

Worth Parish Council
Community Governance Review
Consultation 2 Responses:
Local Residents Submissions

Worth Parish Council: Community Governance Review Consultation 2 Local Resident Submissions

I fully agree with all eight (8) of the draft recommendations concerning the Worth Parish Council review.

I wish to state that as time progresses the administration of the two villages is likely to become more intertwined making any future separation more difficult and more costly. This makes this the only opportunity for Crawley Down to have its own council despite the fact that many smaller villages already have their own Parish Council.

I generally agree with your findings, however should the name change involve excessive costs, eg greater than £5,000 it should be abandoned in view of current hardships. A vanity change is pointless. I also wouldn't review until at least 2030.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS - 30/07/2022

Having read the auditors report I confirm my original comment that if the costs are excessive the proposal should be rejected.

I am pleased that the parish council is not going to be divided at this time.

I would like to comment on a couple of points:

1) 'The existing Parish Council size is 17, comprised of 9 Councillors for the Crawley Down Ward and 8 Councillors for the Copthorne Ward. The current electorate of Crawley Down Parish Ward is 4547 and of Copthorne Parish Ward is 4066. We are therefore not recommending change to Councillor numbers for either ward at this stage of the Review.'

The electorate of the council will increase with all the new houses being built. In particular, the very large development at Heathy Wood which will come under Copthorne. Has this been factored in? Might the Copthorne electorate be larger than the Crawley Down? If this were the case, then Copthorne should have the extra councillor. I actually feel it would be better, and be seen to be more equal if the numbers were the same. Is it possible to have a extra councillor with 9 each, or lose one and have 8 each?

2) 'The name of the Parish Council should be changed to Crawley Down and Copthorne Parish Council, to better reflect the joint and shared community identity.'

It is just a name... but there's always a first and second when this is done. The first name could be the larger (but this could change) or it could be alphabetical. Or perhaps something that doesn't favour either name.

Thank you for taking these points into consideration.

I agree entirely with the draft recommendations as sent. I do not consider that splitting the Parish Council would have any benefit to either Crawley Down or Copthorne. It was very clear that there is no majority support from the Councillors representing Crawley Down. I do not believe that holding the meetings at alternating sites would encourage villagers to attend but agree that it is certainly worthwhile to try it. I look forward to some further explanation of costs and sincerely hope that the topic of the Royal Oak Pub, being saved by MSDC - what a joke - has disappeared.

I agree with the recommendations of the governance review however, Better local democracy can only be achieved by more communication on line and public notices.

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Crawley Down Split from Worth Parish Council (2)

1) I agree with current recommendations, that spitting the council would not be cost justified. The costs put forward do not added up.

2) I feel more local people would be more encouraged to joint council if a more welcoming was made by some of the current incumbents who have lost a number of councilors in the past due their attitude.

This is my second contribution to approve anew parish for Crawley Down village to move from being in one parish with Copthorne.

I believe the village has grown over the last 20 years and looks to grown further in the near future, I believe that the village needs it own voice and will have better engagement if it is a stand alone parish.

The parish will be made up of only villagers concerned with village issues and and concerns. this is will be more effective and help to build a stronger village community.

Regards REDACTED

1 My response is the same as the first consultation. There are much more important things to get sorted in our villages than waste money and time on someone's ego.

2 Alternating council meetings between Copthorne and Crawley Down seems reasonable.

3 The name change would better reflect where our shared communities are.

1 For me nothing changes my comments on the first consultation. It is not the time to be spending time and money on this proposal.

2 Changing the name of the Parish council I have to agree would more appropriate.

3 I have no objections to alternating the venues for meetings if it keeps Crawley Down happy.

4 I still think keeping united is the best way forward.

Parish Council reforms normally cost a lot of money, in a time of economic recession it seems daft that money will be spent on this when the current system seems to be working perfectly fine. Additionally, if Copthorne and Crawley Down stay together in Worth PC they can have the best of both worlds, it seems that a committee structure for each village gives one benefit as a voice of double the electorate whilst also being far more efficient in terms of costs. Simply if it ain't broken why try and fix it?

The draft recommendations of MSDC would seem to be the most sensible and economically pragmatic at this time.

There still does not appear to be an economic case for the a division of the WPC particularly at a time of rising interest rates, inflation and consequently the costs of living.

I fully support MSDC's decision for the status quo.

Thanks

REDACTED

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I was very surprised by the recommendations after the first public review not to allow a separate Crawley Down Parish Council. I understand Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of leaving Worth Parish Council.

I strongly support a separate Parish council for Crawley Down.

I have lived and worked in Crawley Down for forty years and throughout that time it has been clear to me that the two villages consider themselves separate communities with their own identity. There is in reality no 'community of Worth.'

I do not consider the two villages representatives on the council always work fairly for both communities at times where there is division and will vote en bloc, which with the current home village of councillors means Crawley Down lose out (despite on paper there being one more Crawley Down councillor, in practice because no one came forward a Copthorne resident holds that position currently)

I believe a Parish Council that meets and has offices in Crawley Down will attract councillors better and be more able to serve the community. This will result in better local democracy focusing on our own village's needs.

I have read your draft recommendations, and I am fully in support of them. With the ever increasing cost of living, anything that increases costs without a very valid reason is not welcome. It seems very sensible to wait a few years to let the economy settle down and also for the developments around Copthorne to come to fruition then a more balanced view can be taken. Certainly the change of name will go along way to resolving the issues a small minority of people have and their views should not be allowed to dictate the overall conclusion.

REDACTED

REDACTED

18 July 2022

Dear sir

M'y husband and I are residents of CrawleyDown and so so proud to be part of the community, it's a most lovely village and want it to remain this way

The village are able to make decisions by there selves and would bring this village to a village to be proud of and take great pride that they are able to make there decisions work,

We feel strongly about this and please give CrawleyDown a chance

REDACTED

Worth Parish Council: Community Governance Review Consultation 2 Local Resident Submissions

A Parish Council runs services such as allotments and awards local grants. It advises on planning and highways. It is the smallest tier of local government nearest to residents. To reorganise Worth Parish Council into two parishes will cost, according to those who support it (who seem to focus purely on the costs for Crawley Down and not the whole Council) tens of thousand of pounds or more than £100,000 according to the Parish Council. These are unjustifiable sums, particularly in the current economic climate. The suggestion is financial madness.

All the current Copthorne Ward members of WPC oppose reorganising the Parish. About 2/3rds of the Crawley Down members oppose it. This is because it is a bad idea.

The way forward should be to create a structure which allows committees for both villages which come under a central umbrella of WPC. That way you enjoy the benefit of closeness on issues such as cutting grass but have the weight of the residents of both villages when it comes to views on consultations. If need be some meetings should be held in Crawley Down so villagers there feel included (although don't think this happened the other way when WPC was based in Crawley Down).

I think renaming it is an unnecessary cost but if it makes those promoting a split between both villages feel better I would be happy to go along with it!

Please can we now get rid of this division, agree WPC stays together and allow it (whether a WPC or CD&CPC) to get on with serving residents in a challenging time. t

When it comes to people the area of possible Improvement needed is see from thee point of you. If you look in to the current crisis we have problems everywhere. But however we cannot fix all the issues for everyone but for sure if We prioritise each year certain list of problems, and fix those issues one by one we will able to surely Improve towards vision of green world. Areas of Improvement to start with is Council tax, having reduced the stamp fees on the other wise council tax has increased. So for people to benefit, we do not see any Improvement. So first step to stem the wrong message is reduction in council tax.

Secondly the issues with Road works which is causing more traffic issues across everywhere. I do understand we looking at fixing major issues but however it is also as equally as Important choosing the time to work on road works which require better time management.

People visit. having in the driving seat it is also equally Important that we should visit the community of people on quarterly basis to also show how well the funds provided are been used and what it has been used for. If the government funds are used in the correct way for a proper Improvement we should present to people. Each and every community of people should know how much the funds are allocated and how much is been spend each month and what for. I would even use the technology to send to head of the member in each family to receive this message at the end of every month to bring honesty and transparency.

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Up to the 25th July I have not seen any published information regarding the breakdown of the costs of the split either from WPC or the Petitioners. These must be made public before any decision is taken.

Many respondents expect to see an increase in costs of the separate Parish Councils. These would appear to relate to the cost of an office, a proportion of the outstanding cost relating to the development of the Hub at Copthorne, and the hire of a room for the meetings of the Committees and Council, the length of which may be reduced in terms of time as potentially there should be less business transacted by the CD Parish Council. Staff wise there could be a division of existing staff which should not lead to cost inflation.

Community engagement could be enhanced by the provision of a local office e.g. at the Haven Centre, instead of having to go further afield for face to face visits. This may well apply to Committee meetings convened within CD Village which would then only be attended by CD Ward Councillors. This should result in better local democracy as discussion generally would be centred around CD issues.

The proposal that the PC should publish a brochure may be beneficial but should only be regarded as an initial step. There are several other initiatives which could be taken such as the adoption of Surgeries and an improvement in explaining and publicising local decisions of the Councils. In the recent past there have been delays in producing the minutes of meetings though this seems to improved of late. Do Local Councillors get the degree of support for their activities, Secretarial, Administrative and Research which I believe is necessary in order to conduct their role effectively?

I believe Community involvement will only improve if local people feel that their views are genuinely taken into account and not dictated to by Central Government.

WPC covers a wide area which includes a swathe of Countryside around the built up areas. This enables the existing PC to present a view on the development or retention of this important area. In future the splitting of the Council may dilute the views of residents unless there is strong cooperation between the Parish Councils.

I hope these comments are helpful

REDACTED

I have read the independent report into the costs relating to a division of Worth Parish Council and subsequent costs of separate Parish Councils for Crawley Down and Copthorne. In light of this report, I am still supportive of Worth Parish Council remaining as one Council for both the villages of Crawley Down and Copthorne. I believe it is sensible in the current financial climate to keep the status quo and review a division later down the line once both villages have seen major housing developments completed. Worth Parish Council supports both villages and there are working parties for each village that highlight and tackle issues specific to those villages. If the promoters of a division feel that certain issues are not being addressed for Crawley Down, maybe they should volunteer their time on these working parties and really support their village. I feel the promoters are making false promises to residents, for example, saving the Royal Oak pub, where this is a private property and out of the hands of the council. And they are not aware that if the Council were to split, the cost implications would mean less available budget to tackle the issues they keep saying they would tackle. Therefore, putting Crawley Down Village at a disadvantage.

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My previous observations still stand. i still cannot see that this is the right time to split the council for what seems to be a vanity project by a few councillors. We are in the middle of an economic recession and increasing inflation, I just do not think that this is the right time to increase anyone's outgoings, especially as these are only budgetary suggestions and we really don't know what the final costs will be

I am still against the split. Answering your recommendations as numbered

1. Any reorganisation will cost money. This is pointless.
2. The petitioners have no idea.
3. They'll never agree.
4. Doesn't matter where they meet. Copthorne is only a mile from CD.
5. Agreed.
6. No need to revisit.
7. Ageed.
8. Disagree. Nothing wrong with WPC as a name.

Please don't split the parish council.

Having read the report detailing the division costs, the one thing that is apparent is that the actual costs are unknown.

Given that most decisions affecting residents are proposed and carried out by people who are not local to the area, I am not convinced that splitting up Worth in the way proposed will make any difference, indeed if it it does, why not split up the council even further and have a local council for each housing estate, or each road.

If the proposers of the split are prepared to personally underwrite any additional costs so there is no effect on the tax paying residents then I would not object.

However, as that is not really likely, I would prefer that you consider my previous submission and abolish 2 of the three tiers of councils we currently suffer from and reduce the burden on the taxpayer.

Name for council:

any configuration subject to population:

- a) Copthorne / Crawley Down & Worth Parish Council.
- b) Crawley Down / Copthorne & Worth Parish Council.

all selected councillors be equally proportioned by area and population.

I do not want a separate Crawley down council

I think it would be better to stay as one

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I have now reviewed the independent auditors report from Mulberry & Co. and can see that, with what would seem to be the best currently available estimates, the forecast cost of division is somewhere between the previous upper and lower estimates. Indeed, the difference between split and combined revenue and expenditure may only be circa £1,100? In which case, my previously stated belief that there is a good argument to split WPC into Copthorne and Crawley Down components, is further reinforced.

I therefore continue to support the 'divide' initiative on the grounds that... "perhaps the time has arrived for a Parish Council change that has, at least, a reasonable chance of success. This change should provide an opportunity to serve the community better than now - rather than maintain the status quo."

I therefore continue to support the 'divide' initiative.

Having read the independent report I once again object to the fragmentation of Worth Parish Council.

Whilst the independent report still gives rise to a lot of questions of the true of separation namely the TUPE staff and legal costs, one thing is abundantly clear it's already going to cost more to run the proposed two entities rather than the existing one. This means that the local residents will be called upon to fund this via increased rates.

As I see it, this is one increase that we don't need at this moment in time when everyone's finances are stretched with significant inflationary cost increases
The proposal should be declined.

The issue is can we in Crawley Down benefit from dissecting from Worth Parish Council. It would seem appropriate to separate as the vast housing projects in Copthorne would surely impinge upon the services we expect and pay for.

We have seen a general slackening of standards in many areas such as the roads are in a dreadful state, traffic getting anywhere is awful, why are so many important roads shut at the same time? the verges are awash with litter, services to the village are severely stretched, services that doctors provide are outdated, the centre of villages is the village pub - what an eyesore we have, rather than a flourishing centre.

What we do not need is a totally toothless organisation or greater household expenditure in these troubled times, we need action to bring back the village spirit we had. We have resided in Crawley Down since 1992 and like the locality, the community and the close proximity of all we care about. Put a stop to developing our community further and concentrate on providing a fabulous service for the existing residents.

I am responding on behalf REDACTED and myself.

We oppose the proposition to form a new council for Crawley Down (CD) alone and believe Worth Parish council should continue as it is today.

Our decision is due to us seeing (i) no benefit to the residents of CD and (ii) likely increased costs as services etc could not be shared across residents in two villages.

Worth Parish Council: Community Governance Review Consultation 2 Local Resident Submissions

Further to my previous submission these are my reasons for the support of a separate council for Crawley Down.

The villages of Crawley Down and Copthorne are two very separate communities, each with their own activities, needs and resources and as such would benefit from their own governance.

It was shown in the first review that the majority of those that submitted their views in Crawley Down were in favour of a separate council.

During the first review figures presented by Mid Sussex District Council and Worth Parish Councillors opposed to the split regarding the cost of a separate council were vastly over estimated and were mis-leading to many residents.

It has since had to be revised and now shows it is more in line with the figures originally presented by the councillors in favour of the split.

The Parish Council Office in Copthorne is difficult for many Crawley Down residents who are infirm or disabled to be able to travel to.

A separate council in Crawley Down would make it much easier for the residents to attend meetings relating to local issues and give their views.

For the above reasons I wish to register my support for a separate council for Crawley Down.

I wish to support the division of Crawley down from Worth Parish council. The following reasons are:

Crawley Down is a large Community in its own right.

Worth is

Our view for the future is that Crawley Down will have much more say in what happens here with local Issues.

In the past Crawley Down were misled at the cost of the division and that has had to be revised.

If we had our own PARISH COUNCIL it would be easier for people to attend meetings.

At this time when the world is in uproar, never mind the country, or indeed Worth, when the poor will become poorer and the lonely even lonelier and services disappear, the last thing we need is a Council split costing money which could be spent on our community.

I personally was against Brexit, feeling that we were better and stronger together!!! I feel the same about this proposal. This is not the time.

We do not need a new Council Office, (it's not that far away) together with all the costs that that entails.

In every community new houses are being erected on our green fields (this is not only our area) and sky scraper flats erected where no fields are available.

People need to be housed!!! Neither will The Royal Oak rise from the ashes like a phoenix. "When I was young" doesn't count this is not the 1950's.

We all need to work together, come on CD, let's pull together with Copthorne, division weakens when strong leadership is needed.

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With regard to the proposed Crawley Down Village Council, I wish to state that I am in favour of the split.

With all the new houses in Copthorne and Crawley Down over the last few years, the villages have changed dramatically and I feel that this is a good time to split Worth Parish Council into two separate village councils.

Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity and I feel very strongly that if the split happens the community spirit will grow stronger.

I believe that Crawley Down needs to have local Councillors that live in the village and know the needs of the local residents and the challenges that the village faces.

Copthorne and Crawley Down can no longer be classed as villages anymore and both have their own specific needs and would benefit from their own Village Councils.

The Improvements in local democracy and service justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write and tell me why.

I would also like to point out that it is very disappointing that WPC put out vastly exaggerated figures for the split originally, probably putting off half the village wanting a split.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Kind Regards

REDACTED

As a Copthorne resident for just over 22 years we have always found WPC efficient, helpful and effective and feel that to create a Council for Crawley Down is not only unnecessary but will result in further costs to all residents.

This would seem to me, to be totally unnecessary when mortgages, gas, fuel, electricity and food costs are spiralling out of control and inflation is forecast at around 13% by January with yet another increase in gas and electricity expected at the same time.

I personally do not feel the creation of another Council is needed, particularly at this time when people are struggling. Perhaps the Review should be postponed until next year when hopefully residents will have received financial help from the Government. The exact cost of the creation of Crawley Down Village Council is clearly difficult to calculate.

It would be helpful if residents were informed of any increase to them before the Council is formed. In my own view it is entirely an unnecessary and expensive exercise and not better the WPC.

As we previously said, with the current economic climate of the country as a whole ..worsening from day to day ..this is not a time to consider costly and unnecessary alterations to the structure of local government in this area.

In any case, no proper costings of the proposal has been provided, and it needs a full professional assessment to even consider it.

Worth Parish Council: Community Governance Review Consultation 2 Local Resident Submissions

I am saddened that the arguments for creating a new Crawley Down Parish Council have been drowned out by the issue of the one off divorce costs.

Whilst the numbers may look large, they have to be looked at in the wider context.

Having spoken to many friends in Copthorne, this is often the first subject to be raised, but when I ask them if they have looked at the council's accounts or the current budget, or how many staff are employed by WPC the answer is that they have absolutely no idea whatsoever about the costs of running a council.

The issue of costs has become a deliberate bogymen put up by WPC to scare everyone into voting against the proposals.

Indeed, in reading the Guidance on community governance reviews (DCLG 2010) the word 'cost' or 'costs' only appears once.

In that document, much is made of how people perceive where they live, including the geography of an area, the make-up of the local community, and a sense of local identity.

Crawley Down has all of this in abundance. They are a separate Ward electorally, have a strong vibrant community with shops, social clubs at the Haven Centre, Church and so on.

Although the Copthorne residents may object to the divorce, surely the democratic wishes of the Crawley Down residents matter more in the long run. As we know democracy can be expensive, often in blood as well as treasure.

In your recommendations you say "The WPC could seek to encourage more local people to stand for election both in Copthorne and in Crawley Down."

I would suggest that residents are more likely to put themselves forward as councillors if they are only concerned with their own village council, rather than be part of a larger, more unwieldy council, where you have very little say, when you are only one of 17 other councillors.

Bearing in mind that the majority of Crawley Down residents voted for the proposals, I think your recommendations have been poorly done. I think that MSDC has failed in its duty to the people of Crawley Down, whose democratic voice should take precedence.

I support the petition for the creation of a new Crawley Down Parish Council.

I have lived in Copthorne for many years, but have a number of friends who live in Crawley Down. I well understand their frustration of living in a village that has expanded so rapidly over recent years. It is clear to me that Copthorne and Crawley Down are two very different communities with separate and distinct identities.

I did not respond to the original consultation as I thought there was a very strong case for a new Crawley Down Parish Council, so I am disappointed with the fudged solution proposed by MSDC. Especially so when I am told that there was a large majority of Crawley Down residents who supported the split.

Focussing on the cost of the split, seems to be a denial of the Crawley Down residents rights to self determination.

Worth Parish Council: Community Governance Review Consultation 2 Local Resident Submissions

Dear Sir / Madam

Having studied the published financial report on the estimated future costs of operating 2 parish councils, Crawley Down and Copthorne, I am writing to object to the proposal to revise the current arrangement, and to record my support for retaining a single Parish council for the 2 villages.

I can see no benefit in having 2 councils, only a higher financial cost that must be borne by the local residents.

yours sincerely, ... REDACTED

I would like to reiterate my previous comments as in my view nothing has changed and I do not agree with the split under any circumstances.

I am strongly against splitting WPC into two councils. There is no reliable evidence that the proposed split would improve the services provided to either the residents of Crawley Down or Copthorne. The estimated additional costs of splitting WPC are totally unacceptable and particularly so in the current economic climate.

I am responding to Mid Sussex District Council's second request for comments on the Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council

I am a resident of Crawley Down and my comments on the proposed division of WPC and creation of a CDPC are:

There currently seems to be even greater enmity between and, possibly, vested interests of the proposers and the opposers of the division.

The detailed financial costs published by the independent auditor regarding the existing costs of WPC and creating a CDPC seem to be almost the same so, possibly, not significant to the exercise. However, without the provision of a proper benefits analysis of the division, from both sides of the existing WPC, for both the Crawley Down and Copthorne communities, it is still difficult to form a considered opinion either way.

As I said in the first Public Consultation, if the formation of a separate Crawley Down parish and CD council 'shakes things up' and encourages fresh thinking by Parish Councillors, and Mid Sussex District Council itself, then I would support the proposal. Likewise, if the division encourages Parish Councillors and Mid Sussex District Council to listen more and take on board the local population's views, then the creation of a CDPC would be worthwhile.

It would be beneficial to have a local parish council to truly reflect the identities and interests of the Crawley Down community. All too often, local Crawley Down views and interests seem to be disregarded by local authorities. If a new CDPC was able to help to ensure that not all development is 'dumped' on Crawley Down and that Developers are properly held to account for the quality of the buildings and facilities they erect, I feel that would be a great step forward. I am sure the Copthorne Villagers would appreciate that too.

However, I do have concerns about the creation of a CDPC, having seen recent social media photographs of those supporting the creation. I remain to be convinced that the proposers are sufficiently objective in their ambitions for a separated Parish Council for the benefit of the Crawley Down Community.

In conclusion, creation of a CDPC that really worked for the benefit of the CD Community would be a step in the right direction. However, I still remain to be convinced whether a division is desirable, or not.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 06 July 2022 17:33
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council

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Flag Status: Flagged

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I strongly oppose the plan to combine Copthorne and Crawley Down parish councils.

There is already enough beaurocracy within councils and to create one more where it is likely that the residents of Copthorne will have less of an input as Crawley Down have recommended this plan.

We already have Parish councils, District council, County Council and Government and to keep the two villages together would keep the district united rather than divide.

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 25 July 2022 15:59
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Re: Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council. Extension of 2nd public consultation.

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Flag Status: Flagged

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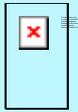
Dear Mid Sussex Council,

Thank you for this information. My view is unchanged. I cannot see a significant benefit from splitting WPC into two separate councils for Crawley Down and Cophorne. It seems to me we will end up having to pay more for a similar service. So I object to the proposal.

REDACTED

Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Jul 2022, at 14:26, Mid Sussex District Council
<mid.sussex.district.council@notifications.service.gov.uk> wrote:



Dear REDACTED,

Reference Number: REDACTED

Further to our letter dated 13 June 2022 regarding the current Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council (WPC). You may recall that following the first public consultation that letter explained our Draft Recommendations and invited further contributions to the Review.

Regarding the cost of any division and the operating costs of any new parish council(s) our draft recommendations included the following:

- At an early stage of the second public consultation, WPC and the petitioners should supply to this Review their assessment of these division costs with evidential annotations for each cost, so that MSDC may see how they have been arrived at.

The proposers supplied their estimates to the WPC on 25 May and at its Council meeting on the 30 May, WPC agreed to appoint accredited auditors to provide residents with an independent report examining the cost of potentially dividing the existing WPC and budget estimates for the proposed creation of a new Crawley Down Village Council. That report is now available to read at the WPC website, but also at: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/8435/worth-parish-council-report-mulberry-co.pdf>

Consequently, we are extending the deadline for the second public consultation by two weeks, to enable electors, considering the report, to respond further. The new deadline for responses is Monday 15 August 2022.

We are grateful to all those who have responded so far and we trust that you will appreciate this further, final opportunity to contribute to the Community Governance Review.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Stanley,

Head of Democratic Services & Elections

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 11 August 2022 12:36
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Council consultation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED](#)>
Date: Thu, 11 Aug 2022, 10:51
Subject: Crawley Down Council consultation
To: <communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk>

Good Morning,

I just wanted to add a simple comment to the consultation that as a Crawley Down resident I feel we would benefit from a separate Crawley Down Village Council.

My name is REDACTED, and I live at REDACTED

Sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 14 August 2022 13:21
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Division of Worth Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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My ref: REDACTED

Following my earlier submission to you to support the division of WPC to create a new parish council for Crawley Down, in view of all the information that has been forthcoming since, I see no reason to change my opinion. While I admit that the costs of splitting WPC was originally a concern, it now appears that the figures submitted by both sides are not so far apart.

So I reiterate my support for a new parish council for Crawley Down where the councillors understand and represent the views and needs of the community, that has changed immeasurably during the 55 years that I have lived here. It seems to me that those councillors who are in favour of the split are those that are really visible and actively engaged in pursuing the best interests of the people of Crawley Down.

REDACTED

REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 19 July 2022 12:56
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Crawley Down Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Sir/Madam

I have lived in Crawley Down for nearly twenty years know and over that time I have seen a number of changes to the village that have been detrimental to the village and have had long and far reaching effects to the village as a whole. In that time the village voices questioning or opposing these changes and their effects to the village and its way of life have been ignored, it is time for a radical change to how the village is looked after, governed and time to give the villagers there voice back so as we can look after the legacy we leave behind for the future villagers to come.

- Crawley Down is a separate community with its own separate identity.
- By Crawley Down having it own village council it will put the village in a better position to face the challenges ahead of us in years to come.
- By setting up the village council it will bring improved local democracy, improved services and having both of these will far out weigh the one-off cost of creating the village council. You can not put a price on a happy, thriving local community that has so much to offer.
- As I said earlier village voices have been ignored over the years, it is high time that our voices are respected and that the 4 to 1 vote in favour of a separate Crawley Down Village Council be respected and taken seriously, if not it is a failing of local democracy and of the councillors we voted for to represent us.

Crawley Down has so much to offer the surrounding communities if it allowed to have self governance, do not ignore this, should you intend to ignore this submission I will expect a written explanation as to why you have chosen to ignore this submission.

With respect and a hope for the village.

REDACTED
REDACTED
Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 15 July 2022 14:50
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Governance Review Crawley Down
Attachments: Crawley Down Prisoner.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Mr REDACTED REDACTED

Original Governance Reference: REDACTED

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have previously been asked to submit my views for the setting up of a new Parish Council for Crawley Down Village. My two previous responses reference REDACTED strongly objected to this proposal on a cost and benefits basis. Again I have been asked to submit my thoughts and views by having a flyer put through my letterbox, copy herewith titled 'Crawley Down is being held Prisoner' which I consider to be totally unprofessional. I personally agree with the views of both Mid Sussex District Council and Worth Parish Council and welcome a swift decision to bring this governance review to a conclusion stopping persistent campaigners wasting residents time by asking them to resubmit views and opinions on this matter. Kind Regards

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 05 July 2022 10:14
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Sir/Madam

I'm a Crawley Down resident, and I thoroughly agree with the request for Crawley Down to have its own council, that is independent from Worth Parish council and Copthorne.

Felbridge, Turner's Hill and Worth have their own councils, they used to be part of Worth Parish Council, and it is only right that with the size of Crawley Down village now, due to all the excess house building in the village, that we have our own Parish Council, independent of Copthorne,

Crawley Down and Copthorne are different villages with different identities and different requirements.

Having our own Parish council for the village, rather than in Copthorne, would make for greater community spirit of our village, and provide us with a much stronger say on planning and economic issues in our village.

Many in Crawley Down have been very unhappy with how Worth Parish Council has overseen both villages, unfairly, very much favouring Copthorne financially, and also we now no longer have access to WPC within the village, with the offices being moved to Copthorne, meaning aged residents, those with disabilities, and without a car find it hard to access their current Parish council.

So the forming of Crawley Down Parish Council would be worth the one off cost. And I believe very much in the interest of the village, for local democracy, services, finance and community spirit that are relevant to our village.

Yours faithfully

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 03 July 2022 08:33
To: communitygovernancereviews

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from REDACTED. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sirs/Madams

I'm a Crawley Down resident, I agree with the request for Crawley Down to have its own council, that is independent from Worth Parish council and Copthorne.

Felbridge, Turner's Hill and Worth have their own councils, they used to be part of Worth Parish Council.

Crawley Down and Copthorne are different villages with different identities and different requirements.

Having our own council in the village rather than in Copthorne would make it more relatable to residents here. And would help with the community spirit of our village.

Crawley Down and Copthorne have grown a lot with new housing and are the size of small towns.

Cllr Ian Gibson is someone who has really cared about issues to do with Crawley Down. He sometimes appears on the village Facebook page, we can relate to him. He wasn't the only Worth Councillor representing Crawley Down that has been very unhappy with how Worth Parish Council has overseen both villages, unfairly, very much favouring Copthorne financially and also they have the offices for WPC in Copthorne village. Where we would appreciate having our own council office in our own village, as the other local villages do. There are also other villagers that feel strongly about this. This would also help create more of a village community feel. And villagers could get to know village councillors. It would make the local council a lot more relatable to, and accessible for residents.

There have been serious differences between the interests of Crawley Down and Copthorne! Which some Worth Councillors representing Crawley Down and villagers have been very angry and unhappy about. So there have been conflicts of interest between the two villages, and where Copthorne has unfairly been favoured financially, and also they have there offices in Copthorne.

So the forming of Crawley Down Parish Council would be worth the one off cost. And I believe very much in the interest of the village, for local democracy, services and community spirit that are relevant to our village.

Yours faithfully

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 25 July 2022 16:38
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Re: Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council. Extension of 2nd public consultation.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hi

Thank you for providing this report.

I would reiterate my initial concerns as a simple question; What is the value of splitting the Parish Council? The cost estimate in this report clearly has a very large margin of error, which does not stack up as a business case. However, what is missing is a clear definition of the value of the split.

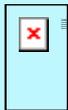
Without a clear definition of the value to the householders I fail to see any business case for the splitting of the parish councils.

Best regards

REDACTED

Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Jul 2022, at 14:27, Mid Sussex District Council
<mid.sussex.district.council@notifications.service.gov.uk> wrote:



Dear REDACTED

Reference Number: REDACTED

Further to our letter dated 13 June 2022 regarding the current Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council (WPC). You may recall that following the first public consultation that letter

explained our Draft Recommendations and invited further contributions to the Review.

Regarding the cost of any division and the operating costs of any new parish council(s) our draft recommendations included the following:

- At an early stage of the second public consultation, WPC and the petitioners should supply to this Review their assessment of these division costs with evidential annotations for each cost, so that MSDC may see how they have been arrived at.

The proposers supplied their estimates to the WPC on 25 May and at its Council meeting on the 30 May, WPC agreed to appoint accredited auditors to provide residents with an independent report examining the cost of potentially dividing the existing WPC and budget estimates for the proposed creation of a new Crawley Down Village Council. That report is now available to read at the WPC website, but also at:

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/8435/worth-parish-council-report-mulberry-co.pdf>

Consequently, we are extending the deadline for the second public consultation by two weeks, to enable electors, considering the report, to respond further. The new deadline for responses is Monday 15 August 2022.

We are grateful to all those who have responded so far and we trust that you will appreciate this further, final opportunity to contribute to the Community Governance Review.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Stanley,

Head of Democratic Services & Elections

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 26 July 2022 12:28
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Creation of a Crawley Down Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I strongly support the proposals of the petitioners in the creation of a Crawley Down Parish Council.

- It will better represent the requirements of people living in the Village.
- WPC has grown too big and is no longer fit for purpose. Its meetings are acrimonious and all are held in Copthorne which is less accessible for Crawley Down residents.
- WPC capital spending has been heavily weighted in Copthorne despite the fact that more of their money comes from Crawley Down. Vast sums have been spent on the Parish Hub and the Sports Pavilion.
- Most Councillors are co-opted and not elected and therefore do not have a mandate, Ian Gibson was Elected to WP, MSDC and WSCC and his manifesto promised to create a Crawley Down Parish Council. He has a large local mandate.
- WPC councillors have been publishing misleading over inflated cost figures in social media. I do not have any trust in their statements. I believe the costs are irrelevant, the need is for true local representation and government. I personally do not care if my precept doubles.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 19 July 2022 09:37
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: The Case for a separate Crawley Down Village Council 2nd Consultation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I understand that you still do not understand the benefits of having our own Crawley Down Village Council despite the overwhelming support being given from the local community and that you ignored a high percentage of respondents to the initial consultation in March 2022.

Where is the evidence that suggests the costs are disproportionate to that proposed by the Crawley Down Councillors? Why do you continue to disregard the voice of the people who know and understand the needs of the local community. Crawley Down has grown so much over the past years, it's hardly a village anymore and needs proper governance to make the right decisions for it's own community regarding local services. We need to enable proper democracy and planning for the increasing challenges that a growing village needs to address in a timely and co-ordinated manner to ensure current and future residents will benefit from the opportunities and lifestyles that Crawley Down has to offer.

Surely you must acknowledge this from the responses you receive, yet you continue to ignore the overwhelming support from the local community. Why? If there is such a vast difference between the costs suggested, nearly 400% higher according to your claims, why can you not explain comprehensively how the difference is justified so that our local Councillors can openly debate that with you? Surely this demonstrates the financial wastage of a Parish Council trying to support growing communities that would benefit from the need to manage their own identities?

From my understanding, you might again ignore a number of responses to this consultation so I would be grateful if you could confirm that you understand and acknowledge my concerns and that they will be taken forward as support for the proposal and if you do not do so, please write and explain to me why you feel my response is not worth considering.

I have attached a copy of my response to the 1st consultation in case it was mislaid.

Thank you.

REDACTED
REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 30 March 2022 10:22
To: 'communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk' <communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: The Case for a separate Crawley Down Village Council

Regarding the above proposal to create a new Parish Council for Crawley Down Village, I fully support this proposal.

I feel that having a separate Crawley Down Village Council would directly benefit the village, making decisions directly related to Crawley Down and not being absorbed in wider issues affecting other local villages.

I would be more inclined to participate in the forward planning of Crawley Down if this were the case.

Crawley Down needs more targeted decision making on what directly affects this village for future development given the need to review the local infrastructure and services for village residents, doctor surgeries, schools, local community groups, shops etc.

Please include my supportive views on the decisions that will be made regarding this proposal.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 18 July 2022 18:01
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Own village council for Crawley Down

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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To whom this may concern.

My name is REDACTED, residing at REDACTED for the last 48 years.

I was very surprised to learn that the village's request to have it's own council was rejected. The village has grown significantly over the decades, and must rival Cophorne in size. They are two completely separate villages, with differing needs, so it makes complete sense to me that Crawley Down's interests are looked after by Crawley Down people. As I understand the numbers, this is the overwhelming will of the residents.

Of course there are costs involved in a separation, but these should not be an obstacle. To my mind, such costs should be amortised over say 10 years.

There seems to be a lack of evidence for such costs being estimated at £150K by Mid Sussex, whereas the local view is far lower at £32K.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 12 August 2022 06:56
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Split of Worth Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please approve this split. Crawley Down has many continuing problems which are not seriously addressed under current Parish Council. We voted 4 to 1 for the split and you should be supporting our request. In long term Copthorne looks to Crawley and the West, whilst Crawley Down looks East to East Grinstead for education, shopping, cultural activities. Our health centre is part of an EG based group.
REDACTED resident of CD for 45 years

Sent from my iPhone

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 31 July 2022 19:42
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Democracy must prevail

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Sirs or Madams

There was was a vote which backed forming a Crawley Down Village Council and this result is now not being accepted by Mid Sussex.

This behaviour reminds me of the shenanigans by John Bercow and others to block the result of the Referendum to leave the EU.

Its about time those in the civil service realised they are here to serve the people not themselves.

Democracy must prevail

Regards

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 08 August 2022 16:59
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Village Parish Council

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Crawley Down has increased in size over many years and numbers of residents have reached the point where it is the largest contributor to the WPC. Whilst the WPC has I believe in the past been effective in achieving improvement to both Copthorne and Crawley Down with the present increase of residents in both villages the time has come for both to have separate Councils and in line with both Turners Hill and East Grinstead who have had their own Councils for many years. The separate Councils would be more affective in supporting the needs of each Village.

So I am in favour of Crawley Down having their own separate Parish Council.

REDACTED
REDACTED
email: REDACTED
Mob: REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 14 August 2022 17:06
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: AGAINST Break Up of Worth Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[You don't often get email from REDACTED. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I write to state my opposition to the break up of Worth Parish Council.

The costs involved, in this time of national financial crisis, are not sustainable. A collective and co-operative council being able to pool resources makes more sense than Crawley Down trying to go it alone. Through positive co-operation between Crawley Down, Cophorne and perhaps Turners Hill(they were once part of WPC) being more neighbourly, and joint community minded much more could be achieved. Also joint membership perhaps could play a stronger role in the fight against the urban spread from East Grinstead and Crawley.

I also object to the way the petitioners (all male) with their stall outside the shops in Crawley Down bullying passers by to sign. Who on declining made snide remarks! Who are these parvenues? It appears they are on a misogynist, greedy, and selfish ego trip. Brexit hasn't worked, we are now third world, and much poorer through it. Unity gives us strength and lessons should be learnt.

Once more I say no to the separation !

REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 25 July 2022 14:24
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Creation of Crawley Down Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Sir/Madam

I hope this is the correct means for expressing opinions on this subject.

I am a long-term resident of Crawley Down and I have always believed the village should have its own, independent council separate from that of Cophorne.

Turners Hill, a much smaller community, went independent several years ago and appears to operate successfully as I believe Crawley Down will also.

The villages are more than big enough to go their separate ways and I believe the split will help keep us maintain our identities and resist any threatened merging that new developments could possibly bring.

A separate council will be able to concentrate on specific Crawley Down issues in a more democratic manner

I also accept that some setting up costs are inevitable, but I am not convinced by the figures put out by those opposing the separation.

My name is: REDACTED
I live at REDACTED

Many Thanks.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 06 August 2022 11:51
To: elections
Subject: Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Mr Stanley

I strongly disagree with the published outcome of the first consultation. The 77% of Crawley Down responses which were in favour of a new council is evidence of overwhelming support for a Crawley Down Parish Council.

I fully support the efforts of our local councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them and get on with it now, not in two years time.

I do not understand why the views of Copthorne residents were given equal weight to those of Crawley Down residents in a decision about future representation of Crawley Down in local government. Surely this is a matter for Crawley Down residents alone.

Crawley Down has a clearly separate identity to the surrounding communities of Felbridge, East Grinstead, Turners Hill, Crawley and Copthorne. Community cohesion is clearly evident in the sports and social clubs run by residents in the village. Local democracy will be improved by holding council meetings in Crawley Down, something that Worth Parish Council has refused to do since moving its offices to Copthorne. When the offices were in Crawley Down meetings were still held in Copthorne.

I understand that you disregarded many responses to the first consultation. I would like my views as a resident to be taken into account. If you intend to ignore them, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours Sincerely

REDACTED
REDACTED

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 02 August 2022 18:36
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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My name is REDACTED of REDACTED

I wish to comment on the current initiative by some councilors to create a separate Crawley Down Village Council. I do not believe a robust case has been made to make this change. I support those councilors who wish to **retain** the current situation. It seems to me the interests of Crawley Down are best served uniting our villages under one council i.e: Worth. We all face similar issues and I believe these are best addressed together.

Best regards;

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 15 August 2022 16:39
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Worth parish council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[You don't often get email from REDACTED. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good afternoon

I have looked at the facts & I believe Crawley down should be it's own ruler. Copthorne is very big & needs its own too We have everything separate & our parish council should be separate too The 2 villages are so very different Please note that I wish for Worth Parish Council to be split into two entities Copthorne & Crawley Down

Mrs REDACTED
REDACTED
Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 20 July 2022 10:03
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Copthorne/Crawley Down Split

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I am against the 2 areas splitting, it will cost a lot of money without any real benefit.

REDACTED
Crawley Down

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 31 July 2022 23:11
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Crawley Down Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I'm writing to add my views to the case for Crawley Down to have its own village council,

The village of Crawley Down has grown massively over last few years. Crawley Down is no longer of a size where it can be served properly as part of a larger entity, it needs to be given the opportunity to look after itself. Although I acknowledge there will be some initial costs involved with the split, I believe in the long term, a Crawley Down Village Council will result in improvements to democracy and services in the village and ensure more focus is given to the village. There is precedent for this split as Turners Hill previously split from Worth Council – and Worth itself split to join Crawley

I understand that there was a 4 to 1 vote in favour of a separate council in the first consultation – I would ask why 1 in 10 of the submissions were ignored and that that the wishes of the residents are respected – the people of Crawley Down are clearly asking for this split. How can Mid Sussex say that Crawley Down (or Copthorne for that matter) is a part of a Worth Parish community when Worth itself is not a part of the Parish??

Crawley Down Councillors are in favour of this proposal – they live in the village and wrote the Neighbourhood plan – how can it not be better for the village to have a council of its own residents looking after it than a combined council with split loyalties?

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission and confirm that my views will be taken into account.

Yours
REDACTED
REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 18 July 2022 08:12
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: submission in favour of a separate Crawley Down Village Council.

You don't often get email from REDACTED. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sirs,

To reiterate my previous submission

Please find my submission in **favour** of a separate Crawley Down Village Council.

I write to confirm that I believe my village will benefit from less bureaucracy by being a separate entity from Copthorne/ Worth parish council, as we are a different village, not adjacent to the M23 to Crawley and being distinctly different by being part of the countryside.

We will then get to set out own agendas, typically in development, maintenance, quality of the roads, infrastructure and services.

We already have a village hall, with offices that were previously used by Worth parish council, that could easily be transformed back into a hub for the village within the existing village hall at very little additional cost.

Monies received can then be best spent directly on our own requirements for facilities, sports and community groups.

I do not believe that this would affect Copthorne negatively.

REDACTED

REDACTED

--

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 19 July 2022 13:18
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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cc REDACTED

We have lived at REDACTED in Crawley Down for the past 10.5 years. During this period Crawley Down has expanded considerably, so much so that it now requires its own Village Council to deal with challenges that the village faces. We are completely separate from Copthorne with our own identity. To blanket cover us with Copthorne and call us Worth is a nonsense.

You claim that it will cost too much (£150,000) to expedite this. Please send us a breakdown of these costs. We believe that the quote of £32,000 to be met from reserves is a small price to pay for improvements in local democracy and services.

Please write and tell us if you intend to ignore our submission and explain why you choose to do this.

We are very happy to support our Crawley Down Councillors in their quest as they are the best people to know what services and infrastructure that our village needs.

REDACTED
REDACTED

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REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 14 July 2022 11:25
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Re: Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council - Second Stage Submission - DA-2343

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Good morning

I have received a flyer reminding me that I had not replied to Mid Sussex District Council to state again my support for a Crawley Down Village Council.

All the comments that I submitted before about the benefits to the village have not changed of course, in fact the determination of those who support a separate council to Copthorne has increased in the face of the lack of support from Mid Sussex District Council and the quite open opposition of the Worth Parish Council representatives.

But to repeat:

1. People in Crawley Down do not feel part of Copthorne, we are separate from them.
2. The fervour of the new Parish Council supporters and service they are providing to encourage all villagers to respond to this review demonstrates the "local" strength of democracy. So of course the improvement of local democracy and service justify the one off costs of creating the new Village Council.
3. Our village needs a local focus to make sure all challenges within the village are understood properly.
4. I am mystified by the knowledge that the 4 - 1 vote in favour of a Crawley Down Village Council in the first consultation has been brushed aside as of no consequence. What else can the supporters do or say if their vote is to be ignored?
5. Mid Sussex District Council have placed an unjustified emphasis on cost, conveniently referring to the current financial restrictions, but this is an easy "get out". A new village council is for the long term and should be considered in this light.
6. The Crawley Down councillors that support the new village council, live in the village, have worked on the housing strategy and are long standing council members so can be trusted to do the best job.

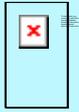
I will be very disappointed if I do not receive a response to this submission, which indicates that a fairer look at the "facts" i.e. the numbers of people supporting a new village council, will be undertaken in the second stage.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

On 16/06/2022 11:38, Mid Sussex District Council wrote:



Dear REDACTED

Your Reference Number: REDACTED

Further to our letter dated 14 February 2022 regarding the current Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council (WPC). You may recall that this is considering whether a new parish and parish council should be created for Crawley Down.

We are grateful to all those who contributed to the 1st public consultation between 14 February and 15 April 2022. We have carefully evaluated all responses received and our draft recommendations are:

1. The case for division of assets and liabilities at reasonable cost is not sufficiently made. At this time of cost-of-living crisis, many electors are not agreeable to this.
2. At an early stage of the second public consultation, WPC and the petitioners should supply to this Review their assessment of these division costs with evidential annotations for each cost, so that MSDC may see how they have been arrived at.
3. The indicative annual budget proposed by 'The Local Councillors and Residents Supporting the Creation of a Crawley Down Village Council', is disputed by WPC. MSDC wishes to see an adjusted and agreed version as soon as possible.

4. The WPC governance review working party and subsequent changes are noted. WPC should carefully consider ongoing elector concerns relating to the accessibility of Council meetings and perhaps consider alternating these between The Parish Hub and the Haven Centre, given that virtual/hybrid meetings legislation is not yet in view.
5. The WPC could seek to encourage more local people to stand for election both in Copthorne and in Crawley Down. It may help to produce a 'Becoming a Councillor' brochure that explains the duties and rewarding nature of the role, and to publish this at the Parish Council's website. Councillors and other activists too should encourage greater levels of candidate nomination in 2023 such that elections are contested in both areas.
6. The current governance arrangements for the Worth Parish Council should continue, and this Authority (MSDC) should consider afresh a CGR in 2025 or 2029 dependent on build out of any permitted developments affecting Copthorne West and surrounding areas.
7. The existing Parish Council size is 17, comprised of 9 Councillors for the Crawley Down Ward and 8 Councillors for the Copthorne Ward. The current electorate of Crawley Down Parish Ward is 4547 and of Copthorne Parish Ward is 4066. We are therefore not recommending change to Councillor numbers for either ward at this stage of the Review.
8. The name of the Parish Council should be changed to Crawley Down and Copthorne Parish Council, to better reflect the joint and shared community identity.

You are now invited to contribute again to this Community Governance Review. It would be useful, and we hope convenient to address your submission to these Draft Recommendations. Before preparing your submission, please read the Terms of Reference and Guidance for Respondents and the official Public Notice which includes the original petition wording. You can find

these documents at: www.midsussex.gov.uk/elections-voting/community-governance-reviews

Should you wish to suggest an alternative proposition, please concisely explain how it might derive the following benefits:

- Improved community engagement
- Enhanced community cohesion
- Better local democracy
- More effective and convenient delivery of local services and local government

You should also explain how your proposition:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community

The best way to contribute your views is via our online form. You will find it at www.midsussex.gov.uk/cgr-form. Alternatively, you may email your submission to:

communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk.

If you need paper copies of the Terms of Reference and Guidance for Respondents, please call us.

If you wish to contribute, we can accept 2nd stage submissions from 13th June. The deadline for responding is 1st August 2022. After this we will evaluate further and prepare our Final Recommendations for our Scrutiny Committee to consider at its meeting on 14 September 2022.

We very much hope to receive your contributions to this Community Governance Review.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Stanley,

Business Unit Leader for Democratic Services



Virus-free. www.avg.com

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 14 July 2022 12:22
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Worth Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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It was disappointing to find out that Mid Sussex District Council has chosen to basically turn down the proposal to split Worth Parish Council into two entities, covering Copthorne and Crawley Down. This is in spite of a large majority of Crawley Down residents reportedly supporting the proposal to split. I certainly supported this proposal at the first round and wrote to MSDC about this, my main reason being that the two communities are physically and socially separate and are each better served by a more locally focus parish council. Indeed part of Copthorne is in Surrey! Anyway the main reason for not supporting the proposal given by Mid Sussex appeared to be one based on financial considerations during a period of recession. However a decision solely based on short term considerations, which can change, is seriously flawed in my view.

We should all be looking for long term benefits, which in my view are plain to see.

Therefore I urge MSDC to reconsider and support the proposal for a split.

REDACTED

REDACTED

--

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<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.avg.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Ccommunitygovernancereviews%40midsussex.gov.uk%7Cd7e8be10014e4d77d67908da658b092f%7C248de4f9d13548cca4c8babd7e9e8703%7C0%7C0%7C637933945085197217%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RNXPx6PavXEd9vK m6lQpNR0jm%2FGAAhBQnfOAmWM35Y%3D&reserved=0>

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 16 July 2022 18:27
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Crawley Down should have its own village council.

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Dear Sirs

As a resident of Crawley Down, we believe we should have our own Village Council, as per below:-

1. Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity.
2. The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
3. Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village gaces.
4. To respect the 4 to 1 vote in favour of a separate Crawley Down Village Council in the first consultation.

I do hope my submission will not be ignored, however, if it is to be ignored, I would appreciate a written response as to the reason why.

Kind regards
REDACTED
REDACTED

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 14 August 2022 13:04
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: 2nd public consultation response to MSDC 14-8-22

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hi Terry

I'm responding to your 2nd public consultation for the Worth Parish Council governance review as e-mail below. For information my address is:-

REDACTED

I strongly support the creation of a new parish and council for Crawley Down (as do my wife/son who also live at the above address) for the following reasons:-

- (1) I've read your auditors account from link supplied which estimates a loss of £51k in the 1st year accounts for a split situation. Looking at the difference column there are several figures which could be overestimated. Also as a 1st year figure its highly likely that the budgets will be balanced going forward as both new councils adapt to managing a more locally focused and accountable service. Despite the current economic climate financial reasons alone shouldn't override a democratic wish to be self-governing. I'm not sure if a vote has taken place in Copthorne but would have thought that the majority of residents there would also support separate parish councils.
- (2) Both Copthorne and Crawley Down have significantly grown over the last 50 years from a time when Worth Parish Council worked for both villages. As a consequence they now have their own identities and challenges best served in the future by individual councils.
- (3) Recent political will has been to give self-governance to local communities which this change will do. It's apparent there have been local divisions within WPC for some time affecting the parish councils effectiveness which clearly suggests that a strategy for separate councils is the best way forward.
- (4) I've always considered that Worth Parish Council didn't fully represent me because of its wider focus/geographical responsibilities. Accountability from councillors living in the village will be a strong incentive to drive improvement and as a consequence motivate myself/others to become much more proactive in how are community is governed.

I hope these comments are useful and look forward to your response

REDACTED

From: Mid Sussex District Council [mailto:mid.sussex.district.council@notifications.service.gov.uk]
Sent: 25 July 2022 14:27
To: REDACTED
Subject: Re: Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council. Extension of 2nd public consultation.



Dear REDACTED

Reference Number: REDACTED

Further to our letter dated 13 June 2022 regarding the current Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council (WPC). You may recall that following the first public consultation that letter explained our Draft Recommendations and invited further contributions to the Review.

Regarding the cost of any division and the operating costs of any new parish council(s) our draft recommendations included the following:

- At an early stage of the second public consultation, WPC and the petitioners should supply to this Review their assessment of these division costs with evidential annotations for each cost, so that MSDC may see how they have been arrived at.

The proposers supplied their estimates to the WPC on 25 May and at its Council meeting on the 30 May, WPC agreed to appoint accredited auditors to provide residents with an independent report examining the cost of potentially dividing the existing WPC and budget estimates for the proposed creation of a new Crawley Down Village Council. That report is now available to read at the WPC website, but also at:

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/8435/worth-parish-council-report-mulberry-co.pdf>

Consequently, we are extending the deadline for the second public consultation by two weeks, to enable electors, considering the report, to respond further. The new deadline for responses is Monday 15 August 2022.

We are grateful to all those who have responded so far and we trust that you will appreciate this further, final opportunity to contribute to the Community Governance Review.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Stanley,

Head of Democratic Services & Elections

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 11 August 2022 15:45
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I am in favour of a separate Crawley Down Village Council.

Kind regards,

Mrs REDACTED
REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 14 July 2022 16:47
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: We want a Crawley Down Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Good afternoon,

I believe Crawley Down village should have its own village council for several reasons.

In the first consultation there was a 4 to 1 vote in favour of a separate CD village council, yet this seems to have been ignored.

Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity & a CDVC will be able to address the challenges the village faces, far better than being part of the large Worth Parish Council.

Finally the one off costs of creating the new village council are justified by improvements in services & local democracy.

I await a reply from yourselves to tell me if you intend to ignore my submission & an explanation as to why I will be ignored.

Mrs REDACTED
REDACTED

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REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 14 July 2022 16:46
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Crawley Down needs its own Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Good afternoon,

I believe Crawley Down village should have its own village council for several reasons.

Firstly, in the first consultation there was a 4 to 1 vote in favour of a separate CD village council, yet this seems to have been ignored?

Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity & a CDVC will be able to address the challenges the village faces, far better than being part of the large Worth Parish Council.

Finally the one off costs of creating the new village council are justified by improvements in services & local democracy.

I await a reply from yourselves to tell me if you intend to ignore my submission & an explanation as to why I will be ignored.

Mr REDACTED
REDACTED

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REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 18 July 2022 16:34
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Re: Crawley Down Village Council - Second Consultation.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been living in the village of Crawley Down since 1985 and witnessed the changes over the years as the village expanded and population increased. To my mind we are now a separate community and would benefit greatly in having our own Village Council to provide the services and infrastructure that the village needs.

Crawley Down has councillors who live in the village and know and understand the challenges that the village faces. The improvements in local democracy and services the Village Council would provide certainly justify the one off set up cost provided.

I am whole heartedly in favour of the creation of a Crawley Down Village Council and would expect the 4 to 1 vote in favour of such in the first consultation to be respected.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email submission and your intended course. Should you decide to ignore this submission please explain the reason thereof in writing to me.

Kind regards,

Mr REDACTED

REDACTED

Tel: REDACTED

Email:REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 18 July 2022 14:43
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Crawley Down Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Sir or Madam

With regard to the proposed Crawley Down Village Council, I wish to state that I am in favour of the split.

I believe wholeheartedly that now is the right time for Crawley Down to have its own village council. Why - because both Crawley Down and Cophthorne have changed dramatically over recent years.

Crawley Down has always had its own separate identity and community spirit, and I am sure that in developing our own Village Council, that the community spirit will get stronger.

We need to have our own local councillors, all of whom live in Crawley Down and know this village and it's needs well. I believe they are the ones who are best placed to address the challenges this village will have to face, and who will do what's best for Crawley Down.

Neither of the villages can really be classed as villages anymore and with the changes to both, I am sure that Cophthorne have their own specific needs. Even more so now with the amount of development and as such they would surely benefit from having their own Village Council.

I would appreciate a reply to this email specifically because I wish to know your stance on my submission. If you have chosen to ignore my views, I would like to know why.

I have lived in Crawley Down since 1985.

My name is REDACTED
address is : REDACTED
Tel:REDACTED

I look forward to receiving your response,

Kind regards
REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 14 July 2022 16:50
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down separate Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Sir/Madam - I was very disappointed to learn that the recent move to create a separate Crawley Down Village Council has been blocked, especially as there was a 4 to 1 Residents vote in favour of this change in the first consultation.

It is abundantly clear that Crawley Down and Copthorne are separate communities with separate identities. Surely Crawley Down would be better served by a Crawley Down Village Council with local members who, incidentally, have all lived in the village for over 10 years and therefore understand the needs of our village and the challenges it faces. They have the skills to operate a Parish Council and are fully aware of the services and infrastructure we need in this village.

It is clear that the massive improvement in local democracy and services will more than justify the initial start-up costs of creating this new Council.

I have lived in the Village for over 40 years, so feel entitled to have my views taken into account and will require a full explanation if the correct decision to form a new Crawley Down Village Council is not reached after the second consultation.

Kind Regards,
REDACTED
REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 15 July 2022 11:34
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Crawley Down Village Council proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am disappointed that MSDC is blocking the creation of a separate Crawley Down Village Council (CDVC). My reasons are...

- Crawley Down is a separate community, has a separate identity to Copthorne and is growing larger all the time. To my mind, there are no longer links between the two villages that justify the continuance of a single VC
- Improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new CDVC
- A CDVC will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces
- MSDC should respect the 4 to 1 vote in favour of a separate CDVC in the first consultation

Please confirm by return email that you will not be ignoring this and similar emails from Crawley Down villagers - and if you do propose to ignore the contents, email me to tell me why

Yours.

REDACTED
REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 11 August 2022 18:01
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I wish to advise of my support for the creation of a separate Crawley Down Parish Council.

Regards

REDACTED
REDACTED

Sent from my iPhone 11 Pro

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 13 August 2022 21:08
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Village Council - 15/8/2022

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Sirs,

Please accept this email as my statement of support for Crawley Down village to have its own Village Council.

I don't feel that a true reflection of the villagers views were taken into account with the council vote previously, Will a majority in Crawley Down, in favour of the split.

Please acknowledge receipt and inclusion of this statement soonest.

Kind regards

REDACTED

REDACTED

Sent from my iPhone

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 13 August 2022 21:06
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Village Council - 15/8/2022

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Sirs,

Please accept this email as my statement of support for Crawley Down village to have its own Village Council.

I don't feel that a true reflection of the villagers views were taken into account with the council vote previously, Will a majority in Crawley Down, in favour of the split.

Please acknowledge receipt and inclusion of this statement soonest.

Kind regards

REDACTED
REDACTED

Sent from my iPhone

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 15 August 2022 21:28
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Parish review

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hi,

I'm writing in response to the consultation reviews on whether Crawley Down should have its own parish Council.

I attended one of the public meetings and have reviewed several comments thereon in social media and a resident within Crawley Down. Having considered both sides of the arguments, I am not convinced for change and therefore do not agree to split the current Worth Parish Council (WPC).

My view is based on the following:

- if a split encounters the same councillors who are to represent Crawley down, then as a majority (9 to 8) in WPC currently, why is Crawley Down not getting appropriate action for the village?
- in addition there is a huge lack of willing volunteers in Crawley Down in local organisations let alone stepping up to be a parish council, therefore I fear there would not be a significant quorum (mixture of skills etc)
- focus has been entirely on cost, neither argued what they would do more for Crawley down if split or remain as WPC.
- Timescales of future projects that WPC already have, take far too long but yet the proposal to split could not assure anything different and would be borrowing money to do so.

In my opinion, WPC would be better if they "got things done" quicker and had more presence across the village.

Kind regards
REDACTED
REDACTED

Sent from my Galaxy

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 18 July 2022 18:28
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Worth Parish Council Community Government Review ...

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Sir

I am a resident of Crawley Down. My details are :

Name: REDACTED
Address : REDACTED
Email : REDACTED
Mobile : REDACTED

I write to oppose any structural change to WPC. Structural change in local government can only be justified if the inevitable transitional costs are more than offset by ongoing savings and improved service delivery.

My understanding is that the proposed changes to WPC will achieve quite the opposite. At a time when every level of local government is under financial pressure it would be more than bizarre for WPC to be broken up, especially when I see no obvious service delivery or cost benefits for the local community.

Yours faithfully

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 02 August 2022 18:57
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I wish to object to the proposal to split the existing Worth P.C. into 2 separate Authorities.

I think this is a completely unnecessary expense for very little benefit.

Having seen the figures I am more than ever convinced that at such a financially difficult time the money already spent and that proposed could be put to a far better use.

REDACTED
REDACTED

REDACTED
REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 25 July 2022 18:36
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I wish to record my objection to the proposed split of Worth Parish Council.

There would appear to be little or no benefit long term and a very large expense short term. The money already spent could surely have been put to better use and I would prefer that no more is wasted on this ridiculous exercise.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 16 July 2022 14:41
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Crawley down village council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Good afternoon

Following the queen's speech this year, it makes perfect sense to have a local village council. Prince Charles outlined the government's plans. He explained how local people will have their say and be involved with local planning and development, size numbers suitable location and type of materials used and is in keeping with the surrounding area.

Crawley down is a separate community with a separate identity.

The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs creating the new village council.

A Crawley down village council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.

You should respect the 4 to 1 vote in favour of a separate Crawley down village council in the first consultation.

Please write and tell me if you intend to ignore my submission and explain why I should be ignored.

Kind regards

REDACTED

REDACTED

Sent from my iPad

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 12 July 2022 11:03
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Crawley down village council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Good morning

In the Queens speech this year, Prince Charles read out the government's plans for the coming months. One that caught my attention was "Local people will have their say on local planning and development, size numbers suitable location and the type of materials used and is it in keeping with the surrounding area."

Therefore Crawley Down should be allowed and trusted to decide their own future.

Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity.

The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs creating the new village council.

A Crawley Down village council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.

You should respect the 4 to 1 vote in favour of a separate Crawley Down village council in the first consultation.

Please write and tell me if you intend to ignore my submission and explain why I should be ignored.

Kind Regards

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 11 July 2022 12:57
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Separate Crawley Down Village Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Democratic Services, Mid Sussex District Council

I write in support of the proposition for a separate Crawley Down Village Council, whatever the cost.

It is my understanding that previous letters of support in the first consultation have been ignored by your Council. That is undemocratic and unacceptable and unworthy.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email and confirm that it will be taken account of in your decision.

REDACTED
REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 11 July 2022 12:16
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Worth Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Crawley Down needs its own village Council

1. We have a separate community and identity, a village that keeps growing
2. Improvements in local democracy and services justify the one off cost of creating the new Village Council
3. A new council will better address challenges the village faces and will continue to face
4. Respect the 4 to 1 vote in Favour of a separate Crawley Down Village Council at the first consultation
5. The above warrants a response from you and should not be ignored

We the undersigned are:

REDACTED REDACTED
REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 05 July 2022 18:42
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Crawley Down Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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I am writing to let you know that I am in favour of a Crawley Down Parish Council. One in 4 Crawley Down residents voted in favour of this, and this fact seems to have been overlooked.

I am of the opinion that Crawley Down would be better served by Councillors from the Village, and not by Councillors from a neighbouring Village. The recruitment of Crawley Down Councillors would be easier, in that meetings would be shorter as they only deal with Crawley Down matters, and there may not need to be so many meetings.

I think that once the question of Council Offices and staff are sorted out, the Village would be helped by local Councillors who know the area and the problems we residents face due to the overdevelopment of the Village without the proper infrastructure in place and the difficulty of getting doctor appointments and school places,

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 12 July 2022 11:13
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Village Council Questions re Crawley Down

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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> Good Morning,
>
> I would like some information & responses on the issue of Crawley Down having its own village council.
>
> -Why this request is not being upheld?
> -After a meeting some months ago there is still no clear breakdown of figures regarding the £150,000 which has been given as the reason for this not being justified?
> -I have believed that Crawley Down having its own village council is far better placed to make decisions & address challenges for the people of Crawley Down.
> - The meeting held at the Haven centre some responses from yourselves were dismissive and an attitude of disinterest in hearing what people had to say & far from succinct in explanation.
> -There will always be necessary one off costs. Everyone would benefit right now in better alignment in responding authentically & transparently, something which has been seriously lacking as we are all witnessing in the wider political field, rather than ignoring & creating something most do not want.
>
> I would appreciate hearing from you & your team.
> Thank you.
>
> Kindest Regards
>
>REDACTED
> REDACTED

team - team email	communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
team - team name	the Democratic Services team
Reference number	REDACTED
Your representation	Local Resident
Your name	REDACTED
Contact email address	IREDACTED
Confirm email	REDACTED
Phone	REDACTED
Postcode	REDACTED
Address	REDACTED
Which review are you responding to?	Worth Parish Council
Would you like to enter your response below, or upload it?	Write
Your submission to the community governance review	<p>Further to your letter dated 13 June 2022 I would like to make the following comments in my capacity as a Copthorne resident of 40 years.</p> <p>I fully support the draft recommendation that the case for division of assets and liabilities has not been sufficiently made or proven and any extra expenses incurred cannot be warranted, particularly in the current financial climate.</p> <p>Item 4. I fully support the alternating of venue between The Parish Hub and The Haven Centre as it would give all parishioners a better opportunity to access council meetings, especially the less mobile.</p> <p>Item 5. Supported.</p> <p>Item 6. Supported.</p> <p>Item 7. Supported</p> <p>Item 8. I do not support changing the name from the current Worth Parish Council because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Both villages come under the parish of Worth which is an ancient name and should be preserved. 2. The name "Crawley Down and Copthorne Parish Council" has the effect of giving Copthorne lesser importance. Not a good idea in the eyes of Copthorne parishioners, particularly those who have lived here for many years, indeed many locals were born here. It matters, as would the reverse option of "Copthorne and Crawley Down Parish Council" matter to many Crawley Down parishioners. Perceptions are important. 3. It does not warrant the cost of changing any documentation affected. 4. Worth Parish Council is a recognisable and logical name to keep until such time as, and if, a split becomes practical, perhaps when

the populations increase sufficiently to warrant separation and more councillors.

Copthorne and Crawley Down are two villages with much in common yet each also has their own individuality which must be respected. "Worth Parish Council" is a reflection of this.

team - team email	communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
team - team name	the Democratic Services team
Reference number	REDACTED
Your representation	Local Resident
Your name	REDACTED
Contact email address	REDACTED
Confirm email	REDACTED
Phone	REDACTED
Postcode	REDACTED
Address	REDACTED
Which review are you responding to?	Worth Parish Council
Would you like to enter your response below, or upload it?	Write
Your submission to the community governance review	<p>I am against splitting the council for the following reasons:</p> <p>The cost analysis shows we currently realise significant on-going benefits of economies of scale whilst still effectively representing local residents and businesses.</p> <p>Additionally, splitting would create enormous upheaval and additional costs of splitting without significant benefits.</p> <p>In my view, splitting the council will not improve democracy, Crawley Down councillors are already in the majority on WPC, the villages are geographically close so no issues of communication inefficiencies with the current set-up, and sharing staff and resources provides a better and more robust/efficient outcome.</p> <p>In today's world of easy communication, where a council is based has limited impact on accessibility, and a combined council should be able to apply more pressure at a district and council levels.</p> <p>The village identities are very similar, including in terms of socio economics, employment prospects, employment demographics, housing etc, all the things that should occupy our parish councillors, so a single council offers a much better set-up to apply lessons learned and lobby / influence MSDC and WSC, planning bodies, etc.</p> <p>The examples given by the petitioners are actually shared between both villages and are not a difference in identity. Both villages deserve open communication with their elected representatives, access to sports and community facilities, addressing speeding and local services and that development should focus on local needs. A combined council is better placed to resist the pressures from Crawly and East Grinstead.</p> <p>Splitting would also create unnecessary stress and uncertainty on the excellent staff and contractors currently employed by WPC. If a</p>

split does go ahead some resources and money should be deployed to help all staff and affected contractors.

In summary, I am against splitting, numerous disadvantages primarily being cost which many residents can't afford, upheaval and distraction from the day-job, advantages are tenuous and marginal at best.

I would support the proposed name change and holding of more meetings in Crawley Down provided this doesn't create unnecessary costs.

A final observation, I am unable to provide evidence but from my observations, I have not needed to visit the parish office, email or phone has been my means of communication, so the office location doesn't really matter as long as there is someone available who understands both villages to answer questions and appreciate the issues. And when I have attended council meetings, I haven't felt the location has been a barrier to people attending, if it is a barrier then perhaps Zoom etc should be better utilised, not to conduct the meeting but to allow residents unable to get to the meeting to observe (and participate when and if technology and rules/legislation permit), a much cheaper and inclusive solution rather than creating a new council.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 06 August 2022 11:25
To: communitygovernancereviews
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Community Governance Review Second Consultation

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Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to express my views regarding the proposal to split Worth Parish council and for Crawley Down to have its own parish council.

In my opinion the small group of people that are proposing Crawley Down leaving Worth Parish have not made any significant arguments to convince me or most villagers that this change is beneficial to either village.

I have lived in both Copthorne and Crawley Down and do not understand the argument regarding a separate identity and the leap in assuming that this would improve services. Both villages do have their own identity and I do not understand how having one parish council that has been existence for many years makes any difference or has had any negative impact on either village's identity.

The claim that the separation would result in an improvement in services is without any evidence or foundation. In fact, economies of scale would suggest that a larger council would in fact have greater resources to improve services. Maybe a better proposal would be to investigate a merger with Turners Hill?

The statement that a separate council would be better able to address the challenges is also strange, as both villages suffer from the same challenges i.e., the speed and amount of traffic. Again, a larger council should have more weight and resources to do anything about these challenges.

Claims that 4 in 1 Crawley Down residents voted in favour of leaving Worth Parish council are also clearly misleading and inaccurate. Only a small percentage of Crawley Down villagers voted or expressed an interest in separation. Additionally misleading statistics that were derived from a Connect 4 game showing those for and against only demonstrates the lack of credibility of the small group supporting this motion. A major decision and change like this require the backing of much greater numbers, and if the small team responsible for bringing this motion want to be taken seriously, I suggest they require actual evidence, facts and statistics based on a much larger proportion of the Worth population. Fairground stunts made up statistics, negative images, and poorly worded propaganda do not help in making a positive case for separation.

The costs produced on both sides appear over and underestimated I assume to make each side seem more attractive than the other. However, these figures are purely estimates and I do not understand why any amount of money would be spent if there is no solid evidence that there would be an improvement in services.

The exceedingly low turnout also indicates that this is a frivolous and unnecessary waste of resources.

Due to the lack of any robust argument for such a major change that I assume cannot be easily undone, leads me to assume that there are other reasons behind this proposal and other motivating factors behind the small group pushing forward with this proposal.

Therefore, I would strongly urge that this proposal is rejected and focus, effort, and resources, are redirected to improving services in both Copthorne and Crawley Down.

Yours faithfully
REDACTED
REDACTED

team - team email	communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
team - team name	the Democratic Services team
Reference number	N/a
Your representation	Local Resident
Your name	REDACTED
Contact email address	REDACTED
Confirm email	REDACTED
Phone	REDACTED
Postcode	REDACTED
Address	REDACTED
Which review are you responding to?	Worth Parish Council
Would you like to enter your response below, or upload it?	Write
Your submission to the community governance review	<p>I have read the documents provided and appreciate the concerns raised in current climate regarding increased costs to residents, however as I understand the proposers costs (which do seem to be based on existing council budget although prior year rather than 22/23 budget, which is understandable as budget not yet allocated) are estimated at around £60 for band D property. What isn't presented is how much MSDC allocate from band D to WPC today. But I understand from meeting attended that it is broadly the same. The MSDC interim review of proposal suggests the costs have not been substantiated. I believe (as above) the proposers presented a planned operating budget that covers all existing expenditure (including staff) but excludes any inflation. Presumably parish council budgets are not based on need but on funds available (excluding significant capital expenditure as expected), and as such future council tax budgets will increase across the county to account for inflation & rising costs. So I'm not clear why costs are stated as a reason to delay a decision on this review. Can you explain this? Unless you are referring to the opposing WPC costs and their emphatic view that the proposal is underestimated, your documentation includes the cost predictions so it seems MSDC and/or WPC run an expensive council. Honestly we would all like cheaper bills right now but I have more concern with WPC not providing details in support of their objections to the published costs and implication that they run a town council like structure (complex & costly to operate in my words) for parish council services which we were advised could be run more efficiently like our parish council neighbours Turners Hill (closer than Copthorne to Crawley Down). If this is true then MSDC should be supporting future cost reduction methods by implementing more efficient way of operating across all councils. The argument that regular focused monthly council meetings without the need to rent meeting room space permanently all year makes more sense to me. If accurate the proposers budget would not increase council tax in Crawley Down other than for inflation applied and allocated by powers above. If MSDC are</p>

delaying decision until 2027 for this reason, then I'd urge you to take a longer forecast for both a split and combined council costs for Crawley Down & Copthorne.

It seems obvious that once the existing rent free period expires on WPC offices/meeting space our council tax will increase unless they can offset by hiring the space privately as there will still be an unwieldy large council structure to accommodate and a lot more residents from new developments.

Equally the proposed timing prior to council elections to avoid additional costs to appoint councillors is sound, so unclear why MSDC are suggesting a delay to the decision.

It is clear accusations about fair play have been made about WPC & Proposers (who are also currently WPC councillors) so on balance neither can be trusted (reflective maybe if the sad state of our local and national politics). This does infer that the existing WPC do not align or work effectively together, probably illustrative of why over time separation has occurred with planning, committees & working groups being formed for both villages within WPC. At a time when we all need to collaborate a decision to wait until 2027 will negatively impact Crawley Down as WPC Copthorne members have been very vocal and abusive towards the proposers (almost infringing on their right to free speech in my opinion) so chances of them reaching agreement for good of our community is limited. I say this as I have witnessed this for myself and was horrified at how unprofessional the councillors were publicly to the extent that several members of audience and chair had to intervene. As majority of councillors live in Copthorne (they were apparently co-opted as no one available in Crawley Down) I do not feel the level of animosity will subside and struggle to see how the two sides will work together for the good of our village. Your report of submissions refers to this in other ways multiple times, from decisions being shot down at meetings to changing method of implementation after reaching agreement in relation to meeting venue. It seem both parties need to reconsider how they are operating to me - as comments from public demonstrate it is unacceptable behaviour and there is no consensus. Perhaps they are contenders for Westminster, as one wrote an eloquent summary expanding upon their achievements and work to find the right solution but was in person a very rude individual who seemed to think he knew more from reading a few articles & a discussion generally than a qualified professional (as it happens it is my profession too so I know he was incorrectly stating the facts). I felt this individual wanted to present his case that the proposers were egotistical troublemakers out for their own gain - even requesting the councillors resign from Crawley Down committees & WPC if proposal fails. I thought this was supposed to be a consultation - if this is what parish council politics is like, perhaps MSDC should remove all large governing bodies or clearly specify the role they are there for is the public not their own agenda.

I agree the name should change, but our area needs dedicated people committed to their area who want to work for the community benefit (not to be on a council necessarily). Elaine, Ian & Alex have demonstrated that to me as a resident of Crawley Down for 20 years, they couldn't do more for our community from the facilities, social policing, allotments, and more. I'd like to see a focused dedicated

group in both villages, the feedback even implies most residents focus on their own area but have no issue with the other village. Therefore I'd like you to reconsider your decision and explore the forming of 2 councils again

T Stanley Esq.
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

25 July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

We have previously written to you supporting the new Crawley Down Council. Since then we attended the presentations by Councillors on the subject, which persuasively re-confirmed to us the need for Crawley Down to have its own Council. As such, we write to say we disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity;
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces;
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council; and
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Each village is significant in size and faces its own challenges. It is blatantly obvious that a joint Council cannot optimally address those challenges. If there is some short term pain, for long term gain, then that is always the right decision.

Surely MSDC can look at the correct, big picture, and not (we suspect) be swayed by Cophorne Councillors who we believe have vested interests in the status quo.

If you are counting letters disagreeing with the review, please count this as two.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED
REDACTED

Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council (WPC) second public consultation response.

Reference REDACTED

August 9 2022

Having read the independent report from the accredited auditors and having examined the figures produced, I see no reason to change my previously submitted conclusion opposing the division of WPC (copy of my first response attached for reference) and would like to add the following:

the WPC submitted figures reflect the budget agreed by the council (this was agreed by both Crawley Down (CD) and Copthorne (C) members) and “WPC has established a track record of providing fair and reasonable budgets and precept calculations over the last five years.” This track record has engendered a very high degree of trust in the electorate as to the competency and fairness of WPC fiscal management. The inevitable disruption (to a greater or lesser degree) a division would cause, especially, as the independent auditor states, that “the staffing costs remain a significant unknown” must shed a significant level of jeopardy over the proposal which is absolutely unnecessary at this time of financial strain on household budgets and which WPC has taken fully into account in its handling of current expenditure;

the petitioners use of Turners Hill Parish Council (THPC) as an example for comparison is criticised by the independent auditor when he says “there are other authorities within Mid Sussex which may have provided better comparisons, based on being a similar size.” The question must be asked as to why THPC was chosen as the comparator not only because of the difference in tax base (CD more than 7 times larger than TH) but also when, looking at the history of THPC, especially concerning the funding of the Ark, there is no similarity to what would be CDVC;

it is interesting to note that the combined budget estimates for 2023/24 of CDVC and Copthorne PC result in a net expenditure over income only £1,106 different from the WPC 2022/23 budget. A neutral looking at these figures would question why go to all the trouble, upheaval and expense (expense of division is not included in these figures, of course) of a division for such an outcome.

While it is not only costs (and, as stated in the report “amounts are estimates, as absolute figures are unavailable until such time as the split has happened, staffing structures have been agreed, assets have been split and reserves held by WPC are divided up”) that should determine the validity and worth of a division to the electorate in terms of improved community engagement, enhanced community cohesion, better local democracy and more effective

and convenient delivery of local services and local government, I refer you to my responses under these headings in the first public consultation and would add that, given the current imbalance in the populations of Crawley Down and Copthorne it would be far more sensible to wait at least until 2026 (the year before District Council elections in 2027) to undertake such a review when the populations will be very similar.

The result of the first public consultation quite clearly showed virtually all (98%) respondents from Copthorne oppose a division and 23% of Crawley Down respondents oppose a division, giving 61% of all respondents opposing a division, a clear majority.

I, therefore, agree with the officer's recommendations in his report of May 25 2022, especially paragraph 36 "The case for division of assets and liabilities at reasonable cost is not sufficiently made. At this time of cost of living crisis, many electors are not agreeable to this." (since the report was written that crisis has worsened) and paragraph 41 "The current governance arrangements for the Worth Parish Council should continue and this Authority (MSDC) should consider afresh a CGR in 2025 or 2029 dependent on build out of any permitted developments affecting Copthorne West and surrounding areas." I have no objection to the name being changed to Crawley Down and Copthorne Parish Council although I would like see a caveat that such name change is postponed until the cost of living crisis eases to avoid the cost of all the changes (signage, agreements, stationery, etc) that would entail.

Respectfully submitted

REDACTED

REDACTED

enclosed – response to the first public consultation

I think that the current governance arrangements for the Worth Parish Council are working efficiently and effectively and should continue. To my knowledge there have been no significant complaints about its function until Councillor Gibson joined the Parish Council and only 3 out of 17 Parish Councillors support his agenda.

I think that Copthorne Village and Crawley Down Village have more in common than divide us, for example, new build, infrastructure, airport. We are stronger working together.

That Crawley Down has a 'unique identity' is exaggerated but along with 'saving the pub' is an excellent sound bite when petitioning villagers. Having our own council meetings within the village is likely to be another red herring as there does not appear to be any office or hall facility available. Cllr Gibson has been pursuing this aggressively but still cannot offer any possible venues.

The cost of the separation is unacceptable at this time of limited budgets and the changes will mean months of more important business being neglected. The impact on support staff, with possible redundancies has not been given enough light or consideration by the petitioners.

I have been disappointed by Councillor Gibson's frequent disparaging of the Parish and County Councils, being disrespectful does not make for positive discussion and good decision making. The present 'we're being held prisoner pantomime' is not a view shared by most villagers and harassing us outside our village shops, may be legal, but myself and other villagers were very uncomfortable with it.

We need to remain partners with Copthorne Village and keep the Parish Council discussions open, varied and democratic. I fear that a Crawley Down PC manned by Cllr Gibson and cabal of his friends would not offer the same.

REDACTED

9th August 2022

Dear Sir

A Separate Council for Crawley Down

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the creation of a SEPARATE Village Council for Crawley Down. My reasons are as follows:

1. I have lived in the Worth area for over 50 years. I have never felt to be part of Worth. It seems to be slowly merging with Crawley and becoming less relevant to the village of Crawley Down. I am closer to the people and villages of Crawley Down and Turners Hill. These villages have hearts. Worth seems remote to me and I don't even know where the "Hub" is. Yes, shame on me, but that says it all about inclusivity ... or lack of it.
It also appears that Worth Parish resources rarely reach Crawley Down and there is much to be done in and around the village. Crawley down has its own character. Keeping this is important
2. Currently, there is no sense of community between Worth and Crawley Down. Local participation is to my mind very important. This does not happen now. Basically, Worth seems to do what it wants and Crawley Down is the poor relation. There is a feeling of "What's the point if we are ignored?"
Having its own Council would re-engage people and reinvigorate our pride and sense of community.
3. The Copthorne sprawl is practically part of Crawley, only separated by the M23. I do not want our village to become part of Greater Crawley, even if this does not concern Worth councillors.
4. Turners Hill and Crawley Down have retained their own character so far and this is how it should stay. Being part of Greater Crawley would be detrimental to the area as a whole.
5. Decisions taken by Worth appear biased in favour of Copthorne. Having its own Council would mean taking more responsibility and care of its character, development, and environment. In addition, controlling its own budget would engage residents positively and encourage more who care about the area. Financial resources could be better directed at village facilities and groups.
6. Our own council would be able to see local issues clearly and focus resources on OUR neighbourhood plan and represent US.
7. I would much prefer Crawley Down to have its own Council because I think problems would be addressed and acted upon more quickly and taken more seriously.
8. I would attend council meetings in my village and be willing to participate. So would others. At the moment I feel disenfranchised.

9. I believe a separate village Council would prevent any conflicts of interest. And this is very important !

A few months ago, I went to a meeting to discuss both sides of this debate but was disappointed that some participants hoping to maintain the status quo were very defensive and their tone aggressive. I believe that this attitude did not bode well for retaining the currently constituted Worth Parish.

As things stand there is no incentive to contribute to the local government at community level and that is a shame how it has evolved. I firmly believe it's time for change and I want my village, Crawley Down, to thrive and have a positive future that is in its own hands. I also believe that it would give a greater sense of community and local participation.

Crawley Down is growing and it needs to take charge of its own destiny with its own council. I believe this wholeheartedly.

Is the status quo what MSDC wants?

Yours Faithfully,
REDACTED
REDACTED

Response to Community Governance Review 2nd stage submissions

14th August 2022

With reference to the second stage governance consultation, I wish to formally restate my full support for the petition to split Worth Parish Council. That resolve has only been strengthened by the subsequent actions and response of Worth Parish Council and governance responses.

I have read all the responses and also the Local Government Boundary Commission "Guidance on community governance reviews". As a result I have a number of further comments to add to my initial submission and also a number of questions.

The responses are hard going and I commend the committee on their fortitude in that respect. However, I must ask how you weighted the responses. The consultation terms mandated a qualitative response before it could be considered. A qualitative assessment requires quality to be assessed and poor quality arguments downgraded.

Next I must ask what formal qualifications the committee members had to assess the value and pertinence of the submissions. Impartial evaluation of such disparate submissions is a rare skill and I couldn't find any appropriate qualitative methodology published in conjunction with the review. In my professional experience, which included a number of high impact reviews, both qualitative and quantitative, an agreed assessment methodology with associated criteria was a pre-requisite for any and all such reviews and was a fundamental inclusion in the final report. Where are the methodology and criteria specified? On what basis were submissions discounted apart from those with a simple yes/no response?

Quality of the responses certainly varied widely, yet seems to have been totally ignored and potentially given a false basis for the "voting" figures quoted in the committee report. There were also a number of patently false statements. I noted a claim that Worth PC never split council meetings between the two villages. As a former parish councillor I can confirm that it was definitely the practice and policy long before 2011 when I was invited to join the Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan team, with council meetings held alternately in Copthorne Fairway Infant and Crawley Down C of E schools. That policy continued until the formal move to the Parish Hub. With hindsight that was a bad decision. The council moved to a facility with totally inadequate parking and consequently disenfranchised most of those for whom it was impractical to walk to the Hub. What fact checking did the committee do in assessing the quality of a response?

I noted that the suggestion that splitting the parish council may have been mooted much earlier than 2011. Talking to a long term Turners Hill resident, he claimed that a split was considered in 1986 when Turners Hill split from Worth and again in 1998, though I haven't seen any evidence of that. Interestingly the population of Worth in 1986 was estimated as 5000 – about the same for Copthorne and Crawley Down each now and growing uncontrolled faster than the residents would like.

I also noted a few strong threads in the submissions. Cost was an obvious one as was accessibility of the council – both physically and personally. There was also some misguided criticism of the petitioners legally set requirement for submission at 500 voters and trying to use that as an argument to imply weak support. They should have looked at the very short time needed to attract

that support as an indicator of very strong support. Many objections quoted the now totally discredited £150k cost “estimate” and later £120k/£100k “suggestions from WPC and also disputed the potential increased efficiency of council activities. As a former parish councillor I can confidently state that having individual village committees which report to full council dealing with the different issues of each village is far less efficient than having full councils for each village. Until 2013/4 WPC was run by a part time clerk with part time assistant and one handyman.

Following WPCs late submission of “independently audited” costs which eventually came in at a third of the initial published figure, there is a very strong case for dismissing those responses and re-running the initial consultation with more credible estimates. WPC did not act impartially, ran “Project Fear” in publishing totally inaccurate financial projections. Further they used public funds and official social media outlets to campaign against a split. Such announcements in the name of WPC were rarely, if ever, supported by the requisite council vote or designated responsibility/authority.

WPC also acted in a partisan manner in generating the new figures. The independent auditors contract drafted by WPC apparently didn't include provision for the petitioners representatives to discuss and correct invalid assumptions. Consequently the published estimates for the petitioners are strongly disputed. Petitioners wrote to the auditor appointed by WPC on 25th July setting out 8 concerns. The auditor had described the Petitioners methodology as "sound" but then added £32,000 of costs to the Petitioners budget estimate. The Petitioners questioned £19,000 of these additional costs which included an extra £6,000 for elections, £4,500 for Councillors allowances and an increase of £3,000 (75%) in dog bin emptying charges (how can splitting the Council increase the cost of emptying dog bins?). Another reason for mandating a re-run of the initial consultation.

Re-evaluating financial estimates was a key recommendation of the governance committee. Another was to “carefully consider ongoing elector concerns relating to the accessibility of Council meetings and perhaps consider alternating these between The Parish Hub and the Haven Centre.” WPC cynically ignored this recommendation when holding the meeting to agree the auditor's report. The meeting was not widely published and it was held in the Hub.

Whilst noting my previous comment about the perceived quality of individual submissions and whether a quantitative summary of “votes” in a qualitative assessment would be potentially/unavoidably misleading, it's difficult to ignore the fact that 98% of the Copthorne submissions were for the status quo and 78% of the Crawley Down submissions were for a split. Copthorne residents have what Crawley Down residents require – an accessible council on their doorstep. Why pay any more for it, regardless of the very small amounts concerned in the grand scheme of things? I would wager that, should the finances be presented in perspective now, the Crawley Down “vote” would be much higher in favour and little difference in the Copthorne “vote”. The balance of submissions between the two villages should be more than enough evidence for the committee to demonstrate that a split already exists in all but name. If you wanted to quantitatively assess resident response the consultation should not have mandated arguments to be justified in the consultation response. Doing so effectively discouraged many residents from responding.

Please consider invalidating/devaluing the first consultation on the basis of the widely inaccurate estimates published by WPC and consequent misinformed submissions. This mishmash where only those with answers considered good enough to count are allowed is immoral and undemocratic. We

don't require the electorate to justify their opinion before they can vote for government, even though it may be a good idea! Hold a vote and then abide by it.

If determined to proceed with misleading figures, I would ask you to consider an analogy – Scottish independence. Both parties there disagree on finances and governance and there's a lot of emotive publicity. However, should there be a vote whereby the rest of the UK was permitted a voice in the vote 78% of Scotland in favour would considerably outweigh 98% of England Wales and Northern Ireland and carry the decision. Why not in this instance?

Finally I'd ask the committee a question. Look at the issue from a different perspective and turn the question around.

Crawley Down and Copthorne are completely different communities, largely independent of one another, facing in different directions, with little more than a divided parish council and frustration about development without associated infrastructure in common. Copthorne faces towards Crawley for services and Crawley Down towards East Grinstead and Turners Hill.

If the two villages already existed as separate parishes and the governance review was to consider combining the two, would there be any case for combining them? If the answer is no or barely justifiable then the answer to the petition should be to support it.

REDACTED
REDACTED

Tel : REDACTED email REDACTED

14 August 2022

Dear Sirs

For the attention of Terry Stanley

Community Governance Review – Crawley Down

I have been resident in Crawley Down for 40 years, I have been a Crawley Down Councillor at Worth Parish Council (WPC) for the last 10 years and I am a petitioner for the split. I make my comments as a resident.

I am convinced that the creation of a new parish council within Crawley Down is long overdue. This in my view will provide the following benefits;

Improved Community Engagement

It is not an attractive option to have to go by car to the Hub in Copthorne to ask questions or attend evening meetings. Since the commencement of this CGR, WPC has not attempted to hold any general council meeting in Crawley Down, which has with one or two exceptions has been the case since moving from Crawley Down Village Hall to the Hub. This has not been at all helpful for Community engagement from Crawley Down residents.

I would much prefer to have a village Council located within the village where I can gain access by walking to the office and be able to discuss issue in a timely and effective way , as would any other resident seeking information or making enquires. Having the ability to speak to the council face to face, without travelling, will in my view foster closer links between the council and the residents and make an accessible council more accountable to the residents.

Enhanced Community Cohesion.

I am not a resident of Worth; I am a resident of Crawley Down. I consider WPC to be no more than an administrative centre for the villages of Copthorne and Crawley Down, which provides in its current form, little influence on cohesion between villages. The two villages are both active in their own right.

Being a resident of Crawley Down with its own Village Council will have a significantly higher level of attachment to me and other residents. It will provide a centre for local community identity, something which WPC does not offer.

Better Local Democracy

WPC is remote from this community, the public transport system is ineffective so getting out the car and finding somewhere local to park becomes a chore, so public attendance at meetings is low. Parish Council meetings, when held at Crawley Down Village Hall, prior to the move to Copthorne, were well attended with lively discussion and good humour, with AGM being extremely well attended. ***We need to get this level participation back***

I do not consider that the current arrangement of two villages providing councillors to WPC is a good idea especially as is the case now, where voting numbers per village are out of sync, with significant voting taking place along village lines.. ***This needs to stop and the best way to do this is by having a local Crawley Down Council responsible only for decision making on behalf of its own residents.*** This must be better for local democracy and will in my view attract more residents to the role of Councillor.

Given the animosity that has occurred during this CGR, I would not consider re-applying for a councillor role with WPC but would be delighted to apply for Crawley Down Village role, where my experience would be useful in the setting up and running of a new Crawley Down Village Council.

It also needs to be said that only one councillor over the past 12 years has been elected to WPC, all others being co-opted, not a healthy situation for local democracy. Crawley Down with its own council will have no issues with finding the requisite number of elected councillor to undertake the role.

More effective and convenient delivery of local services and local government.

The starting point for this that ***all the precept*** would be focused on spending within Crawley Down, not supporting or subsidising buildings in Copthorne owned by WPC. These facilities have been little used by Crawley Down residents, due mainly to their location outside the village requiring travel.

A new Crawley Down Village Council will be able to target support to the Crawley Down needs of local groups such as community groups, scouts and guides and sports clubs.

The focusing of local knowledge will bring to the village the benefits of better local representation regarding issues such as development, regeneration of the village centre, local roads, lighting and any other tasks that maybe handed down to Village communities such as grass cutting and signage cleaning.

To my knowledge, the last significant investment in Crawley Down by WPC was the Millennium Car Park, which I project managed for them, a significant proportion of which was paid for by S106 monies.

A village council should to my mind have , have an excellent working relationship with its Local Authority, such that opportunities are taken and not missed and problems are resolved locally.

Reflects the identities and interests of the community.

The village of Copthorne and Crawley Down are very different villages.

Apart from attending Parish Council meetings, I do not have a great affinity with Copthorne apart from supporting their excellent carnival.

There would appear to be no overlap in terms of community groups and sports groups, nor any overlap of public services, such as schools, doctors etc. To all intents the villages are completely separate.

Crawley Down is a village with a centre in a more rural landscape whilst Copthorne has no centre, is associated with the M23 junction , with a significant development of new housing and commercial buildings.

Crawley Down has a character and identity of its own which will be amplified by having its own Village Council.

Worth is a name from the past which is not relevant to either of the villages. I repeat, I am a resident of Crawley Down not Worth.

Future definition of parishes

The recent boundary review indentified both Crawley Down and Copthorne as separate wards. These Wards should remain with their own separate Councils operating within the existing Ward Boundaries, with outcomes based on their own local needs and aspirations

Advantages and Disadvantages of this Proposal

There is no need for any boundary changes to define the two villages. There are no disadvantages.

If separate Parishes are nor formed by this CGR, what do you think the impact might be?

This would be a significant lost opportunity to the residents of Crawley Down to determine their own local outcomes based on their own local needs and aspirations.

WPC in its current format will not be an easy place to become a Councillor.

Costs of the Split

Much has been written about these costs which I do not want to repeat here in any great detail but;

When WPC produced their preposterous £150K split number, they were told by a member of the public at the first Public Meeting in Crawley Down , that as they could not provide any detailed breakdown of this figure, , they had **“lost the floor “** on this issue. This in my view is still the case , although the figure has reduced to £96K and on audit by their own auditor , he suggested that it would more likely be between £50K and £60K.

The petitioners figure is nearer £30K so my guess that a figure of around £40K is about right. This I consider to be an entirely acceptable sum for this split.

In my view the £150K figure had a significant impact on responses to the first consultation and this should be acknowledged in your report to the second consultation.

REDACTED

With Reference to the Second Public Consultation for the Governance Review relating to Worth Parish Council, I can only repeat what I have already written.

I am not in favour of splitting Worth Parish Council into two separate councils.

It is only 4 of the 17 Worth Parish Councillors that fully support this petition, of which 9 of the Councillors represent Crawley Down. They haven't even got a majority in their own Village so how can they be representative of what the residents of Crawley Down want.

How would a smaller Parish Council improve community engagement and cohesion along with a better local democracy when they were not prepared to have a discussion and state their case with the Parish Council in the first place?

I see it to be of no benefit to either Village resulting in increased costs for everyone in council tax including those in Crawley Down and the fact that the council offices are in Copthorne doesn't make any difference as to how the council is run for both villages.

As a larger entity, when it comes to renegotiating contracts with suppliers and landlords, one larger council would be more likely to get better terms than two smaller ones because of the volumes involved and despite what the petitioners say contracts would have to be renegotiated in the event of a split because the existing contracts are with Worth Parish Council, not the two separate Villages.

If Crawley Down does split from Worth, they will have to obtain office space for which they will have to pay for out of their budget. The bureaucracy and administrative costs for both villages would increase because if the council split, the residents of each village will be paying for their own office space and administrative costs, instead of just the one. Neither can I see that there would be a reduction in the number of meetings.

Worth Parish Council refute the Petitioner's claim that the identity of Crawley Down Village will be better protected with meetings being held in Crawley Down along with a reduction of bureaucracy and committees/meetings. Worth has almost completed a full review of their structure and processes to achieve most the goals required by the Crawley Down petitioners.

As one council, Worth Parish Council, as a larger council has more "clout" against surrounding councils and encroaching housing development than two smaller separate councils. Again, I don't think a split of the council would be beneficial to either village, I feel that larger councils would ignore the views of smaller ones.

Also, Crawley Down and Copthorne already have their own separate identities and Neighbourhood Plans, you do not need separate councils to give us that.

I would be interested in how it is proposed that the assets would be divided if the split was to go ahead. It could end up with Crawley Down having a smaller share of the assets and income once you take into account the new development to the west of Copthorne which I am sure that wasn't Crawley Down intended!

However, I do agree that the name of the council should be changed to reflect the joint and shared community identity as Worth itself is now part of Crawley and not part of either Crawley Down or Copthorne.

Further to my earlier comments and having read the audit made by Mulberry & Co, it hasn't made things any clearer and I still think that Worth Parish Council should continue as one Council albeit with a different name.

It seems to me that each separate council may be better off as two separate entities but it cannot be certain as a lot of the figures are estimates or guesses. How do you know what the actual costs will be until they are charged?

The petitioners should not have used Turners Hill as a comparison. How can you compare two councils that are of different sizes and cost base, it would have been more helpful to use Hassocks or Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common as suggested by the Auditors for comparisons.

That aside I still think it is in everyone's best interests to have one larger Parish Council than two smaller ones for the reasons previously explained.

SECOND CONSULTATION
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: CRAWLEY DOWN

Please treat this as a personal submission on the 2nd Consultation.

I fully support the creation of a separate Parish Council for Crawley Down and the views submitted on the 1st Consultation, as attached, are to be treated as incorporated seriatim in this Submission.

I do not believe that WPC has made a credible case on costs.

Additional Comments

The Report of the Head of Regulatory Services to the Scrutiny Committee 25th May, 2022 on the outcome of the 1st Consultation and draft Recommendation (SC Report) together with letters of 13th June (advising of the 2nd Consultation) and 25th July, both of 2022, (advising of a two week extension of the 2nd Consultation) have given rise to a loss of confidence in the Community Governance Review process.

(a) Process

- (i) The District Council has emphasised that the outcome should not be quantitative, but the SC Report is firmly seated in quantitative analysis which undoubtedly influences the SC Report irrespective of how this is sought to be explained away. The majority of the SC Report is spent in *summarising* comments received, this can hardly be said to be a qualitative analysis. The Report concludes with draft Recommendations but provides no details/evidence support the draft Recommendations. Indeed, there is a distinct lack of transparency and evidence as to how the concluding draft Recommendations were arrived at, yet they are notified to Worth Parish residents as the outcome of the 1st Consultation.
- (ii) Many residents of Crawley Down have commented that the Guidance requirements for submitting responses on the consultation are difficult to comprehend and they will not be responding.
The Guidance requests view on the following:
“In support of your proposition, you need concisely to explain how it might derive the following benefits:
- Improved community engagement
 - Enhanced community cohesion
 - Better local democracy
 - More effective and convenient delivery of local services and local government
- You should also explain how your proposition:
- Reflects the identities and interests of the community”

Residents perceive that the process requires them to write a higher education essay addressing each of the matters stated above. Not only are they not up to the task, but they just don't understand what they have to write under each heading.

In short, the Guidance has been framed to exclude effective participation of the residents of Crawley Down who support the creation of a separate village council.

Further, the requirements of the Guidance mean that only residents who support the split have to justify the benefits in the terms requested above, whereas no equivalent requirements are requested from those who don't support the split. This gives rise to a skewed process in support of the status quo and questions the validity of the qualitative analysis promoted by the District Council.

(b) Costs

Regarding the letter of 13th June: points 1 and 3 are stated on a subjective basis and perceived to promote a negative response (ie against the split) in the 2nd Consultation.

Regarding letter of 25th July: this appears to be biased in its terms. In particular, the 3rd paragraph gives rise to the perception that the District Council supports and gives credence to the standing of WPC's Report. This is indicated by the District Council Statement in the 3rd paragraph:

"...WPC agreed to appoint accredited auditors to provide residents with an independent report examining the cost of potentially dividing the existing WPC and budget estimates....." The Report is now available to read at the WPC website but also at: www.midsussex.gov.uk/elections-voting/communities-governance-reviews.

As the Petitioners have previously stated to the District Council, that the auditor is the auditor of WPC, instructions and terms of reference were set by WPC and the auditor was both paid by WPC and reported to WPC. The Petitioners were not invited to participate in the process nor provided with the underlying evidence provided by WPC to the auditor despite the Petitioner's evidence being provided to WPC. This cannot be said to be an independent report as stated by the District Council.

At no time were the Petitioners advised nor invited to agree that the purpose of the Report was to "provide residents with an independent report...".. The basis on which the District Council made this statement to residents is questioned. Indeed, WPC was not requested to undertake such a task, instead, they were requested by the District Council to comply with points 2 and 3 of the letter of 13th June (to agree a Budget and provide an evidential basis for the division costs). This has not happened. At no time since the issue of the Report has WPC sought to agree the Budget and division of costs despite the Petitioners seeking to agree these on various occasions since the 2nd Consultation. When the Petitioners sought to comment on the Report, WPC informed the Petitioners that they had to engage with their auditor at their own cost, noting that WPC had used public funds to commission a report which they now seek to use in support of their own case against the creation of a new Crawley Down Parish Council.

The basis and objectivity of the District Council's statement, as published to all residents of Worth, Parish is called into question.

Further, the District Council's objectivity is further questioned in that it published the Report on its website without publishing the Petitioner's response to the Report nor the Petitioners position on costs, despite stating that it have been provided to the District Council on 25th May. It could be said that balance and fairness appear to be absent.

(c) WPC Campaign – Division costs

Reference is made to the last paragraph in the submission to the 1st Consultation, attached. WPC ran a "Project Fear" campaign in claiming that the division costs would be a circa £150,000 without publishing the evidential basis in support. The elected representatives under the cloak of WPC, sought to derail a democratic process and scare the residents of Crawley Down on the costs of the split by publishing the outrageous cost of circa £150,000 without any accountability as elected representatives in public office. WPC's own auditor's Report does not support these costs.

The District Council comments on its draft Report about the concern residents had on costs and its impact on the cost of living, in fact is features very prominently as point 1 of the 13th June but it fails, again for balance, to address the representations made on the veracity of the £150,000. Instead, the District Council seeks to frame its comments in terms of WPC disputing the Petitioners costs without comment that the Petitioners dispute WPC's claims on costs.

Finally on division costs, it is noted that point 2 of the 13th June letter requires WPC and the Petitioners to *"...supply to this Review their assessment of these division costs with evidential annotation for each cost, so that MSDC may see how they have arrived at."*

This information has been provided and published by the Petitioners. It is believed that WPC's division costs together with evidential details have not been provided or published in support of the £150,000 neither to the District Council nor to residents at large. This appears contrary to the District Council's statement in its letter to all residents of 25th July – on the WPC providing a Report to *".....provide residents with an independent report examining the cost of potentially dividing the existing WPC"*.

It is understood that WPC has published details of a revised division cost of circa £91,000 but have not provided any credible evidential basis in support. Further, that they continue to maintain that the costs could still be around £150,000, again without providing credible evidential details. At no time has WPC notified residents at large that it has withdrawn its initial division costs of £150,000.

To the extent that WPC formally submits division costs (with evidential basis) to the District Council which differ from the £150,000 (as claimed by WPC in the flyer circulated by the District Council in the first mail shot and thereafter), this should be noted in the final Report. This is important since it is clear from the District Council's SC Report that the claims of £150,000 gave rise to significant concerns and influenced the residents view on the split, as reported in the 1st consultation. These costs continue to concern residents in the 2nd consultation as a result of continuing unsupported claims of high costs by WPC for which they, as elected representatives, should be held accountable for.

It is submitted that WPC's claims on the division costs cannot be said to have any standing or credibility and should be are disregarded by reason of failure to provide any credible evidence in support. More so, that their own auditor's Report does not support their claims of such high costs.

REDACTED

15.08.22

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: CRAWLEY DOWN

I have been a resident of Crawley Down for some 24 years and submit my comments on this basis.

I strongly support the creation of a new parish and parish council for Crawley Down and consider this long overdue. I believe that the benefits of this are as follows:

Improved community engagement

Worth Parish Council has its council office in Copthorne. This is remote and detached to me and other residents of Crawley Down. The office may as well be in Crawley or East Grinstead given the distance and need for transport to get there. Having an office in Crawley Down would make the council more accessible. I could easily walk to the offices, be able to speak to someone with any issues I have and be able to follow-up on those issues in an effective and timely way, as would other residents. Having the ability to speak to someone in a manned office rather than on the telephone would enable me as well as other residents to engage in a meaningful way with the Council and would hold the Council more locally accountable to residents.

Enhanced community cohesion

As a resident of Crawley Down, I do not consider myself to be a resident of Worth. This is just a local government administrative construct and is devoid of any local identification. Being a Crawley Down resident of Crawley Down Parish with its own Crawley Down Village Council would actually have meaning to me and other residents of Crawley Down. It provides a coincidence and cohesion of community identity in a way that Worth Parish Council does not.

Better local democracy

Worth Parish Council is far too remote in its location. It is not possible to get to meetings using public transport in a timely and effective manner. Going by car is also an issue with parking since the office only has a small car park. Parking in the local streets is not recommended – not only has there been reports of car vandalism, but the street lighting is not adequate.

I would like to participate in meetings of the council and would more likely to do so if the meeting were held in Crawley Down. On the very limited occasions that I have been to meetings of Worth Parish Council, the non-attendance of residents is very apparent. This contrasts greatly with the meetings that used to be held in Crawley Down. At least two rows of chairs were occupied for most meeting and the hall was packed for AGM's. There was lively and engaging participation, generally of Crawley Down residents – much missed.

The decisions made by Worth Parish Council are generally perceived to favour Copthorne's interests. This is largely due to the fact that Crawley Down councillors get out-voted on a regular basis by Copthorne Councillors. One of the councillors lives in Copthorne but has been co-opted as a Crawley Down Councillor; this seems to be a rather bizarre outcome for local democracy.

All councillors have been co-opted to Worth Parish Council with only one councillor having been elected in the last 12 years. This is not a healthy reflection of local democracy. I would be more likely to be interested in standing as a parish councillor if there was a Crawley Down Village Council which I could identify with at a local level.

As a resident of Crawley Down, I strongly support decisions being made in Crawley Down by Councillors living in Crawley Down who understand Crawley Down issues.

More effective and convenient delivery of local services and local government

A Crawley Down Village Council would be entirely focused on Crawley Down issues. Having local councillors with local knowledge coupled with an effective means of delivery i.e. through a dedicated Village Council, would be a material benefit for the village. The focus would be on Crawley Down issues which in turn means better representation in local issues such as development in the village, the much needed regeneration of the village centre, the condition of local roads, the quality of services such as street lighting.

A separate Village Council would be a huge benefit to Crawley Down. The Crawley Down Village Council would be able to spend all the money it received on supporting Crawley Down facilities, community groups and sports clubs in the village. Currently, Crawley Down's precept goes toward subsidising facilities located in Copthorne such as the sports pavilion and the Worth Parish Council's offices. I am not aware of these being used by Crawley Down residents and it is perceived that Crawley Down does not get any benefit from them. It is both sad and disappointing that Crawley Down has had no new facilities of its own other than a car park, in the 24 years that I have been a resident.

Reflects the identities and interests of the community

Crawley Down Village is very different to Copthorne. They are geographically and materially separate villages divided by the A264 Copthorne Road. I do not consider myself remotely connected to Copthorne. Each village has its own shops and services and they have nothing in common. There is no overlap in local community groups, doctors, schools and other services.

Crawley Down is more rural in nature, with numerous walks and the Worth Way being an integral part of the village. The recent developments in Copthorne have aligned it more with the Crawley, particularly the huge warehouses built next to J10 of the M23, the large associated brightly lit roundabout which is a material change to the street scene and similarly, the huge Gatwick car parking located just off the M23.

A separate Crawley Down Parish and Crawley Down village Council would truly reflect the situation on the ground, namely that Crawley Down undeniably has a separate identity to Copthorne, and indeed has no discernible identity to Worth Parish. I consider myself a resident of Crawley Down, not a resident of Worth.

How should the civil parishes in your area be defined in future?

My view is that Crawley Down should be a separate Parish. The area should be delineated as the identified Ward in the recent local Boundary Review. The Copthorne Parish should similarly be the area delineated by its current Ward.

Considering your proposal(s), what would be the advantages and disadvantages of these?

The advantages of such separately defined Parishes is that these Wards currently exist and are easily identifiable and identified by residents of each Ward. In the case of Crawley Down, there is a large

framed map of Crawley Down, commissioned for the millennium and located outside the Co-Op. It serves as a reminder of what Crawley Down Village is and is seen by residents as they regularly come and go about their daily business in the village.

I don't consider there to be any disadvantages.

If a separate civil parish council is not formed as proposed in the petition calling for this Community Governance Review, what do you think the impact might be?

This would be a great loss of opportunity to the residents of Crawley Down to determine their own local needs, outcomes and solutions since the issues identified above with Worth Parish Council would continue. In the interests of not duplicating comments, please treat the comments on the issues identified with Worth Parish Council as being set out fully here in answer to this question.

Campaign by Worth Parish Council

I would like to make a final comment about the campaign which Worth Parish Council has run. Although holding themselves out to be neutral, which I believe they were required to be, they ran a campaign against Crawley Down having a separate parish and village council. This was very clear from the public meeting held in Crawley Down and was pointed out by a resident attending the meeting.

Worth Parish Council claimed in the flyer enclosed with the CGR Notice issued to all residents that the split could cost residents around £150,000. This claim was also published on the Crawley Down Facebook page and the Worth Parish Website. The councillors and residents supporting the split indicated on the other hand that the split would incur costs of around £20,000. As a result of this, there is a worry that the split would result in increased costs and a number of residents are not likely to support the split because of this.

The Councillors supporting the split have made the evidence to support their costs available to residents. Worth Parish Council have been repeatedly asked to provide their evidence but have failed to do so. It is possible that these costs are unfounded because no evidence has been provided and if this is the case, one can only surmise that Worth Parish Council and the Councillors involved in publishing this claim intended to scare residents into not supporting the split. The net result is that a number of residents have been left in a state of uncertainty and anxiousness on what is the true cost of the split and this is likely to have an effect on the responses received or not received. If this is the case, then the democratic process has been hampered by the actions of Worth Parish Council and the Councillors supporting the campaign and I would like this to be noted in Mid Sussex's assessment.

Mr T Stanley
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

REDACTED

RECEIVED

12 JUL 2022

7 July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley

Second Consultation for Crawley Down Village Council

I have been a resident of Crawley Down for thirty five years and I support the efforts of local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them and get on with now, not in two or six years' time.

Crawley Down residents voted four to one in favour of our own village council in the first consultation which I was happy to support. Turners Hill and Worth both have their own Councils and with a population of 5,500 residents there is no reason why Crawley Down should not benefit in its own independent way.

The local Councilors have shown me a breakdown of the costs of £32,000 involved in creating the new Council and whilst this is a lot of money I strongly believe it to be worthwhile expenditure for the long term benefit of the village.

I understand that MSDC disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation and if you intend to ignore my views, please write and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

RECEIVED

12 JUL 2022

June 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Second Consultation for Crawley Down Village Council

I support the efforts of our local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them and get on it with it now, not in 2 or 6 years time.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council in the first Consultation. Copthorne has all the Worth Parish Council buildings and offices, so it is understandable that they do not think that change is necessary and voted against it, but it will clearly bring benefits to Crawley Down in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery.

The local Councillors have shown me a breakdown of the costs involved in creating the new Council which is £32,000. This is a lot of money, but I believe that it will be worthwhile. It was very misleading for the Council to suggest that it would cost £150,000. This cannot be true as no details have been provided.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation. If you intend to ignore my views above, please write and tell me why.

Yours faithfully,

REDACTED

REDACTED

RECEIVED

6 July 2022

11 JUL 2022

Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath, West Sussex
Rh16 1SS

Dear Sirs

I tried sending my preferences by email but it seemed to have been blocked. So I am sending this letter instead.

I wish to vote in favour of a new Crawley Down Parish Council. I have lived here for nearly 46 years and have noticed that the Village seems always to be the poor relation and our representatives do not seem to speak loud enough on our behalf.

Despite the five year plans put in place we seem to be expanding rapidly. I know that the proposed parish council will speak up for us quite loudly.

Yours faithfully

REDACTED

REDACTED

6 July 2022

RECEIVED

11 JUL 2022

Democratic Services

Mid Sussex District Council

Oaklands

Haywards Heath, West Sussex

RH16 1SS

Dear Sirs

I tried sending my vote by email but it seemed to have been blocked.

I am very much in favour of us being independent of Worth Parish Council. Our wishes have so far not been listened to. Quite frankly I feel it is worth us having a few people speaking solely for our village, which is rapidly becoming almost a town.

Yours faithfully

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

RECEIVED

14 JUL 2022

4 July
June 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Second Consultation for Crawley Down Village Council

I support the efforts of our local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them and get on it with it now, not in 2 or 6 years time.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council in the first Consultation. Copthorne has all the Worth Parish Council buildings and offices, so it is understandable that they do not think that change is necessary and voted against it, but it will clearly bring benefits to Crawley Down in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery.

The local Councillors have shown me a breakdown of the costs involved in creating the new Council which is £32,000. This is a lot of money, but I believe that it will be worthwhile. It was very misleading for the Council to suggest that it would cost £150,000. This cannot be true as no details have been provided.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation. If you intend to ignore my views above, please write and tell me why.

Yours faithfully,

REDACTED

RECEIVED

- 1 AUG 2022

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

26th July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely



REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

10th August 2022

Dear Sir,

Re. Worth P.C. / Government Review

I lack access to any information via the internet concerning this Review.

However it is inevitable that any administrative changes will result in expenditure.

Therefore in the current financial situation nationally I feel that any unnecessary outlay at this time would not be beneficial plus the likelihood of unforeseen future ramifications.

Yours faithfully

REDACTED

RECEIVED

15 AUG 2022

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL
OAKLANDS, HAYWARDS HEATH,
WEST SUSSEX
RH16 1SS

REDACTED

27th JULY 2022

Dear Sir / Madam

I believe that Crawley Down, is a separate community, with its own identity.

It's Creation, will improve local Democracy and services, and the one off costs of it's creation will be justified.

A new village council will be able to address the challenges, that the village faces.

I would ask you to respect the 4 to 1 vote for a separate Council in the first consultation, I can't see why it was ignored in the first place, that is not democratic.

I would ask you to re-consider your position, and if you choose to ignore my submission again, I would like you to write to me and explain why!

RECEIVED

Thankyou

29 JUL 2022

Yours Sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

28th July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

Mid Sussex should allow Crawley Down to have its own Parish Council.

I do not understand why the views of Copthorne residents were given equal weight to those of Crawley Down residents in a decision about the future representation of Crawley Down in local government. Surely this should be a matter for Crawley Down residents alone. The 77% of Crawley Down responses in favour is evidence of overwhelming support for a Crawley Down Parish Council.

Why has Mid Sussex not insisted that Worth Parish Council publish evidence for their claim that the costs of splitting the Council could be as much as £150,000? This was clearly intended to frighten residents at a time when there is inflation in the cost of living. How many of the 23% of Crawley Down residents who did not support a separate Parish Council did so because of this?

Crawley Down has a clearly separate identity to the surrounding communities of Felbridge, East Grinstead, Turners Hill, Crawley and Copthorne. Community cohesion is clearly evident in the sports and social clubs run by residents in the village. Local democracy will be improved by holding council meetings in Crawley Down, something which Worth Parish Council has refused to do since moving its offices to Copthorne. When the offices were in Crawley Down meetings were still held in Copthorne.

I understand that you disregarded many responses to the first consultation. I would like my views to be taken into account. If you intend to ignore them, please write and tell me why.

Yours faithfully,

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

23rd July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

Mid Sussex should allow Crawley Down to have its own Parish Council.

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Yours faithfully,

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Business Unit leader
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

6th July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

Please change your mind and recommend a new Parish Council for Crawley Down.

I do not understand why the views of Copthorne residents were given equal weight to those of Crawley Down residents in a decision about the future representation of Crawley Down in local government. Surely this should be a matter for Crawley Down residents alone. The 77% of Crawley Down responses in favour is evidence of overwhelming support for a Crawley Down Parish Council.

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Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Business Unit leader
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

26 July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

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Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Business Unit leader
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

28th July 2022

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I do not understand why the views of Copthorne residents were given equal weight to those of Crawley Down residents in a decision about the future representation of Crawley Down in local government. Surely this should be a matter for Crawley Down residents alone. The 77% of Crawley Down responses in favour is evidence of overwhelming support for a Crawley Down Parish Council.

Why has Mid Sussex not insisted that Worth Parish Council publish evidence for their claim that the costs of splitting the Council could be as much as £150,000? This was clearly intended to frighten residents at a time when there is inflation in the cost of living. How many of the 23% of Crawley Down residents who did not support a separate Parish Council did so because of this?

Crawley Down has a clearly separate identity to the surrounding communities of Felbridge, East Grinstead, Turners Hill, Crawley and Copthorne. Community cohesion is clearly evident in the sports and social clubs run by residents in the village. Local democracy will be improved by holding council meetings in Crawley Down, something which Worth Parish Council has refused to do since moving its offices to Copthorne. When the offices were in Crawley Down meetings were still held in Copthorne.

I understand that you disregarded many responses to the first consultation. I would like my views to be taken into account. If you intend to ignore them, please write and tell me why.

Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

REDACTED

Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

2 July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Crawley Down Parish Council

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8th July 2022

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REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley
Business Unit Leader
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

16th July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

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REDACTED

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Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

27th July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

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Oaklands
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Mr T Stanley
Business Unit Leader
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

06- August 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

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Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
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6 August 2022

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Democratic Services
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July 2022

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Democratic Services
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Mr T Stanley
Business Unit Leader
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
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6th August 2022

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I understand that the Council disregarded many of the responses to the first consultation. I would like my views to be taken into account. If you intend to ignore them, please write and tell me why.

Yours faithfully,

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

2nd July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

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Why has Mid Sussex not insisted that Worth Parish Council publish evidence for their claim that the costs of splitting the Council could be as much as £150,000? This was clearly intended to frighten residents at a time when there is inflation in the cost of living. How many of the 23% of Crawley Down residents who did not support a separate Parish Council did so because of this?

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6²⁴ August 2022

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2 JULY 2022

July 2022

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August 2022

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Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8 August 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

I disagree with the published outcome of the first consultation. Crawley Down responses were 4 to 1 in favour of a new council. There is clearly overwhelming support for a Crawley Down Village Council.

I fully support the efforts of our local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them.

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

16 July 2022

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Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council

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Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

25th July 2022

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16th

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26th July 2022

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Yours sincerely

REDACTED

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

16th July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council

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Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
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Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

27th July 2022

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Mr T Stanley,
Business Unit Leader
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex R H16 1SS

26th July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

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Yours sincerely

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

August 2022

06/08/2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council

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Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

29th July 2022

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Mid Sussex District Council
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Haywards Heath
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23rd July 2022

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Oaklands Road
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9th July 2022

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18 June 2022

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2nd July 2022

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Yours sincerely

REDACTED

I SUPPORT SEPERATE COUNCIL FOR
CRAWLEY DOWN

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

2nd July 2022

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I support a separate Council for Crawley Down for the reasons above.

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
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West Sussex RH16 1SS

2 July 2022

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REDACTED

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Crawley Down.

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

Zed July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

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Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

2nd. July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

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Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

2nd July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex R H16 1SS

June 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council

I am writing to tell you that that I disagree with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate Identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council and the Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

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Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

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Yours sincerely

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

Dear Sir,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

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The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

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- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
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Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

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Yours Faithfully

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

g^k July 2022

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Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

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The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

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Yours sincerely

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

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Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

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Yours Faithfully

REDACTED

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

cl^H July 2022

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Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

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Yours sincerely

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Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

2 July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
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Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

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Yours sincerely

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Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

2 July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

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02 07 22

Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

21 July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

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Yours sincerely

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Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

2 - July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

2nd July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

GM August 2022

Dear Sir,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours Faithfully

REDACTED

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Mr T Stanley,
Business Unit Leader
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

5th August 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces such as more new houses.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

Dear Sir,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

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The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

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Yours Faithfully

REDACTED

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

Dear Sir,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

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- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours Faithfully

REDACTED

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

QH July 2022

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- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

9 July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

I strongly disagree with the published outcome of the first consultation. The 77% of Crawley Down responses which were in favour of a new council is evidence of overwhelming support for a Crawley Down Parish Council.

I fully support the efforts of our local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them and get on with it now, not in 2 year's time.

I do not understand why the views of Copthorne residents were given equal weight to those of Crawley Down residents in a decision about the future representation of Crawley Down in local government. Surely this should be a matter for Crawley Down residents alone.

Crawley Down has a clearly separate identity to the surrounding communities of Felbridge, East Grinstead, Turners Hill, Crawley and Copthorne. Community cohesion is clearly evident in the sports and social clubs run by residents in the village. Local democracy will be improved by holding council meetings in Crawley Down, something which Worth Parish Council has refused to do since moving its offices to Copthorne. When the offices were in Crawley Down meetings were still held in Copthorne.

I understand that you disregarded many responses to the first consultation. I would like my views to be taken into account. If you intend to ignore them, please write and tell me why.

Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

REDACTED

Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

9th July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Crawley Down Parish Council

I strongly disagree with the published outcome of the first consultation. The 77% of Crawley Down responses which were in favour of a new council is evidence of overwhelming support for a Crawley Down Parish Council.

I believe that Crawley Down should have its own Parish Council. It is now a big village and getting bigger. There are lots of problems with speeding traffic, too few doctors and damage to the pond by developers. A Crawley Down Parish Council would be able to address these problems better than Worth Parish Council which has no offices here.

Turners Hill used to be part of Worth Parish Council but left a long time ago. Crawley Down is much bigger than Turners Hill and should be allowed to have its own parish council as well.

Crawley Down is very close and friendly community with many clubs and sports teams. It has few connections with Copthorne other than as Worth Parish Council. I am sure that Copthorne will benefit from having its own Parish Council as well.

I understand that the Council disregarded many of the responses to the first consultation. I would like my views to be taken into account. If you intend to ignore them, please write and tell me why.

Yours faithfully,

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

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I fully support the efforts of our local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them and get on with it now, not in 2 years time.

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Yours sincerely,

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Mr Stanley,
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Mid Sussex District Council,
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West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

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Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

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Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

- REDACTED -

Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

9/7/22

July 2022

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Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

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Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8/7/22

July 2022

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Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

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Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

July 2022

16/7/22

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23rd July 2022

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16/7/22

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30th July 2022

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Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

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Turners Hill used to be part of Worth Parish Council but left a long time ago. Crawley Down is much bigger than Turners Hill and should be allowed to have its own parish council as well.

Crawley Down is very close and friendly community with many clubs and sports teams. It has few connections with Copthorne other than as Worth Parish Council. I am sure that Copthorne will benefit from having its own Parish Council as well.

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Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

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I fully support the efforts of our local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them and get on with it now, not in 2 year's time.

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Yours sincerely,

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

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Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
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West Sussex RH16 1SS

11 July 2022

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July 2022

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July 2022

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Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
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West Sussex RH16 1SS

28 July 2022

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Mid Sussex District Council
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West Sussex RH16 1SS

29th July 2022

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Democratic Services
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Oaklands
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West Sussex RH16 1SS

9th July 2022

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I believe that Crawley Down should have its own Parish Council. It is now a big village and getting bigger. There are lots of problems with speeding traffic, too few doctors and damage to the pond by developers. A Crawley Down Parish Council would be able to address these problems better than Worth Parish Council which has no offices here.

Turners Hill used to be part of Worth Parish Council but left a long time ago. Crawley Down is much bigger than Turners Hill and should be allowed to have its own parish council as well.

Crawley Down is very close and friendly community with many clubs and sports teams. It has few connections with Copthorne other than as Worth Parish Council. I am sure that Copthorne will benefit from having its own Parish Council as well.

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REDACTED

22/07/2022
REDACTED

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Mr Stanley,
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August 2022

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I understand that you disregarded many responses to the first consultation. I would like my views to be taken into account. If you intend to ignore them, please write and tell me why.

Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

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Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

8th July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

I strongly disagree with the published outcome of the first consultation. The 77% of Crawley Down responses which were in favour of a new council is evidence of overwhelming support for a Crawley Down Parish Council.

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2 July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Second Consultation for Crawley Down Village Council

I support the efforts of our local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them and get on it with it now, not in 2 or 6 years time.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council in the first Consultation. Copthorne has all the Worth Parish Council buildings and offices, so it is understandable that they do not think that change is necessary and voted against it, but it will clearly bring benefits to Crawley Down in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery.

The local Councillors have shown me a breakdown of the costs involved in creating the new Council which is £32,000. This is a lot of money, but I believe that it will be worthwhile. It was very misleading for the Council to suggest that it would cost £150,000. This cannot be true as no details have been provided.

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Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

June 2022

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Yours faithfully,

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Mr. T Stanley,
Business Unit Leader,
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Oaklands Road,
HAYWARDS HEATH,
West Sussex,
RH16 1SS.

08 August 2022

Dear Mr. Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

I believe that the benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity. This was, I would suggest well demonstrated by the fact that Copthorne respondents were anti the split whilst Crawley Down respondents were in favour.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces such as more new houses. Similarly, a Copthorne Council will be better able to address the needs of Copthorne.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council. Worth Parish Council has now become too large. Rather than being able to deal with local matters in a few short meetings, WPC now has committees, sub-committees, working parties etc. A bureaucratic nightmare which I believe can be avoided, to the advantage of both communities by having separate Crawley Down and Copthorne councils.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy as illustrated by the Neighbourhood plans.
- When the Neighbourhood Plans were first introduced, it was determined that Crawley Down and Copthorne were so different in character and needs that they should have separate plans, an acknowledgement that we are different communities. The Crawley Down plan went through several years ago with little cost

to the public and was largely researched and written by Cllrs Gibson and Hitchcock. Copthorne, on the other hand, took many more years to catch up with Crawley Down and finally had to employ an outside contractor, at no insignificant cost, paid for (I assume) by Worth Parish Council and thus the public. This alone gives me little confidence in maintaining the current arrangement.

Further I query the approach taken by Worth Parish Council in this matter. They have adopted a "Project Fear" approach which is now clouding people's judgements. From the outset they came up with a cost of £150,000 to carry out the exercise. When challenged to justify the cost they failed to give any explanation. Subsequently the figure dropped to £120,000, then £100,000 and now it is lower. They have adopted an arrogant attitude and for this reason I do not trust them to fairly run a council covering two totally different villages.

Unlike Worth Parish Council approach, the petitioners have been clear and open about their views on costs and when they have amended these try to explain to anyone who asks the reasons for amendments.

At the first consultation, Crawley Down residents responded 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. MSDC should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I have always believed that a CGR should concern itself with the wish of the area concerned (ie Crawley Down) and it's ability to run a council. Given that the Crawley Down Neighbourhood plan was largely written by Cllrs Gibson and Hitchcock I am assured that they and others have the competence to run Crawley Down Parish Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they thought that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you choose to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

 REDACTED

Mr T Stanley
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
RH16 1SS

09 August 2022

Re: Community Governance Review for Worth Parish Council

This letter is to make you aware that I am against the draft recommendation from the first consultation of the above.

Along with the majority of Crawley Down residents I fully support a separate council for Crawley Down. At the moment Crawley Down has a larger population than Copthorne and therefore contributes more to the budget by way of council tax. I am also led to believe that Crawley Down residents pay a higher per capita contribution to worth Parish Council than Copthorne residents. To us, it seems that we do not receive any benefit from this.

A Crawley Down council would obviously receive 100% of the council tax proportion and would be free to spend it on Crawley Down projects as they see fit. Hopefully all Councillors would be Crawley Down residents so would be aware of the needs of the community. At the moment, with Worth Parish Council, some Crawley Down councillors are Copthorne residents and are unlikely to have a good understanding of the needs of Crawley Down. With this situation there is clearly an imbalance of representation at general council meetings where items of significant expenditure are discussed.

On the subject of council meetings, these are always held in Copthorne. Up until Worth Parish Council moved their offices to Copthorne, council meetings were alternated between the two villages giving all residents the opportunity to attend. At least, with a separate council, meetings would always be held in Crawley Down giving everyone the opportunity to attend. Hopefully, this would generate more interest among residents to become local councillors.

So far, it appears that all the arguments from those against the idea have been financially based and calculations from both sides seem to differ significantly. Surely the needs of the community should be uppermost in their minds.

I would like you to give consideration to this proposal to enable Crawley Down to grow and serve the needs of its residents as it would like.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

21st July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Second Consultation for Crawley Down Village Council

I support the efforts of our local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them and get on it with it now, not in 2 or 6 years time.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council in the first Consultation. Copthorne has all the Worth Parish Council buildings and offices, so it is understandable that they do not think that change is necessary and voted against it, but it will clearly bring benefits to Crawley Down in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery.

The local Councillors have shown me a breakdown of the costs involved in creating the new Council which is £32,000. This is a lot of money, but I believe that it will be worthwhile. It was very misleading for the Council to suggest that it would cost £150,000. This cannot be true as no details have been provided.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation. If you intend to ignore my views above, please write and tell me why.

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Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

31st July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

I disagree with the published outcome of the first consultation. Crawley Down responses were 4 to 1 in favour of a new council. There is clearly overwhelming support for a Crawley Down Village Council.

I fully support the efforts of our local Councillors to create a Crawley Down Village Council. I believe that they have the ability to make it happen and MSDC should support them.

Crawley Down has a clearly separate identity to the surrounding communities of Felbridge, East Grinstead, Turners Hill, Crawley and Copthorne. Community cohesion is clearly evident in the sports and social clubs run by residents in the village. Local democracy will be improved by holding council meetings in Crawley Down, something which Worth Parish Council has refused to do since moving its offices to Copthorne. When the offices were in Crawley Down meetings were still held in Copthorne.

I understand that you disregarded many responses to the first consultation. I would like my views to be taken into account. If you intend to ignore them, please write and tell me why.

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Mr T Stanley
Business Unit Leader
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
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i August 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Crawley Down Parish Council

I believe that Crawley Down should have its own Parish Council. It is now a big village and getting bigger. There are lots of problems with speeding traffic, too few doctors and damage to the pond by developers. A Crawley Down Parish Council would be able to address these problems better than Worth Parish Council which has no offices here.

Turners Hill used to be part of Worth Parish Council but left a long time ago. Crawley Down is much bigger than Turners Hill and should be allowed to have its own parish council as well.

Crawley Down is a very close and friendly community with many clubs and sports teams. It has few connections with Copthorne other than as Worth Parish Council. I am sure that Copthorne will benefit from having its own Parish Council as well.

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13th August 2022

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13th August 2022

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Mr Stanley,
Business Unit leader
Democratic Services,
Mid Sussex District Council,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1SS

31st July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley

Worth Parish Council Community Governance Review

Please change your mind and recommend a new Parish Council for Crawley Down.

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Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

31st July 2022

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Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

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The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces such as more new houses.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

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- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

Crawley Down residents voted 4 to 1 in favour of their own village council. The Council should respect their views and recommend the creation of a new Council.

I understand that the Council disregarded over 10% of the responses to the first consultation as they considered that the views of the residents concerned did not give them anything to consider. If you intend to disregard my views set out above, please write to me and tell me why.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

13 August 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

- Crawley Down is a separate community with a separate identity
- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
- The improvements in local democracy and services justify the one-off costs of creating the new Village Council.
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Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley,
Business Unit Leader
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

3rd July 2022

Dear Mr Stanley,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

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Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

31st July 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

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Yours faithfully

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr T Stanley,
Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

31st July 2022

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- A Crawley Down Village Council will be better able to address the challenges that the village faces.
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- A Crawley Down Village Council will reflect the separate geographical identity of the village and be a more effective voice for it within the Local Government hierarchy.

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Yours sincerely

REDACTED

REDACTED

Democratic Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 1SS

09/ August 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Community Governance Review for Crawley Down Council

I disagree very strongly with the Council's draft recommendations from the first consultation.

The benefits in community engagement, community cohesion, local democracy and service delivery were very clearly set out in the responses to the first consultation by Crawley Down residents:

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Yours faithfully

REDACTED

Worth Parish Council
Community Governance Review
Consultation 2 Responses:
Councillors Submissions

team - team email	communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
team - team name	the Democratic Services team
Reference number	REDACTED
Your representation	Councillor
Council name	Worth Parish Council
Your name	Chris Mayor
Contact email address	REDACTED
Confirm email	REDACTED
Phone	REDACTED
Postcode	REDACTED
Address	REDACTED
Which review are you responding to?	Worth Parish Council
Would you like to enter your response below, or upload it?	Write
Your submission to the community governance review	<p>Second Consultation Response.</p> <p>This is the second reply I have made to the CGR raised by the Crawley Down Petitioners, and I have also attached my first response.</p> <p>During the “campaign” by the Petitioners, their response via Social Media and by posting leaflets through Crawley Down residents letter boxes has mostly concentrated on the disparity between costs of a split. They have also claimed that Copthorne Residents have made them prisoners as they voted against the Petitioners. One Petitioner has even had a t-shirt made up to this effect, and approached shoppers going about their business outside the local shops.</p> <p>I see no evidence of the Petitioners attempting to improve community engagement, other than handing out leaflets, nor any evidence of community cohesion, in fact the suggestion that Copthorne Residents are holding Crawley Down Residents prisoners is appears to be a move to split the community. Perhaps that is the plan.</p> <p>As a WPC Councillor, and member of several committees, holding the position of Vice Chairman on Planning and Highways, I am seeing the current Worth Parish Council is making strides into solving problems with lack of youth facilities, speeding vehicles and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The outcome of solutions to these problems will have to be cut back should a split go ahead, due to lack of funds due to economies of scale and reduction in precept funding.</p> <p>We have employed a member of staff responsible for Communications & IT Administration so that engagement with the public can be made easier. For those not happy with electronic</p>

means we are open to holding sessions in Crawley Down to directly engage with residents, but finding a venue is difficult.

I put it to you that a split at this time is not in the interest of the residents of both villages, and request you to put this resolution to the responsible committee. Should MSDC be minded to change the name of Worth Parish Council, it should be renamed Copthorne & Crawley Down Village Council, as this is alphabetical ordering of the village names.

Thank you for this opportunity to put forward my views.

First Consultation Response

Improved community engagement.

I can see no evidence that increased community engagement will occur from creating two smaller Parish Councils from the existing Worth Parish Council.

Engagement with the public is low in all local councils. I was co-opted as a Councillor for the Crawley Down Ward although being a resident in Copthorne. No other residents put themselves forward for the role.

I attended the Worth Parish Council stands at both Crawley Down and Copthorne carnivals, and counted the number of visits from residents on one hand.

One of the major proposers took a stand outside of the local shops to obtain signatures to the petition. I am of the opinion, that those who signed were not aware of the facts a split would entail, as these were not fully explained to them. Some were possibly, misled by the idea that a referendum would take place.

Enhanced community cohesion.

I fail to see how splitting a council can provide an enhancement to cohesion.

A new Crawley Down Parish Council would have no immediate office to administer its affairs, and recruiting staff will be found difficult. Basic economies of scale will be lost, on IT systems and ongoing projects being progressed, CCTV systems and Youth Worker, for both villages.

Better local democracy.

As previously stated, engagement is low, so creating a new Parish Council will probably have to same level of engagement.

More effective and convenient delivery of local services and local government.

Without premises and storage facilities, I fail to see how existing services in the Crawley Down Ward can be delivered as conveniently as the current process. Currently we have two groundsmen, one can cover for the other during holiday and sickness periods, whereas a single groundsman would leave a hole in the services, or create more expense if temporary staff is utilised.

It is my belief, as a WPC Councillor, that the proposed split should not be undertaken to avoid unnecessary expense, and stress on the current members of staff.

IN ADDITION.

As a resident of Worth Parish Council, a Parent and a Grandparent, decisions taken now may not have an immediate negative effect on my Grandchildren, but will do so in the future.

Currently my granddaughter has to travel to Balcombe for her schooling as Crawley Down is full. Many residents of Crawley Down travel to Copthorne for the Doctors Surgery and Post Office as many entries on Social Media complain about the Crawley Down equivalent.

As a larger Parish, WPC should be able to have more impact to address the real concerns of resident.

team - team email	communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
team - team name	the Democratic Services team
Reference number	REDACTED
Your representation	Councillor
Council name	Worth Parish Council
Your name	Graham Casella
Contact email address	REDACTED
Confirm email	REDACTED
Phone	REDACTED
Postcode	REDACTED
Address	REDACTED
Which review are you responding to?	Worth Parish Council
Would you like to enter your response below, or upload it?	Write
Your submission to the community governance review	<p>Having read the report on the CGR, I am in support of its findings. It is clear that any change is going to cost money, and at this time it is something that many will not be able to afford on top of everything else. I feel it is right to park things for now until the economy stabilises, and all the building around Cophorne is completed which will give a more balanced view.</p> <p>WPC is at present finalising two major changes that have been requested by residents of both villages, and can only come to fruition due to the economy of scale we have at present. one is the provision of CCTV in the centre of both villages and the other is the provision of a Youth Support Worker to help tackle the problems of Anti Social Behaviour. It would be a major shame if the stated requirements of the majority of residents could not happen due to wishes of a few in one village.</p> <p>I am also very disappointed that MSDC has done very little to stop the activities of some of the representatives from Crawley Down who are continually miss quoting facts and trying to stir up animosity between the two villages where none existed. I have many friends in CD who are very upset by these activities. It is a small vocal minority trying to push their view on to the majority.</p>

REDACTED

From: Trevor Hodsdon <REDACTED>
Sent: 13 August 2022 16:55
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: CGR Re Worth Parish council second Public Consultation TB Hodsdon ref REDACTED

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[You don't often get email from REDACTED. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I respond to the second consultation in my capacity as longstanding resident of Copthorne Village but declaring that I am also a sitting Parish Councillor on Worth Parish Council where I Chair the HR committee.

My approach to the second opportunity to be consulted was to wait and assess any new and relevant information that was made available by the petitioners, WPC or any other source, including comments made by the local Copthorne residents who broadly hold the view, based upon people approaching me, that this nonsense has gone on too long, wasted too much money already and believe that their responses to the first consultation continue to reflect their views adequately on the subject. Those are the comments I can commit to print, egos, self interests and zealots are often cited in fairly colourful language at times.

I expect the volume of further responses from the Copthorne residents to be much lower than first time round for this reason and as there has been no campaigning undertaken here. WPC have elected to trust the "evidence" and the independence of Mulberry and Co, in respect of the cost consequences, so vehemently denied by the petitioners, particularly relating to any precept impact on Copthorne, where the lead petitioner has stated "why should I care what happens in Copthorne(sic)?"

I read with interest the petitioners submission on costs, I believe made directly to Scrutiny members by-passing WPC and its' Clerk, which I found strange in itself and note the attempt to question Mulberry and Co's findings direct with Andy Beam. My reading of the numbers is that a lot of the points previously made by WPC have reluctantly been accommodated in the latest petitioners budget, increasing the costs of both creating a new Parish Council and then running it, versus the original claims at the time petition signatures were gathered. However variables such as the cost and resource requirement for a locum as well as staffing levels have simply been adjusted to try and stay as close to the original claims as possible. Clear answers on the availability of local serviced offices continue to be deflected. I still regard the petitioners budget as unsafe, and find the position continuously attempting to discredit WPC's professionalism and approach on social media re their assessments disturbing and disingenuous. Claims that the WPC figures have been proven to be "nonsense" are unbalanced and undermine the approach and independence of one of the best local government auditor firms in Sussex! I conclude that the WPC indicational costs have far more credibility than the now almost fanatical approach of the petitioners, who appear driven solely to achieve some sort of independence from every level of Local Government. The whole campaign has exposed itself to me as one fuelled by a small group of "anti" WPC, "anti" MSDC and anti almost any form of development and change. It is not representative of CD as a whole.

The campaign's whole approach to local government is not credible in my consideration, is unbalanced and still has failed to prove the case for separation. Attempts to gain signatures and encourage "Yes" responses without balanced consideration by campaigning in the CD village centre have discredited the integrity of intent of the petitioners and has damaged our own local government model. This campaigning occurred despite an agreement that neither side would promote their views in brochure in the second consultation and without any opposing view being given an opportunity to attend the Village Centre T shirt and letter signing activities.! The reality is the campaigners seem more interested in getting their preferred result by almost any means. They seem to so dislike the system that governs them. Very sad I suggest and also dangerous to democracy as a whole. Too many

deliberately misleading statements have been made by the petitioners in my view. There is a reason we require the whole truth in the UK and not just a preferred perspective.

So in summary, despite increasing doubts about the integrity of intent and process respect in evidence by the petitioners , I have seen no fresh evidence since the first consultation conclusion that would support any change of stance by MSDC. If anything the approach of WPC and the independent cost report from Andy Beams strengthens the case against a split at tis time. The conclusions first time around remain sound and should remain unaltered.

(Councillor) Trevor Hodsdon

Crawley Down Community Governance Review

Submission to the Second Consultation

I have been a Worth Parish Councillor for Crawley Down Ward since 2013 and a District Councillor for Crawley Down and Turners Hill since 2019. I am also the current County Councillor for the Imberdown District which includes Crawley Down and was one of the main authors of the Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan. I am also a Turners Hill Parish Councillor and was the Chair of the Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils and a Director of WSALC prior to becoming a District Councillor.

I strongly support the creation of a new council for Crawley Down and believe that both Copthorne and Crawley Down will benefit from having separate Parish Councils which will better represent the views of their community on the different issues that each village faces.

I am a joint author of the submission by the local councillors and residents supporting the creation of a new parish council, but this submission is my individual views.

The First Consultation had three significant flaws and the Council must reconsider its main recommendation that the status quo be maintained.

1. The Insistence on Qualitative Submissions

This was an unnecessary approach which has simply served to reduce the number of consultation responses. MSDC were provided with details of the approach followed by Sevenoaks DC for the Hextable CGR which demonstrated that a hybrid response (i.e. vote and reason) achieved excellent participation (33% of forms returned) and clear evidence on the issues of separate identity, community cohesion and improved democracy in a single cost-effective consultation.

The table below shows the response rates in the first consultations in all the current CGRs in Mid Sussex. Getting residents to participate in Local Government at Parish level is acknowledged to be difficult, but the response to these CGRs represents a low point. Speaking with residents in Crawley Down, the challenge of writing a short essay was the main factor with the emphasis on an online response a secondary factor.

	Electorate (2021)	Number of Responses
WPC	8,489	284 (3.3%)
<u>Hurstpierpoint</u>	4,882	73 (1.5%)
<u>East Grinstead</u>	21,101	198 (0.9%)
Burgess Hill	24,760	382 (1.5%)
Total	59,232	937 (1.6%)

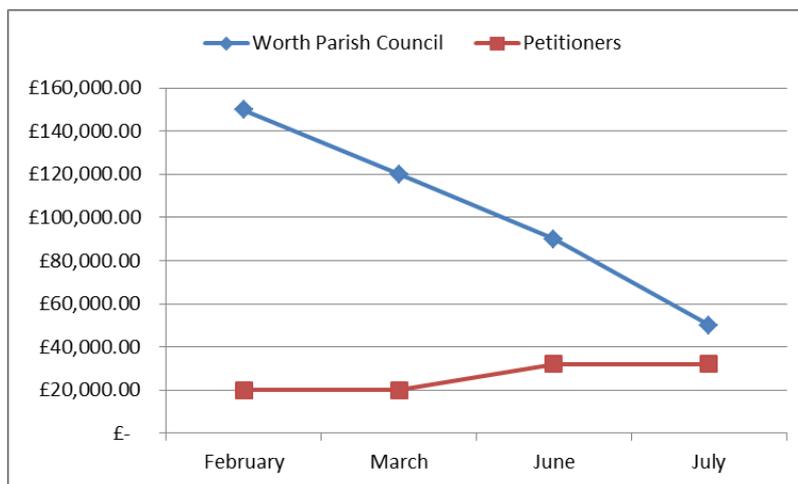
Crawley Down	4,549	173 (3.8%)
Copthorne	3,940	111 (2.8%)

The report on the first consultation was actually more notable for its quantitative content than the comments on identity, community cohesion and improved democracy. In broad terms, underlying

the reported even split, was a 4 to 1 response in favour in Crawley Down and 9 to 1 against in Copthorne. Nearly all those opposed to the split cited increased cost as a reason (96 out of 123) highlighting the need to ensure that the cost estimates are consistent and supported by appropriate evidence.

2. Inconsistent and Unsubstantiated Claims on Costs

Worth Parish Council abandoned any pretence of maintaining the neutral / facts-only position advised by WSALC very early prior to the first consultation and have devoted considerable staff effort and public funds to opposing the split. The Council claimed at early stage that the cost of the split (meaning the one-off costs) could be as high as £150,000. No breakdown of this figure has ever been published. Breakdowns of other, smaller, figures have been published at regular intervals and the Council's position on the one-off costs is best illustrated graphically:



Unfortunately, the Council's unverified claim of £150,000 was circulated with the announcement of the first consultation and had a catastrophic effect on the debate. Time and time again it has cropped up in discussions with residents. It has undermined the outcome of the first consultation and regrettably, Mid Sussex are equally culpable for not recognising this and insisting that WPC provide evidence or publicly withdraw the figure.

3. Giving equal weight to the views of Copthorne residents

The Petition called for a Community Governance Review into the way that Crawley Down is represented in local government. That should be up to the residents of Crawley Down. The views of other communities should be taken into account, but ultimately it should be up to the residents of Crawley Down. I want Scotland to remain part of a United Kingdom, but I will not have a vote in any Scottish Independence Referendum, and nor should I.

In giving the responses from Copthorne residents the same weight as Crawley Down residents, the Council is acting differently to other CGRs. In the Hextable CGR 4,610 responses were received (1,650 from Hextable residents and 2,960 from Swanley residents). Hextable residents voted 2 to 1 in favour and Swanley residents 9 to 1 against. If the responses had been given equal weight the outcome was 1,400 in favour and 3,210 against, but Sevenoaks District Council listened to the Hextable residents and created a new Council.

Summary

It is my belief that the case has been clearly made by many submissions that a separate Parish Case would improve identity, community cohesion, democracy and service. There is strong support in the Crawley Down community for a separate Council and the Petitioners possess between them the skills and experience needed to deliver the new Council. Increased costs to Copthorne residents should not be a reason to deny Crawley Down residents better local representation in local government.

A recommendation to revisit the issue in 2, 4 or 6 years would be the worst outcome of all. The Vice Chairman of the District Council has suggested on social media that a further review should be linked to the completion of Copthorne West. If that is being considered, then a fairer and better outcome would be to set up the new Council now and agree a transition payment to Copthorne that maintained parity in Band D Precept until completion of Copthorne West.

Dr Ian Gibson

REDACTED

REDACTED

team - team email	communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
team - team name	the Democratic Services team
Reference number	REDACTED
Your representation	Councillor
Council name	Worth PC
Your name	Kerry Scott
Contact email address	REDACTED
Confirm email	REDACATED
Phone	REDACTED
Postcode	REDACTED
Address	REDACTED
Which review are you responding to?	Worth Parish Council
Would you like to enter your response below, or upload it?	Write
Your submission to the community governance review	<p>Personally, and as Vice Chair of the Council, I have been reviewing the factors influencing the benefits or otherwise of creating a separate Council for Crawley Down. I have been listening to representations from those supporting a split of Councils and also monitoring the various posts on Social Media.</p> <p>It is clear to me that there is no new evidence being proposed in favour of the split. The messages from the Petitioners are just that MSDC have got it wrong because they have decided not to split. The reasons that MSDC have decided this in the phase one consultation are sound and in my view in the very best interests of the residents of both villages. The extra costs, disruption and likely poorer Council services that would result from a split cannot be justified. The Country needs less bureaucracy at the current time rather than more. The original reasons why a separate Crawley Down Council would benefit the residents have been shown to lack credibility e.g. Dealing with the Royal Oak issue and having a Parish Office and meetings in the Village when the existing Parish Office in Copthorne is easily accessible and electronic communication is fast becoming the "norm".</p> <p>I therefore agree with the Phase one decision to retain the current Parish infrastructure and trust that this will be the final conclusion of the CGR.</p>

Worth Parish Council Community Governance

Review

Consultation 2 Responses:

Parish Council Submission

Community Governance Review - Response to Second Consultation

In the draft recommendations following the first consultation of the CGR to divide WPC into separate Parish/Village Councils, MSDC requested that "WPC and the petitioners should supply to this Review their assessment of these division costs with evidential annotations for each cost, so that MSDC may see how they have been arrived at."

Before the initial Consultation, attempts to engage with the petitioners regarding agreeing precept budget proposals in the event of a separation, or agreeing the potential costs of a split within the Council Governance Framework, had been unsuccessful. WPC took the decision therefore to appoint an independent body to perform a review agreeing that we would accept the findings of said review regardless of the outcome. Mulberry & Co have acted as auditor for WPC, as well as a number of other local authorities, for many years and Andy Beams of Mulberry was an ideal candidate to perform the review with the appropriate skills and reference knowledge the petitioners wanted.

As detailed in the report, "Andy [Beams] has over 30 years' experience in the financial sector, specialising in the local government sector since 2010. During this time, Andy has worked as a Clerk/RFO at councils of various sizes, and now works as an internal auditor, local authority consultant and trainer of local authority officers and councillors, as well as providing locum Clerk/RFO services and mentoring and support for new Clerks across the south-east of England." His independence and professional capability is beyond challenge.

The report is the output of his work and WPC submit this report to MSDC as independent evidence of the one-off costs of £50-60K to separate the Council, and an on-going, additional £51,750 per annum increase in overall precept to residents as a result of duplicated operating costs. We would also like to make some observations regarding the content of the report that we feel are pertinent to MSDC within the determination process.

1. We agree with Mr Beams that likening a potential CDVC to Turners Hill is not a fair comparison as Turners Hill is a much smaller Ward than CDVC would be (approx. ¼ the tax base). Therefore, we also conclude that the staffing costs projected in the proposed CDVC precept budget are inappropriate and should be at least in line with Copthorne – which would mean a further minimum £15,000 increase in the overall precept.
2. The cost of the Youth Worker will still be across both villages so we suggest the cost for the CDVC precept budget should also be £7,500 – again, a further increase in the overall precept. This is to ensure like for like comparisons, alternatively both £7,500 allocations should be deleted.
3. We have to conclude that the figure for the new office rent is too low. Research confirms CDVC would struggle to find offices at all in Crawley Down, let alone for that price, we consider this to be a considerable risk to the proposed CDVC budget and overall proposal assumptions' reliability.
4. As stated in section D. STAFFING in the report, any costs related to TUPE or potential redundancies have not been included in any estimates

So in summary we conclude that this independent report confirms our original, well-based, objective and balanced concerns that the overall cost of splitting WPC would reasonably be £50-60K of one-off costs plus an ongoing annual increase in overall precept between the two villages of at least £74,250 and we therefore endorse the Mulberry findings which clearly evidence such.

We would also like it noted that the petitioners were given visibility of this report once produced which was then discussed at a meeting of the WPC CGR Working Party on Tue

19th July. The Working Party is made up of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all WPC committees. Councillor John Hitchcock is one of the members and is also one of the 3 petitioning Councillors, but he did not attend the meeting or give any apologies for not attending.

We also should point out that following the draft recommendations, apart for accusing WPC and MSDC of holding Crawley Down "prisoners", the petitioners have shown nothing new that would lead us to change our stance that splitting WPC at this time would be nothing but an extremely costly exercise with little gain to either village, and we therefore fully support the draft recommendations from MSDC and urge that the final outcome of the CGR reflect these recommendations.



MULBERRY & CO

Chartered Certified Accountants
Registered Auditors
& Chartered Tax Advisors

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Surrey, GU7 1BX

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e office@mulberryandco.co.uk
w www.mulberryandco.co.uk

Mrs J Nagy
Worth Parish Council
1st Floor, The Parish Hub
Borers Arms Road
Cophorne
West Sussex
RH10 3ZQ

12 July 2022

Dear Jenny

Report and budget estimates for proposed split of Worth Parish Council

Further to the agreement made with Worth Parish Council, please find enclosed my report and draft budgets for information.

The report and draft budgets have been prepared in good faith, based on the information provided by Worth Parish Council and by the petitioners for the creation of a new Crawley Down Village Council. My comments on the information provided are based on analysis of the figures and a knowledge and understanding of the practical financial operations of Parish Councils generally.

The report includes reference to a considerable margin of error in any calculations, due to several significant factors which remain unknown currently. I have not considered the merits of whether two Parish Councils serve the population more effectively than the current arrangement and have focussed purely on the financial elements of the proposal.

I hope the report is self-explanatory and will assist the ongoing consultation. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Andy Beams
For Mulberry & Co

Email: councils@mulberryandco.co.uk

Tel: 07428 647069

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Acronyms used in this report

WPC	Worth Parish Council
MSDC	Mid Sussex District Council
CDVC	Crawley Down Village Council
CPC	Copthorne Parish Council
TUPE	Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006

A. BACKGROUND AND BRIEF

As a result of a valid petition raised by the requisite number of local registered electors to constitute a new Parish Council for the existing Crawley Down parish ward (to be called 'Crawley Down Village Council (CVDC)', a Community Governance Review (CGR) was initiated by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC).

As part of this process, Worth Parish Council (WPC) and the petitioners produced budget estimates for the proposed new arrangements, which if agreed, effectively splits WPC into two separate local authorities through the creation of CDVC and the renaming of the remainder of WPC as Cophorne Parish Council (CPC). Both WPC and the petitioners were also asked to produce an estimate of the costs associated with such a split.

Among the recommendation of the MSDC Scrutiny Committee for Customer Services & Service Delivery meeting held on 25 May 2022 are the following:

- *The case for division of assets and liabilities at reasonable cost is not sufficiently made. At this time of cost-of-living crisis, many electors are not agreeable to this.*
- *At an early stage of the second public consultation WPC and the petitioners should supply to this Review their assessment of these division costs with evidential annotations for each cost, so that MSDC may see how they have been arrived at.*
- *The indicative annual budget proposed by 'The Local Councillors and Residents Supporting the Creation of a Crawley Down Village Council' it seems, is disputed by WPC. MSDC wishes to see an adjusted and agreed version as soon as possible.*

In June 2022, WPC appointed Mulberry & Co, who act as the internal auditor to the authority, to conduct an exercise to produce a draft budget for the proposed two authorities and an estimate of the costs associated with the split. Mulberry & Co have no view on the merits of a split and are acting as an independent consultant on the matter.

On 20 June, WPC provided a submission of financial information to Mulberry & Co for inclusion in the exercise. This included a narrative element and an analysis of current staffing levels within WPC, along with the approved WPC budget for 2022/23, an assessment of the appropriate grading of the Clerk role in each of the two proposed authorities, and a breakdown of the estimated costs associated with a split.

On 23 June, the petitioners provided similar financial information including a narrative outline of the financial impacts, staff cost projections and budget proposals for the two proposed authorities, a breakdown of the estimated costs associated with a split and a comparison with Turners Hill Parish Council.

There are notable differences in the financial projections put forward by each side. It should be noted that there are several significant factors which remain unknown at this time, largely relating to staff issues and the costs of the split and how/where these will be funded from. A further complication results from the petitioner's request to treat information relating to estimates of TUPE outcomes as confidential.

All information received has been reviewed and taken into consideration in the preparation of this report and the financial projections included within it.

B. COMMENTS ON WORTH PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

The current budget information provided is in the form of the Agreed Budget Report generated from the Rialtus Business Solutions (RBS) accounting package used by the council. This is assumed to be accurate and that it reflects the budget agreed by the council. This shows an income budget for the year of £380,830 and expenditure budget of £493,491 with the deficit to made up using reserves.

As explained in section F of this report, WPC has established a track record of providing fair and reasonable budgets and precept calculations over the last five years, and the information provided has been used as a basis for the budget projections. There

have been some minor amendments to figures, where a more realistic figure has been used than that based on the projected split, and elements of doubt exist in the staff budget figures for the reasons explained in section D of this report.

C. COMMENTS ON PETITIONERS' INFORMATION

It is noted that the petitioners have used Turners Hill Parish Council as an example for comparison. Use of another local authority within the same District is a sensible measure and can provide useful comparisons. Whilst Turners Hill is geographically close, there are other authorities within Mid Sussex which may have provided better comparisons, based on being a similar size.

Turners Hill has a tax base of 654.2 (compared to 4,669.1 for WPC) and its current band D equivalent is more than double that of WPC (£126.51 compared to £61.25). Within Mid Sussex, comparisons to either Hassocks or Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Councils may have been more beneficial as both are of more similar size to WPC and the proposed split into two councils.

The petitioners have presented budgets for WPC, an amended budget for WPC excluding projects, and then projected budgets for CDVC and for CPC. These are used to demonstrate the projected increased costs of splitting the council.

This methodology is sound, and my calculations are based on a similar exercise, considering the normal revenue expenditure of WPC. The information provided by the petitioners has been considered in the drawing up of the draft budgets, although there are changes to the figures to reflect what, in my opinion, are more realistic estimates of the likely costs for the two proposed councils.

The job evaluation sheet shows two different values for contracted hours for the Clerk – 25 per week in step 5 of the calculation and 28 per week in the job spinal points summary. It is unclear which is the intended correct number of hours for the Clerk. A consistent figure of 30 hours per week has been applied to the Copthorne Clerk evaluation.

D. STAFFING

Both WPC and the petitioners have used an industry specific calculator to assess the correct scale point for the appointment of the Clerk to each of the newly created councils. The outcome of these calculations differ, but not significantly, with WPC assessing both roles at scale point 34, and the petitioners assessing CDVC at scale point 33 and CPC at scale point 35.

The largest unknown element with the staff is which staff will work where, and what TUPE arrangements will be in place. My understanding is that there is currently no clear plan as to who will work for which council. It will be a matter for each council, if a split occurs, to determine its own staffing structure, and assumptions made by both WPC and the petitioners are conjecture at this time.

The petitioners have costed proposals for different scenarios regarding TUPE but have marked these as confidential and I have therefore refrained from including specific figures for these in my report.

Salary amounts are based on the current spinal point values. There is no indication as yet for any increase in the salary scales to be backdated to 1 April 2022 or for future scale point increases.

E. COSTS FOR SPLITTING THE COUNCIL

One of the biggest differences between the WPC and petitioners' projections relates to the costs associated with splitting the council. All costs are speculative, and differing advice has been received by the two parties leading to the vastly different projections.

As mentioned above, the staffing costs remain a significant unknown, dependant on the outcome of any TUPE arrangements, confirmation of the staffing structures of both councils, and the wishes of the staff members. There is also a lack of clarity over which, if any, of the costs may be borne by MSDC during the process.

Having independently discussed the matter with two local authority solicitors, they liken the arrangement to a divorce, and that the legal costs associated with the split will depend on how readily agreement is reached on matters such as the split of assets, including reserves held by WPC.

The petitioners estimate the one-off costs of the split at £32,016, while WPC estimate £90,830. The primary difference between these estimates relates to costs included by WPC (but not by the petitioners) of two public mail shots costing £13,330 and a £25,000 difference in the estimated cost of a locum role to establish CDVC. WPC have also included an additional £10,000 for legal fees, with the petitioners only including legal fees within the £10,000 quoted by MSDC.

As with much of this exercise, an absolute figure cannot be determined, but my estimate would fall somewhere between the two figures proposed, with a sum of between £50,000 and £60,000 not unreasonable.

F. HISTORIC PRECEPT INFORMATION FOR WORTH PC

The question 'how much the precept should be?' is one that all councils juggle annually. The amount will vary from council to council, dependant on several factors including size, staff structure, number of functions managed, etc.

For information, the table below shows the precept data from the last five years showing how WPC compares to the national average for England. The data shows a 15.7% increase in the band D equivalent for WPC over the five-year period, compared to a 16.8% increase in the national average.

In 2018/19, WPC charged 84.9% of the national average Band D compared to 84.1% in 2022/23. This shows that WPC has kept in line with the trends shown across the country over this period, suggesting a sound basis for budget and precept setting has been established and information presented by WPC can be considered a fair reflection.

Year	Precept	Tax Base	Band D	England Ave.
2018/19	£251,000	4,618.2	£54.35	£64.04
2019/20	£275,000	4,617.6	£59.55	£67.18
2020/21	£280,000	4,654.8	£60.15	£69.89
2021/22	£286,000	4,669.1	£61.25	£71.86
2022/23	£300,000	4,770.3	£62.89	£74.81

Data source: Gov.uk website [Council Tax Statistics for 2022/23](#)

G. BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR SPLIT OF WPC

Budget estimates	Worth PC	Crawley Down VC	Copthorne PC	Combined	Difference
	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Precept	£300,000	£166,750	£185,000	£351,750	£51,750
Interest received	£200	£100	£100	£200	£0
Allotment rents	£3,400	£2,000	£0	£2,000	-£1,400
MSDC grounds management	£1,030	£1,030	£0	£1,030	£0
South Room hire receipts	£7,000	£0	£7,000	£7,000	£0
Pavilion lease	£4,200	£0	£4,200	£4,200	£0
Total income	£315,830	£169,880	£196,300	£366,180	£50,350
Clerk, Assistant & RFO	£100,000	£50,000	£65,000	£115,000	£15,000
Groundspersons	£45,000	£25,000	£20,000	£45,000	£0
Grants given	£8,000	£4,000	£4,000	£8,000	£0
Churchyard maintenance	£1,000	£500	£500	£1,000	£0
Office supplies	£1,500	£500	£1,250	£1,750	£250
Bank charges	£200	£200	£200	£400	£200
Postage	£0	£100	£0	£100	£100
Utilities - electric/gas	£1,250	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£750
Telephone	£100	£500	£100	£600	£500
IT support	£6,000	£4,000	£4,000	£8,000	£2,000
Chairman's allowance	£1,000	£200	£500	£700	-£300
Councillors' allowances	£8,500	£4,500	£4,000	£8,500	£0
Travelling	£500	£200	£300	£500	£0
Office expenses, eg cleaning	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£1,000
Website costs	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£3,000	£1,500
Software support - RBS, payroll	£1,500	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£500
Member training	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£1,000
HR support	£3,000	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	£1,000
Staff training	£0	£1,500	£1,500	£3,000	£3,000
Publicity	£1,200	£1,000	£600	£1,600	£400
Audit fees	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£3,000	£1,500
Legal fees	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£6,000	£3,000
Insurances	£5,250	£3,000	£3,000	£6,000	£750
Hire of halls	£250	£2,000	£250	£2,250	£2,000
Rent South Room - 1st floor	£7,500	£0	£7,500	£7,500	£0
Meetings, conferences, etc	£800	£500	£400	£900	£100
Election expenses	£8,000	£8,000	£8,000	£16,000	£8,000
Subscriptions/memberships	£450	£0	£225	£225	-£225
WSALC & NALC	£2,395	£1,500	£1,200	£2,700	£305
Fuel	£3,000	£1,750	£1,750	£3,500	£500
Motor repairs & expenses	£2,000	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£0
Equipment & supplies	£500	£1,000	£250	£1,250	£750
Capital purchases	£1,500	£2,000	£1,500	£3,500	£2,000
Maintenance - various	£10,974	£3,000	£9,500	£12,500	£1,526
Land management	£1,000	£2,500	£500	£3,000	£2,000
Ground management	£6,000	£0	£6,000	£6,000	£0
Allotment water	£216	£216	£0	£216	£0
Loan repayment new parish office	£9,726	£0	£9,726	£9,726	£0
Energy - street lights	£35,000	£17,500	£17,500	£35,000	£0
Repairs street lights/lamps	£15,000	£7,500	£7,500	£15,000	£0
Maint. Burleigh Way car park	£1,030	£0	£1,030	£1,030	£0
Maint. Memorial car park	£1,000	£1,000	£0	£1,000	£0
Litter & dog bin emptying	£4,000	£5,000	£2,000	£7,000	£3,000
Replace litter/salt bins	£800	£500	£400	£900	£100
N/h Plan Crawley Down	£6,000	£2,500		£2,500	-£3,500
N/h Plan Copthorne	£1,000		£1,000	£1,000	£0
Environmental - Copthorne	£20,000		£20,000	£20,000	£0
Environmental - Crawley Down	£20,000	£15,000		£15,000	-£5,000
Youth support	£15,000		£7,500	£7,500	-£7,500
Handyperson vehicle lease	£0	£3,000	£0	£3,000	£3,000
Parish Online	£0	£500	£0	£500	£500
Photocopying	£0	£1,250	£0	£1,250	£1,250
New bench seating	£0	£500	£0	£500	£500
Office rent	£0	£10,000	£0	£10,000	£10,000
Total expenditure	£365,141	£194,916	£221,681	£416,597	£51,456
Net income over expenditure	-£49,311	-£25,036	-£25,381	-£50,417	-£1,106

The above proposals are based on information provided by WPC and the petitioners, an analysis of the 2022/23 agreed budget for WPC and knowledge and experience of income and expenditure within the local authority sector.

Amounts are estimates, as absolute figures are unavailable until such time as the split has happened, staffing structures have been agreed, assets have been split and reserves held by WPC are divided up.

My estimates conclude that in 2023/24 the two councils combined would have a revenue budget of £51,456 more than WPC (not allowing for any inflationary increase from 2022/23), subject to confirmation of the matters highlighted above.

H. CONCLUSION

This information has been prepared in good faith, based on information provided by WPC and the petitioners, and applying industry specific knowledge and experience to rationalise the figures.

I do not anticipate that either WPC or the petitioners will wholly agree with the outcomes, as each has made their own detailed assessments based on information acquired during the CRG process.

About the author

This review was conducted by Andy Beams of Mulberry & Co. Andy has over 30 years' experience in the financial sector, specialising in the local government sector since 2010. During this time, Andy has worked as a Clerk/RFO at councils of various sizes, and now works as an internal auditor, local authority consultant and trainer of local authority officers and councillors, as well as providing locum Clerk/RFO services and mentoring and support for new Clerks across the south-east of England.