

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2021

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This month I have invited Kerry Scott, Vice Chair of the Council and a Crawley Down

Councillor, to inform residents about the possible Community Governance Review.

Tony Dorey, Chairman

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - A NOTE FROM THE VICE CHAIR

There has been a lot of Facebook activity on the Crawley Down Village Site about the Petition that Councillor Ian Gibson has circulated that seeks to create a separate Parish Council for Crawley Down thus splitting the existing Worth Parish into separate Parish Councils. If the Petition gains signatures from 10% of the electorate in Crawley Down, it will be considered by Mid Sussex District Council who will conduct a "Community Governance Review".

Originally, the Petition contained, as endorsers, six of the nine Parish Councillors representing Crawley Down. There was little information in the Petition about the costs and practical issues involved in creating the proposed Crawley Down Parish Council such as staffing, location, funding or dealing with the legal ramifications of splitting a Parish Council. As these issues emerged, two of the original six Councillors withdrew their support.

Since the Petition was launched, the Chair, Tony Dorey, a Copthorne Councillor, and myself as Vice Chair, a Crawley Down Councillor, have discussed the implications of a potential split and taken advice from both the West Sussex Association of Local Councils and also our consultants in HR issues. Their conclusion is that there would be a significant extra financial burden that would fall on the residents of Worth Parish, both in Copthorne and Crawley Down, through an unavoidable increase in the Parish Precept. Furthermore, the Crawley Down Infrastructure and Environment Working Party of Crawley Down Councillors and other key stakeholders in the Village, that was formed in late 2020, is proving effective and sufficiently funded to be able to perform all the activities

that the Petition suggests are lacking. Copthorne has a parallel working party with Copthorne Councillors, which is proving similarly effective.

Many of the initiatives identified by both Working Parties are likely to be lost during the next few years should energy and resources be directed towards an organisational change.

There are many other factors to take into account too, where the existing Council benefits from economies of scale and access to specialist assistance.

Worth Parish Council formally discussed this matter at its last meeting on 6th September. It was agreed that open public meetings will be held in Crawley Down and Copthorne so that all Electors in both Villages can be informed of the benefits and disadvantages of creating a Parish Council for Crawley Down. No referendum will be held - ultimately, Mid Sussex DC will conduct any Community Governance Review required and consultations that they feel should be carried out, and will then unilaterally decide the outcome. Copthorne residents will be included in this consultation process, as they too will be affected should Crawley Down break away.

To that end, there will be a **public meeting** held in the **Haven Centre, Crawley Down, on Friday, 1st October**, commencing at 7pm. This will be chaired by an independent person, and opinions from both sides will be considered and discussed. A similar meeting will be held in Copthorne, the date of this will be advertised when available.

Kerry Scott, Vice Chairman

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office is now open again to the public but visitors please be aware that they are still required to wear a mask in communal areas, and to sanitise their hands on entering

and leaving the building. The Office is open 9.30am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday.

Meetings are again taking place in the South Room, on the first floor of the Parish Hub.

All agendas and minutes are on our website worth-pc.gov.uk.

Forthcoming meeting dates:

Monday, 20 th Sept 2021	General Purposes & Finance Committee, followed by Planning & Highways Committee
Monday, 4 th Oct 2021	Full Council, followed by Planning & Highways Committee
Monday, 18 th Oct 2021	General Purposes & Finance Committee, followed by Planning & Highways Committee
Monday, 1 st Nov 2021	Full Council, followed by Planning & Highways Committee
Monday, 15 th Nov 2021	General Purposes & Finance Committee, followed by Planning & Highways Committee
Monday, 29 th Nov 2021	Full Council, followed by Planning & Highways Committee

All meetings start at 7.30pm

ROUNDABOUT IN CRAWLEY DOWN PLAY AREA

The replacement roundabout for the play area is on order - however you may have read in the press about national shortages of raw materials. This means that the delivery has

been delayed due to manufacturing issues, but we hope to have it installed by the end of September

CRAWLEY DOWN ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING PARTY

Although it has been the holiday season, the Crawley Down I and E Working Party has been active during the last two months on several issues:

A very constructive meeting was held with the agents for the owners of some of the freeholds of the shops and surrounding areas such as the car park accessed from Old Station Close. The objective is to improve the look of the area and the car park and provide better opportunities there.

Additional pressure has been applied to Sussex Safer Roads Partnership to solve the speeding and anti-social driving problems in the Village particular on the Turners Hill Road. The Chief Constable of Sussex has been most helpful in this.

Contact has been made with Community Transport Sussex and, together with our

colleagues on the Copthorne IE WP, a survey has been developed to identify the possibilities for providing a volunteer transport service within the Parish to also include other villages nearby. This Survey will be published on the Parish Website and links to it published in the Village Magazines.

The Petition to ask Mid Sussex District Council to consider creating a separate Parish Council for Crawley Down has created considerable uncertainty as to whether the Working Party should continue in being as such a split in the Parish Council will inevitably be limit the funds available to pursue the outstanding initiatives planned. It has also diverted the attention and focus by the members of the Working Party. However, if you wish to be involved in the future well being of the Village, the Working Party is keen to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Office for more information

TRANSPORT SURVEY

Elsewhere in this magazine you will find a copy of a transport survey. Produced in partnership with Community Transport Sussex, this survey will assist us to identify local needs when it comes to getting to medical appointments, or

just getting around generally. We would be very grateful if you could complete this survey and drop it into one of the collection boxes provided throughout the village.

OUR LOCAL SUSSEX POLICE PCSOs

We invited two of our local PCSOs to introduce themselves –

PCSO Sophie Norman

I am PCSO Sophie Norman, I have been a PCSO with Sussex Police for just short of 2 years and a PCSO with the British Transport Police in central London before that for 2 years.

I am very keen to set up some beat surgeries in all three areas where the residents will get a chance to meet their local officers if we are not already known, share literature with residents and to give any crime prevention advice that is needed. I am hoping to publish dates as soon as possible when the finer details are sorted. We are hoping to have a base in our three villages so that we are more of a support to the community.

One issue that we are well aware of is speeding and the amount of Lorries coming through the village. We are working closely with the Community Speed Watch to help combat the issue. This group is a massive asset to us and in the bigger picture of trying to reduce this county wide problem. Recently we have been joining the group and issuing traffic offence

The areas that Roxie and I cover are Cophorne, Turners Hill and Crawley Down.

reports for excess speed and other minor traffic offences when we find them. We are aware of the problem areas in regard to the excessive amount of Lorries coming through the village and will be working with the Parish Council to support them in their effort to make the village safer.

Another issue we are fully aware of is Anti-social behaviour in some areas. We again are well aware of the hotspots and will continue to regularly patrol those areas to prevent and deter any anti-social behaviour and minor crime.

Roxie and I are looking forward to building and developing good working relationships with residents, businesses and Council members.

PCSO Roxie Rye

Hi, my name is PCSO Rye, but feel free to call me Roxie.

I am a mother of 2 young children, who have the unnerving tact of driving me round the bend. I am a Youth Leader for my Local Youth Group which has been running for nearly 15 years.

I am a Cadet Leader for the Police Cadets, the LGBTQ+ Liaison Officer for Crawley and Mid Sussex and finally I am in training to become the Police Liaison Officer for the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing, having just passed my Level 1 Sign Language Course.

I have worked with Sussex Police for 5 years now and thoroughly enjoy my job!

I have been your Local PCSO since October 2020 and have tried to get stuck in as much I

am able to. If you haven't seen me yet not to fear I am out and about.

Before I came a joined the Mid Sussex team in October I worked at Gatwick Airport for Sussex Police, again as a PCSO.

Working out on division is very different to working at the Airport, for one, the laws are slightly different, meaning I had to also learn Bye Laws as well as our usual ones. I was also given extra training to deal with the rarer but more extreme events such as a Plane Crash, Terrorist Event or Bomb Explosion.

Working for the Police definitely has its highs and lows, good days and bad days, but I can be a rewarding job.

If you see me around come say hello.

How to report a crime to us:

As always in an emergency please dial 999

For non-emergencies please dial 101, alternatively you can report non-emergency matters online at <https://www.sussex.police.uk>

Useful contacts:

Noise Complaints: Environmental Health – pollution@midsussex.gov.uk or www.midsussex.gov.uk/environment/noise-issues/

Abandoned vehicles: Operation Crackdown - <http://www.operationcrackdown.org>

HIRE OF THE SOUTH ROOM

With Covid restrictions being lifted on 19th July, the South Room is now open to all hires.

Prior to March 2020, activities included mother and toddler classes, personal training sessions,

general fitness sessions and other community groups. Please contact Tracy, the Deputy Clerk via deputyclerk@worth-pc.gov.uk if you wish to enquire about hiring this facility.

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

Elaine Anscomb	Elaine.anscomb@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 715213
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
John Hitchcock	John.hitchcock@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 716831
Chris Mayor	Chris.mayor@worth-pc.gov.uk	07710 039277
Clare Pointer	Clare.pointer@worth-pc.gov.uk	TBA
Kerry Scott	Kerry.scott@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 712213
Roger Webb	Roger.webb@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 719029

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 District Councillor Contact Details

Crawley Down & Turners Hill Ward

Phillip Coote	Phillip.coote@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 713443
Ian Gibson	Ian.gibson@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 716790
Roger Webb	Roger.webb@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 719029

Copthorne & Worth Ward

Chris Phillips	Christopher.phillips@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 712668
Bruce Forbes	Bruce.forbes@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 719866

West Sussex County 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.gvo.uk

01342 716790

Parish Council Officers

Clerk
Finance Officer
Deputy Clerk

Jennifer Nagy
Ellen Smith
Tracy Cruickshank

clerk@worth-pc.gov.uk
rfo@worth-pc.gov.uk
deputyclerk@worth-pc.gov.uk

Parish 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
Tel: 01342 713407 Website: worth-pc.gov.uk**