

**CLERK'S REPORT ON SLCC REGIONAL ONE DAY  
CONFERENCE FOR THE SOUTH EAST REGION  
WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2008 AT UCKFIELD**

The following presentations were made:

1. The Planning Jigsaw. **Wealden District Council Planning Officer.**
  
2. Financial Management. **Mazars.** Points noted – need to review financial regulations every year and to include the role of the internal auditor in them. Internal auditor need not wait until end of year but could look at the budgetary process and the Minutes earlier. 2008/09 accounts will have to be approved by the Parish Council by 30 June for first time.
  
3. Hot topics. **Branch Development Officer, SLCC.** Could ask bodies asking for grants to give a presentation to a council meeting.

Large parish councils being created from 01/04/09 in urban areas – will not sit around quietly.

With the introduction of a new Local Government Act, two councillors will not need to sign money orders.

SLCC welcomes principle of code of conduct for officers but doesn't think one size fits all.

Unitary councils are on their way presenting a tremendous opportunity for parishes.

Participatory budgeting will be in by 2012 but not sure whether involves parish councils.

Clerks with qualifications will need to take the well-being module

4. Good teamwork makes for an effective council. **SLCC Human Resources Advisor.** What is the difference between a team and a group? Team Role descriptions.

5. Your issues, your views. **Two clerks.**

Clustering of parishes for taking over jobs from principal authorities. Minor highway repairs devolved to Burgess Hill and three parishes with the result that potholes are repaired immediately.

How to stop vandalism – play classical music.

How to deal with the Police when they are constantly changing in their roles. 50% of Sussex Police intake comes from PCSOs. Police have a career life of 30 years and are bound to move on after two years.

6. Play Update – “Create inspirational play spaces” by **Play England**

7. **Table displays**

**E-consultation through the Planning portal.** The Planning Portal seeks to introduce end-to-end electronic consultation planning processes and to end the current paper system.

**Computerised maps.** Software from Pear Technology. Could share with other parishes. Costs £200 each parish + £350 which could be shared amongst neighbouring parishes.