



Worth Parish Council

Community-Environment-Youth-Security-Village Centres

Newsletter Cophorne Village Spring 2026

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

After a seemingly long, dark winter, it's pleasing to know that springtime is finally with us. There is so much going on in our two villages at the moment, with major projects coming towards fruition, new County Council elections on the horizon and improvements being undertaken throughout the parish. By the time you read this, our annual Parish Awards will have taken place; at time of writing, I am looking forward to attending this wonderful event, and to thanking those who have helped to make our community so much better.

Tony Dorey, Chairman, Worth Parish Council

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In mid-February this year, it was announced that elections are to take place for various UK local authorities in the coming months. As a result, West Sussex County Council elections will be held on Thursday May 7th. Devolution plans for the region are still to go ahead, with Brighton & Hove, West Sussex and East Sussex councils being replaced by one single authority, potentially in 2027.

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

PARISH AWARDS

We had a brilliant response to the Parish Award nominations, with over 30 nominations made from the community. We hope everyone had a great time at the awards and we are already looking forward to next year's event. A special thanks to our sponsors – KT Kat Creations, Branding Box, Olive Branch Hypnotherapy, Duman Turkish Restaurant, Paw Paddock, Awakening the Moon, and Dough and Cakes. Without these generous donations, we would not have been able to host such a brilliant evening. The biggest thanks need to go to the volunteers - our community wouldn't be what it is without all of the amazing volunteers selflessly contributing their time and efforts over many years.

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET

Leaflets detailing Worth Parish Council's budget for 2026-27 have been distributed throughout the parish recently, and relevant information is also available on our website and social media platforms. We also published a budget breakdown for further information on where your money is spent. In Cophorne and Crawley Down the average household will pay £97.15 for our running costs, a little over £8.00 per month.

Services we provide include youth clubs, allotments, playgrounds, street lights, village greens, waste collection from public areas, community grants, grounds maintenance, support to local events... and much more!

CLARION

Our Working Party recently met with representatives from Clarion Housing to discuss ongoing concerns about several of their properties in Crawley Down. Clarion shared the progress they've made over the past year and expressed confidence that their engagement with residents has improved, with many issues now moving toward positive resolution. If you are a Clarion resident in Copthorne, please continue to report any problems directly to them as soon as they occur. We will continue our engagement with Clarion as matters progress.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Thanks to a fantastic gesture from the Copthorne Women's Institute, a new defibrillator has been installed in Copthorne. The W.I. donated £1,000 towards the cost, with the Council's Copthorne Working Party adding the rest.

On behalf of everyone in the community, we'd like to say a huge thank you to the Copthorne W.I. for making this happen. And of course to the good people at Delmar Morgan Centre for fitting and hosting this vital medical asset.

There is also a defibrillator at the Parish Hub in Borers Arms Road.

COPTHORNE RECREATION GROUND REJUVENATION PROJECT

We can now share an exciting update on the Copthorne Recreation Ground Rejuvenation Project. After many months of planning and careful preparation, all major funding approvals have now been confirmed, allowing the project to progress to its next stage. The redevelopment is being funded through a combination of sources:

- £364,000 from S106 developer contributions
- £150,000 Public Works Loan
- Additional funds from Worth Parish Council

Funding approvals have come through in the last few weeks, giving us the green light to begin the essential behind-the-scenes work needed before construction can start. Over the next couple of months, work will continue in the background, focusing on discharging planning conditions required for the project, developing detailed construction plans with our appointed contractors and finalising timelines. As soon as we have a confirmed start date for construction, we will share this with the community. We understand how eagerly residents are awaiting the improvements to Copthorne Recreation Ground, and we are looking forward to delivering a revitalised community space that Copthorne can be proud of. By the time this newsletter is published, there will be new updates. Please keep an eye on our website for up-to-date news.

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. Recently, we were delighted to announce that we have more than 900 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>

ROYAL OAK, CRAWLEY DOWN

An important update from your neighbouring village: During 2025, the Crawley Down Working Party has been meeting with the owner of the Royal Oak pub to encourage plans that would improve the building's safety and improve the appearance of the village centre. Despite several meetings, no firm plans have been put forward. As a result, the Working Party is now exploring the option of a Section

215 notice under the Town and Country Planning Act. This notice, which would be issued by Mid Sussex District Council, gives councils the power to require landowners to tidy up land or buildings if their condition is so poor that it harms the look and feel of the area.

We will provide updates as and when more information becomes available.

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.

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/asb/asb-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

Our Youth Club team has been working together to offer a great range of activities at the Youth Club in Crawley Down on Mondays and Copthorne Youth Club on Wednesdays. The team – Gemma, Lauren and Victoria – have a number of exciting plans in the pipeline, so be sure to watch out for updates on Facebook and Instagram.

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 4 and up. They are completely FREE!

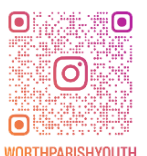
Please book your children into the club using the IPAL booking system so we can take registers and sign the children in and out. Please ensure your child also has a drink and any snacks provided must be nut-free. <https://worthparishyouth.ipalbookings.com/>

It's important to 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.



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
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Liz Williams	Liz.williams@worth-pc.gov.uk	07887 575867

Copthorne & Worth Ward

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MID SUSSEX COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

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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

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Imberdown Ward (including Crawley Down)

Ian Gibson Ian.gibson@westsussex.gov.uk 01342 716790

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Assistant Clerk

Assistant Clerk (Projects)

Communications and IT Administrator

Youth Supervisor

Youth Assistant

Grounds Maintenance Supervisor

Grounds Maintenance Officer

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WORTHPARISHYOUTH

Instagram

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enquiries@worth-pc.gov.uk



Telephone

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Worth Parish Council Office

The Council Offices are open to the public 9:30 am to 12 noon Monday – Friday
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www.worth-pc.gov.uk

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