



Worth Parish Council

Community-Environment-Youth-Security-Village Centres

Newsletter Crawley Down 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.



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.

OPERATION WATERSHED

We have applied for funding from West Sussex County Council to help tackle the long-standing flooding issue in the north-west corner of the King George V Field (this is the field with the tennis courts). This problem has affected nearby residents and field users for years, and reaching this stage is a significant milestone. Securing this funding will allow us to make real progress towards improving the drainage. This has been possible due to the hard work and persistence of the residents, and we are pleased to be able to work in partnership with them to deliver this solution.

CCTV

We now have all the necessary permissions in place to install new CCTV cameras and equipment at the Crawley Down shops on Station Road and are currently awaiting confirmation of the installation date from our supplier.

In the meantime, 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.

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 Crawley Down, Copthorne and beyond already, so why not come and join us?

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

PLANNING

Despite robust objections from Worth Parish Council and a number of local residents, Mid Sussex District Council recently approved a scheme to construct 48 new homes at Woodland Close in Crawley Down. We'd like to thank all the members of the public who wrote letters and who came to our meetings to make their feelings known. WPC's Planning Committee meet every month, and these meetings are open to the public. If you feel strongly about planning matters, or are just curious about the processes involved, why not come along to the next one? Details of upcoming meetings can be found on our website.

With regard to planning enforcement, we are aware of some significant breaches in planning regulations elsewhere in the parish in recent times. As always, we continue to report these to MSDC, and we would like to thank them for taking the appropriate action as and when necessary. If you suspect a breach, be sure to contact MSDC at the earliest opportunity.

SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

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 of course 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

BOWERS PLACE CAR PARKING

We're delighted to share that planning permission for the parking scheme has been granted, and a contractor has now been appointed to deliver the improvements. Before work can begin, we're waiting for final agreement from West Sussex County Council, which has already been applied for. Once the start date is confirmed, we'll publish the schedule and make sure all residents know where alternative parking will be available during construction. Thank you for your patience and support as we move closer to delivering this scheme.

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.

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 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/>

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.



CRAWLEY DOWN COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Have you ever thought about getting more involved in your local community, and taking part in an activity that makes a genuine difference to life in Crawley Down?

Many people already come along and take part in litter-picks, and we would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in becoming one of the co-ordinators of future Community Clean-Ups in the village, which are currently held approximately 4-6 times per year.

Volunteer co-ordinator duties would include collecting and returning equipment (you would need a car for this), providing guidance and support to other litter-pickers and making sure safety and admin requirements are met.

Litter-picking events are great fun. They're held at weekends and are supported by individuals, couples and families. They offer a chance to get out and about in the village and provide a vital service to the local community.

If you're interested in becoming a co-ordinator, or indeed if you'd like to be added to our expanding list of volunteer litter-pickers, please message us at enquiries@worth-pc.gov.uk or call 01342 713 407.

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

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

Would you like the Worth Parish Council newsletter delivered straight to your inbox? Sign up here.



FORTHCOMING MEETING DATES

You can view future dates, venues and agendas for all forthcoming meetings and the minutes of meetings that have 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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Therese Wilson	Therese.wilson@worth-pc.gov.uk	07970 616728
Liz Williams	Liz.williams@worth-pc.gov.uk	07887 575867

Copthorne & Worth Ward

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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)

Bruce Forbes	Bruce.forbes@westsussex.gov.uk	01342 719866
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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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