



Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

CRAWLEY DOWN -

it's YOUR VILLAGE so be sure that you have your say!

The Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee has simple aims: to support the community and protect its heritage. During the next twelve to eighteen months some of the most important decisions to affect our village will be made. These decisions will affect the shape and size of Crawley Down and, if this is a village you feel part of and care about, they will affect you. They hinge around the term :-

'NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN'

What's a NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN is a document to be agreed by the community: that sets out the level of development - residential, commercial or leisure - that the community needs or can sustain in the next 20 years. It has to be a positive document that identifies what can happen and it has to comply with the Mid Sussex District Council's Local Development Plan. Once produced it will be vetted to ensure compliance and will be subject to a community referendum which must achieve 50% agreement to be approved. If approved it will be an effective planning control document for the next 20 years.

So what if we don't produce a NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN or the plan is not agreed.

We must, and we must agree. If the Crawley Down community cannot produce an effective NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN on which the majority of residents who vote agree, there will be no control and the community will have no say in the level of development that could be, and probably will be, forced upon us. We live in an area sought after by developers and changes to planning policy will enable their plans to be enacted much more easily than we have ever known before.

Can we just say "No" to development

No. If we do this they will build the houses anyway. The Government has decreed that there must be more development in the South East. Mid Sussex District Council has identified the number of houses it can sustain in the District. The District requires that Worth Parish provides a proportion of this development and Crawley Down must take its share.

Is it just more houses

No. More housing affects our schools, our infrastructure, our community facilities and our roads. All of these issues must be considered in deciding what the community can sustain. Due consideration in the production of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN is the only way each of these can be fully appraised.

How can the whole community of Crawley Down agree a plan?

It won't, and for this reason it is essential that the whole community is aware of the implications of failure to produce and agree the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

The Worth Parish Council has taken the first important step of separating the Parish (Crawley Down and Cophorne) and identifying Crawley Down as a community which should shape its own destiny and has sought the support of the community in producing the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

It will be essential for those working on the plan to be objective, to listen and give fair consideration to communicate the progress in clear understandable terms. They must consider all options open to them and only then will residents be able to vote on the plan in the knowledge that it is the very best that the community can achieve. In this way it has a chance of success.

If we just agree and let the developers take the lead and build, won't the community benefit financially?

Probably. However it is vitally important, and the Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee hopes you will concur, that due consideration should be given to the longer term and social implications of accepting short term cash rewards. The village has a strong community atmosphere and a heritage measured more by its people than its buildings. This all could be lost if the development is wrong, no matter how big the reward. The Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee accepts that change is probably inevitable, but seeks that it is formulated on the basis of careful consideration of the long term effect on the community.

What do the residents need to do?

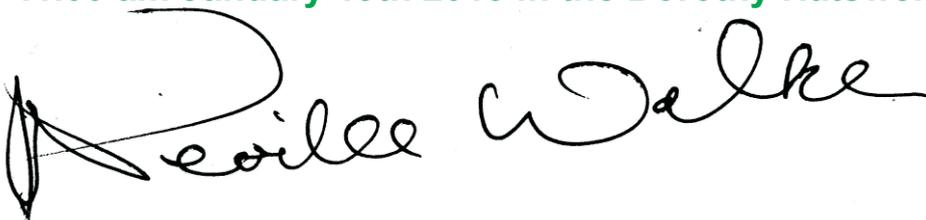
- ★ Get Involved
- ★ Offer help to the Parish Council, maybe as part of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN Steering Committee
- ★ Communicate with your ward councillors.
- ★ Express your views either direct to the PARISH COUNCIL, use the village website forum, or email to contact@crawlleydownplan.org.uk to represent your views.
- ★ Nominate people to the Steering Committee who you feel can be objective, and have both your trust and perhaps the skills to make this work.
- ★ At the very least watch how the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN evolves, think how it will affect your children the schools, your clubs or organisations and the people around you and state your support or otherwise. www.crawlleydownplan.org.uk email :- contact@crawlleydownplan.org.uk
- ★ Please speak up now: it will be too late afterwards.

We live on the edge of nearly every possible boundary and over the years have been pushed from one authority to another. The village has often been so far from the controlling body that it seems its voice has hardly been heard. The NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN can, and should, traverse all boundaries and encompass the whole community. We can either look at this as a disaster for the village, or turn it into an opportunity. An opportunity to take every morsel of power that the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN offers to shape the destiny of the future of the village and make it our own decision.

Crawley Down must have an effective NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN that safeguards the whole community for the future. No plan is not an option.

The Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee supports the production of a NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN that has given due consideration to all the views expressed.

The next meeting of The Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee is 11.00 am January 19th 2013 in the Dorothy Hatswell Hall in the Haven Centre.



Cllr Neville Walker
Chairman

on behalf of the Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.