



Worth Parish Council

Community-Environment-Youth-Security-Village Centres

Newsletter Copthorne Village New Year 2026

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

2026 promises to be a busy year for Worth Parish Council, with several projects progressing closer towards completion. These include the Copthorne Recreation Ground Rejuvenation, the Bowers Place Parking Solution, CCTV installations in both villages and the Crawley Down Play Area Improvements. I would like to thank our team for all their hard work in these complex processes. This year promises more of the same; please see the rest of this newsletter for further information.

One of the highlights of the coming year will be our Parish Awards Evening, which will be on Friday March 20th. The venue is the Haven Centre in Crawley Down once again. Last year's event was extremely well-supported, and it gave us an opportunity to say thank you to several people who did so much to make our local community such a special one.

Myself and all my fellow Councillors would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in organising the wonderful Christmas events held in Copthorne and Crawley Down in December. They bring so much pleasure to local residents, both young and old alike. Establishing a last-minute grotto at the Haven Centre when Santa's tour of Crawley Down had to be cancelled because of bad weather was particularly impressive!

We are here to listen and engage with our residents. Councillors, including myself, can be contacted if you wish to discuss any local issues. You can find our details at the end of this newsletter.

Tony Dorey, Chairman, Worth Parish Council

PARISH AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the Parish Awards, taking place on 20th March at the Haven Centre, and we'd love to hear from you! These awards are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the people who make our parish such a special place to live – those who give their time, energy and kindness to support others without ever seeking recognition. If you know an unsung hero, a dedicated volunteer, a young person making a difference or a group whose efforts brighten our community, please consider putting their name forward.

Your nomination could shine a well-deserved spotlight on someone whose quiet contributions might otherwise go unnoticed. The awards are open to all, and we encourage residents to think about friends, neighbours, colleagues and community groups who help make Copthorne and Crawley Down thrive.

You can nominate via the QR code below, or if you prefer you can call our office on 01342 713 407, or drop us an email at enquiries@worth-pc.gov.uk – nominations close on February 20th.



COPTHORNE RECREATION GROUND REJUVENATION PROJECT

Last year we submitted two applications for formal sports Section 106 money (developer contributions) towards this project, as there are no S106 monies available for play spaces in this area. One of our applications for £88,880 was rejected, however, we are thrilled to announce that we were successful for the other application for £199,743.30 towards things like the carpark, drainage and pathways.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing we are still awaiting the outcome of our application for a Public Works Loan for £150,000. We have also now submitted a further application for a National Lottery Awards for All Grant, for close to £20,000 towards playground equipment. For further details and all the latest news, please visit our webpage here: https://www.worthpc.gov.uk/Copthorne_Recreation_Ground_Rejuvenation_45823.aspx

FACEBOOK

Did you know that Worth Parish Council has a very active Facebook page? It offers information about a wide range of subjects, including roadworks, events, Council meetings, police matters, litter picks, allotments and much, much more. We have over 850 followers in Copthorne, Crawley Down and beyond already, so why not come and join us?

You can find our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/worthparishcouncil>

CROSSING PATROL AT BROOKHILL ROAD

As many of you will already know, West Sussex County Council recently appointed a new School Crossing Patrol Officer to enable children, parents and other pedestrians to cross this busy road safely in the mornings and afternoons. We would like to remind all motorists of the need to drive slowly and carefully, especially at these times, and to be aware of the need to stop when there are people crossing. In other words, please respect the lollipop!

MAYORAL AUTHORITY FOR SUSSEX

Sussex is undergoing significant changes as part of the Local Government Reorganisation. The current two-tier local government structure is being dismantled. District and borough councils like Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council are working toward creating one or more unitary authorities. These authorities are expected to replace the current district and county councils by April 2028, with elections for them likely to take place in May 2027.

In the meantime, West Sussex County Council has requested to postpone its May 2026 elections, though at the time of writing this, it is still awaiting approval. Mid Sussex District Council has not announced any plans to delay its elections, so these are currently expected to go ahead in May 2026.

Worth Parish Council elections remain unaffected by these changes. Our next elections will take place as planned in 2027, ensuring continuity for local representation.

BUSINESS PLAN

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our recent survey on the Business Plan. The Plan was due to be adopted at our meeting on 19th January – please check our website to see the final version. The Plan sets out the priorities for the Council, which are CCTV, Bowers Place Parking Solution, Copthorne Recreation Ground Rejuvenation Project and the Crawley Down Play Area

Improvements. It also shows what we will be working on after these schemes are delivered – effective street lighting with a reduced carbon footprint, expanding the youth provision, establishing a war memorial in Copthorne, opening up Copthorne Brook, finding a solution for the Royal Oak Pub, and improving the village centre in Crawley Down.

PLANNING

The Planning & Highways Committee has had a few large planning applications to consider for Copthorne recently. We'd always recommend that if you feel strongly about a planning application, that you ensure you submit your views to Mid Sussex District Council, attend our meetings and contact your local councillors to make your views known. Whilst Worth Parish Council is not the authority responsible for making decisions on planning, we are able to represent the views and concerns of the community to MSDC, who are the local Planning Authority. As always, the earlier we are informed of concerns and issues, the more chance we have of exerting influence.

CCTV

We have been reviewing Phase 1 of our CCTV project, with information from the Copthorne installation on the Village Green being used to help inform future decisions about any further phases of the project in the Parish. It is intended that the Phase 1 review will have been discussed by our Finance & General Purposes Committee on 12th January, with decisions about future phases made in February.

SOUTH ROOM, THE PARISH HUB, COPTHORNE



Our bright and spacious South Room is available to hire for one-off events or for longer term/regular bookings.

The room is suitable for a wide range of uses, including art classes, business meetings, activity sessions, workshops and so much more. It has free Internet access, excellent audio-visual equipment, access to a small kitchen and plenty of chairs and tables.

If you would like to come and take a look at the room to see if it meets your needs, please email us at enquiries@worth-pc.gov.uk

You can also find out more here https://www.worth-pc.gov.uk/The_South_Room_42763.aspx

SPEEDING WITHIN THE VILLAGE

The Copthorne Village Community Speedwatch are still in desperate need of volunteers and are appealing for more to come forward. Being a volunteer can involve as little as one hour every two or three weeks, although if you'd like to do more that would be welcomed. For more information, please go to communityspeedwatch.co.uk and click on Register/Join an Existing Group. Alternatively, you can email Steve O'Connell of Sussex Police at stephen.oconnell@sussex.police.uk

They now have 2,500 volunteers across Sussex, with 190 Parish Councils and 15 Wardens carrying out Community Speedwatch initiatives. They issue 5,000 letters per month to drivers for speeding; from this they only have a repeat offender rate of less than 5% out of the 60,000 or so letters sent over the year, which means drivers really do take notice.

If you witness speeding in and around the village, you can report it via Operation Crackdown at operationcrackdown.org

SAFER STREETS

An important message from Sussex Alerts: Help us to tackle anti-social behaviour. We are actively patrolling hotspot areas, but we need your eyes and ears. If you witness anti-social behaviour you can report it here: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/asp/asp-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

Reports help us to target areas and discourage behaviour that makes communities feel unsafe. By reporting issues as and when they occur, you'll be helping the Police to build a greater understanding of potential hot spots, and this can then assist with allocating resources in the future. Remember: posting details of an incident on Facebook or other social media platform is not the same as reporting via the correct channels.

COPTHORNE WORKING PARTY – COPTHORNE & HEATHY WOOD RESIDENTS

Are you a Copthorne or Heathy Wood resident with an interest in issues that affect the local community? Worth Parish Council is looking for volunteers to attend meetings of the Copthorne Working Party, and if you have opinions, we'd like to hear them.

Meetings are held every other Wednesday at the Parish Hub next to St John's Church. They start at 10am and usually last around two hours. If you have the time and you'd like to be involved, please contact us via email at enquiries@worth-pc.gov.uk, or call 01342 713 407.

YOUTH CLUBS

Worth Parish Council's Youth Team is working together to provide excellent Youth Club sessions for children in the Parish. If you'd like to find out more, please contact the office on 01342 713 407 or via email to enquiries@worth-pc.gov.uk

Our Youth Team, consisting of Gemma, Lauren and Victoria, will be working hard in 2026 to make sessions better and better, and have a number of exciting plans in the pipeline.

We're looking for youth club volunteers from within the community to help at either Copthorne, Crawley Down or both. Individuals will need to have a valid DBS check which the Parish Council will pay for. If you're a friendly, enthusiastic individual and can spare a few hours a week, we'd love to hear from you. Just call 01342 713 407 or email us at enquiries@worth-pc.gov.uk



Our Youth Clubs run:

Monday 3.30-5.30pm at The Haven Centre in Crawley Down

Wednesday 4-6pm at The Pavilion in Copthorne

For Years 5 and up. They are completely FREE!

Please book your children into the club using the IPAL booking system so we can take registers and sign the children in and out. Please ensure your child also has a drink and any snacks provided must be nut free. <https://worthparishyouth.ipalbookings.com/>

Please note, we have a limit on numbers at each Youth Club due to adult/child ratios. So be sure to check there is space for your child before leaving.

Worth Parish Council is currently looking to recruit a Youth Worker. This is a part-time role (6 hours per week) and is suitable for age 18 and over. Working hours are on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Please contact Hannah on 01342 713 407 or at astclerk@worth-pc.gov.uk



You can keep up to date with everything Youth related by following us on Instagram or Facebook.



WORTHPARISHYOUTH

COPTHORNE COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

As always, we would like to extend our appreciation to Julie Etheridge, Kara Hopkins, Louise Whitney and all the volunteers for their litter picking efforts in Copthorne. Details of future litter picks will be posted on our website and our Facebook page. As usual, we will provide the litter picking equipment but if you do have your own, please bring this along. If you would like to join us or register your interest, please email enquiries@worth-pc.gov.uk



FORTHCOMING MEETING DATES

You can view the dates, venues and agendas for all forthcoming meetings and the minutes of meetings that have already been held on our website at www.worth-pc.gov.uk and click on Council Meetings.

PARISH COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

To assist compliance with data protection, any email contact regarding Council matters should be made via the email addresses listed below:

Crawley Down Ward

Phillip Coote	Phillip.coote@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 713443
Alex Cruickshank	Alex.cruickshank@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 714328
Ian Gibson	Ian.gibson@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 716790
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Clare Pointer	Clare.pointer@worth-pc.gov.uk	07762 132538
Kerry Scott	Kerry.scott@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 712213
Therese Wilson	Therese.wilson@worth-pc.gov.uk	07970 616728
Liz Williams	Liz.williams@worth-pc.gov.uk	07887 575867

Copthorne & Worth Ward

Graham Casella	Graham.casella@worth-pc.gov.uk	07710 019516
Tony Dorey	Tony.dorey@worth-pc.gov.uk	07802 359123
Andrew Dymond	Andrew.dymond@worth-pc.gov.uk	07834 486098
Trevor Hodsdon	Trevor.hodsdon@worth-pc.gov.uk	07771 810220
Bob King	Bob.king@worth-pc.gov.uk	07851 332918
Eddie Lord	Eddie.lord@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 714905
Chris Phillips	Chris.phillips@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 712668
Lauraine Stewart	Lauraine.stewart@worth-pc.gov.uk	07811 223387

MID SUSSEX COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

Crawley Down & Turners Hill Ward

John Hitchcock	John.hitchcock@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 716831
Ian Gibson	Ian.gibson@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 716790

Copthorne & Worth Ward

Chris Phillips	Christopher.phillips@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 712668
Graham Casella	Graham.casella@midsussex.gov.uk	07710 019516

WEST SUSSEX COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

Worth Forest Ward (including Copthorne)

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Imberdown Ward (including Crawley Down)

Ian Gibson	Ian.gibson@westsussex.gov.uk	01342 716790
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WORTH PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Grounds Maintenance Supervisor	Shane Portman	
Grounds Maintenance Officer	Colin Botterill	

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[@worthparishyouth](https://www.instagram.com/worthparishyouth)

Email
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Telephone
01342 713407

Worth Parish Council Office

The Council Offices are open to the public 9:30 am to 12 noon Monday – Friday
Worth Parish Council, First Floor, The Parish Hub, Borers Arms Rd, Copthorne, West Sussex, RH10 3ZQ

www.worth-pc.gov.uk

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