



CRAWLEY Live

Spring 2026





Need Extra Help? Think Extra Care

If you know someone aged 55 or over who is independent but may need some support, our Extra Care properties at Lanehurst Gardens could be the perfect fit.

Also known as assisted living or housing with care, our Extra Care properties offer a high-quality, self-contained living space with a range of accessible on-site facilities, a supportive community, and peace of mind.

Residents enjoy the independence of their own flat, with the added benefit of care and support from an on-site team of professionals whenever it's needed.



24 hr
Emergency Call



On-site
Manager



Gardening &
Maintenance



Pets
Welcome

Lanehurst Gardens, Grattons Drive, Crawley, RH10 3BB

Open the door to Extra Care today.

Visit anchor.org.uk/Lanehurst

or call **01293 324 773**

Calls from landlines are charged at a local rate.
Call costs from mobiles vary according to your plan



Extra Care housing to rent



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We use AI to create some content and images in this magazine.

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Ifield Watermill

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Editor
Samantha Sheppard

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- facebook.com/crawleycouncil
- instagram.com/crawleybc
- crawley.gov.uk
- my.crawley.gov.uk

From the Leader

Protecting our natural environment is a key priority for this council. Last year we declared a nature emergency, and we are determined to protect our parks and open spaces that we all value here in Crawley.

You can read all about our work with the Woodland Trust to remove invasive species from Tilgate Park, as well as significantly improve the lakeside areas. Our thanks to both The Woodland Trust and Tilgate Park Fisheries for their support with these important projects.

We are also investing significantly into improving our transport fleet and will be ending our reliance on fossil fuels, moving towards using vegetable oil to power our fleet. This will help us improve air quality in the borough, drastically reduce our emissions and help us reduce health issues caused by pollution.

In this issue, we welcome local business Naked Energy to Manor Royal. This is a fantastic company which is using cutting-edge technology to help improve sustainability at some of the most prominent buildings in the country. Read on to hear all about their work.

I do hope you enjoy this environment edition of Crawley Live. As always, please do email me any comments or ideas you might have at

michael.jones@crawley.gov.uk



Michael Jones

Councillor Michael Jones
Leader of Crawley Borough Council

Win your Council Tax free for one year!

One lucky resident will win their Council Tax paid for a year thanks to Crawley Borough Council's amazing prize draw.

All you need to do to be in with a chance of winning is to sign up for electronic billing. By going paperless, you'll be able to manage your accounts and receive bills online, saving you time.

Receiving your bills via email is faster and saves on printing and postage costs. It also reduces the use of paper and envelopes and helps support our work to tackle climate change.

You can register for e-billing for several council services through the myCrawley portal, including Council Tax, Business Rates, allotments, GREENbin, leasehold services, premises licences, taxi

licences and Lifeline. More services will be added in the future.

To enter the draw and be in with a chance of winning your 2026 to 2027 Council Tax paid, visit my.crawley.gov.uk and sign up for electronic billing.

You will automatically be entered if you have already signed up. The prize will be up to the equivalent of band D Council Tax for 2026 to 2027.

A balanced budget for 2026 to 2027

While the Crawley Borough Council received a positive settlement from the government, it continues to face significant financial pressures – driven largely by the rising costs of homelessness and temporary accommodation, inflation, and ongoing pressures on core services.

For every £10 of Council Tax collected, the council receives just

£1 to fund local services, with the remainder going to West Sussex County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Despite these challenges, we are committed to protecting essential services and delivering them to our residents. You told us, in a four-week consultation, what mattered most; from community safety and housing to town centre regeneration and protecting our parks and open spaces.

The budget for 2026 to 2027 is recommended for approval at a Full Council meeting on 25 February. You can watch this and other council meetings on our YouTube channel..

It is expected that our share of Council Tax will be raised by 2.99 per cent, meaning that for a band D property its annual Council Tax will be increased by 2.99 per cent; an increase of £7.15 from £239.04 to £246.19.

For every one pound paid in Council Tax (2025 to 2026):



77.95p goes to West Sussex County Council



11.5p goes to Sussex Police



10.55p goes to Crawley Borough Council



2026 Crawley Community Awards

Nominations are now open for this year's Crawley Community Awards.

The awards are hugely popular and a clear reflection of the wonderful community spirit that exists in Crawley and the appreciation local people have for those who go the extra mile to make a difference to their community.

Nominations are welcome for groups and individuals across the categories opposite. You may make as many nominations in as many categories as you wish. Nominators don't need to live in Crawley but nominees must either live, work, volunteer or study in the town or provide a service open to Crawley residents outside the immediate area.

If you know an individual, group or organisation that deserves recognition for their efforts or their work in our community, please take a few minutes to complete a nomination. Visit crawleycommunityawards.org

Categories

- Support Group
- Local Hero
- Achievement
- Community Group
- Culture
- Education
- Fundraising
- Group Achievement
- Inspiration
- Performing Arts
- Special Recognition
- Sports Person
- Sports Team
- The Mayor's Award – Charity
- Volunteer
- Volunteer Group



ds

Sponsorship opportunities

If you are a business and keen to be involved in this very popular event, why not sponsor an award category? For more information or to reserve a category contact samantha.sheppard@crawley.gov.uk or call **07837 899646**.



Crawley & Horley
Observer



Up-to-date details can be found at crawleycommunityawards.org

Mayor of Crawley, Councillor Sharmila Sivarajah

“ As Mayor of Crawley, it has been an honour to represent our town at a number of important engagements over the winter period.

In November, I was honoured to represent Crawley at the unveiling of a new plaque at Crawley Station which commemorates all the servicemen and women who left the town to serve our country in conflict. It was a very moving service led by the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex, Lady Emma Barnard. On Remembrance Sunday itself, I was proud to represent the town and lay a wreath at the war memorial in St John’s church.

Later that month, I helped switch on the Christmas lights, with Father Christmas and his elves, marking the start of the festive season with performances and community activities. This year they included a free pantomime showing at the Town Hall and the return of BAFTA award-winning artist Seb Lee-Delisle and his laser and music spectacle. It was wonderful to see so many families and local groups come together to celebrate and enjoy these free cultural activities.

In January, I marked Holocaust Memorial Day leading a short service featuring contributions from Phoenix Choir of Crawley, Crawley Writers’ Circle, Lynda Bloom of the Crawley Jewish community, and Iyadh Doud

from Crawley Interfaith Network leading prayers. All present then lit a candle of remembrance and held a moment of reflection.

We have so much to look forward to over the coming year! I am delighted that the Crawley Community Awards return this year. A wonderful way to celebrate our residents who contribute to making Crawley a great place to live. Thank you for all that you do. ”



Small plots making a big difference



In Crawley, allotments are in high demand – and for good reason. Growing your own food isn't just a trend; it's a lifestyle choice with benefits that reach far beyond the dinner table:

- fresh, tasty produce straight from the soil means no hidden chemicals and maximum nutrients
- gardening keeps you active and outdoors, great for our mental and physical health
- homegrown food reduces packaging waste and cuts down on food miles, making it a sustainable choice that helps protect the environment

- growing your own food can save money on food bills
- allotments bring people together and children often love helping out too, making it a great family activity

There is limited availability at Cherry Lane allotments in Langley Green. They're smaller in size and perfect for beginners or those short on time.

Alternatively, you can join the waiting list for a site near you and you'll be contacted when a plot becomes available. There are still lots of ways you can begin your growing journey.

Without a plot:

- window boxes, balconies, and small gardens can be surprisingly productive
- container gardening is ideal for renters or those with limited space
- volunteering at a community garden offers hands on experience and is a great way to get involved without a long term commitment

Find out more and apply by searching for allotments at crawley.gov.uk







Making Crawley's parks greener and more wildlife-friendly

We are working hard to make our parks greener, more diverse and welcoming for wildlife and visitors alike. Over the past year, we've carried out a range of improvements at Tilgate Park and Goffs Park to boost biodiversity and create welcoming spaces for visitors.

At Tilgate Park, we've worked closely with the Woodland Trust to make the woodlands more resilient by removing invasive species such as rhododendron and cherry laurel. These fast-growing plants block light and outcompete native trees and shrubs, reducing habitats for wildlife. Clearing these areas, funded by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, allows native plants to flourish.

We've also improved lakeside areas in partnership with Tilgate Fisheries, adding iris and lily pads, repairing swims, creating fish hives and spawning zones. A new woodchip path and fresh turf have enhanced access and appearance.

Across the park, we've introduced drought-tolerant planting in the Walled Garden, expanded wildflower beds using recycled soil and biodegradable matting, and created 'no-mow' zones to encourage pollinators. Leaving wood debris and clearing overgrown vegetation further supports habitats and native bulbs.

Goffs Park has seen similar efforts, including a new sensory garden filled with a variation of plants that increase and attract pollinators. Gatwick Greenspace Partnership volunteers have coppiced willow around the wetland pond and built a dry hedge from cuttings to improve habitats.

More 'no-mow' areas and wildflower beds have been added across the park, again using biodegradable matting, recycled soils and wildflower seeds. We've also been thinning cherry laurel to let light reach ground flora and improving light for other shrubs to grow.

These changes are all part of our commitment to biodiversity, ensuring Crawley's green spaces remain vibrant for generations to come.

Councillor Nick Hilton, Cabinet member for Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change

“ One of my key highlights of last year has been the work the council has done to improve our local neighbourhoods, in particular the local parks. We earned a new Green Flag at Crawter’s Brook in Manor Royal – a real achievement for the teams involved. This once overlooked park has now been transformed into a little oasis with significant effort to protect the park’s nature and biodiversity.

Our teams work tirelessly to keep our streets clean and tidy, with prompt removal of fly-tipping. Last year the council increased its fines for littering and fly-tipping in order to deter those repeat offenders. It is not fair that our residents pay because of a selfish minority.

With additional funding from government, around 2,000 homes have benefited from improvements to make them more energy efficient. Tenants will see a difference in their energy bills with better insulation.

You can read more on **page 21** how this scheme is expanding to more homes in the borough. ”





Energy Saving Plan Builder

A well-insulated, energy-smart home isn't just good for your wallet – it can reduce damp, mould and draughts, improve air quality and create a cosier, more relaxing living space.

We've launched a free online tool to help you build a personalised energy-saving plan for your home in partnership with Parity Projects.

This easy-to-use tool allows you to explore and customise the energy efficiency improvements that could be most appropriate for your home and budget and provide you with estimated costs and savings

for suitable home improvement measures such as LED lighting, insulation, heating upgrades and solar roof top panels.

Whether you're unsure where to begin or ready to explore options it offers a great starting point before seeking professional advice.

Find out more at crawley.gov.uk/environment

Government grant funding for insulation, heating upgrades and solar panels

Crawley Borough Council has successfully bid for Warm Homes: Local Grant government funding.

Eligible home owners in Crawley could receive grant funding for energy efficiency improvements such as insulation and heating upgrades, draughtproofing and solar panels, depending on their home's energy efficiency score and household income.

To find out more and register your interest visit warmerhomes.org.uk or call **0800 038 5737**.

**Warmer
Homes**



Zero tolerance for fly-tipping

We have zero tolerance when it comes to fly-tipping. It isn't fair for the vast majority of our residents to pay for the acts of selfish individuals.

Last year, we increased our fines for fly-tipping to £1,000 and for intentionally littering to £150.

Our teams have been proactively enforcing on those that intentionally leave litter. Over the past three months, 18 fixed penalty notices

have been issued for fly-tipping. This includes one case where eight bags of rubbish were dumped illegally in Langley Green. The culprit was tracked down and found to be living in Copthorne. The £1,000 fine was paid in full.

Councillor Yasmin Khan, Cabinet member for Public Protection, said: "Put simply, if you fly-tip in Crawley, even if you don't live in the borough, expect to be caught and expect to be fined. We will not tolerate this behaviour from those who think they

are above the law and do not dispose of their waste like the rest of us.

We will be putting additional resources into ensuring we stamp this out."

If you need assistance with bulky items then the council does offer a paid for collection service, however if you are in receipt of certain benefits you may qualify for free collection.

Please visit

crawley.gov.uk/bulkywaste or call **01293 438772** for a quote.



Is this fair?



Naked Energy: Innovating clean heat in Crawley

Crawley is home to one of the UK's most forward-thinking cleantech companies, Naked Energy Ltd, an award-winning, British engineering business based at the Crawley Innovation Centre.

Founded in 2009, the company has grown into a leader in solar heat decarbonisation, developing technology designed to cut carbon emissions for buildings across the world

Naked Energy's flagship product range, Virtu[®], represents a new generation of solar collectors that combine heat and power generation in one sleek, compact system. The hybrid design captures both electricity and thermal energy, delivering significantly higher carbon savings per square metre than traditional solar technologies. This makes the technology especially suitable for buildings with a continuous demand for hot water or heating, such as leisure centres, hospitals, and manufacturing facilities.

The company has attracted major investment to scale its innovation to support global expansion and further product development. With growing international interest and recognition in sustainability programmes, Naked Energy continues to position Crawley at the heart of climate-friendly innovation.

Residents can take pride in knowing that a local company is helping shape the future of renewable energy, right here in our community.

What's on this spring?

19 March

Crawley Question Time, Town Hall

Your chance to question councillors and representatives from local organisations on key town issues and topics such as public safety, housing, the economy and council services.

21 March

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra presents The Relaxed Concert, Charis Centre, 2pm

An accessible and inclusive performance. This is world-class music without the usual rules, created for people who might find traditional concerts difficult. Ticket prices: Pay what you decide (£2.50, £5, £7.50, £10).

27 and 28 March

WORDFest, Unit 79/80 County Mall, Friday at 4.30pm and Saturday 1.30pm and 4pm

A partnership with WORDfest and Creative Crawley. Language and words become playful and connecting, from Doodling Is Good For Us to Crawley Forthwrite Festival for women writers over 50. While My Brother's a Genius brings poetry, grime and movement together in an energetic play about falling, failing and finding your way.

Ticket prices: Pay what you decide (£2.50, £5, £7.50, £10). Find out more at creativecrawley.com

7 April

World Health Day, K2 Crawley From 9am to 4pm

Come along and try a wide range of free health, fitness and wellbeing activities. Visit everyoneactive.com for full details.



25 April

St George's Day, High Street, from 12 noon to 4pm

Celebrate St George's Day in the historical High Street with classic tunes by Crawley Millennium Concert Band, family entertainment, craft workshop and lots more.

10 May

Run Gatwick

The Run Gatwick route makes a welcome return to central Crawley with 5k and half marathon options. See **page 17** for full details.



16 May

STEM in the Park, Memorial Gardens

A much-loved annual celebration of all things STEM (science, technology, engineering, and maths).



Look out for

25 to 26 July

Crawley Fusion Mela

A multi-cultural and family-friendly event celebrating the diversity of Crawley, showcasing professional performers and local talent. With a mix of free indoor and outdoor performances and activities for everyone to experience and enjoy.

Summer music sessions

A programme of live musical performances with a mix of genres.

More information on both these exciting events will be shared in the summer issue.

→ RUNGATWICK

HALF MARATHON AND 5K

9AM SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2026

→ RUNGATWICK
**WE ARE
BACK**

The Run Gatwick Half Marathon and 5k is returning to central Crawley, **join in and enjoy the relaunched Run Gatwick on Sunday 10 May 2026.** We receive huge support from local residents each year, and we hope you will join us in embracing this exciting community focused event. Runners enjoy the rare opportunity to race directly beneath the UK's second-busiest

airport flight path, with planes soaring overhead during take-off and landing. The route passes through **The Boulevard, Charlwood, Manor Royal and Crawley High Street.**

If you would like to **volunteer**, we would warmly welcome your support, sign up at **www.rungatwick.com**

If you would like to **take part in the Half Marathon or 5K**, please register on our website and use the code **RGRES2026** at checkout to redeem a **10% discount.**

This offer is valid until the end of **March 2026.** Places are limited, so we encourage you to sign up as soon as possible - **www.rungatwick.com**

→ RUNGATWICK
SIGN UP FOR HM or 5K
www.runseries.co.uk/run-gatwick

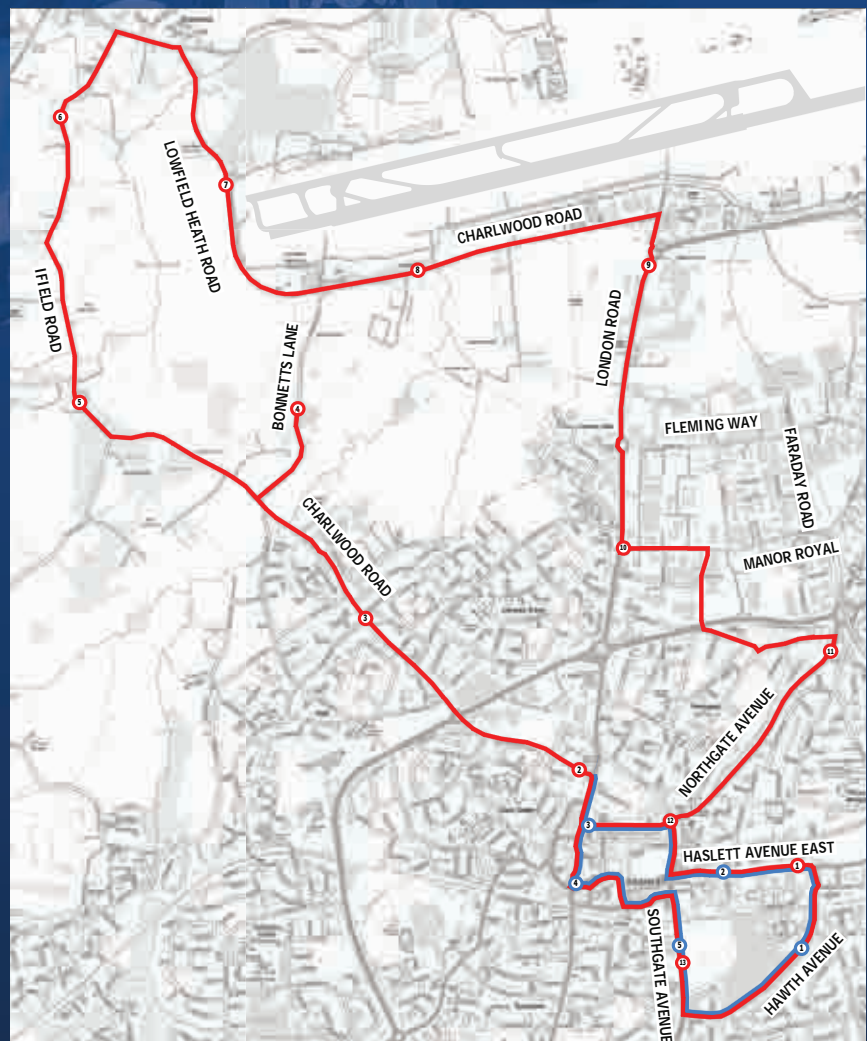


Race Day Road Closures

Safety is our number one priority. To ensure runners and spectators are safe along the route, some local roads will be temporarily closed on race day. Closures will be in place between **08:00 and 14:00** in and around **central Crawley, Charlwood, and Manor Royal.**

We will aim to keep disruption to a minimum. Please plan your journey in advance and allow extra time for travel. Further details, including road closure maps and updates, can be found at **www.rungatwick.com**

We are very happy to help! If you have any questions or specific needs, please contact us by emailing **info@runseries.co.uk**.



What can I put in my recycling bin?

Items should be
Clean, Dry and Loose
**Not tied up in
plastic bags!**

	 Yes please	 No thanks
 <p>Paper & card</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junk mail Cereal and egg boxes Newspapers and magazines Wrapping paper (if scrunchable) Catalogues and directories Coffee cups and lids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shredded paper Paper towels Tissues Polystyrene cups
 <p>foil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean takeaway containers Foil trays Tin foil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pet food pouches Food pouches Crisp packets
 <p>glass bottles & jars</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wine bottles Beer bottles Perfume bottles Jam jars Sauce jars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pyrex[®] Drinking glasses and crockery
 <p>metal cans & aerosols</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food cans Drink cans Pet food cans Empty aerosols Biscuit and sweet tins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cables Batteries Electrical items
 <p>cartons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit juice cartons Custard cartons Soup cartons Milk cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic bags and film Plant pots and seed trays Polystyrene
 <p>plastic bottles & containers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk/drinks bottles Bathroom/laundry bottles and tubs Moulded plastic packaging Food, fruit and ready meal pots, tubs and trays Plastic container lid 	<p>Squash your empty plastic bottles and replace the lid before they go into the recycling bin.</p>



**Crawley
recycles**



Crawley
Borough Council

Small electricals, textiles and batteries recycling

Dry, clean, unwanted textiles can be put next to your REDtop bin in tied carrier bags for collection once a fortnight, along with your recycling bin on your scheduled collection day.

This service is also available if you live in a flat with communal bins.

Small electricals and batteries can also be left out for collection alongside your recycling and rubbish bins.

You can also visit westsussex.gov.uk for more information on what you can recycle.

Recycling Centre

Bulky household and garden waste which cannot go into your household bins can be taken to the Recycling Centre on Metcalf Way. For booking details and opening hours, visit westsussex.gov.uk

You'll find details on **page 30** how to sign-up for GREENbin garden waste collections if you don't have one already.

For more information, to sign up for email updates and to **myCrawley**, to view collection dates, access forms and receive alerts and reminders, visit crawley.gov.uk/waste

Start times and bank holiday working

From 1 April, recycling and waste rounds will start at the earlier time of 6.30am daily.

In addition, in preparation for the new food waste collections later in the year, collections will now take place on bank holidays apart from Christmas and the New Year.

Contact **01293 438772** or visit crawley.gov.uk/recycling for more information.

The infographic is divided into two main sections: a yellow section for textiles and a pink section for small electricals. Each section features a bin, a carrier bag, and two callout boxes. The yellow section shows a green bin with a red lid and a recycling symbol, and a white carrier bag with a recycling symbol. The pink section shows a green bin with a black lid and a 'Crawley' logo, and a white carrier bag with a recycling symbol. The callout boxes provide specific instructions and examples of what to do and not to do.

Textiles:
Place **NEXT TO** your REDtop bin

Yes please
Paired shoes, clothes, lightweight curtains, bed sheets, blankets, towels, bras, handbags and belts.

No thanks
Duvets, pillows, cushions, rugs, carpets, heavy drape curtains and blankets, charity bags or black sacks.

Small electricals:
Place **NEXT TO** your rubbish bin

Yes please
A few examples: small kitchen appliances, DVD players, hairdryers, games consoles and power tools. Leave cables and plugs attached.

No thanks
Vacuum cleaners, light bulbs, TVs and monitors, laptops, printers, fridges and freezers, washing machines, cookers and microwaves.

A town council for Crawley?

We recently asked for your views on the idea of creating a town council for Crawley, once Crawley Borough Council ceases to exist and is replaced by a new unitary council in 2028 that will operate across a much wider area of West Sussex.

72 per cent of the consultation responses received indicated overall support for the creation of a town council.

We are now asking for your views on how the town council could work.

How would the town council work?

The representatives would be 'town councillors'. Crawley has been built as a new town on strongly founded neighbourhoods; it is therefore suggested that town wards are created based on the existing 14 neighbourhoods. Each ward would have between one and three town councillors, who represent their specific area, on the wider town council.

What would the town council be responsible for?

The aim would be for the town council to be responsible for core neighbourhood functions that bring in income, which could include neighbourhood parades, community centres and allotments. This would ensure the council is as cost effective as possible and the services remain in the community.

Please take the time to tell us what you think, your opinion is important and will help shape our final recommendations. Have your say from 17 February until 31 March at [crawley.gov.uk/consultation](https://www.crawley.gov.uk/consultation)



600 more energy-efficient homes



We have been awarded funding through the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund (SHF) Wave 3 to deliver energy efficiency improvements to 600 homes across the borough. This significant investment will help reduce energy bills for residents and support our commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

The funding, which is match-funded by existing Housing Revenue Account budgets, will help pay for 600 homes in Crawley to have loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, external wall insulation and replacement windows as part of a complete energy-saving retrofit.

Approximately 2,200 homes have already been insulated, using grant funding the Towns Fund and from what was previously known as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF).

Initial assessments for SHF Wave 3 are already underway at Caburn, Downland and Hambleton Court blocks in Southgate West, with work expected to begin early in the next financial year.

Properties in Ifield West benefitted from the improvements at the beginning of the year.



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Single fares capped at

£3

until 2027

**FREE
WIFI**
onboard

METROBUS



Even our trucks are going green!

Fuelling the council's waste collection fleet with Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) delivers immediate, visible benefits for residents.

HVO burns cleaner than conventional diesel, so it cuts harmful exhaust pollutants so contributing towards improving air quality in Crawley. Good air quality can significantly help improve health by reducing cases of asthma, and other respiratory diseases. It is estimated

that 35 to 50 deaths per year among Crawley residents are likely to be caused or accelerated by poor outdoor air quality.

Importantly, HVO can be used in existing diesel vehicles without modification, avoiding disruption to essential waste collections. This practical, lower carbon upgrade demonstrates our commitment to sustainability while maintaining reliable, efficient collections for the community.

We will work with our waste collection partners, Biffa to ensure the supply comes from a reliable source and expect to start using the new fuel in the summer, subject to Full Council approval.





Crawley Community Garden

Whether you have experience of gardening or not, Crawley Community Garden would love you to be part of the journey to build, share and sustain gardening knowledge within the community.

The inclusive volunteering sessions are run from the group's allotment in Gossops Green, where between 10 to 20 volunteers do as little or as much as they like. All levels of experience are welcome and you don't even have to garden if you don't want to – you could just enjoy a safe outdoor space and a hot drink with company.

Children are free to attend the sessions so they can learn where food comes from and how it's cultivated.

A variety of different produce is grown on site. With lots of raised beds there's space for all sorts of vegetables including potatoes, carrots, peas as well as seasonal produce such as pumpkins, which is usually shared between volunteers attending the session.

During spring and summer, sessions usually alternate between Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4pm, depending on weather conditions and volunteer availability.

Find out more at crawleycommunitygarden.co.uk or search for 'crawleycommunitygarden' on Facebook.

Crawley by Cycle

Crawley is a great town to enjoy by cycle. There's an easy-to-use network of dedicated cycle tracks and quiet residential streets that provide easy access to the many leisure facilities or parks and open spaces that Crawley has to offer.

If you are new to cycling, haven't cycled for a while, aren't sure where the cycle routes in Crawley are or simply want to meet some likeminded people, come along and join one or more of the six Crawley by Cycle introductory rides starting this April organised by Active Travel Crawley and Cycling UK.

These rides are focussed on enjoyment and exploring the network of routes and how to use them safely. Each of the rides is very slightly more challenging than the previous, allowing you to build up your skills and explore Crawley's neighbourhoods. You'll also get some basic tips on checking your cycle and keeping it safe to ride.

Everyone is welcome on any of the rides – whether you're seven or 70! – as long as you can cycle continuously for 10 minutes and are comfortable travelling safely on open roads. Under 17s must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information email activetravelcrawley@gmail.com

Spring/summer Crawley by Cycle ride schedule

5 April, Crawley Parks An exploration of cycle paths and residential streets to a coffee and ice-cream stop at Tilgate Park from The Tree statue in the High Street.

10 May, Cycle ride to Ifield Water Mill from The Tree statue in the High Street.

14 June, Family Bike Ride to East Grinstead A fun day out along the Worth Way to see the steam trains at East Grinstead from Oriol High School.

All rides start at 10.30am.



The big benefits of home composting and water butts

As Crawley continues its journey towards a greener, more sustainable future, two simple household habits – home composting and collecting rainwater – can make a big difference.

Home composting transforms everyday kitchen peelings, coffee grounds, tea bags and eggshells into nutrient rich compost. Instead of sending these materials to landfill, where they produce harmful greenhouse gases, you can recycle them into a natural soil conditioner that boosts plant health, improves

soil structure, and reduces the need for chemical fertilisers. It's an easy, low cost way to support a thriving garden while cutting household waste. Even small spaces can benefit: compact compost bins fit neatly on balconies and patios.

Water butts offer another straightforward win for both the environment and your wallet. By collecting rainwater from roofs and gutters, households can reduce demand on mains water, especially during drier months. Rainwater is naturally soft and ideal for watering plants, topping up ponds, or cleaning

outdoor areas. A single water butt can save thousands of litres of water each year.

Together, composting and rainwater harvesting are small steps with big impact helping Crawley residents to live more sustainably, save money and develop greener gardens.



How to create a bug hotel

Creating a bug hotel is an amazing way to protect and learn about the minibeasts we all depend on. Bug hotels offer shelter and nesting sites for pollinators, predatory insects and decomposers, they also boost biodiversity and spark fascination for all ages.

1. **find a container like one of the following:**

- **old milk/juice carton (cut a large opening on the side for the entrance)**
- **plant pot**
- **cardboard box (cut strips of cardboard to create sections inside)**
- **wooden box or pallet**

2. **collect materials:** go on a nature walk at your local park to find dry, natural items like sticks, leaves, pinecones, moss, small stones, bark and hollow plant stems

3. **pack the 'rooms':** fill the container tightly with materials, if possible, create different sections with different materials

4. **add a roof:** use old tiles or a piece of wood to keep the hotel dry from rain

5. **decorate (optional):** paint the outside or add fun stickers, but make sure any paint is sealed if it will get wet

6. **find the perfect spot:** place your hotel in a sheltered, warm, dry spot, at eye level for easy observation and maintenance and ideally near flowers, to attract visitors

7. **annual checks:** in late autumn or early spring, inspect for damp, mould or wasp nests; replace materials if necessary

Head to [wildlifetrusts.org/actions](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions) for a wide range of ways you can take action to protect and learn about local wildlife.



Keep informed with CBC News

The latest news from Crawley Borough Council, direct to your inbox.

It's a great way to get the latest news and stay up-to-date with events and activities taking place in the town as well as emergency alerts and updates.

Visit crawley.gov.uk/news to sign up and receive regular e-newsletters. We will only use your email address to send information you have subscribed to and will never pass your details to anyone else.



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Spring into action



With the welcoming of spring, many of us will be getting outside more regularly and taking care of our gardens.

Whether that's weed removal, watering plants or sowing seeds, there will inevitably be garden waste.

GREENbins are designed to collect organic waste which can then be composted or processed to reduce landfill usage and greenhouse gas emissions as well as saving you valuable time and effort.

Getting rid of the waste can be problematic, so why not sign up for a GREENbin? For £78.10 per bin, per year, we'll collect your garden waste fortnightly throughout the year.

A GREENbin provides a convenient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly way to dispose of grass cuttings, hedge trimmings and weeds as well as saving yourself a trip to the tip!

For more information and to sign up, visit crawley.gov.uk/greenbin



News in Brief

Station Gateway transformation

We have appointed Landbuild Ltd to undertake phase one of the Station Gateway regeneration scheme which will transform the public spaces on The Martlets, Haslett Avenue West and Friary Way, creating a better-connected transport hub for pedestrians and cyclists between Crawley station, the bus station and the wider town centre.



K2 Crawley energy savings

Following the installation of just over 1,000 rooftop solar panels in the K2 Crawley car park, together with facility operator Everyone Active, it is estimated we are now able to generate around 339,000 kWh of electricity per year, reducing our reliance on the National Grid. This will reduce carbon emissions by approximately 66 tonnes and save us around £51,000 in utility costs.

Acceleration of planning decisions

Additional Planning Committee meetings have been scheduled in February to help catch up on applications delayed by previous water neutrality regulations.

Following Natural England's withdrawal of water neutrality requirements made possible due to measures agreed with the Environment Agency and Southern Water that cap water abstraction from the Arun Valley.

The council's expanded committee schedule is designed to deliver affordable homes for local people as quickly as possible.

Historic millstones from Goffs Park reunited with Ifield Watermill

Two historic millstones found at Goffs Park have been moved to Ifield Watermill, reuniting them with their history.



The stones, believed to originate from the former Ifield Steam Mill, were noticed by local historian and former curator of Crawley Museum, Bob Rashbrook. Bob noted their potential significance and suggested to the council they be preserved at the watermill.

The steam mill was one of three mills in Crawley, the only town in the country to be home to all three types of mills – a windmill, steam mill and watermill.

Ifield Watermill is open to the public once a month starting in May. Visit crawleymuseum.org for further details.

Have your say on London Gatwick's Route 4 Airspace Change

London Gatwick is consulting on its Airspace Change Proposal for the future operation of Route 4 - one of the departure routes for aircraft flying out of the Airport.

The airport is committed to working with local communities and over the years has involved them in the development of the route options and Design Principles associated with this public consultation.

London Gatwick is seeking feedback from the public and stakeholders on the shortlisted route options and their potential impacts and benefits.


The consultation will run from Tuesday 20 January 2026 to 23:59 on Tuesday 28 April 2026. There are a range of ways to take part in the consultation.

Any questions?

You can contact London Gatwick with questions about this Airspace Change Proposal, or request assistance in responding to the consultation, via the following channels:

 Website: route4acp.co.uk

 Email: LGWairspace.Rte4@gatwickairport.com

 Freephone: 0808 303 4560

 Freepost: Freepost ROUTE 4 CONSULTATION



Visit Citizen Space

All the information associated with this Airspace Change Proposal is available on Citizen Space: route4acp.co.uk

Scan here
for more
information



Join us at one of our consultation events

Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 7 March 2026	10am-4pm	Sandman Signature Hotel, 18-23 Tinsley Lane S, Three Bridges, Crawley RH10 8XH
Monday 16 March 2026	2pm-8pm	Donnington Manor Hotel, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TD
Tuesday 24 March 2026	2pm-8pm	Denbies Vineyard, Bradley Lane, Dorking RH5 6AA

Sign up to one of our webinars

Date	Time
Monday 23 February 2026	11am-12pm
Wednesday 4 March 2026	7pm-8pm
Thursday 12 March 2026	6pm-7pm
Wednesday 18 March 2026	2pm-3pm
Thursday 26 March 2026	5:30pm-6:30pm

Visit one of our deposit points

Venue	Address
Dorking Library	St Martin's Walk, RH4 1UT
Reigate Library	Bancroft House, Bancroft Road, RH2 7RP
Horley Library	55-57 Russell Square, Victoria Road, RH6 7QH
Edenbridge Library	The Eden Centre, Four Elms Road, TN8 6BY

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Contacts

☎ **01293 438000** during office hours and for out-of-hours emergencies

✉ comments@crawley.gov.uk

🌐 crawley.gov.uk/democracy

Crawley Borough Councillors

Bewbush and North Broadfield

Marion Ayling – Labour
07886 920815
marion.ayling@crawley.gov.uk

Michael Jones – Labour
07944 578872
michael.jones@crawley.gov.uk

Sharmila Sivarajah – Labour
07717 800021
sharmila.sivarajah@crawley.gov.uk

Broadfield

Ian Irvine – Labour
01293 439503
ian.irvine@crawley.gov.uk

Kiran Khan – Labour
07787 222314
kiran.khan@crawley.gov.uk

Tim Lunnon – Labour
07763 735143
tim.lunnon@crawley.gov.uk

Furnace Green

Duncan Crow – Conservative
01293 888564
duncan.crow@crawley.gov.uk

Hazel Hellier – Conservative
07717 800126
hazel.hellier@crawley.gov.uk

Gossops Green and North East Broadfield

Esther Barrott – Labour
07386 698839
esther.barrott@crawley.gov.uk

Chris Mullins – Labour
01293 511069
chris.mullins@crawley.gov.uk

Ifield

Julian Charatan – Labour
07823 326971
julian.charatan@crawley.gov.uk

Jilly Hart – Labour
07717 801008
jilly.hart@crawley.gov.uk

Beni Yianni – Labour
07386 698836
beni.yianni@crawley.gov.uk

Langley Green and Tushmore

Imran Ashraf – Labour
07823 326974
imran.ashraf@crawley.gov.uk

Shelly Bushnell – Labour
07386 698852
shelly.bushnell@crawley.gov.uk

Tahira Rana – Labour
07385 467631
tahira.rana@crawley.gov.uk

Maidenbower

Kim Jaggard – Conservative
07917 078437
kim.jaggard@crawley.gov.uk

Imtiaz Khan – Conservative
07471 021651
imtiaz.khan@crawley.gov.uk

Dominic Ramsay – Conservative
07386 698855
dominic.ramsay@crawley.gov.uk

Northgate and West Green

Gurinder S. Jhans – Labour
07468 709555
gurinder.jhans@crawley.gov.uk

Khayla Abu Mosa – Labour
07350 434912
khayla.abu-mosa@crawley.gov.uk

Sue Mullins – Labour
01293 511069
sue.mullins@crawley.gov.uk

Pound Hill North and Forge Wood

Tina Belben – Conservative
01293 884526
tina.belben@crawley.gov.uk

Nick Hilton – Labour
07386 698854
nick.hilton@crawley.gov.uk

Justin Russell – Labour
07823 326976
justin.russell@crawley.gov.uk

Pound Hill South and Worth

Thomas Bidwell – Conservative
07386 698853
thomas.bidwell@crawley.gov.uk

Craig Burke – Conservative
07823 326979
craig.burke@crawley.gov.uk

Bob Lanzer – Conservative
01293 884789
bob.lanzer@crawley.gov.uk

Southgate

Yasmin Khan – Labour
07717 801382
yasmin.khan@crawley.gov.uk

Bob Noyce – Labour
07341 887234
bob.noyce@crawley.gov.uk

Dipesh Patel – Labour
07386 698857
dipesh.patel@crawley.gov.uk

Three Bridges

Brenda Burgess – Conservative
01293 441204
brenda.burgess@crawley.gov.uk

Atif Nawaz – Labour
07787 222308
atif.nawaz@crawley.gov.uk

Steve Pritchard – Labour
07717 801403
steve.pritchard@crawley.gov.uk

Tilgate

Olu Adeniyi – Labour
07386 698858
olu.adeniyi@crawley.gov.uk

Maureen Mwagale – Conservative
07557 849286
maureen.mwagale@crawley.gov.uk

County Councillors

Bewbush and Ifield West
chris.oxlade@westsussex.gov.uk
Labour
07710 900813

Broadfield
brian.quinn@westsussex.gov.uk
Labour
01293 512650

Langley Green and Ifield East
alison.cornell@westsussex.gov.uk
Labour
07760 111152

Maidenbower and Worth
bob.lanzer@westsussex.gov.uk
Conservative
01293 884789

Northgate and West Green
natalie.pudaloff@westsussex.gov.uk
Labour
07763 905279

Pound Hill
richard.burgett@westsussex.gov.uk
Conservative
01293 522338

Southgate and Gossops Green
zack.ali@westsussex.gov.uk
Conservative
07944 578872

Three Bridges
brenda.burgess@crawley.gov.uk
Conservative
01293 441204

Tilgate and Furnace Green
duncan.crow@westsussex.gov.uk
Conservative
01293 888564

Council meetings

All meetings take place at **7pm** unless stated otherwise.

Live streaming committee meetings: Some committee meetings will be live streamed via the council's YouTube channel and then stored on the same channel.

Go to [youtube.com/crawleybc](https://www.youtube.com/crawleybc)

- **Planning Committee (7.30pm)**
24 February
- **Full Council (7.30pm)**
25 February
- **Governance Committee**
3 March
- **Licensing Committee**
4 March
- **Overview and Scrutiny Commission**
9 March
- **Planning Committee (7.30pm)**
10 March
- **Cabinet**
11 March
- **Audit Committee**
16 March
- **Full Council (7.30pm)**
25 March
- **Planning Committee (7.30pm)**
21 April
- **Full Council (7.30pm)**
22 May
- **Overview and Scrutiny Commission (8pm)**
1 June
- **Planning Committee (7.30pm)**
2 June
- **Licensing Committee**
16 June

Local services

A reminder where responsibilities lie for local services.

West Sussex County Council:

- Highways
- Potholes
- Footpaths
- Road maintenance
- Street lighting
- Education
- Children's services
- Social services
- Trading Standards
- Health
- Libraries
- Recycling centre

Crawley Borough Council:

- Waste and recycling collections
- Dog bins and dog fouling
- Social housing
- Environmental Health
- Business rates
- Council Tax
- Open spaces (council-owned)
- Planning
- Economic development
- Car parks (Orchard Street, Town Hall and Kingsgate)
- Grass cutting

- Litter bins
- Play areas (council-owned)
- Parade noticeboards

Peter Lamb MP

To make an appointment, email peter.lamb.mp@parliament.uk and for more information visit members.parliament.uk

Introduction of the Renters' Rights Act

The Renters' Rights Act 2025 (RRA) comes into force on 1 May and brings the most significant changes to the private rented housing market since 1989 with the introduction of Assured Shorthold Tenancies.

Landlords must familiarise themselves with the changes and their responsibilities going forward as there are serious financial implications for failing to comply.

The main changes being introduced include:

- **abolition of fixed-term assured shorthold tenancies**
- **providing a written tenancy agreement**
- **abolition of S21 Notices of Possession and new grounds for possession**
- **limit on amount of rent in advance and rent increases**
- **new anti-discrimination measures**
- **ban on rental bidding and requirement to include the rental charge in adverts**

Crawley Borough Council has been given new enforcement powers that include:

- **new investigatory powers**
- **extensive financial penalties can be imposed for non-compliance**
- **Rent Repayment Orders**

Landlords can obtain further information and advice on the RRA 2025 from [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and are encouraged to join the National Residential Landlord Association.

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