

# SHOULD CRAWLEY DOWN HAVE ITS OWN PARISH COUNCIL?

Crawley Down will soon have over 6,000 residents. Should it continue to be part of Worth Parish Council or should it have its own Parish Council?

Parish Councils are the lowest level of local government and look after facilities like allotments, playgrounds, playing fields, village greens and street lighting. Crawley Down is currently part of Worth Parish Council, the biggest Parish Council in Mid Sussex and the third largest in West Sussex. Worth is one of the oldest parishes in England and used to be much bigger. Over the years, several areas have left to form new Parish Councils or other community groups. The Tilgate area is now part of Crawley, and Turners Hill split away in 1986. Since the early 1980s, even the village of Worth has itself ceased to be part of the Parish. This gradual attrition has left just Copthorne and Crawley Down in the modern version of the Parish. In terms of identity, character and activities, the villages have little in common. Mid Sussex includes them both in the second tier of settlements with Cuckfield, Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Lindfield, all of whom have separate Parish Councils. Operationally Worth already exhibits many similarities to a Town Council with 17 elected Councillors (just two less than East Grinstead Town Council) and a complex set of committees and sub-committees to deliver its services. Much of its business is actually conducted in two parallel streams, one for each village.

Worth Parish Council has no office in Crawley Down and holds no public meetings here. In recent years this remoteness has led to a lack of interest in the work of the Council and difficulties in recruiting Councillors.

A Crawley Down Parish Council would be clearly identified with the village and would have its offices and meetings in the village. Its smaller size would avoid the need for a complex set of committees with all business dealt with in a monthly Council meeting as is the case for other local Parish Councils. This will reduce the administrative burden on staff and provide a more rewarding experience for Councillors

The process for creating a new Parish Council requires Mid Sussex District Council to undertake a Governance Review and consult with the local community. The Governance Review is triggered by a petition signed by 10% of residents. If you are in favour of Crawley Down having a separate Parish Council please sign the petition overleaf.

The following current Crawley Down Ward Councillors believe that a separate Parish Council would be the best approach and encourage you to sign the petition:

Elaine Anscomb  
Ian Gibson

Phillip Coote  
John Hitchcock

Alex Cruickshank  
Roger Webb

**PETITION : CALLING ON MSDC TO UNDERTAKE A GOVERNANCE REVIEW TO CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A CRAWLEY DOWN PARISH COUNCIL**

We, the undersigned residents of Crawley Down, request Mid Sussex District Council to undertake a Community Governance Review to consider the creation of a Crawley Down Parish Council based on the Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan Area and, in the event of a positive outcome to the Review, complete the establishment of such a Council by May 2023.

The new Parish Council would:

- Assume ownership or guardianship of land and buildings within the proposed Parish Area.
- Inherit the responsibility for services provided by Worth Parish Council within the proposed Parish Area including:
  - Maintenance of the allotments, the village green, playing fields, buildings, car parks, cemeteries and war memorials.
  - Emptying of litter and dog waste bins.
  - Provision and maintenance of bus shelters and street lights.
- Inherit an appropriate share of the equipment and financial holdings of Worth Parish Council as at 6 April 2021, based on relative electorate numbers.
- Become the precepting authority for the proposed Parish Area.
- Become the statutory consultee for the proposed Parish Area.
- Appoint representatives to local and national bodies as appropriate for a Council of this nature.
- Exercise such other duties and hold such rights as are appropriate for a Council of this nature.
- Seek to manage its affairs in a manner that enables it to be granted General Power of Competence at an early stage.

Signed	Name	Address	Postcode
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Local Councillors will be collecting signed forms in the village centre on Saturdays during August 10.30 to 12.30hrs. Alternatively a scanned or photographic image of the form can be emailed to [petition@kilnwood.com](mailto:petition@kilnwood.com)