local needs locally for convenience and to reduce pollution and the use of energy.

18	percentage of villages with village halls
19	percentage of villages with village shops
20	number of multi-material recycling centres within 1km
21	frequency of mobile library visits

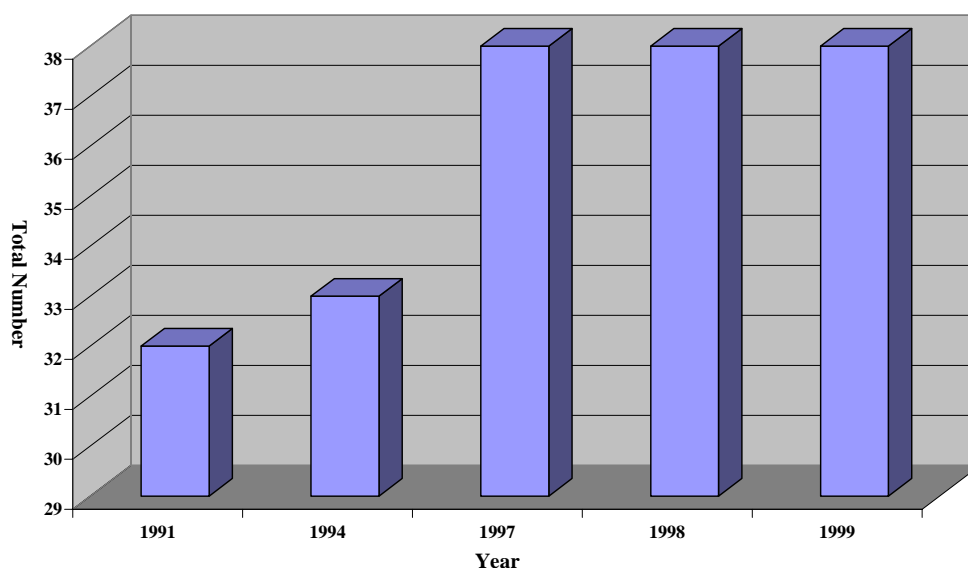
What do the indicators tell us?

18. Percentage of villages with village halls

The Rural Development Commission carried out surveys of parishes in England in 1991, 1994 and 1997 that looked at many types of village services including halls and meeting places, and shops.

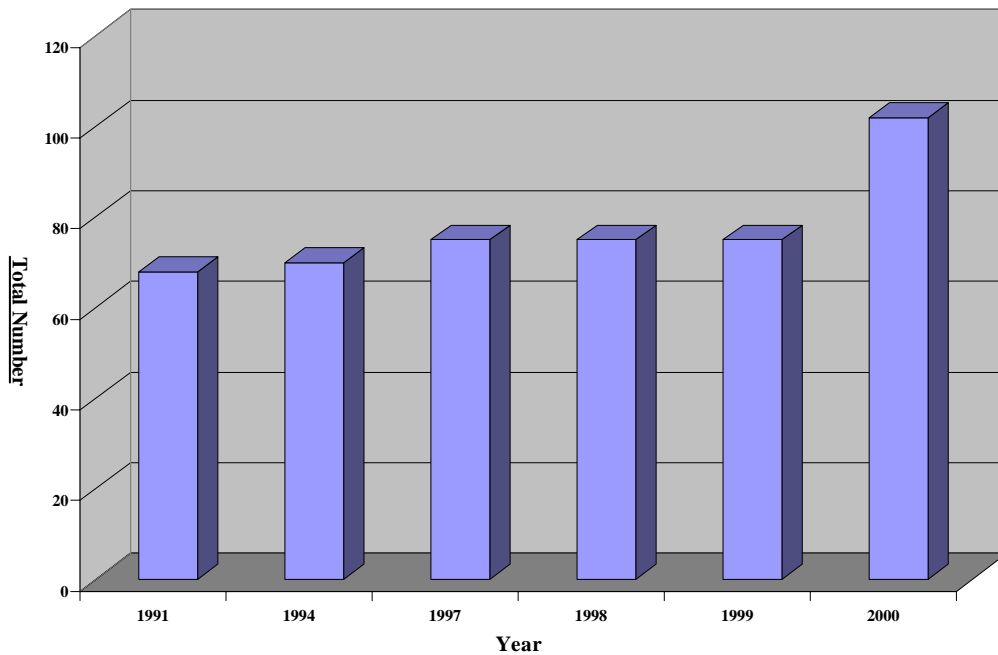
Indicator Results

Number of Villages with Church Halls



(Source: Rural Development Commission)

Number of Villages with Village Halls



Comments

A notable increase in the number of halls was recorded. This may be due to schemes, which are available for developing new village halls and helping to maintain or improve existing halls including the 21st Century Halls for England Fund from the Millennium Commission administered by ACRE, and local authority funding for particular projects.

20. Number of multi-material recycling centres within 1 Km

Indicator Results

This indicator was recently changed in order to illustrate the new method of measurement. Previously the number of recycling centres were recorded within a ½ to 2 ½ mile radius. The figure recorded last year can be seen below. The indicator has subsequently been changed to record all recycling centres within 1Km.

There are around 80% of recycling points around the county, which can be found within 1 Km, a variety of places including public car parks, supermarket car parks and civic amenity sites. In addition, the district councils operate kerbside collections of various recyclable materials.

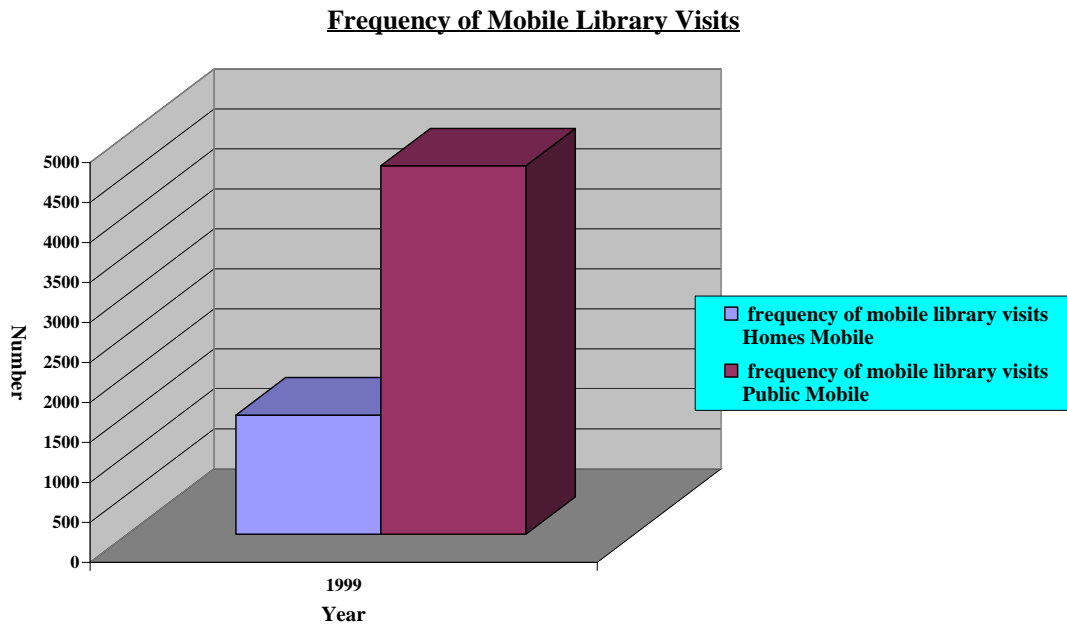
Comments

Sadly the information was not forthcoming for this indicator.

21. Frequency of mobile library visits

In West Sussex the County Council runs three mobile library vans. These vans are designed to provide access to reading material for those members of the community who cannot get to or live near enough to a library. The Mobile Library vans make over 200 stops every week additional to this a Homes Delivery Vans visits a further 357 Homes.

Indicator Results



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

Due to a change in the information provided by the libraries, no trends are available to be analysed.

Objective 5: Everyone has access to basic needs.

22	Report on leakage and water efficiency*
23	Percentage of housing below the national average price
24	Total Homeless acceptances under part VII of the 1996 Housing Act
25	Ratio of average house prices to average local earnings
26	Average council rents and average housing association rents as a percentage of the average wage
27	Level of overcrowding (more than one person to a [living] room)
28	Level of unfitness/disrepair in housing stock
29	Number of houses in multiple occupation
30	Number of people claiming Income Support*

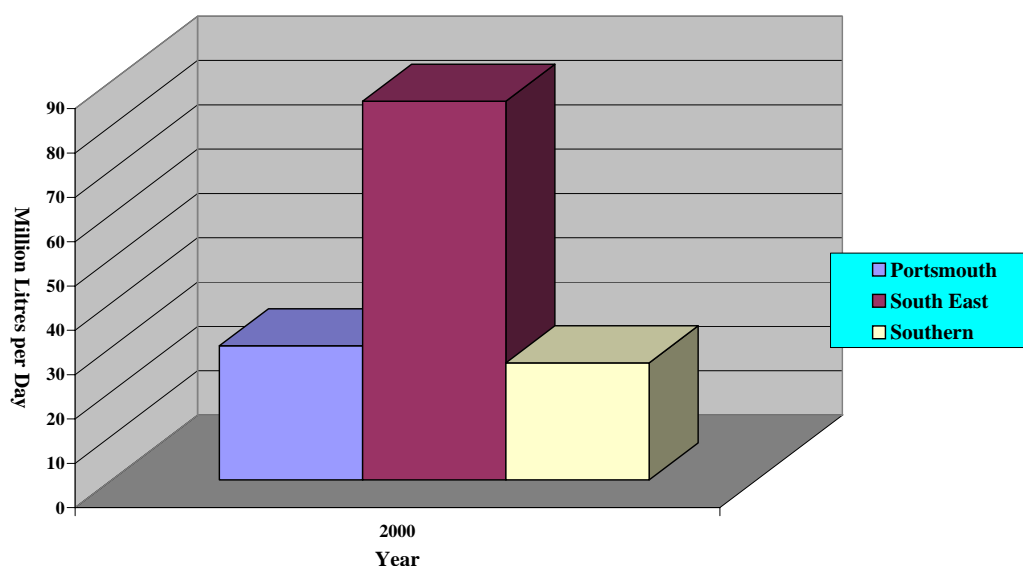
What do the indicators tell us?

22. Report on leakage and water efficiency

With growing pressure on consumers and businesses alike to reduce their usage of finite resources such as water, it is therefore imperative that the water companies assist this process by reducing the amount of water lost through supply leakage. This indicator is designed to look at the amount of water lost through leakage by the three companies that supply water in West Sussex.

Indicator results

Leakage Rates for the Water Companies in West Sussex



(Source: OFWAT)

Comments

Last year it was decided by the West Sussex Sustainability Forum to change the emphasis on this indicator and look at the amount of water leakage within the county. As a result of this change, no trends are available.

23. Percentage of housing below the national average price

Housing is a key component of a decent quality of life. It is therefore important to have affordable housing, without it, there can be a shortcomings economically, due to certain sectors not being able to move into an area and providing the services needed, e.g. Teachers, Nurses.

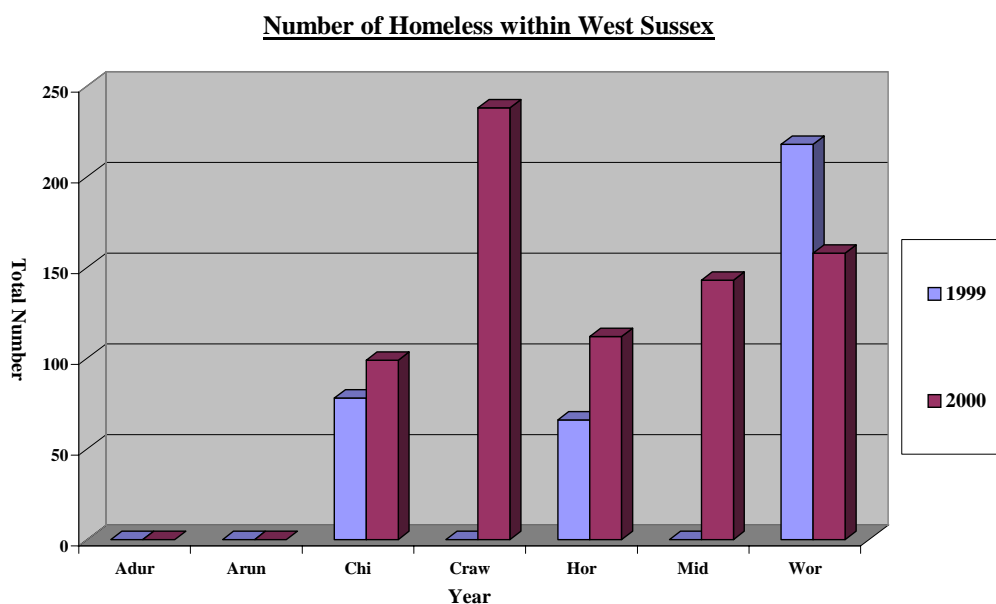
Indicator Results

No chart was drawn due the nature of the results. In 2000 it was shown that in West Sussex, there is no housing available that is equal to or below the Average National Price.

24. Total Homeless acceptances under part VII of the 1996 Housing Act

Housing is a key component of a decent quality of life. Living in temporary accommodation can bring uncertainty and instability. Local authorities have responsibilities to provide or arrange shelter for households who are homeless.

Indicator results



Comments

Over the last two years, only Arun and Adur District Councils have not provided any figures for this indicator. From the trends that are available, from the other District and Boroughs, it is apparent that the number of Homeless Acceptances is on the increase, with the only exception being in Worthing Borough. In most cases of homelessness acceptances, the authority accepts a duty to secure suitable temporary accommodation for up to 2 years. This duty ends if the household is allocated a permanent social tenancy through the housing register or if they voluntary leave the temporary accommodation for any other reason. In areas where demand for accommodation is low, households accepted as statutorily homeless may be allocated

permanent social accommodation very quickly; in other areas with heavy demand households may have to remain in temporary accommodation for longer than two years.

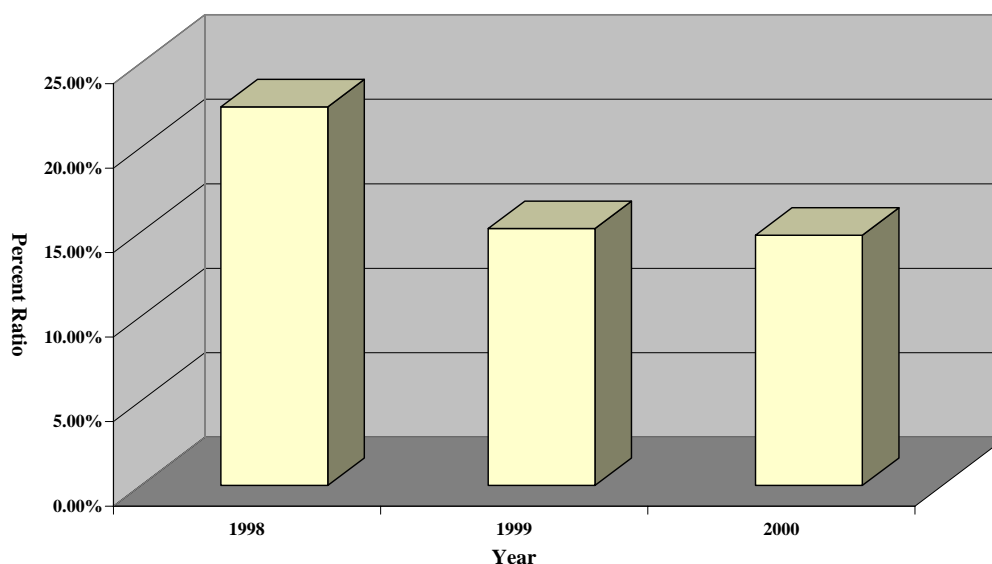
The number of homeless acceptances will vary according to council policy and other factors, therefore comparison across areas is difficult.

25. Ratio of average house prices to average local earnings

The trend for housing in the South East is for the prices to rise steadily, making West Sussex one of the most expensive areas in which to live. Unfortunately this rise in house prices can be greater than the rise of the average wage in the same area. This either prevents sections of society buying their own home or creates a large financial burden on those going through the process of buying a house.

Indicator results

Ratio of Average House Prices to Average Local Earnings



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

In the fourth quarter of 2000, the average price of a semi-detached house in West Sussex the price was £144,200 compared to £131,350 of last year.

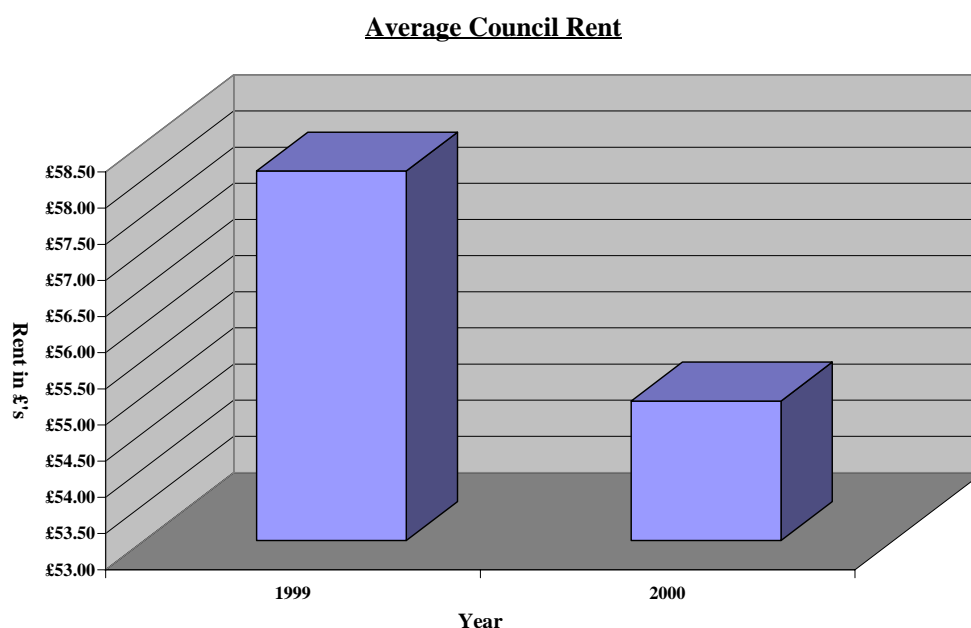
The average weekly wage for men in full time work has risen consistently over the period since 1991 within the United Kingdom (UK), South East England and West Sussex. However, although West Sussex is located within the South East, the average weekly wage is substantially below the regional average and more closely matches the UK average. There is some evidence, however, that the gap between the average weekly wage at national, regional and local level is closing, in particular the gap between the National and West Sussex average wage. (see indicator 34 on average wage in Objective 6).

A closer look at affordability within West Sussex over the period 1991- 2000 indicates a growing gap since 1995 between the rise in house prices and the rise in local annual income. However, over the last year this appears to have slowed. Despite this slow down in the difference between house prices and the average wage, the housing available on the open market within West Sussex is still less affordable to local people, particularly those with an income below the average for the county. In the longer term it is difficult to predict whether these trends will continue due to the fragile nature of the housing market and the fluctuation of house prices within the local economy.

26. Average council rents and average housing association rents as a percentage of the average wage

As well as looking at the difference between house prices and the average wage, it is also important to look at other methods of obtaining a house, for example through renting or through housing association schemes.

Indicator results



(Source: District Councils)

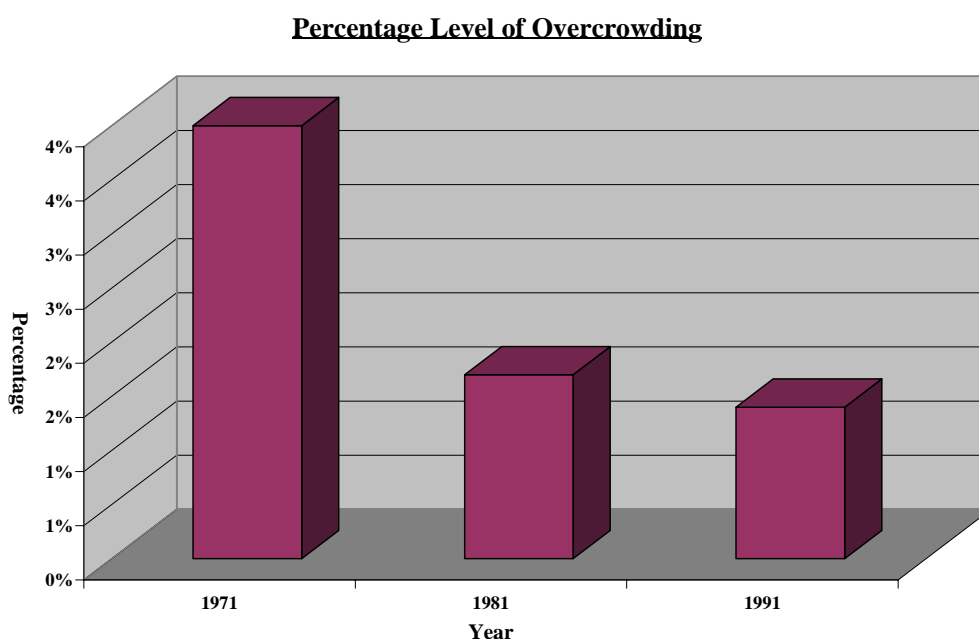
Comments

From the information collected, it can be noted that, over the past two years, the average rent for council housing has significantly reduced. This may be due to a stronger emphasis on affordable housing being promoted by both central and local government.

27. Level of overcrowding (more than one person to a [living] room)

It is hoped that every person in the county has access to adequately sized housing for his or her needs. In order to ascertain whether this is true, it is therefore important to establish the level of overcrowding within properties in West Sussex. A property is designated as overcrowded if there is more than one person per 'living room', occupying the property.

Indicator results



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

Since 1971, the percentage of overcrowded households with more than one person per room has been declining nationally and within West Sussex. West Sussex has a lower proportion of households in overcrowded housing conditions than the national average and this has remained the case over the twenty-year period between 1971 and 1991.

The level of overcrowding nationally and in West Sussex fell most sharply between 1971 and 1981 from 7% to 4% and 3.2% to 1.7% respectively. The rate of decline slowed down up to 1991. In 1991, the national average was 2.2% whilst in West Sussex, the number of households with more than one person per room had fallen to 1.4%. The gap between the national average and the average in West Sussex has therefore been markedly reduced over the period.

The evidence suggests that the living standards of households within West Sussex have been improving since 1971. The reasons for the improvement are complex and can not be easily attributed to any one factor. The improvement in part reflects the fall in average household size over the twenty-year period. West Sussex already had a below average household size in 1971 compared to the national average and this may in part account for the convergence of the averages over the period.

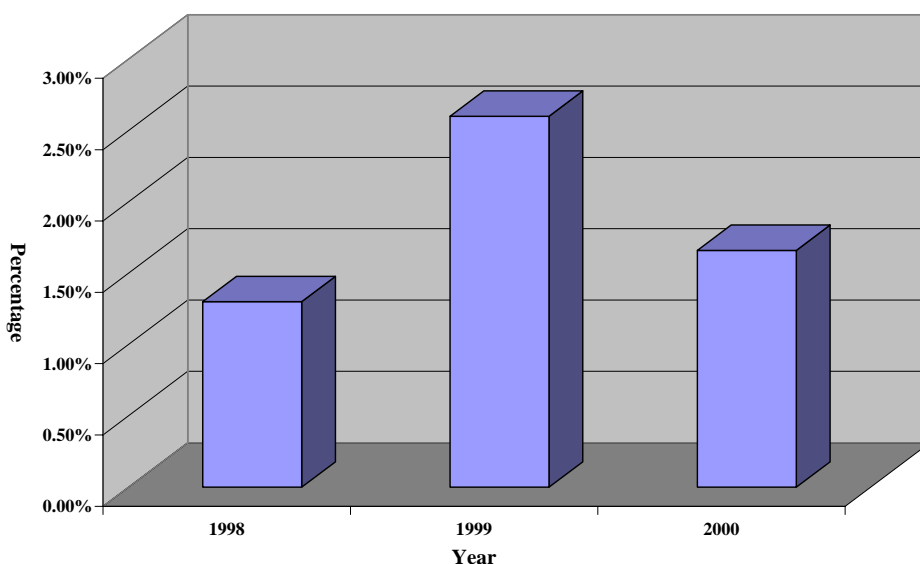
The improvement in living standards may also reflect the desire of households for more and more living space, reflected to some extent in new housing design and layout, for example the provision of extra bedrooms, studies and conservatories. 'Underoccupation' of dwellings is now more common. In addition, there has generally been greater awareness of the links between poor health, educational achievement and poor housing. In the social housing sector particularly, measures have been introduced to actively reduce unsatisfactory housing conditions since 1971.

28. Level of unfitness/disrepair in housing stock

The issue of housing is an important one for quality of life. Poor quality housing can lead to health problems, and is often associated with other social problems.

Indicator results

Level of Unfitness and Disrepair of Housing Stock in West Sussex



(Source: District and Borough Councils)

Comments

The information collected illustrates that the level of unfitness of housing stock within West Sussex has fallen back down to a similar level of 2 years ago. However, the current fitness standard is currently being reviewed and it is likely that a new health and safety rating will replace it. This will encompass important health and safety risks in the home and distinguish between the varying severity of those risks. This indicator may need to be changed in future to reflect the new statutory standard.

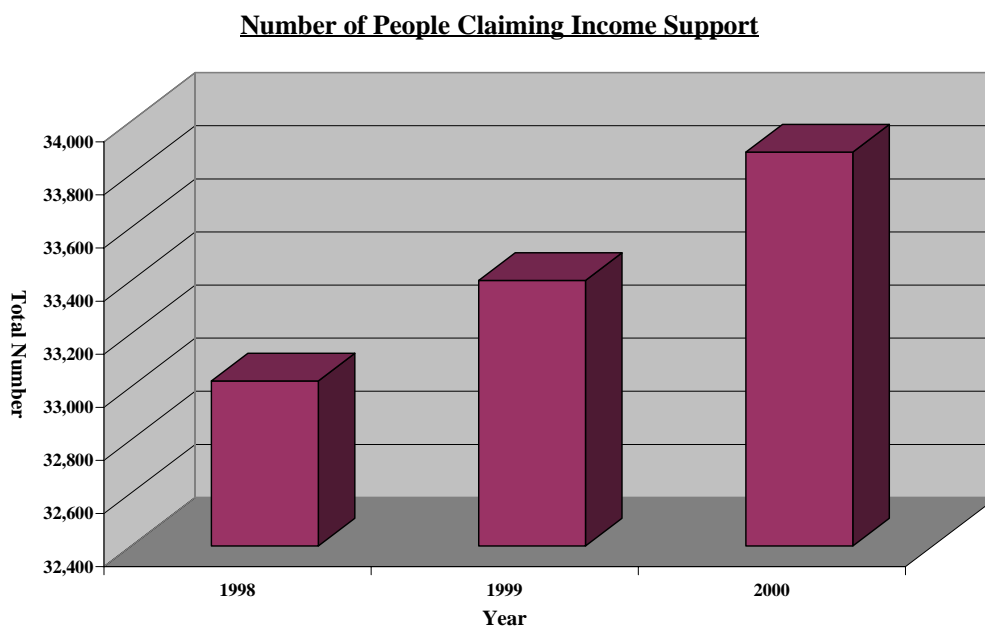
The proposed national indicator on housing quality notes that housing is a key component to a decent quality of life. Poor housing quality can lead to poor health and is often linked with other social problems. The English House Condition Survey was carried out every five years by the DETR, under the changes at the beginning of 2001, it is likely that DEFRA may continue this process. The latest survey in 1996 estimated that 7.2% (about 1.5 million homes) were judged to be "unfit" to live in. This compares

to the survey in 1986 that found 8.8% of homes were unfit to live in. The situation in West Sussex reveals levels that are generally below the national rate of 7.2%. Rates vary between about 2% to 5.9% across the county (based on information from two district councils).

30. Number of people claiming Income Support

It is important to determine the number of people out of work in the county, as this reflects the level of economic prosperity of a region. However, due to the nature and variety of benefits paid, it was felt that obtaining a figure for the number of claimants of Income Support would provide a significant overview.

Indicator results



(Source: Benefits Agency)

Comments

When compared to the national trends, there is a significant difference in the number of people claiming income support nationally than there is in West Sussex. This hopefully reflects the economic success of the area, which can also be seen in the indicators that study the number of people employed in the county and the number of job vacancies. However, the number of people claiming Income Support is steadily rising.

Objective 6: Everyone has access to employment opportunities.

31	number of people in work (in the county)
32	rate of unemployment
33	percentage of people with physical or sensory impairments who are of working age, and in employment
34	average weekly earnings
35	employment vacancies
36	level of local business start ups

What do the indicators tell us?

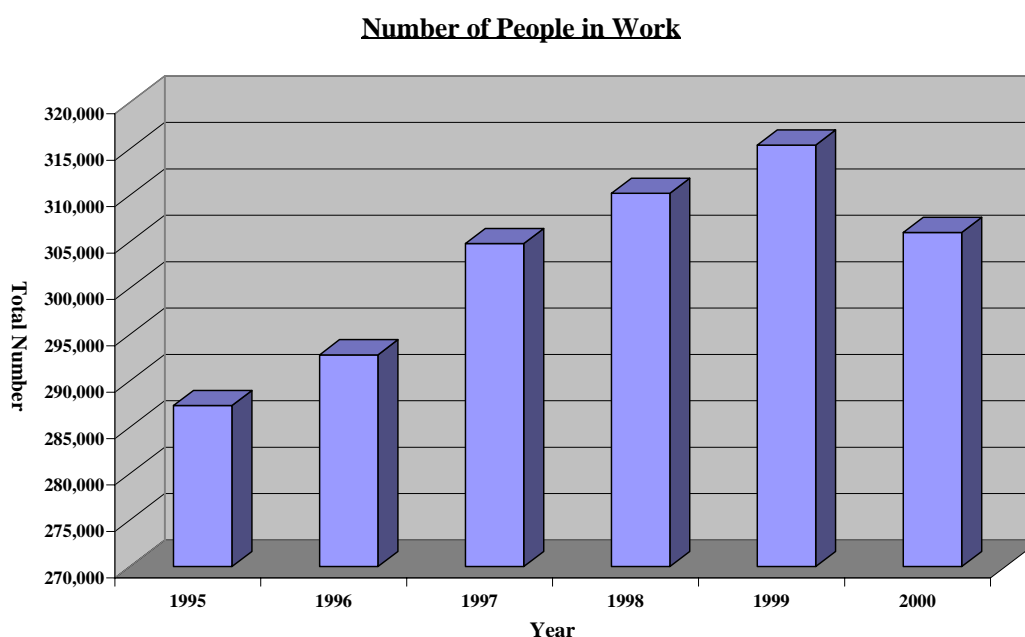
31. Number of people in work (in the county)

In order to look at the economic success of an area, it is useful to obtain a figure for the number of people employed.

The headline indicator developed by the Government shows that from the mid 1980s, the percentage of people of working age in the United Kingdom (16-59 years for women, 16-64 years for men) who were in work increased from under 70% to about 75% in 1990. This fell to 70% in the early 1990s due to the effects of the economic recession. Since 1994, the proportion has increased slowly to 73% in 1998.

A picture of employment trends in West Sussex and its sub areas during the 1980's has been built up from three information sources. The number of people who are "employees in employment" is taken from the Census of Employment and Annual Employment Survey and the number of people who are "self employed" is based on the results of the 1981 and 1991 Censuses of Population.

Indicator Results



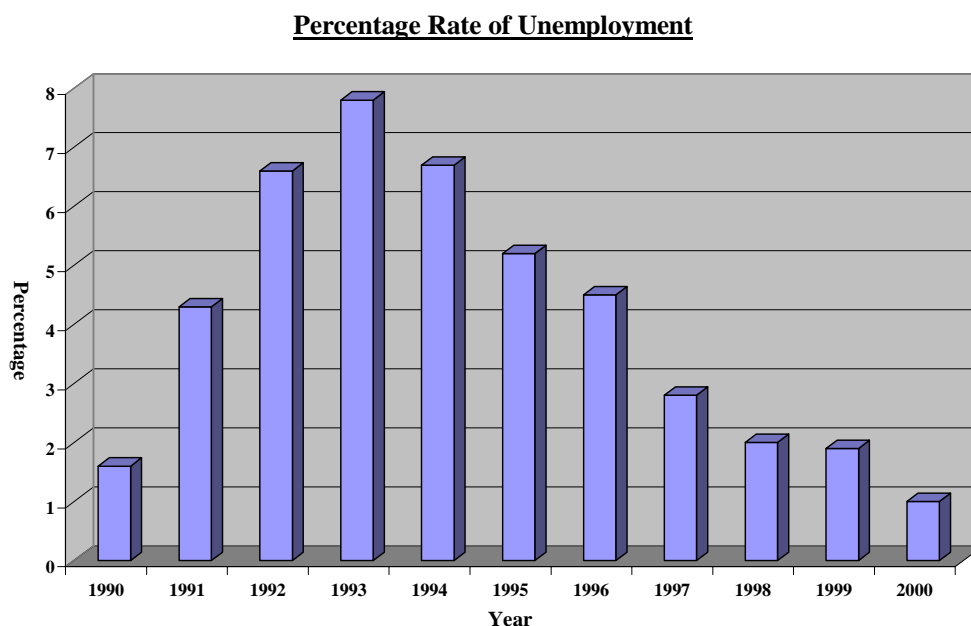
(Source: Census of Employment and Annual Employment Survey)

Comments

The number of people in employment has been steadily rising over the past few years. This rise in the number of employed has reflected the prosperity within the county. However, in 2000 a fall in the number of employed has occurred. This may be accredited to a cooling in the business market, which is jointly due to the strength of the pound limiting overseas trade and the concern of a global recession.

32. Rate of Unemployment

Indicator Results



(Source: Office for National Statistics)

Comments

Unemployment in West Sussex has followed the national and regional trends of a sharp increase in the early 1990's, reaching a peak of 8.0% in early 1993. Unemployment rates in the County have consistently been lower than regional and national rates and West Sussex now has one of the lowest unemployment levels in the South East region and indeed the country. Within the County, unemployment levels are lowest in Central Sussex (Crawley, Horsham, Mid Sussex districts) where the economy benefits from the close proximity of Gatwick Airport, good road links and a more diverse industrial base with growth in service sectors compensating the loss of manufacturing jobs. The Coastal Districts (Adur, Arun, Chichester, Worthing) experience higher unemployment levels but these are still generally lower than regional and national rates. In 2000 information collected again illustrated a continuation of this downwards trend.

Unemployment rates for men are higher than rates for women. This is partly attributable to more women having a 'carer' role and not being 'readily available for work' and

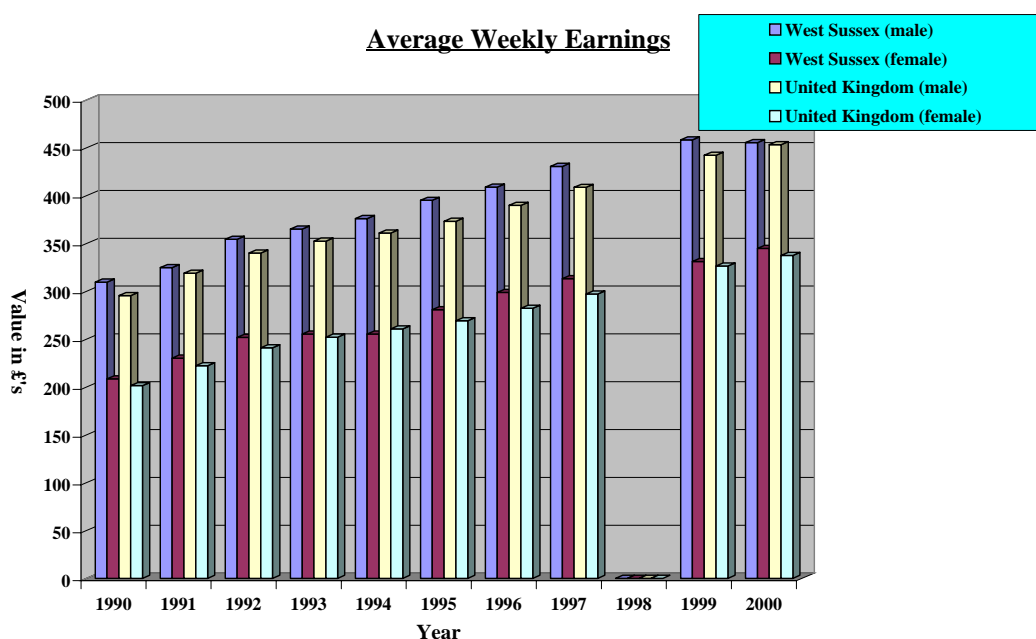
therefore not entitled to claim unemployment benefit. They are therefore not shown in the number of claimants.

34. Average weekly earnings

To be able to afford a certain standard of living and be able to live within a chosen area, it is important that the local population are paid an adequate wage. Therefore, it is useful to look at the average weekly earnings.

Indicator Results

(Note: figures for 1998 not available due to problems in data collection at the national level)



Comments

For the first time in several years Male earnings in West Sussex fell when compared to the previous years data. Whereas, female earnings continued to increase.

Whilst average gross weekly earnings can be regarded as a measure of money available to a person to enable them to purchase their everyday needs such as food, clothing or a place to live, no account is made of the cost of living in particular areas. For example, whilst incomes in West Sussex may be higher than the national average, house prices are generally greater than other parts of the country. The same can be said of other day to day costs making real income, in terms of the real goods and services bought, probably somewhat lower than the national average.

Although average earnings provide a useful comparison between the earnings of men and women, they do not indicate differences in rates of pay of comparable jobs. This is because such averages reflect the different employment characteristics of women and men, such as the proportions in different occupations and their length of time in jobs.

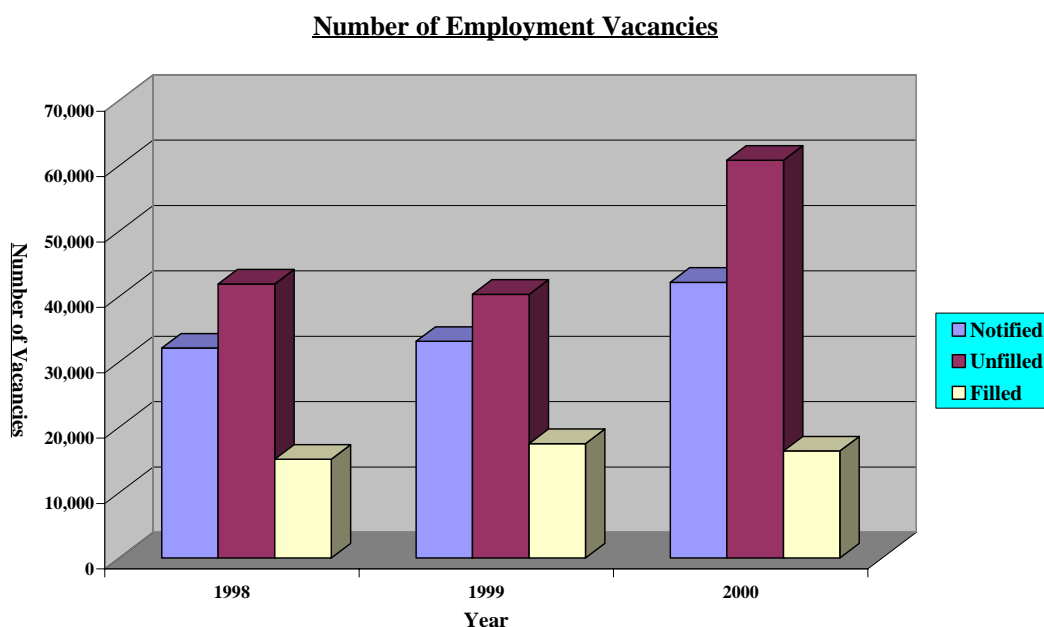
The increase in average earnings from one year to the next reflects several factors including pay settlements implemented between the April survey dates; changes in the amount of overtime and other payments relative to basic pay; and the structural effects of changes in the composition of the employed labour force.

Whilst female average weekly earnings are still substantially lower than male earnings the 'gap' between them has narrowed in recent years. This can be partly attributable to more women receiving equal pay for comparable jobs, as well as more women taking 'professional' and/or higher paid jobs. The difference in the level of earnings for men and women reflect the type of work people have as well as pay differentials.

35. Employment vacancies

In order to look at the economic success of an area, it is useful to obtain a figure for the number employment vacancies in West Sussex.

Indicator Results



(Source: Employment Information Unit)

Comments

It can be seen from the table above that general employment vacancies in West Sussex, has continued to rise. However, the number of these vacancies that are filled has fallen. From looking at Indicator 32, it can be seen that the number of unemployed has fallen, this indicates that there are fewer people looking for work, yet there may be the same number of jobs entering the market. These new jobs will therefore, remain unfilled due to the lack of interest.

Overall this indicator illustrates that economically the conditions in West Sussex are improving as more job opportunities are being created and taken up.

Objective 7: State of the County's Health

37	number of hospital admissions for asthma in West Sussex
38	proportion of population of West Sussex who smoke
39	Mortality rates from coronary heart diseases in the under 65's
40	Mortality rates for breast and lung cancers in the under 75's
41	prevalence of skin cancer
42	No. of suicides in West Sussex
43	Confirmed cases of food poisoning

What do the indicators tell us?

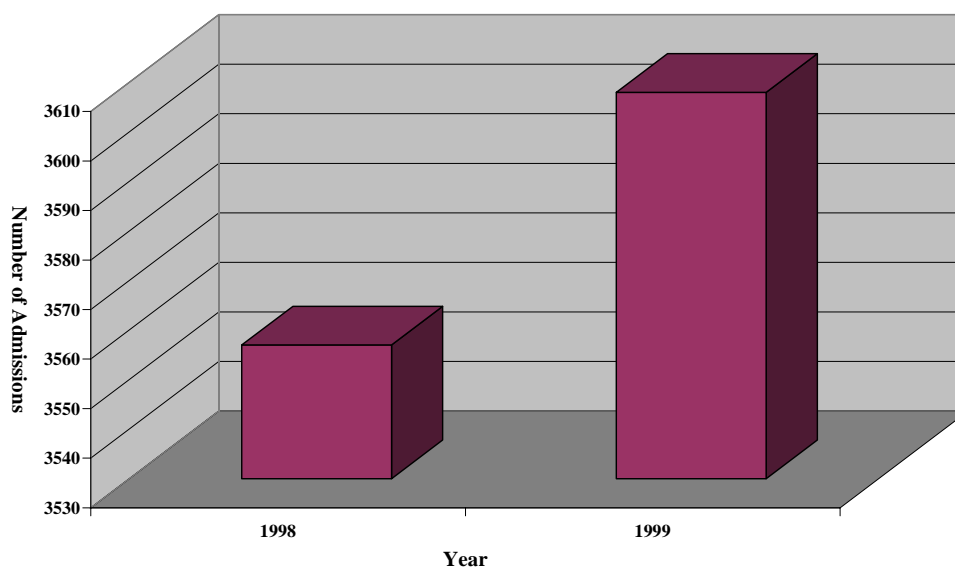
37. Number of hospital admissions for asthma in West Sussex

With the increase in road traffic and the associated risks resulting from the pollution emitted, it is useful to look at the incidences of hospital admissions for asthma. It has been recorded that pollution from traffic does not directly cause asthma, but instead can aggravate any existing symptoms a person may have.

A representative study carried out for the National Asthma Campaign, found that almost half (42%) of the UK's 3.4 million people with asthma are experiencing significant restrictions on many aspects of their lives and for as many as 1 in 5 of them, its impact is so severe that it affects them every day of their life.

Indicator Results

Number of Hospital Admissions For Asthma



(Source: West Sussex Health Authority)

Comments

Unfortunately as Asthma is a condition that does not require a great deal of intervention in a hospital setting, the Health Authority do not have that much accurate local data on the prevalence of asthma. The numbers are hidden within the Primary

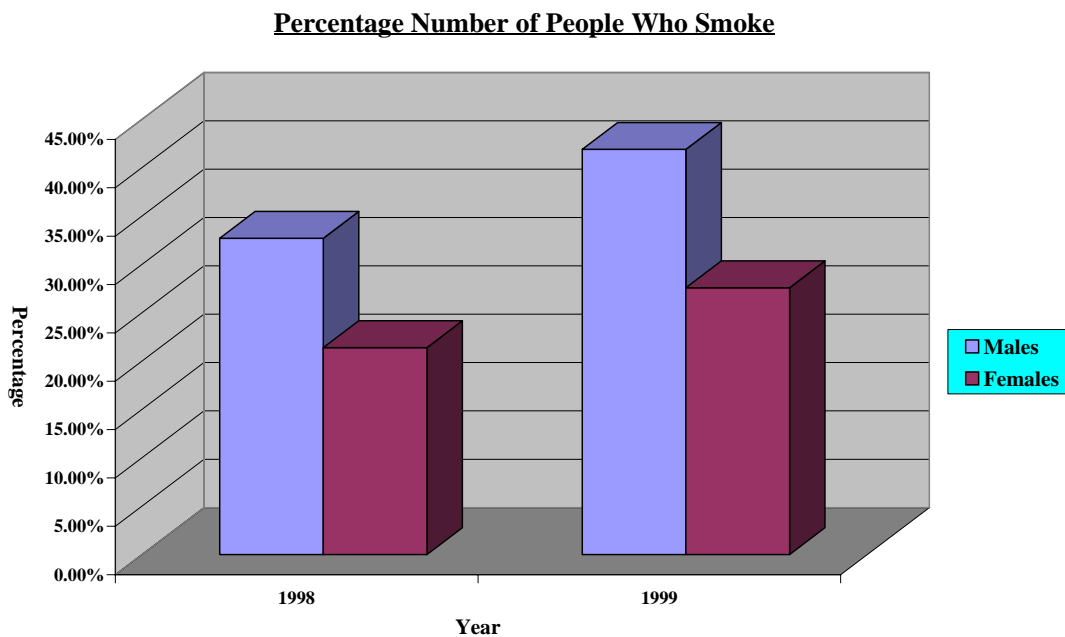
Care setting as GP's mainly deal with this condition. Therefore, methods to obtain further information in the future are being investigated.

As can be seen from the chart above, there has been a noted increase in the number of asthma hospital admissions. This may be due to the rise in traffic usage. Traffic pollution has not been proven to be a direct cause of asthma, but it has been found to aggravate the condition and bring on attacks. It is therefore, useful to monitor both this indicator and the indicator monitoring traffic growth, to see if there is a correlation.

38. Proportion of population of West Sussex who smoke

Smoking has more than 50 ways of making life a misery through illness and more than 20 ways of killing. In general, smokers endure poorer health than non-smokers. It has been estimated that, in England, 284,000 patients are admitted to NHS hospitals each year due to disease caused by smoking, occupying an average of 9,500 hospital beds every day. In addition, smoking related illness accounts for 8 million consultations with GPs and over 7 million prescriptions each year.

Indicator Results



(Source: West Sussex Health Authority)

Comments

Unfortunately the Health Authority were unable to provide any further information on the number of smokers in West Sussex for 2000.

From these results we can see that the number of smokers has significantly increased between 1998 and 1999. The number of males has increased by approximately 9.2% and the number of females has increased by 6.2%.

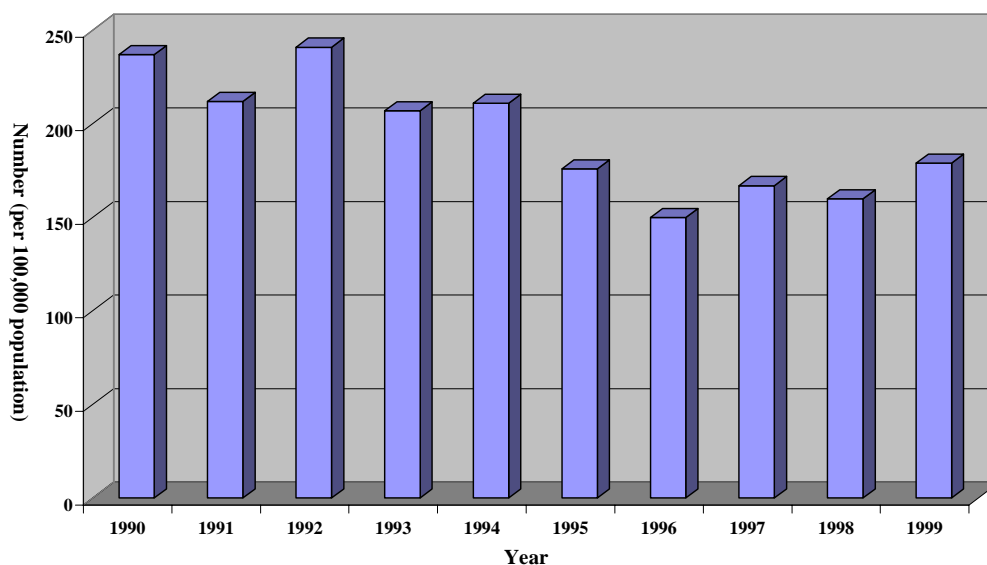
As a percentage of the population, West Sussex has more male smokers when compared to the national figures. The number of smokers in West Sussex has also increased over the last year. It would be useful to look at the cause of this increase and in particular study the number of young adults and teenagers smoking. Unfortunately, the figures provided could not be broken down into age groups for the information collected so far.

39. Mortality rates from coronary heart diseases in the under 65's

The disorder is commonest in males beyond the age of 40. A family history of coronary disease increases the risk. Extra attention should be paid to those factors that can be changed, such as smoking, drinking and an unhealthy diet. The exact way in which these factors actually lead to the furring up of the artery is not fully known. This indicator not only illustrates the condition of sections of society, but also illustrates the type of lifestyle taken up by these people.

Indicator Results

Mortality Rates From Coronary Heart Diseases in the Under 65's



(Source: West Sussex Health Authority)

Comments

By looking at the indicator above, it can be noted that the number of mortality rates from coronary heart disease has fallen. However, if a line of best fit is drawn, over the last four years there appears to be trend indicating a possible rise. This rise may be due to changes in diet, lack of exercise within the population. The rise may also be accredited to the range of ages in West Sussex. West Sussex is a popular retirement area, if the majority of people living in the county are of older age, the age more susceptible to coronary problems, then the figures will indicate a rise.

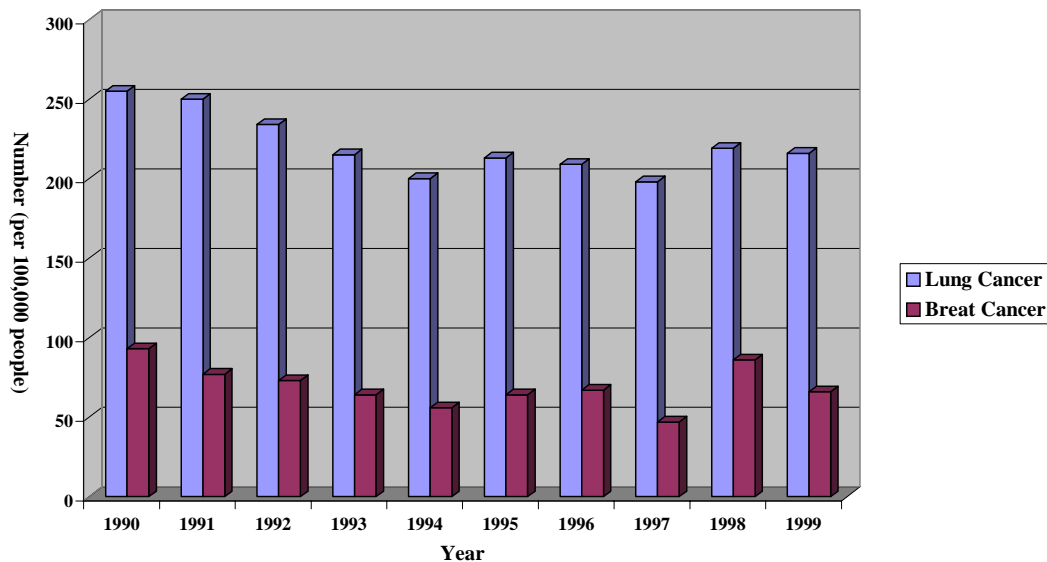
40. Mortality rates for breast and lung cancers in the under 75's

In Britain, breast cancer is the single most common cause of all deaths in women under 50 years of age. It is by far the most common type of cancer in women, accounting for one in five of all cancers. It can also, on occasion, occur in men.

Each year 33,000 women are newly diagnosed with breast cancer and, while on average over 60 per cent are still alive five years later, about 13,400 women die each year. Britain has the highest mortality rate in the world, it is therefore, important to monitor the incidences in West Sussex.

Indicator Results

Mortality Rates for Breast and Lung Cancers in the Under 75's



(Source: West Sussex Health Authority)

Comments

Incidences of lung cancer significantly lower than in 1990. However, the number of cases has started to rise once more. In light of the lack of information on the number of smokers in the county, it is hard to see if this rise is due to an increase of people smoking.

The number of people suffering from breast cancer has indicated a small fall, but overall has remained fairly constant.

41. Prevalence of skin cancer

The level of UV light today is higher than it was 50 or 100 years ago. This is due to a reduction of ozone in the earth's atmosphere. Ozone serves as a filter to screen out and reduce the amount of UV light that we are exposed to. With less atmospheric ozone, a higher level of UV light reaches the earth's surface.

Sunburn and UV light can damage skin, and this damage can lead to skin cancer. There are of course other determining factors, such as the environment a person lives in and whether there have been any incidences of skin cancer in the family.

Indicator Results

Prevalence of skin cancer - source West Sussex Health Authority

Comments

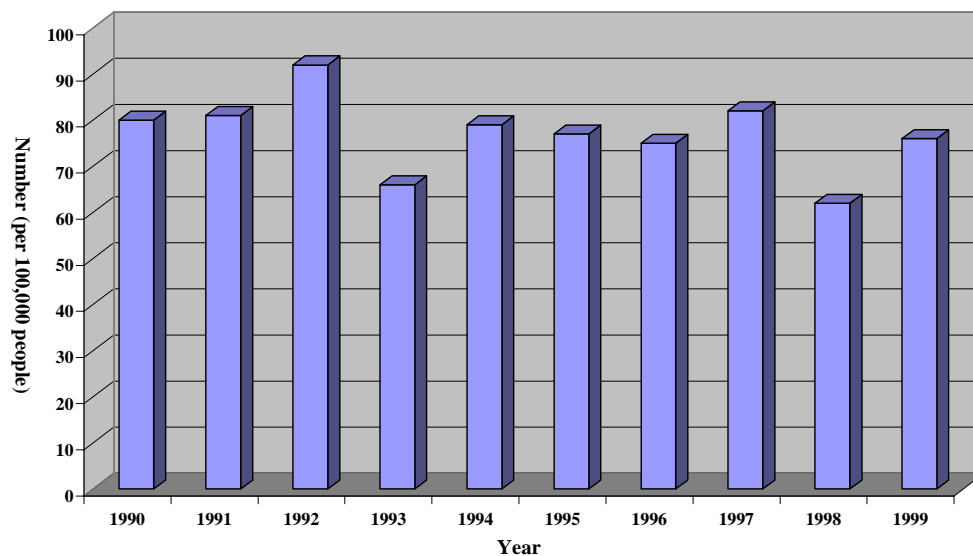
As from 1993 onwards, no further information was collected on the number of skin cancer cases. With increased concerns on the reduction of the ozone layer and the danger of increased UV light exposure, it would seem logical that the collection of information on the number of skin cancer cases be reinstated.

42. No. of suicides in West Sussex

In the UK and Ireland nearly 6,700 people took their own life in 1998; almost double the death toll from road traffic accidents. It is estimated that at least 160,000 people attempt suicide each year in England and Wales alone. It is also important to point out that 19% of deaths among young people are by suicide - second only to road accidents, for people of all ages the figure is just 1%.

Indicator Results

Number of Suicides



(Source: West Sussex Health Authority)

Comments

From the data collected, it can be seen that the number of suicides has reduced in West Sussex. This reduction in numbers can be attributed to a range of reasons. It can be argued that there is a greater range of support available that can be accessed in several ways 24 hours a day. The reason for the fall may also be due to improvements in the standard of living and greater employment opportunities. Unfortunately, with regards to the reduction in the number of suicides, at present it is not possible to say what the definitive cause is.

43. Confirmed cases of food poisoning

Every year there are reported cases of food poisoning, this occurs from people eating food products, which are either contaminated or no longer suitable for human consumption due to poor storage or age of the product. The causes of food poisoning are as follows:

bacteria or viruses in food

moulds or fungi in food

eating some plants

eating animals or (more often) fish

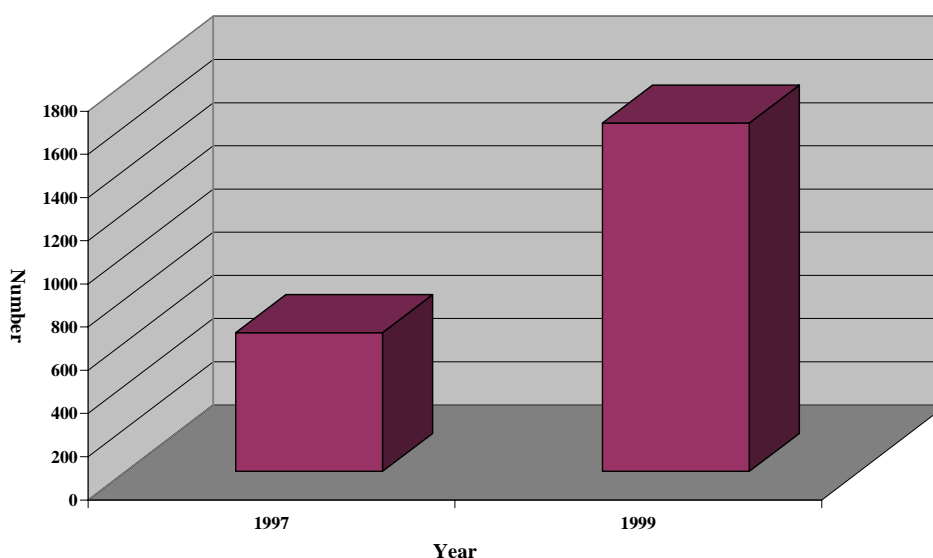
chemicals in food - including the toxins produced by some bacteria or fungi

allergic reactions, such as reactions to peanuts

With the increase in messages being passed onto the public about which foods to eat and which to avoid, it is useful to obtain an accurate picture on the true number of cases of food poisoning occurring in the county.

Indicator Results

Number of Confirmed Cases of Food Poisoning



Comments

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of food poisoning incidences, with the number of reported cases more than doubling. This increase may be the result of

greater public awareness of food poisoning. As a result of this, any incidences that occur are more likely to be reported, rather than just dismissing them as stomach cramps. There is a possibility that bacteria are becoming more virulent and the public's immunity to such germs is being reduced or that the standard of cleanliness both in the home and in the food industry is falling. Whatever the cause, the rise in incidents, experienced in West Sussex, illustrates the need for further research.

Objective 8: Access to facilities, services, goods and other people is not achieved at the expense of the environment or limited to those with cars

44	Percentage of people without regular access to a car
45	Percentage increase in traffic growth (of rural and urban areas)
46	Percentage of trips to work by public transport, bicycle and foot
47	Number of school travel plans
48	reported deaths/injuries from road accidents
49	number of community transport schemes
50	Number of additional train services, and number of bus routes.

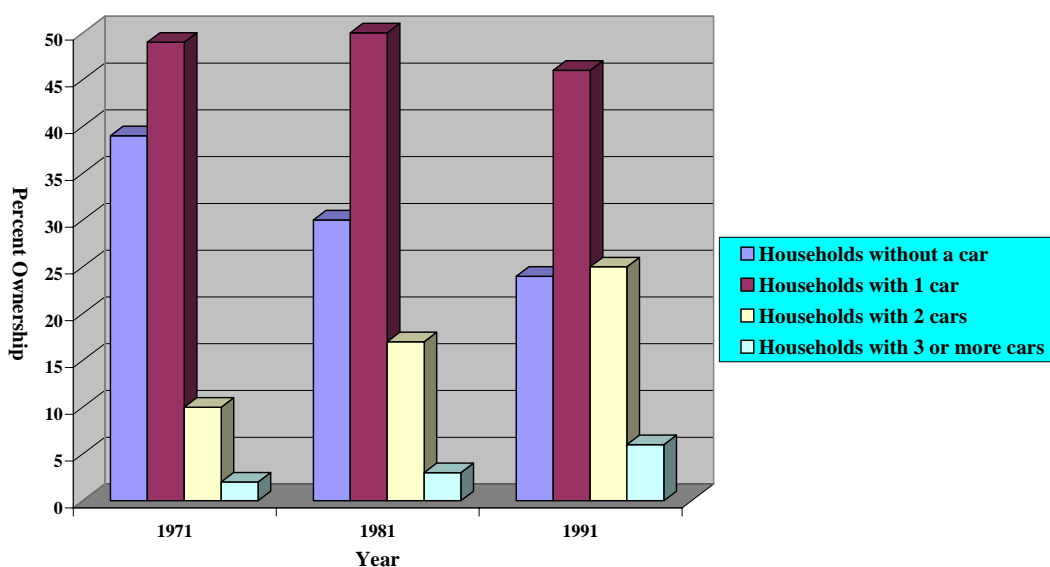
What do the indicators tell us?

44. Percentage of people without regular access to a car

The majority of households today have access to at least one vehicle. However, there are still households, which have no access to a car at all. This indicator provides information on the number of families/households that do not own a car and illustrates the need for alternative means of transport. The need for alternative modes of transport is particularly important for people living in rural areas or for those sections of society whose mobility is impaired.

Indicator Results

Car Ownership Within the County



(Source: Census of Population 1971, 1981, 1991(OPCS))

Comments

The level of car ownership in the county has increased between 1971 and 1991. A rough estimate is that in 1971 there were about 158,000 cars available to households in West Sussex. This compares to an estimated 325,000 cars available by 1991.

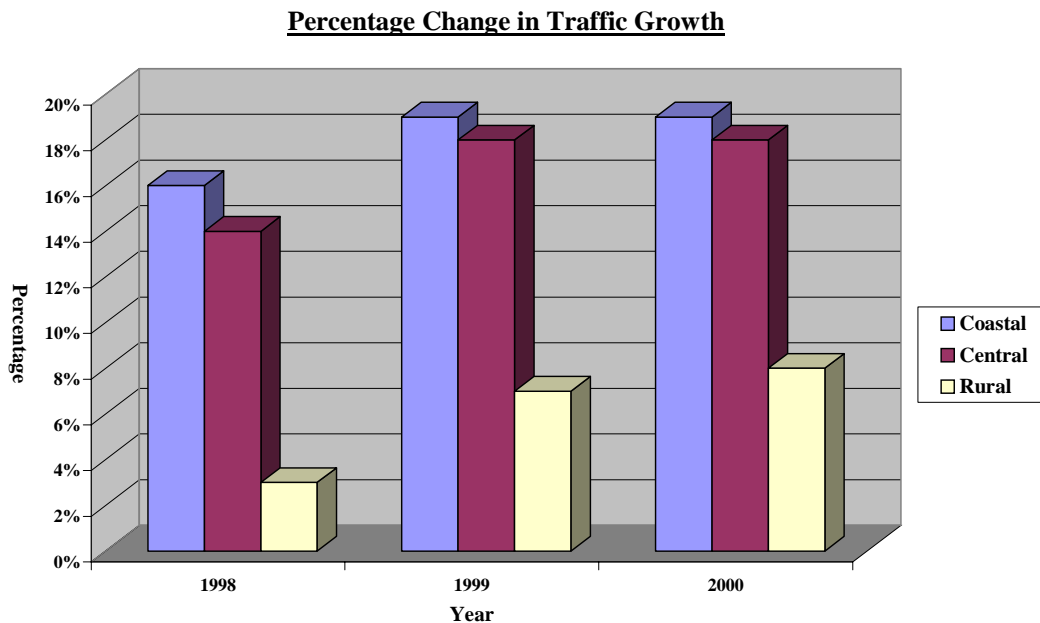
The findings in this indicator clearly illustrate the cause for congestion on our roads, this can be seen by the number of households who do not have access to a car, falling quite steadily. The other worrying trend is that the number of households with just one car has also fallen below the number of households with two cars. Due to this increased car ownership, the levels of pollution released will also be expected to rise as well as congestion on the roads and the likelihood of road accidents.

45. Percentage increase in traffic growth (of rural and urban areas)

In order to develop the road network for the region, it is important to monitor the growth of traffic in West Sussex. The results obtained can also serve a dual purpose. With regards to the environment, many people are increasingly worried about the effects of the motor car and road improvements, especially as both of these are major contributors to climatic change as well as generally disrupting the environment through their use.

The key objective is to strike the right balance between transport's role in helping the economy progress and allowing people to travel wherever they need to go, while at the same time protecting the environment and improving quality of life. In the past traffic growth has been associated with economic growth, but the resulting volume of traffic leads to congestion, noise and air pollution and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change.

Indicator Results



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

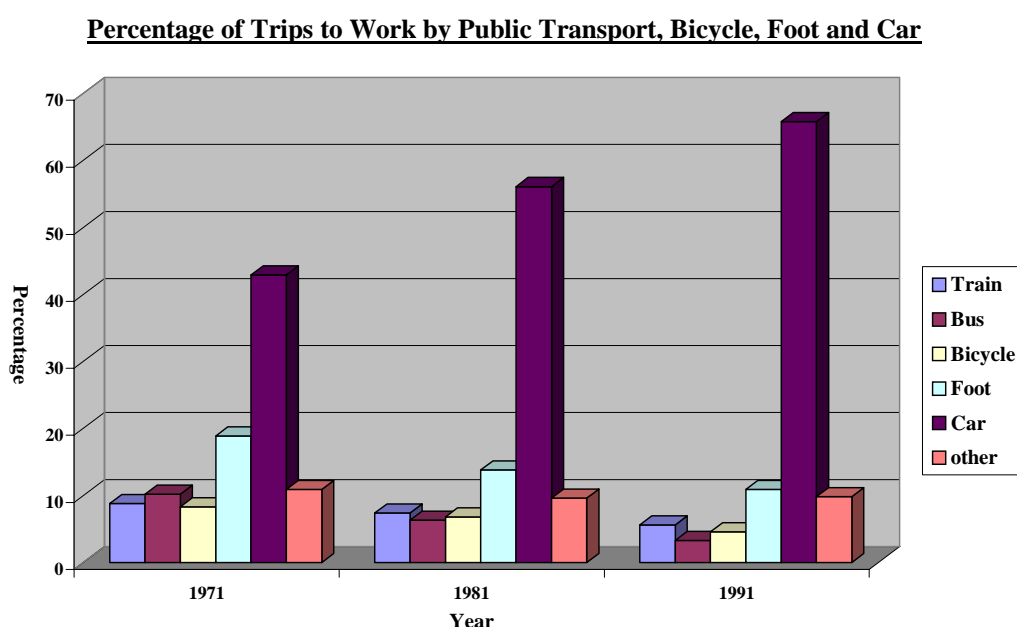
The figures in the chart are based on a base figure from 1990. Since then, traffic has increased on our roads. However, over the last year this rate of growth has practically stopped, with the only exception being found on rural roads.

This reduction in traffic will hopefully be reflected in the indicators monitoring health issues, such as the number of asthma cases, as well as in the indicators looking at air quality in West Sussex.

46. Percentage of trips to work by public transport, bicycle and foot

With increased car usage, journeys into work appear to be increasingly suffering from loss of time, lower journey reliability, car parking shortage and higher fuel consumption. This in turn has a knock on effect on the people travelling in with a rise in related stress and associated sickness. Also there is the impact on the quality of our environment through diminished air quality and increased noise. A key objective is to encourage people to walk, cycle or use public transport more and their cars a little less, and to reduce the need for travel through better land use planning.

Indicator Results



(Source: Census of Population 1971, 1981, 1991 (OPCS))

Comments

There has been a decline in the proportion of people who travel to work by public transport, cycling or walking between 1971 and 1991. In contrast, the proportion who use the car to get to work has increased.

47. Number of school travel plans

There are strong reasons to encourage children to walk or cycle short distances to school for their health, education and social development. But buses have a key role to play for longer journeys. They can do a lot to reduce the number of school journeys by car, which add to traffic congestion and pollution.

There is also an incentive for local authorities to co-develop school travel plans due to guidelines brought out by the Government. Additionally, a switch of school journeys from the car to walking, cycling or bus would help to improve children's health and independence and reduce road traffic, congestion and air pollution.

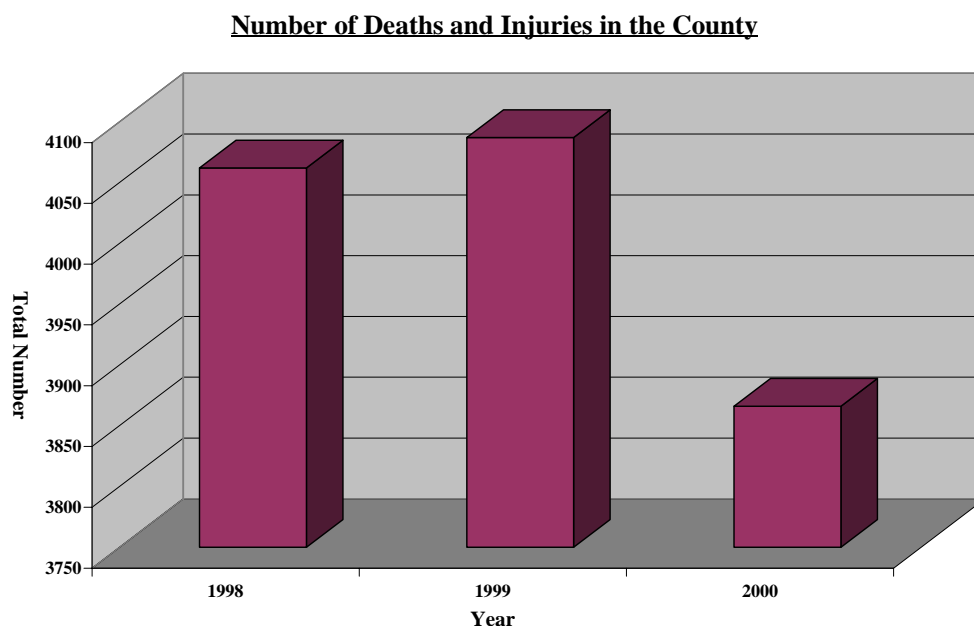
Comments

Since 1996, information on this indicator has been based on West Sussex primary school children who have taken part in the annual Walk to School Week campaign organised across the country. However, it was felt that this indicator should be changed to record the number of school travel plans, within the county. As result of these changes, no trends or information is available for this year.

48. Reported deaths/injuries from road accidents

In 1989 the Government set a target for local authorities to reduce the number of injured on the roads by one third by the year 2000, using the average of the years 1981 to 1985 as a base. With greater use of the roads as a result of an increase in traffic growth, there is a risk of an increase in accidents. It is therefore important to monitor this risk and determine whether accidents are on the increase.

Indicator Results



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

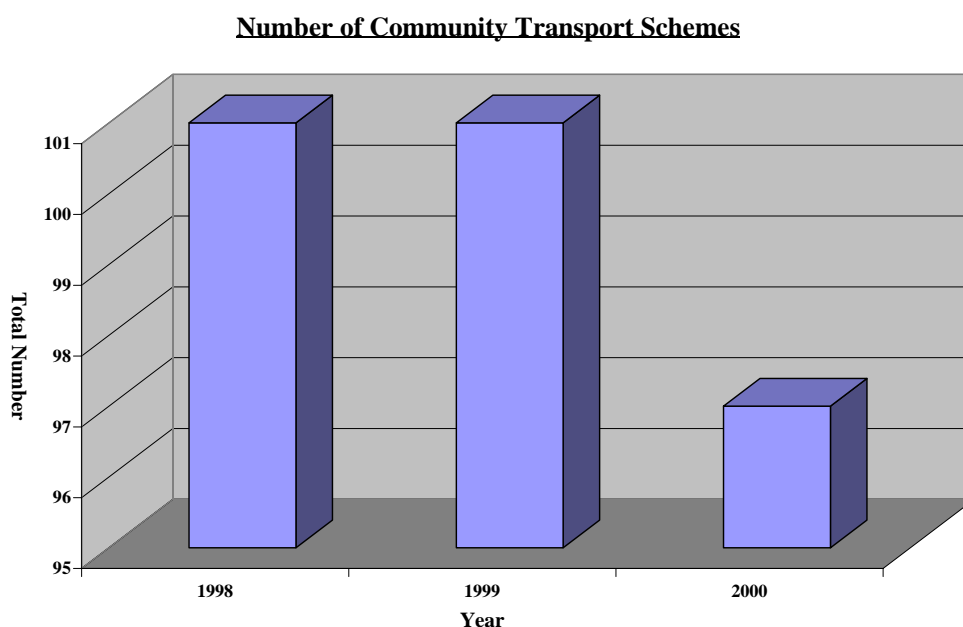
With this indicator the information demonstrates a dramatic reduction in the number of deaths/ injuries from road accidents. It could be argued that this reduction is due to greater policing of our roads and the introduction of tougher fines, greater speed management and GATSO speed cameras along our roads. With reduced speeds, comes a greater ability to monitor and manage the conditions on the road and subsequently fewer accidents.

Also the introduction of more stringent safety tests for car manufacturers does mean that if a person is unlucky enough to find themselves in an accident the risk of injury or death has been reduced significantly.

49. Number of community transport schemes

In order to meet the needs of those members of the public who do not have regular access to a car or are unable to drive due to reduced mobility, community transport schemes are being set up. Through the creation of these schemes, congestion on the roads can be reduced.

Indicator Results



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

In 2000 the number of community transport schemes fell from 101 to 97, as a result of four schemes being lost. However, despite this reduction, the remaining schemes are becoming more popular and as a result the organisers are purchasing more vehicles. In future years, the number of vehicles purchased may be a useful add on to this indicator.

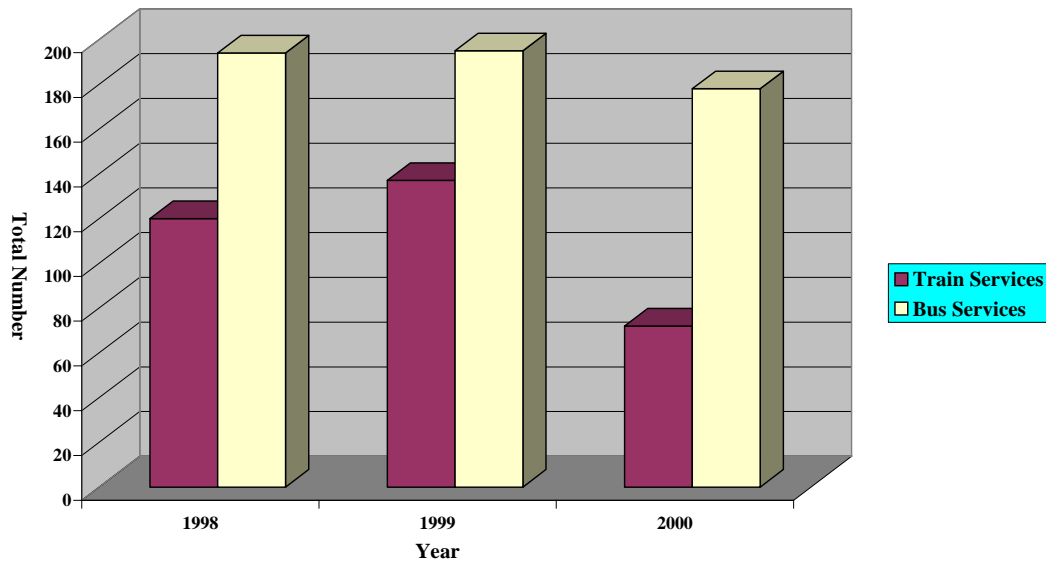
50. Number of additional train services, and number of bus routes.

With the increase of car usage and subsequent congestion on the roads, the need to provide an alternative is becoming more relevant. The alternative to car usage is public transport. However, in order to get people out of their cars, a suitable service must be in place that is not only frequent but also reliable. Therefore, this indicator

looks at the number of new services added each year to the public transport system in West Sussex.

Indicator Results

Number of Additional Train and Bus Services



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

There has been a slight decrease in the number of bus and train services in the county. In order to encourage people from their cars and onto public transport, transport systems need to be in place and the services need to be reliable and clean. People also like the convenience of going from their front door and then arriving at their precise location, if more services are laid on or schemes such as Dial-a-Ride are introduced, then public transport will be able to meet the need for convenience as well.

Objective 9: People live without fear of personal violence from crime or persecution because of their personal beliefs, race, gender or sexuality.

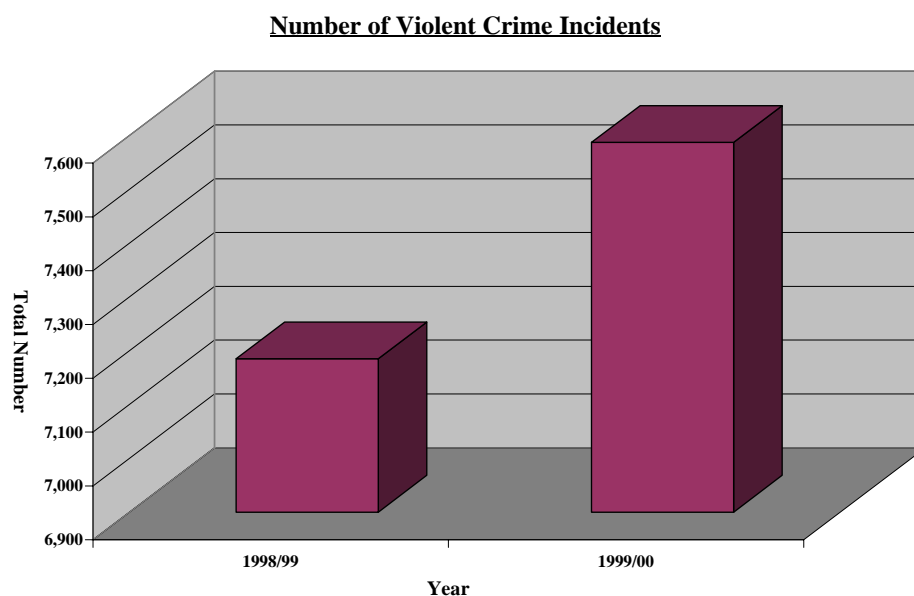
51	Number of Violent Crimes within West Sussex
52	Total number of burglaries in West Sussex
53	number of reported rapes and indecent assaults per thousand people
54	number of racially motivated incidents per thousand people
55	rate of reported crimes to rates of detection/conviction
56	rate of detection of violent crime
57	percentage of people who fear physical assault is likely to occur in their area
58	number of people using victim support schemes

What do the indicators tell us?

Everyone has a *right* to live in a community that is safe. Crime imposes economic costs, reinforces social exclusion and can hasten the environmental decline of neighbourhoods. It can make people reluctant to walk or use public transport or go out after dark. Drug-misusing offenders, to feed their habits commit much acquisitive crime, such as shop lifting and burglary.

The following indicators cover the range of crimes recorded in the county.

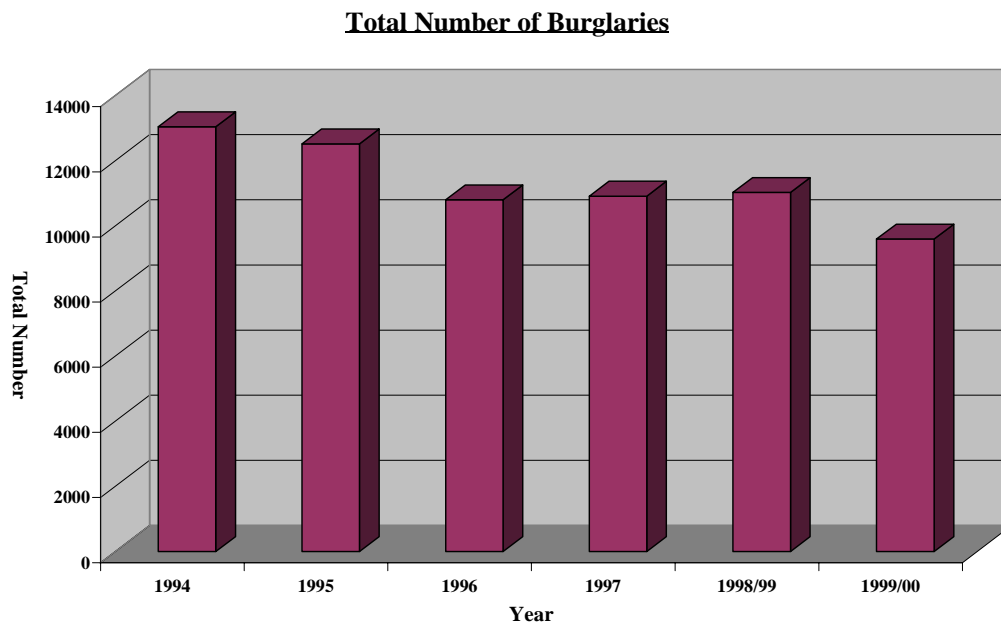
**51. Number of Violent Crimes within West Sussex
Indicator Results**



(Source: Sussex Police)

52. Total number of burglaries in West Sussex

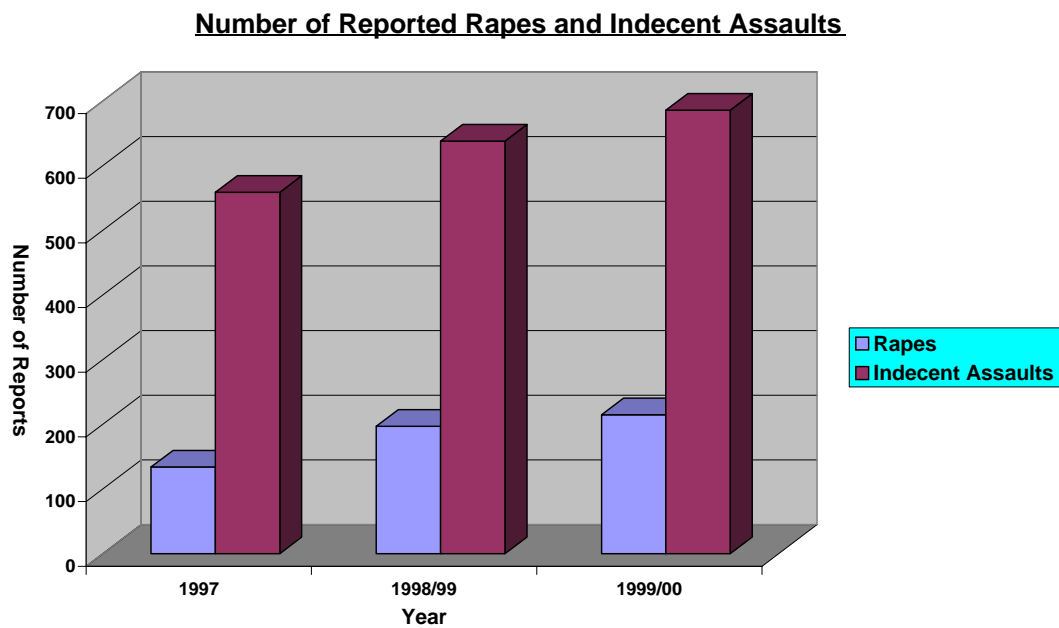
Indicator Results



(Source: Sussex Police)

53. Number of reported rapes and indecent assaults per thousand people

Indicator Results



(Source: Sussex Police)

54. Number of racially motivated incidents per thousand people

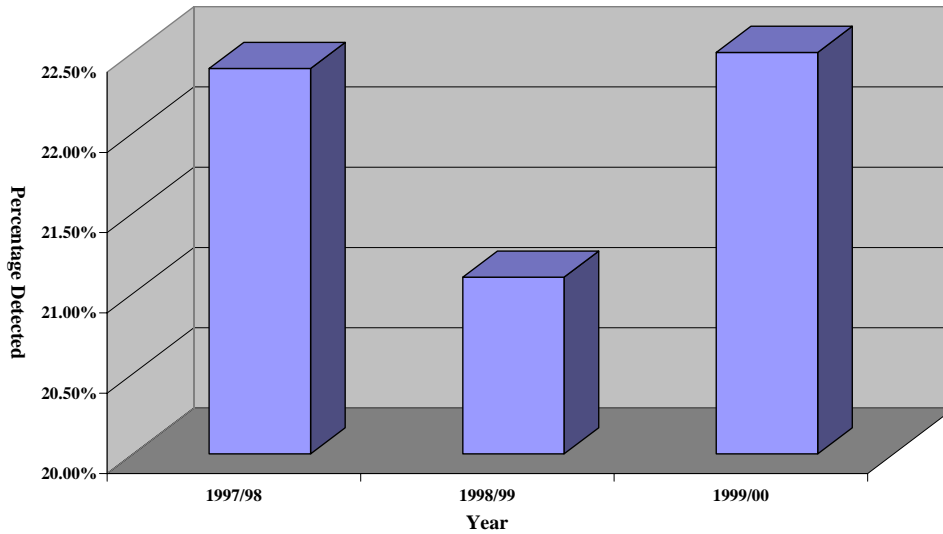
Indicator Results

The information required for this indicator was collected for the first time this year. Therefore, due to this, no trends will be available until next year.

55. Rate of reported crimes to rates of detection/conviction

Indicator Results

Number of Crimes Detected by Primary Means

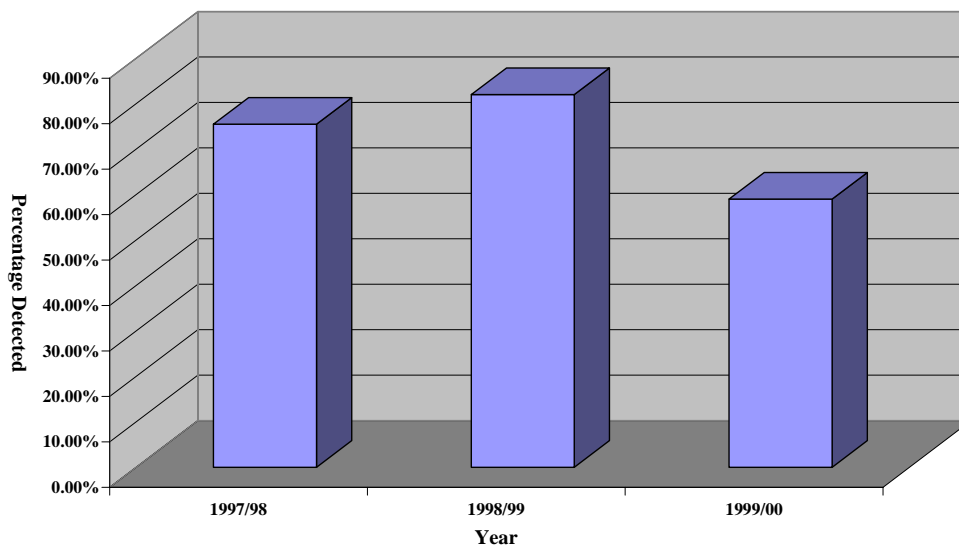


(Source: Victim Support)

56. Rate of detection of violent crime

Indicator Results

Number of Violent Crimes Detected by Primary Means



(Source: Victim Support)

57. Percentage of people who fear physical assault is likely to occur in their area

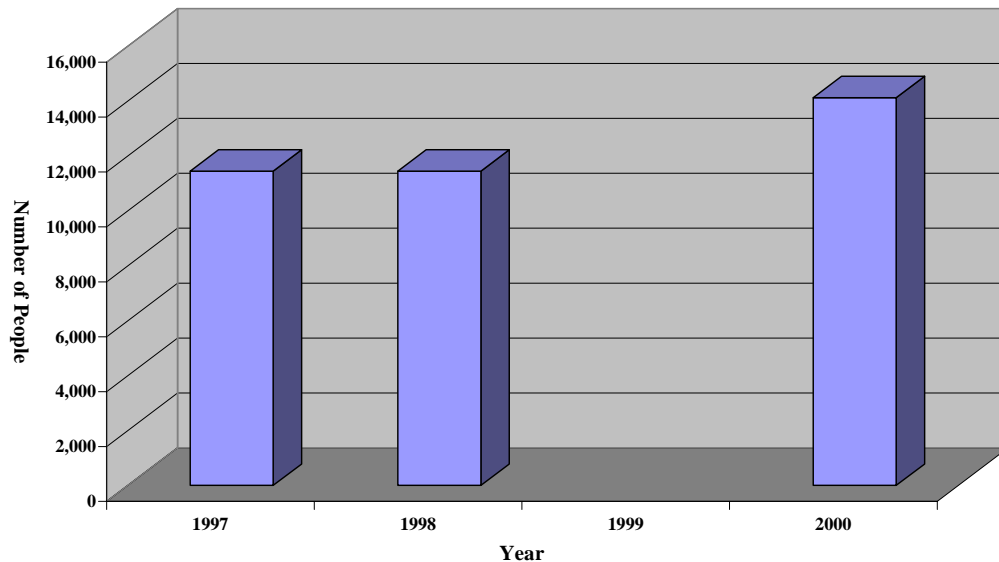
Indicator Results

There are currently no results collected for this indicator. This is due to the information not being held by the relevant organisations. It is felt that the figure collected would not be reliable as different people have different conceptions, especially of crime. Therefore, it is felt that accurate and reliable data cannot be collected.

58. Number of people using victim support schemes

Indicator Results

Number of People Using Victim Support Schemes



Overall Comments

An important point to note is that the Home Office has changed the way police forces count crimes with effect from April 1998. This will increase the numbers included from 1998/99 but should assist in giving a more accurate picture of crime across the country. To further this, we have decided to also change the way the information is collected and will now provide a total figure for the number of crimes committed in West Sussex, rather than per thousand people. It is also important to note that as from this year (2000), information will be collected on the number of racially motivated crimes occurring in the county, although no trends will become available until the following year.

Seven community safety partnerships have been established in West Sussex as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act. Each partnership has produced an audit of crime and disorder based on the boundaries of the seven district councils in the county. The audits have each followed a similar approach in reviewing the level of crime and disorder in the local community. Other issues of concern with regard to community safety have also been considered including traffic accidents, substance abuse, fire brigade call outs, educational matters such as truancy and general issues pertaining to

the local environment such as graffiti and vandalism. Another important feature of the audits has been a survey of people's perceptions about crime in their area. The partnerships have consulted widely amongst the local community through meetings, exhibitions and leaflets explaining the audits.

The audits will now be taken forward to develop a community safety strategy for each of the seven areas which will incorporate the issues identified by the audits and consultation exercises. The strategies will set down objectives and targets for community safety, which will be constantly monitored and evaluated. The Crime and Disorder Act requires that the whole process should be repeated every three years.

Objective 10: Everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information needed to enable them to play a full part in society.

59	children under 5 in nursery/pre-school
60	number of adults in education/training
61	numbers of pupils/students in training placements, further education and employment (full and part time)
62	percentage of pupils attaining A-C qualifications in English and Maths at key stages age 11, GCSE and A-B grade A level
63	library members as % of population
64	number and opening hours of local advice bureaux
65	number of community newspapers/parish notice boards

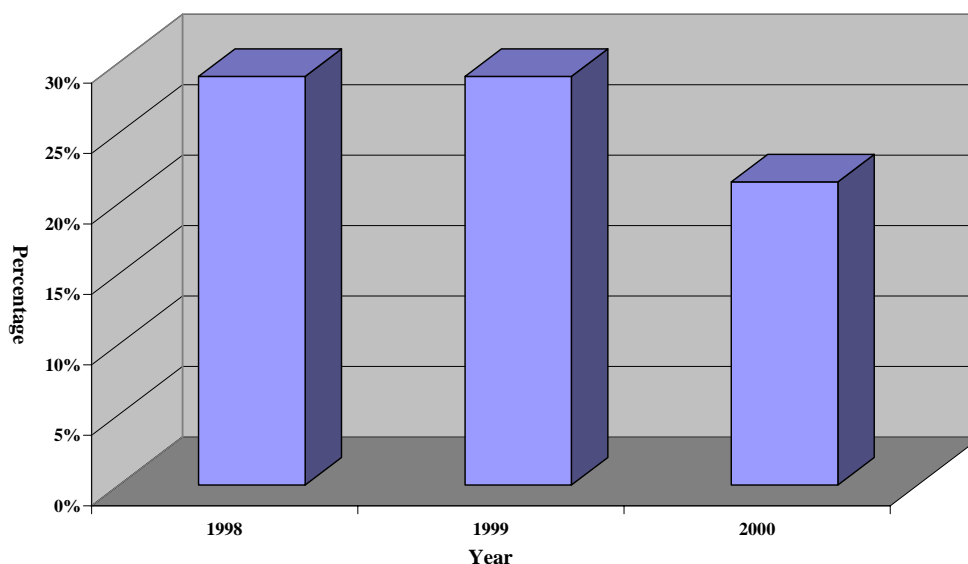
What do the indicators tell us?

59. Children under 5 in nursery/pre-school

Nursery and Pre-schools help meet some social requirements set down in the Local Agenda 21 objectives. These schools help the process of providing access to employment or education, by providing a place where children can be supervised whilst the parents are out. Nursery and Pre-schools also assist in the educational development of young children. Therefore, the more places that are available, the greater the opportunities produced.

Indicator Results

Children Under 5 in Nursery/Pre-school as % of Total Age Under 5



Comments

In 2000 a significant drop in the number of under 5's attending nursery school was reported. This may be due to an increase in the birth rate and subsequent number of five-year olds in the county. This increase in the population size, of this age group, could effect the calculation making it look like the number of children attending has dropped.

60. Number of adults in education/training

Providing adults with access to educational facilities can help in the further development of various groups within society. This newly acquired knowledge can be used to obtain new qualifications as well as develop or change an existing career.

Indicator Results/Comments

There are currently no results collected for this indicator. This is due to the information not being held by the relevant organisations. It is felt that the figure

61. Numbers of pupils/students in training placements, further education and employment (full and part time)

It was felt that an indicator should be in place to monitor how many children of school age are currently in further education, training placements and employment.

Comments

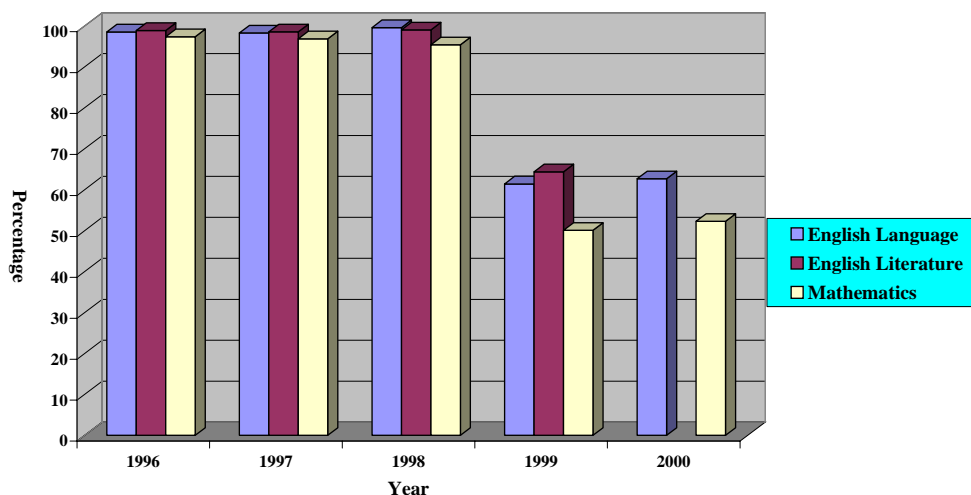
The information for this indicator has been collected for the first time this year, as a result no trends are available at the present time.

62. Percentage of pupils attaining A-C qualifications in English and Maths at GCSE and A-B grade A level

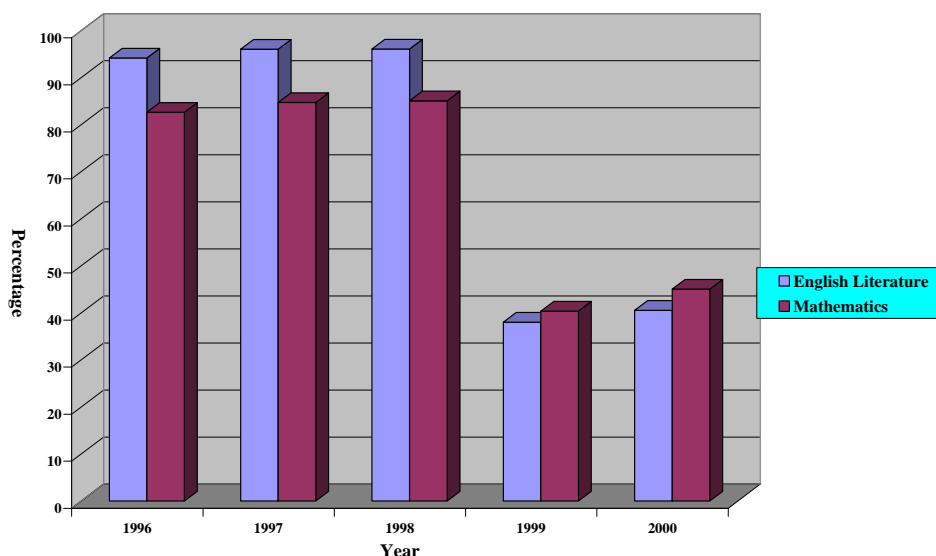
Educational qualifications help to provide people with the skills to make a contribution to the economy and society. Learning also has a wider contribution to make - promoting active citizenship and combating social exclusion. It is also vitally important to monitor the state of schooling within an area and the level of education achieved by school children. Therefore, it is extremely useful to look at the range of education results. However, by just obtaining the number of passes overall, the true picture may not necessarily be obtained. Instead this can be achieved by accessing the number of A-C (GCSE) or A-B (GCE) passes.

Indicator Results

Percentage of pupils attaining A-C qualifications in English and Maths at GCSE Level



Percentage of pupils attaining A-B qualifications in English and Maths at A level



Comments

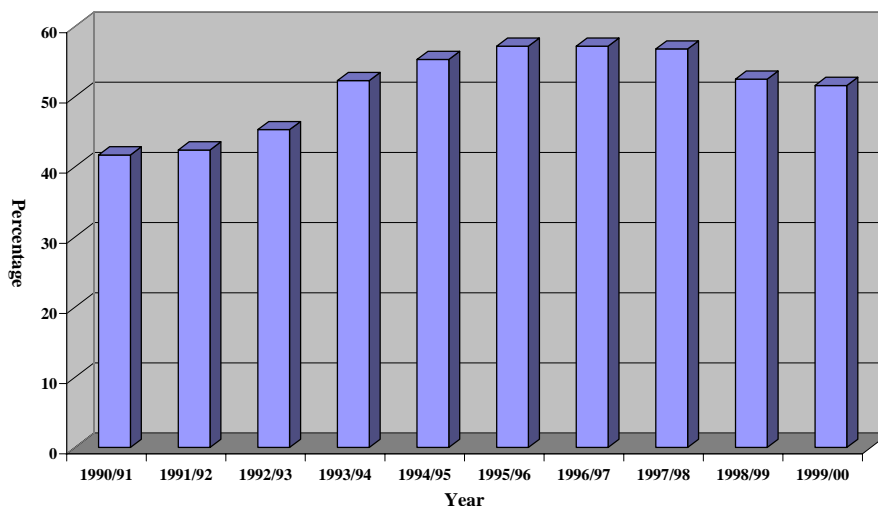
Overall, the number of people passing both their GCSE's and A-levels has increased. However it was decided that the indicator would be changed in 1999 to reflect the number of passes at A-C for GCSE's and A-B for A-levels. It was felt that this would provide a more accurate picture of the educational success in West Sussex.

63. Library members as % of population

In order for people to obtain information and have access to reading material, it is important that a suitable library service is made available. It is therefore believed that it is useful to study the general usage of the library service and in particular the number of library members there are in the county. This information can then be used to tailor the facilities available to the public's needs.

Indicator Results

Number of Library Members as a Percentage of the Population



(Source: WSCC)

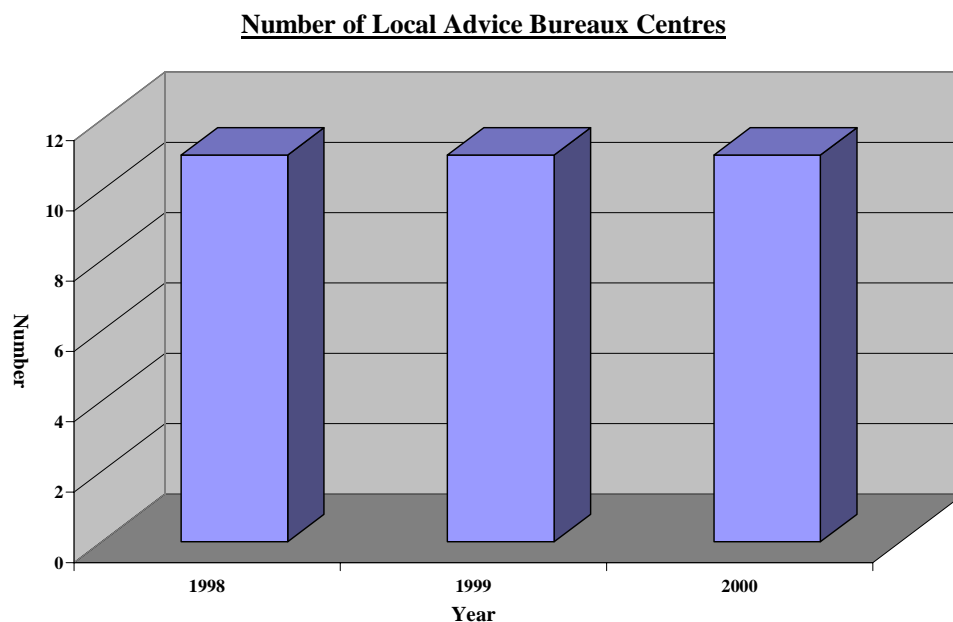
Comments

The number of library members gradually rose from 1990/91 until 1996/97. However, it has been noted that the numbers have dropped slightly and are similar to the number of members found in 1993/94.

64. Number and opening hours of local advice bureaux

The other source of information for members of the public in the county, is through the network of advice bureaux. Therefore, the Forum believed it would be useful to monitor the number of advice bureau's and their opening times.

Indicator Results



(Source: Citizens Advice Bureaux)

Comments

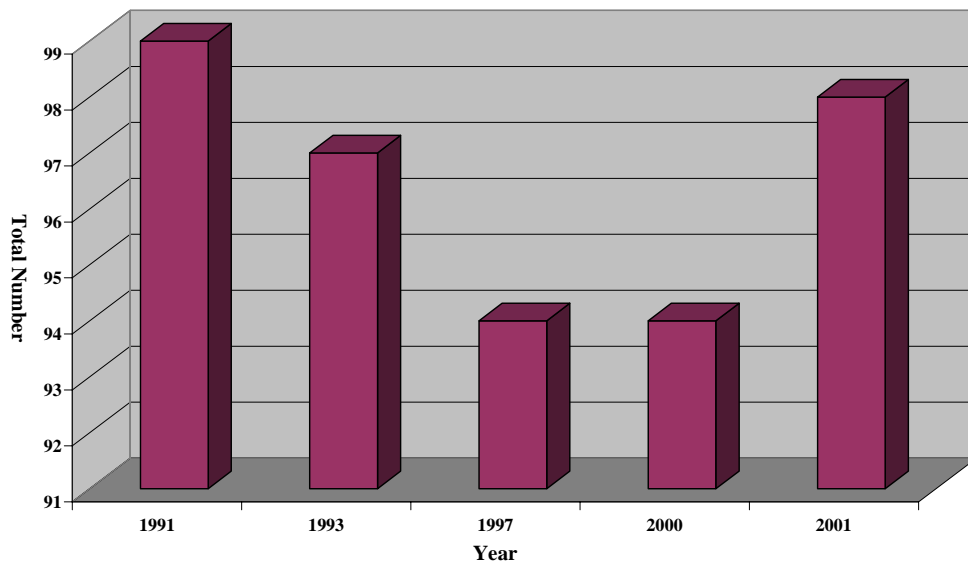
There were no new offices opened, hence the number remains unchanged.

65. Number of community newspapers/parish notice boards

Community groups or parish councils through reading material and notice boards put up one other source of information. This information is particularly relevant to the ideals of Local Agenda 21, due to its local emphasis. This information provides a valuable outlet, not only for information put out by the Sustainability Forum, but also through bringing a community together through a common interest. Subsequently, it was felt that an indicator should be present to monitor the number of newsletters and notice boards that are in use in West Sussex.

Indicator Results

Number of Community Noticeboards in West Sussex



(Source: SRCC)

Comments

From looking at the results, it is possible to see that number of noticeboards has significantly risen. Providing environmental information, especially at a local level, is an essential element of Local Agenda 21. It is therefore important that the use of newsletters and noticeboards is encouraged and supported.

Objective 11: All sections of the community are empowered to participate in decision making.

66	percentage of electorate voting in local elections
67	degree of accessibility of local authorities/TECs/Health Trusts and Community Health Councils

What do the indicators tell us?

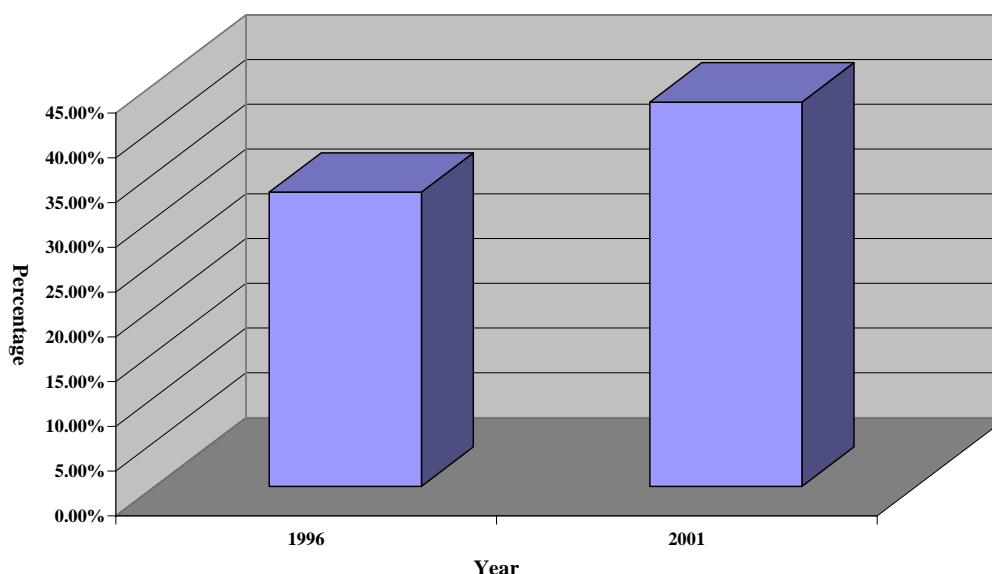
66. Percentage of electorate voting in local elections

It is important that members of the public have a say in the way decisions are made on matters that effect them directly. Only once this has been achieved can sustainable development be truly achieved. One way in which members of the public can 'have a say' is through voting in local elections and electing a representative who will champion their interests.

It is therefore, important to obtain information on the number of people who participate in the voting process.

Indicator Results

Percentage of Electorate Voting in Local Elections



(Source: District & Borough Councils)

Comments

The overall figure would have remained pretty much the same for 2001. However, due to a better than average turn out in Worthing Borough, the overall result illustrated an improvement on previous years. There are two basic systems of local elections in the county covering the eight local authorities - some authorities have local elections each year for part of the council whereas others hold elections every four years that involve the whole council.

In West Sussex during the 1990s, there has been a decline in the number of people voting in local elections. Turnouts for the elections ranged from about 15% to just over 70% with the usual turnout between 30% and 50%. This compares to the turnout for the past three General Elections of 1987, 1992 and 1997 of between 74% and 80%.

The higher levels of participation in 1997 occurred when the local elections fell on the same day as a General Election. The higher turnouts in that case may be a reflection of people voting for national reasons.

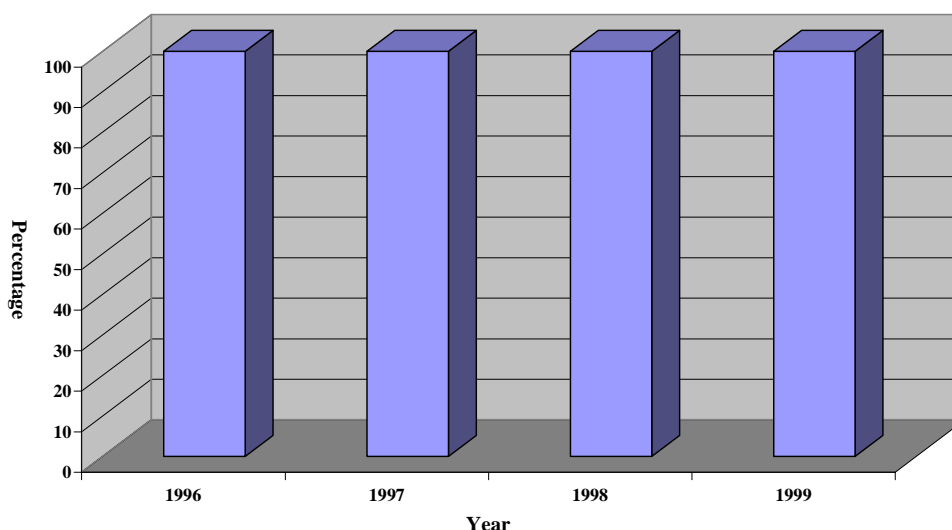
The concern regarding low turnouts has led to suggestions from central government to set up polling stations in places such as supermarkets to encourage more people to vote in elections. Work is also underway across the county to develop innovative ways to encourage participation in decisions including citizen's juries, focus groups and opinion poll research.

67. Degree of accessibility of local authorities/TECs/Health Trusts and Community Health Councils

Access to various amenities is often taken for granted. However, there are several groups within society who do not have the luxury of being able to have similar ease of access. These groups include those with disabilities, the elderly and parents with children (especially those with pushchairs). Therefore, it is important to ensure that access to these sites is not hindered due to poor design, instead providing ramps instead of stairs and self opening/automatic doors, etc will ensure that access is available to all.

Indicator Results

Degree of Accessibility of Local authorities/TECs/Health Trusts and Community Health Councils



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

From the information collected for this indicator, it is possible to see that all amenities in the county are accessible by wheelchair or by the elderly.

Objective 12: Opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are available for all.

68	number of allotments available and percentage of allotments in use
69	Number of school playing fields, number of leisure centres, number of theatres and number of cinemas
70	length and state of maintained rights of way

What do the indicators tell us?

68. Number of allotments available and percentage of allotments in use

With an increase in development in urban and rural areas, the need for green spaces has increased in importance. Small pockets of green space not only break up the urban sprawl, but also improves the aesthetics, and creates a haven for wildlife. Owning an allotment can also help people remain self sufficient and in large urban sites, especially for those people with no gardens, individuals can enjoy the luxuries associated with gardening and experience the wildlife that thrive in such arenas.

Indicator Results

There are currently no results collected for this indicator due to the difficulty in collecting the information. A large proportion of the information is kept by various parish councils and local groups, and unfortunately not all information was forthcoming.

Comments

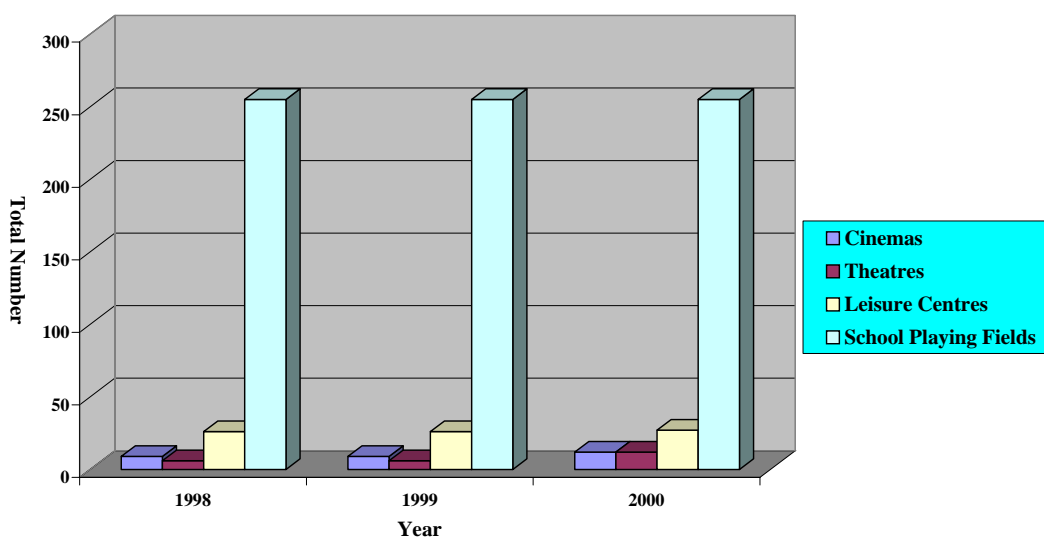
Allotments are managed by a variety of organisations including district councils, parish and town councils, and specific allotment societies. The evidence obtained from two district councils suggests that the majority of allotments were in use (usually over 90% in use). This indicator needs further research before firm conclusions can be drawn on the level of availability and use of allotments.

69. Number of school playing fields, number of leisure centres, number of theatres and number of cinemas

In order to meet social requirements it is essential that amenities are made available for members of the public to relax and pursue cultural, leisure and recreational activities.

Indicator Results

Number of School Playing Fields, Cinemas, Theatres, and Leisure Centres in West Sussex



Comments

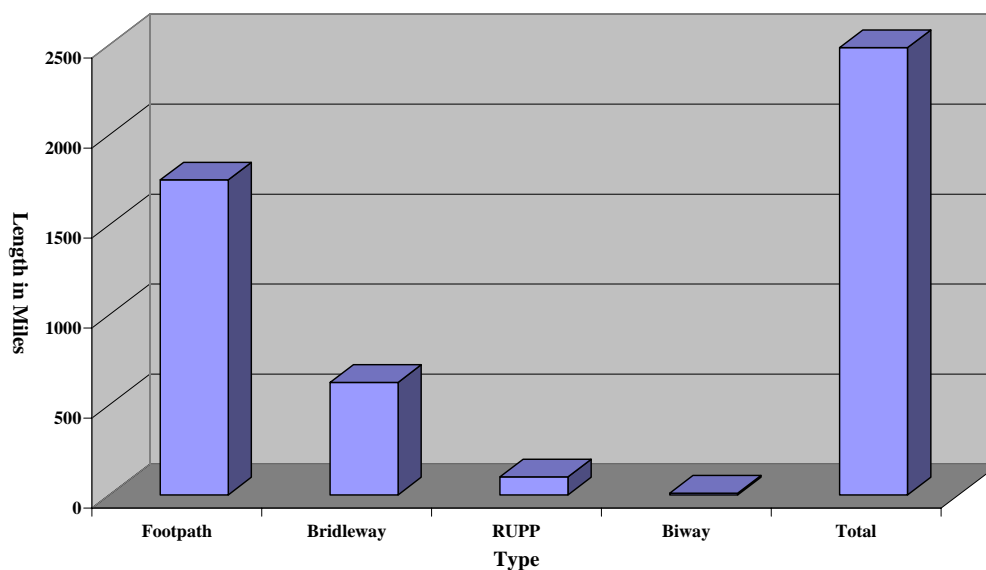
Information on the level of recreation and leisure facilities can be supplied by the organisations involved in providing such facilities. However, it is difficult to draw conclusions on the “availability” of recreation and leisure facilities unless specific definitions or standards are drawn up to determine how many facilities are needed and where they should be.

70. Length and state of maintained rights of way

So as to sustain the character of West Sussex and protect the organisms that rely on the ecosystems found around the county, it is essential that suitable management schemes be in place. Along side this, it is also beneficial that members of the public have access to the countryside and that the routes and walkways used are maintained. The condition of these rights of way and the extent in which they cover the county then needs to be recorded, thereby informing the public, which areas can be used.

Indicator Results

Length and State of Maintained Rights of Way



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

There are approximately 2,500 miles of public paths in West Sussex. The network consists of footpaths, bridleways, roads used as public paths, and byways open to all traffic giving access to a variety of users including walkers, cyclists, horseriders and vehicle owners. The network is unlikely to change significantly year on year in terms of the mileage covered.

The Milestones Statement produced by the County Council in 1996 as a response to the Countryside Commission's Milestones Initiative covered three national targets. These were that the network should be legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised. An annual monitoring report is submitted to the County Council's Rights of Way Sub Committee to note progress on the various targets set down in the Milestones Statement.

One key component of the Milestones Statement is to reopen the small proportion of paths in West Sussex that are unavailable to the public due to long established problems. The original list was first produced in 1993 including 124 paths (or parts of paths) that were identified as unavailable at the time. The total mileage came to about 44 miles representing less than 2% of the county's rights of way network. At the first review of the Milestones Statement in September 1997, 21 unavailable paths had been successfully reopened for use. By February 1999, this had increased to 32 unavailable paths being reopened.

Another important component seeks to ensure that promoted routes offer opportunities for a wide range of users, including walkers, cyclists and horse riders, and also special interest groups and those with special needs. Published guides on particular walks, and

the organised guided walks and rides programmes have included routes suitable for people in wheelchairs and those who are partially sighted.

Objective 13: Diversity and local distinctiveness are valued and protected.

71	extent of AONBs, strategic and local gaps between settlements, urban fringe areas and high grade agricultural land affected by new development
72	number of (building) conservation areas and number of listed buildings
73	number of archaeological sites and areas
74	degree of tranquillity in rural areas (definition of tranquillity is an area that is sufficiently far away from visual or noise intrusion of development or traffic to be considered unspoilt by urban influences)

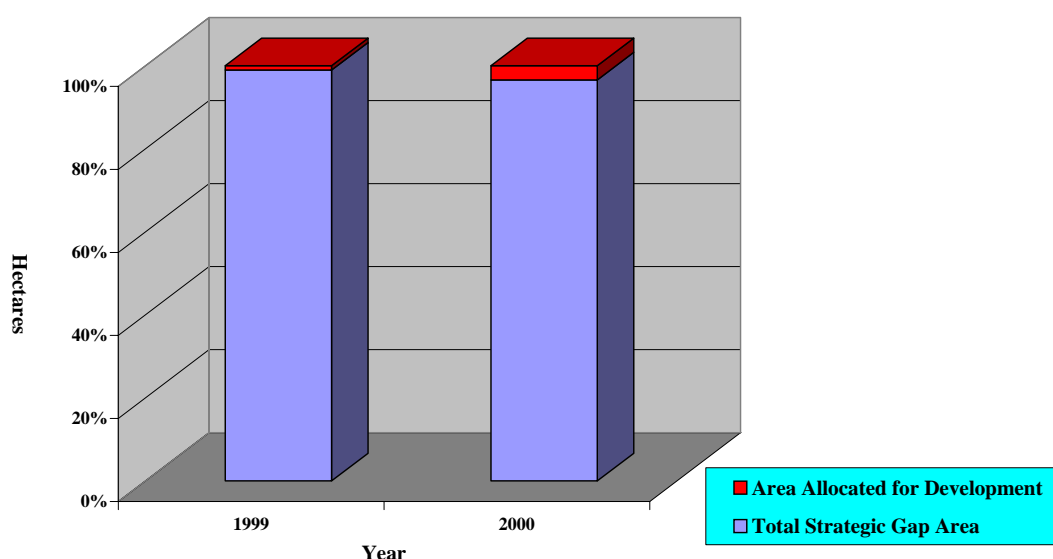
What do the indicators tell us?

71. Extent of AONBs, strategic and local gaps between settlements, urban fringe areas and high-grade agricultural land affected by new development

Between 1946 and 1970, a considerable amount of land in what today might be designated as strategic gaps was lost to development. The rate and extent of loss slowed considerably after 1970 with some notable exceptions along the coast. Since the formalisation of strategic gap policy in 1980, the rate and extent of loss has sharply reduced still further. It is therefore important to monitor the state of these areas.

Indicator Results

Extent of Strategic Gaps and Areas Allocated for Development



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

Between 1st January 1999 and 31st December 2000, 706 Hectares of land were removed, or proposed to be removed, from within Strategic Gap boundaries. This represents 3.5% of the total area of strategic gaps.

A study was conducted on the extent of strategic gaps that have been affected by proposed and actual development in the county. Strategic gaps are derived from land use policy in the Structure Plan and are defined in Local Plans. The study notes:

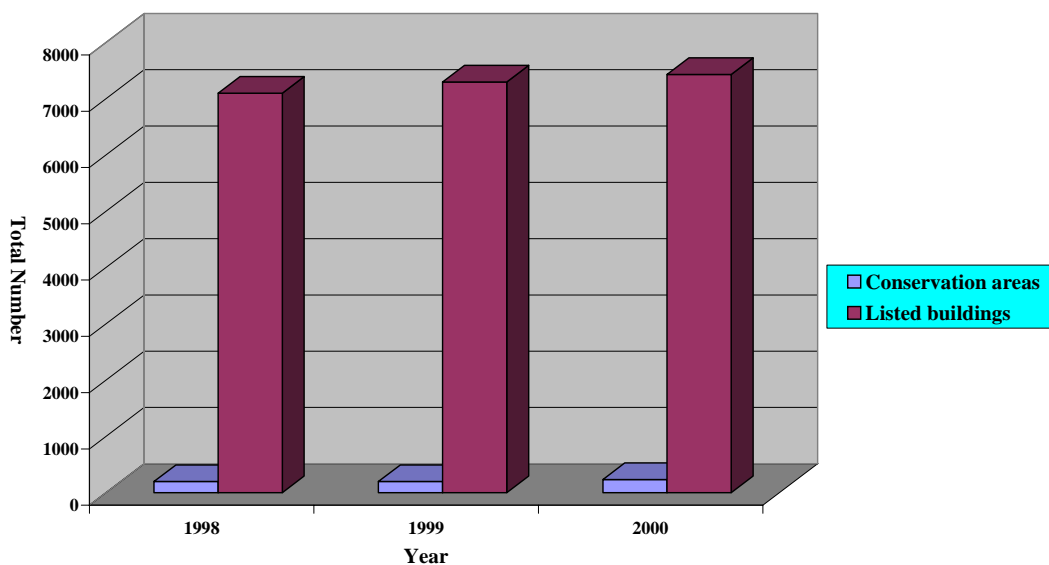
There are 22 strategic gaps in the county amounting to about 20,300 hectares. The study shows that about 210 hectares of the strategic gaps have been allocated or proposed for new development as a result of newly adopted local plans and local plan reviews. An initial evaluation was also carried out on planning applications in the strategic gaps for 1994 and 1995. Most of the applications approved were for activities related to the land in strategic gaps (e.g. agriculture) and involved either no additional development of land or took land up to about 100 metres². Some larger developments occurred up to 2091 metres² which again were largely related to activities such as agriculture. None of the developments permitted were considered to be strategically significant.

72. Number of (building) conservation areas and number of listed buildings

The number of conservation areas and listed buildings are recorded in order to provide an indication of their condition and subsequent maintenance. This indicator also illustrates whether new sites have been recognised.

Indicator Results

Number of Building Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings



(Source: WSCC)

Comments

The chart shows that in 2000 both Conservation areas and listed buildings grew in number. The nature of this area of work may not necessarily be truly reflected by this particular indicator. Work has begun on looking at how a more accurate indicator can be developed.

However, it is fundamental for environmental stewardship that there should be an effective protection of all aspects of the historic environment. The physical survivals of our past are to be valued and protected for their own sake, as a central part of our cultural heritage and our sense of national identity. From the indicator it can be seen that the number of conservation areas has remained the same, whereas the number of listed buildings has increased slightly.

73. Number of archaeological sites and areas

An indicator that looked at the number of archaeological sites in West Sussex was chosen, in order to meet the social needs of the county. By highlighting where these sites are, it is possible to monitor how they are maintained as well as use the information for educational purposes.

Comments

The importance of monitoring the number of archaeological sites and areas, ensures that our past is valued and protected. As a result of a lack of resources and a change in the type of databases used, the information needed for this indicator has not been updated and therefore cannot provide a picture of what is happening within West Sussex.

74. Degree of tranquillity in rural areas

With the onset of development throughout the county it was felt that an indicator should be in place to reflect the level of tranquil areas still remaining in West Sussex. The definition of tranquillity is an area that is sufficiently far away from visual or noise intrusion of development or traffic to be considered unspoilt by urban influences.

Comments

Work was carried out for the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and the Countryside Commission in 1995 as a series of Tranquil Area Maps covering England and the regions such as the SouthEast. The maps suggested that three major areas of tranquillity remained in England - north Devon, the Marches of Shropshire and Herefordshire and the north Pennines. The South East of England was identified as the area that was losing tranquil areas at the fastest rate.

The work from the CPRE and Countryside Commission was picked up by the Environmental Capacity Study (1996) produced as background research for the West Sussex Structure Plan Third Review. This estimated that in the early 1960s, about 69% of the land area of West Sussex was thought to be tranquil compared with an estimate of about 47% of the county being classified as tranquil by the early 1990s.

Further work was carried out by the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and ASH Consulting during 1996/97. The study applied the methodology developed for the CPRE work to the Sussex Downs area contained within West and East Sussex. The report included a map that set out an estimate of tranquil areas across the Sussex Downs. The report concluded that:

“Although there is no part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (i.e. the Sussex Downs) which is completely free from distant noise on a still day, there is a high degree of remoteness/ tranquillity to be found in parts of the west. This part of the AONB compares favourably with the New Forest in terms of extent and relative lack of fragmentation. In the east there is far more fragmentation but it is still possible to find valleys where there is minimal disturbance.” (Sussex Downs Conservation Board & ASH Consulting 1997).