

Crawley Labour Party

2024 Crawley Borough Council Manifesto

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Introduction

This year marks the tenth anniversary since Crawley Labour Party regained control of Crawley Borough Council.

The council's success in the past year has been achieved despite the backdrop of crushing temporary accommodation pressures, an incredibly poor financial settlement from national government and we are having to make difficult financial decisions as a consequence.

The UK and Crawley in particular cannot afford another Conservative Government. Crawley Borough Council currently receives £8.9m less from the government than it did in 2010, with its spending power dropping by 69 per cent.

Despite these significant obstacles, the council has achieved a lot since our last manifesto, the budget we set has secured services successfully for another year despite huge cost pressures on the council. The New Town Hall has become firmly established as the council's new base of operations and people are accessing services provided in the most up to date ways and routine webcasting of all council meetings has begun, where residents can view all meetings online live, or at their convenience.

The District Heat Network is up and running and we are looking at ambitious plans for its next phase, and we have moved towards completion of the next Local Plan, all important to protect Crawley's future.

We have continued to bring forward council housing. We're moving forward at Telford Place, which will also deliver new council homes, affordable homes for first time buyers and for older people.

The Millpond adventure playground in Bewbush has reopened with extensive new play equipment. Secure tenancies for council tenants are being restored, saving many households from the uncertainty of potentially being removed from their homes at the end of a fixed term.

We believe only re-electing a Labour majority council can continue to make things better in our town – and whatever the challenges we are set to face, you can be certain that Crawley Labour will continue to be there leading the fight for our community, as we have done since the post-war Labour Government created our New Town in 1947.

All your Labour councillors are residents who understand the challenges of inequality in our Borough. We live alongside you and love the diversity and energy at the beating heart of Crawley. We will listen to your views and stand by our promises.

Over the next two years, if you choose to re-elect us, your Labour councillors will commit ourselves to fulfilling these seven pledges as the cornerstone of our delivery for residents:

- More council and affordable housing to help relieve the housing emergency in the Borough, with approximately 500 more planned in the next two years.
 - Improvements to make our Town Centre even better to visit, with a new market and the regeneration of the Martlets, Western Boulevard, Station Gateway and bus station all coming forward.
 - More ambitious targets and action on net zero to address the Climate Emergency, including decarbonisation programmes and looking into the viability of a new phase of the District Heat Network to cover more of the Town with cheaper, efficient energy.
 - Maintaining seven grass cuts in our neighbourhoods to keep them neat and tidy, far and away the most in any area of West Sussex, and to protect our trees and the Borough's excellent canopy cover.
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- Bring forward the Innovation Centre for developing green technology in Crawley, as well as encouraging more apprenticeships in emerging industries for our young people.
- Increased investment in all of our parks and nature centre, building on a proud record of excellence and bringing forward exciting plans for Goffs Park in particular, and
- Develop and finalise our cultural strategy across Crawley to provide even more opportunities to participate and enjoy the Arts and Culture for all local residents.

We are in a position to do this for residents, despite the challenges mentioned above, because of the prudent financial management of Crawley Borough Council over decades by successive Labour administrations. These magnificent seven pledges are just part of what we hope to do in the coming years, you can also read more of our plans in more detail in the rest of this manifesto.

Local services in Crawley

Crawley's local services are divided between three different public bodies: Crawley Borough Council, Chichester-based West Sussex Council, and the Lewes-based Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. All three organisations have different responsibilities, set down in law, and receive funding based upon the services for which they are responsible.

Crawley Borough Council is a district-tier authority and its responsibilities are based around what makes most sense to administer at the very local level. As a result, the council is responsible for things such as housing and homelessness, planning, leisure and recreation, environmental health, economic development, litter picking and waste collection, running elections and collecting council tax on behalf of all three organisations. There are also several areas where by mutual agreement the borough council takes on responsibility for delivering things which technically fall within the powers of West Sussex County Council, such as parking enforcement. However, in these areas the borough council is effectively

acting as a contractor, delivering a service in line with an agreement, and with all the decision-making powers being retained by the county council.

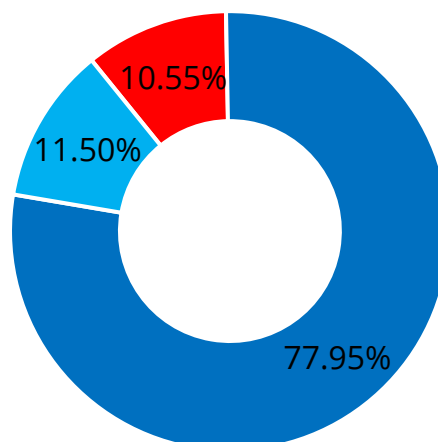
West Sussex County Council's responsibilities are largely focused on services which are best delivered at scale, such as Highways and transport planning, children's and adult social care, education, and libraries.

In addition, both of the councils also have the right to do anything an individual has the power to do, meaning that council resources can be used to do things which are not within their formal responsibilities, just so long as it isn't something which needs additional powers to undertake.

The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner came into effect in 2012, with the responsibilities of the role having previously been undertaken by a committee made up of representatives from each of the local councils in the area. Their responsibilities are to set the budget for Sussex Police, to appoint the Chief Constable and to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the police.

The council tax collected in Crawley is divided between all three of these organisations, for delivering their services. A breakdown of what each council is set to receive from Crawley council taxpayers in 2023/24 can be found below.

- Crawley Borough Council (£232.10)
- West Sussex County Council (£1,714.95)
- Police and Crime Commissioner (£252.91)



Whatever the limits on the different powers and responsibilities of each council, we will always do our best to address any issue which matters to local residents and Labour councillors on both Crawley Borough Council and West Sussex County Council work closely together to resolve the problems facing the town.



Central services

For nearly 14 years, Crawley's funding has been cut by the Conservatives in central government. In fact, when inflation is taken into account, the funding available for Crawley Borough Council services today is just a third of what it was under the last Labour Government.

Despite the pressure, for nine of the ten years since Crawley Labour regained control of the council, we have managed to deliver a balanced budget without the need for any frontline service cuts, something almost no other council in the country has managed to achieve. Throughout this period Crawley's Conservative councillors called for Labour to make unnecessary cuts, just as they did throughout the eight years they ran the council. The difference in Crawley couldn't be more clear: only Crawley Labour will protect the services which matter most to you and your family.

Focus on revenue generation and efficiency wherever possible

If re-elected, we will continue to follow the strategy which has enabled Crawley to avoid making cuts over the last nine years, by focusing on generating new revenue: investing the council's money wisely, maximising the returns on the council's assets, introducing new leisure and culture attractions residents want to pay to see, and bidding for external sources of funding where opportunities arise.

In addition, we will keep on working to improve the efficiency of our services, enabling us to not only avoid making frontline cuts but improving the overall speed of delivery by removing unnecessary processes.

We realise in the context of the crushing pressures on local government, some difficult decisions will need to be made to deliver that balanced budget. We will continue to be committed to making prudent financial decisions that are consistent with maintaining acceptable standards of frontline service delivery, meeting our duties to maintain and enhance the public realm and ensuring there is fair and adequate provision for everyone wherever they live within the Borough, to the greatest extent that this is achievable within current resources.

One of the true differences between us and a Tory council: we will shield our residents from the worst impacts as much as possible, instead of inflicting ruthless and unnecessary cuts.

Support during the Cost of Living crisis

With the Government failing to protect Crawley households from a cost of living crisis and with living standards suffering as a result, Crawley Labour will be doing what it can locally.

We will continue to provide and signpost assistance through the council's website as well as provide help and assistance to voluntary groups, local charities and food banks at this difficult time. We will utilise the modest amounts of money awarded to Crawley from the final year remaining of the Shared Prosperity Fund in those neighbourhoods within the Borough identified as being in need of the most support, while recognising that the need for support is widespread across the Borough.

Tackling food poverty

The scandal of food poverty is a blight on our country. In Crawley, food banks, food partnerships and community projects successfully distribute food to many families and individuals. A Labour council will continue to actively support such initiatives and work with community groups who wish to set up more neighbourhood kitchens. We will utilise the Household Support Fund and continue to press the national Government to retain this fund for as long as the volume of local residents remain at the levels of dire need we have been witnessing in Crawley throughout this ongoing cost of living crisis.

Using the new Town Hall to help deliver services and bring in additional income

The completion of the new Town Hall and the ongoing regeneration of the former Town Hall site has delivered a more environmentally friendly Town Hall

with lower running costs, A-grade office space for the council to let commercially, more affordable housing and a district energy centre which will reduce carbon emissions in the town centre while making the council money it can then use to invest in services and keep charges low.

With two and a half of the remaining commercial floors now successfully let, with ongoing interest being expressed in the remaining space, the council remains largely on track with meeting its revenue targets in respect of the building. If further space is let during the next financial year, the council will begin to exceed it.

As a result, once the commercial space is let, the council stands to see an overall increase in its revenue which a Labour council will use towards front line public services within the Borough.

Make it easier for people to access services

People have increasingly busy lives and not everyone has the time to come into the Town Hall. Consequently, we will continue to make it easier for people to access the council and the services they need online using my.crawley.gov.uk and other digital council channels, including further investigation of the feasibility of a dedicated “App”.

We will not, however, forget our customers for who going digital is something they would struggle with and we remain one of the few councils in the area where residents can still come to the Town Hall and make cash payments.

While we believe that the move to the new Town Hall has been a huge success, the council also wants to ensure that this is the best experience for residents accessing services as well. A re-elected Labour council will review experiences and how the council’s contact centre has responded, including conducting a customer survey to get direct feedback.

'No' to privatisation

In order to ensure all public money spent on local services goes towards delivering those services effectively as possible and to ensure that they remain responsive to the wishes of local residents, there are no plans to outsource any further local services and will look at what will need to be done to bring back in-house at least some of the council services which have previously been outsourced.

Remaining a responsible employer

As a major local employer, it is important that the council sets an example for how we expect Crawley's employers to treat their employees. We will continue to maintain our status as a real Living Wage employer, ruling out the use of zero-hours contracts and limiting the use of temporary contracts, and conform to national agreements between local government employers and employees' representatives. Moreover, council employees continue to receive the Crawley Allowance which is another valuable part of our remuneration for staff locally.

In addition, until we can bring services back in house, where practical we will seek to bring the working conditions of outsourced services into line with the council's own working conditions.

More accessible decision-making

Many people have appreciated the opportunity to watch council meetings online, either live or recorded, now the council has successfully moved into the new Town Hall, and all council and committee meetings are broadcast live online, with recordings available to for residents to watch at any time.

The pilot has largely been a success and is allowing local democratic debate to be reached by a wider audience than was previously possible. The council will continue to deliver this and at the same time resolving any technical problems that have been experienced with the settling in of the new system.

Planning and Economic Development

COVID-19 hit Crawley's economy harder than that of any other part of the country. Yet, despite it being clear from the start that Crawley's industries were uniquely vulnerable to the impact of Government restrictions, the Borough did not receive any additional support in recognition of the damage done. Despite this, the speed and the extent of the recovery of the local economy within the Borough post-COVID-19 has been remarkable.

The latest annual employment data tells us that Crawley's economy is strengthening well - it has grown by 4,000 jobs compared to the previous year - and Crawley still has one of the highest job density levels in the country outside central London.

We have worked hard to encourage that growth and we will continue to focus on securing the infrastructure for the town necessary to build a more diversified economy, with an upskilled workforce, and at the forefront of emerging industries—such as green tech.

We also recognise that with change has come new ways of working and the council will look to support and cater for that through initiatives to increase the supply of co-working and flexible office space, particularly with a view of increasing the supply of this within the Town Centre.

Long-term planning is at the centre of everything we do and a Labour council will continue to work to build Crawley an economy fit for the future, maintaining the Town Centre as the heart of our community, and ensuring that any development is undertaken sustainably.

'One Town' Crawley Economic Development Strategy

We continue with the delivery of the 'One Town' Crawley Economic Development Strategy, a comprehensive town-wide economic development strategy for securing skilled jobs and prosperity for local residents, which the council produced in the wake of the pandemic.

We will also seek to maximise the benefits of any new opportunities which arise for improving Crawley's reputation and the lives of residents as they emerge.

Green growth

As part of our efforts to regenerate Crawley, we are actively working to attract more opportunities for 'green growth' to Crawley. We have reached out to businesses working in renewables to identify what needs to attract them to Crawley and enable them to grow.

At the same time, we are working with other local authorities to both develop the substantial skills and experience necessary for retrofitting the council's housing stock and on projects designed to make the sub-region a global leader in the hydrogen economy. There are green infrastructure grants going into decarbonising Manor Royal, low carbon and renewable energy generation projects being brought forward, and plans for a 'Green' construction skills hub.

These are the technologies of the future, the demand for them is only going to grow with time and they provide the opportunity to give residents skilled work and real career opportunities, making us more resistant to shocks to aviation.

Crawley Growth Programme

A Labour-run council will continue the investment in our town's infrastructure, including through the Crawley Growth Programme: a five-year £73m programme of public and private investment in the town centre and on Manor Royal. This has already been partially achieved, with the delivery of the Eastern Gateway (£8.9m), consultation taking place on the Station Gateway (£5.3m), and works beginning on the Boulevard Western Extension (£1m) and the Manor Royal Highways Scheme (£2.2m). This will be further supported by the development of new commercial space and improvements to the physical environment.

Town centre regeneration

High streets across the world have been struggling for some time due to the rise of internet shopping. Efforts by the council since 2014 had been successful in halting this decline, with Crawley becoming one of the few towns where footfall had actually increased over recent years. Unfortunately, the pandemic brought this resurgence to an end, with many retailers struggling to survive through the lockdowns and a much greater shift towards online shopping.

Despite some setbacks, Crawley's retail offer is still comparatively vibrant. Crawley Town Centre saw 15 million visitors in 2023, outperforming Horsham (10m), East Grinstead (5m) and Reigate (3m)

At time of writing, Crawley's current retail unit vacancy rate is 11% which is notably below the national average (14%) and on a par with the south-east regional average.

While many of the things necessary to ensuring the survival of high street shopping can only be decided at the national-level—such as through modernising business rates so businesses are no longer penalised for retaining a shop-based presence, we remain confident that Crawley's town centre will remain the social heart of our community by continuing to adapt and evolve.

In recent years we have used grant funding to invest in the public realm of the town centre to make it more attractive to businesses and there are further investment plans in the works, including the extension of the high quality regeneration works in Queens Square through the full extent of the Martlets area of the Town Centre. This is in addition to the recent restoration works to bring the fountains in Queens Square back into full working order using underspend from the budget for the original scheme. Not only have the fountains lifted the appearance of the Square once more, they are a source of recreation and fun for families and it has been estimated that they increase footfall by tens of thousands additional visits to the Town Centre during the summer months.

The Town Centre Business Improvement District now gives local businesses the ability to undertake improvements of their own, with access to funding from business rates. We recognise the added benefits to the Town Centre the BID has

delivered and if re-elected we will give our full support to its renewal when it seeks a new term later this year.

The council is successfully working with town centre building owners to identify new businesses for their properties. At the same time, the increase in commercial and residential properties will provide a captive market for local retail.

We are also committed to strongly supporting community events and activities which draw visitors into the town centre. We will continue to support such popular events as the Crawley Festival, Pride and the continental markets, as well as looking for new and innovative ways to attract footfall into the area.

If re-elected, we would continue with these efforts to improve the infrastructure and attractiveness of the town centre for businesses, to marry up landlords with potential occupants, and to look beyond retail to bring more cultural and entertainment opportunities into the town centre, keeping it alive.

We are ambitious for the town centre and will consider all potential exciting and vibrant development to businesses and retail that may be possible as Crawley changes and adapts to meet the challenges of the modern economy.

Supporting Crawley's SMEs

It is recognised that Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) form a significant proportion of the economy within Crawley and we value the huge contribution that they make to the Borough. Crawley Borough Council continue to provide many of the units on our shops' parade and will continue to offer these at competitive terms and conditions for those businesses who wish to use them. We also welcome the work being done currently in Forge Wood to bring forward a new parade of shops and new industrial and commercial units.

Crawley Labour will continue to investigate ways in which to encourage investment and economic activity by our local SMEs, in the knowledge some of them could be the large companies of the future.

In addition, we will administer a refreshed and easier to access Shop Front and High Street improvements programme grants scheme available for small businesses and independent retailers located anywhere within the Borough to apply for, paid for from money derived from the shared business rates pool.

A refreshed town centre market, with an increased offer

One part of the town centre that a Labour administration will bring forward is a refreshed market, looking at utilising our regenerated town centre to its best effect. We are committed to looking at what will be the best location for this within town as well as increasing the number and variety of stalls.

Fusion Innovation Centre and boosting Manor Royal

The council has recently begun work on delivering a £8.6m Innovation Centre on Manor Royal. One of very few such facilities in the UK, this new centre will be delivered and operational later this year and will enable Crawley to become a major source of innovation in green and transport technology within the country, diversifying the local jobs market and ensuring the town is a leader in the jobs of the future.

We will continue to recognise and promote further the huge strategic importance of Manor Royal as one of the largest and most successful industrial estates in the South East and will continue to work with and support the Manor Royal Business Improvement District in their valuable work, including the council's dedicated patch team keeping the industrial area tidy and a place to invest.

Upskilling Crawley

Maintaining the progress already made through the Crawley Employment Skills programme 2019-24 and its previous 2016-21 edition, focusing on enabling residents to secure better career opportunities through improving access to the skills they need.

We will continue with the growth of the Town Centre Skills Academy programme, enabling residents to access construction apprenticeships, placements, school visits and local construction job opportunities on a range of sites across the town centre.

In addition, we will work alongside Crawley College as they deliver their masterplan for the site and bring forward the £14.5m state-of-the-art Institute of Technology and Green Construction Skills Hub.

The intention is for this to be open in 2025 with a particular focus on helping local businesses and employers address skills shortage challenges, by helping to train up local residents in key vocational skills in the STEM engineering and green construction tech fields.

Employ Crawley

Over recent years, we have provided direct careers support for all those seeking a new job or training. We are extremely proud that this service has helped many people throughout this difficult period, in addition to providing targeted support for the hardest impacted groups. A Labour council will continue to look for further opportunities to help those who are out of work or who simply want to move on to a new career.

Public transport improvements

A Labour council will seek to bring forward improvements to the access arrangements around Three Bridges station, enhancing the general area and creating better connectivity with sustainable transport options. With planning permission granted for the plans, we will look to move this forward even further, following successful progress being made with Network Rail on the station change procedure and, subject to the outcome, begin the works required to procure a contractor to commence the scheme. This will complement the ongoing work of replacing Crawley railway station with a modern building, far more suitable for a major town and better integrated into the town centre. We will also continue to work with local bus companies to improve the facilities at

bus stops and we are currently engaged in public consultation on how to create a new bus station at the heart of the town centre.

In all of this we continue to recognise the need to work in partnership with other agencies like West Sussex County Council, public transport providers and Network Rail to bring these forward and progress will be partly reliant on their co-operation.

Gigabit broadband

Crawley now has some of the fastest broadband in the country, with gigabit speed broadband infrastructure across a number of residential areas in Crawley. A Labour-run authority will seek to maximise the benefits for residents and businesses in using this opportunity and by utilising a further £2 million of funding ringfenced from the Crawley Towns Fund, we will investigate options to work in partnership with a commercial partner on the comprehensive roll out of gigabit speed broadband infrastructure across the Manor Royal Business District – a key ingredient in the future sustainable commercial and economic success of Manor Royal and giving the town a major competitive advantage.

Boundary developments

Under Labour, Crawley Borough Council will keep on opposing all developments on the immediate outskirts of the town which fail to meet the town's needs. Proposals by Homes England for the West of Ifield and the low density housing proposed by developers for Crabbet Park are particular areas of concern and where we will use our powers as a statutory consultee with those planning authorities to raise objections where these are justified.

We do not believe that the current West of Ifield plans sufficiently address the need for affordable houses, nor do they adequately address the infrastructure and public services demands an increased population would bring to the area. In addition, the failure to provide a proper western relief road to the borough will cause widespread gridlock if this were to go ahead.

This is why we do not agree with Homes England's proposals or Horsham District Council's outlined plans for the site under their draft Local Plan and we will therefore continue to oppose the unwanted development of 3,000 houses to the West of Ifield, and monitor other proposed building on our Boundaries.

Water neutrality

Natural England continue with their planning prohibition on any development which produced additional water demand in our sub-region. Much as with the regular discharge of untreated sewage into local rivers, this situation has been brought about due to major failings in the regulation of water companies and those companies own investment strategies dating back to privatisation.

This situation creates a major block on the willingness of employers to invest in our community, and on the council's own ability to bring forward affordable housing. We will continue to work with the range of organisations involved to try to find a solution and call on government to intervene before the current situation brings about a major increase in homelessness and unemployment. Given the lack of action or progress from the national government on addressing the underlying problems which have caused these sweeping restrictions, if re-elected, a Labour council will increase the pressure on the Government and water companies to be more proactive in resolving an issue that may not be otherwise resolved until 2040, which should include bringing forward the recommissioning of reservoirs and fair and proper utilisation of water neutrality credits derived from other work being done. We will also put pressure for Crawley to be fairly recognised for funding similar to areas currently facing nutrient neutrality restrictions, or potentially facing restrictions on water neutrality such as South Cambridgeshire.

In the meantime, the council's own retrofitting of its council housing stock to make them more water efficient has delivered measurable savings which will be used to support additional development that does not infringe those water neutrality requirements.

We will continue with this and will use those savings towards other important projects that would otherwise have been stalled indefinitely.

Crawley's Local Plan

Every council which wishes to retain control of their planning function is required to produce a Local Plan setting out all the projected needs for land use within their area for the next 15 years and how they intend to meet those needs with the land available. Once complete, these plans are put before a government inspector who will assess whether the plan and its evidence-base meets all the requirements set out nationally and decide whether or not to grant it approval.

We continue working to ensure that an up-to-date plan is finalised and are currently making amendments following a successful hearing by inspectors, with the underlying principles ensuring that valued green space is protected, accessibility is promoted, and that any development is required to put in place the community facilities and infrastructure necessary to deal with its impact upon local residents. This work will be vital in helping protect our community from uncontrolled development within the Borough's boundaries.



Housing and Homelessness

Over the last decade, Crawley Borough Council has become one of the best performing councils in the country in the delivery of new affordable housing, reflecting its status as one of the local Labour Party's top priorities.

Despite this fact, house prices and private rents continue to rise quickly and the demand for council housing fast outpaces delivery. The reality is, that in the time it takes the council to build four homes, three are lost from its stock due to right to buy. At the same time, with longer lifespans and smaller household sizes, the demand for housing keeps growing, leaving more and more households unable to afford private sector housing costs, pushing up demand for the limited supply of council housing stock.

To solve the UK's housing crisis would require drastic changes to Government's policy, changes the Conservatives have so far been unwilling to deliver. Until things change our approach focuses on ensuring any new development in our area contains the maximum amount of affordable housing for Crawley residents, ensuring those who are homeless have access to the support they need, and working to improve conditions in the private rental sector.

Given the unprecedented pressures caused by the failure of the local private rented sector and the increasing unaffordability of rental and home ownership within the Borough, the council has recognised the scale of the problem by declaring a Housing Emergency. We recognise the human impact on those local residents affected, the volume of people and how these pressures also create issues for how the council addresses the scale of the problem in the absence of adequate Government assistance.

Maintaining high standards for all council housing tenants

Crawley Borough Council is one of the largest social landlords in the south east and we are proud of our record and the standards of housing we provide to our tenants. That does not mean we do not recognise that there are always challenges in maintaining our stock and Labour councillors are vigilantly

overlooking standards and investigating tenants' complaints when they are raised.

If re-elected, a Labour council will continue this rigorous approach by undertaking an ongoing survey of the council housing stock, as well as reforming and improving our tenant consultation and widening access through our engagement methods, in light of new national requirements. We will also continue with the highly successful "Estate Events" where officers meet residents directly in their areas, hear their observations, walk the area and identify issues.

We will continue to support and promote the work done by Crawley Homes in their damp and mould taskforce to ensure that this is addressed wherever possible.

More council housing

We will continue to bring forward units of council housing to meet the demands of local households on our waiting list. Since Labour regained control of Crawley Borough Council in 2014 hundreds more council homes have been let to new tenants – but we will continue with this proud record, as well as working with local social housing partners to provide further supply.

In the next two years a Labour council will aim to deliver at least 500 new council and affordable homes to meet some of the demands of our housing waiting lists.

Longley House - 121 homes (building commencing in early 2025)

Forge Wood Phase 1B - 33 homes (delivered early 2025)

Forge Wood Phase 4B - 121 homes, with another 47 homes at discounted sale (by end of 2025)

Breezehurst Phase 2 - 84 homes

Ambulance Station - 39 homes

Deerswood Court modular housing - 15 homes

St Catherine's Hospice extra care – 80 affordable homes

This will be in addition to Telford Place coming forward by the end of 2027 which will be a further 291 to 293 homes in total, including Older People's Shared Ownership and First-time buyers starter homes, with the Council due to receive 95 to 97 rental homes.

Ensuring developments maximise affordable housing

Bringing forward our Local Plan for the next 15 years we will continue to work to secure a minimum of 40% affordable housing for new developments, the vast majority of which we intend to be council housing. Where circumstances permit, we will seek to maximise affordable housing through purchasing sites and bringing forward the housing directly. We will also work with developers to try to make it viable for them to deliver extra affordable units where possible. In addition, the council remains fully committed to retaining its housing stock as council housing.

Tackling rough sleeping

A Labour administration at Crawley Borough Council has succeeded in seeing rough sleeping fall significantly since it took over control of the council, with current numbers being comparatively low. This does not mean we are complacent, we know that this can be a constantly evolving situation, one person is too many and we will continue to work with council officers to reach out to entrenched rough sleepers as well as doing what is needed to help keep a roof over every person's head.

An integral part of this will be working with the voluntary and charitable sector. In particular, Crawley Labour recognises the vital work in addressing homelessness undertaken locally by Crawley Open House and the benefits this provides for the community and the council.



Temporary housing

In recent years the council has substantially increased its stock of temporary housing in Crawley, ensuring that we can help homeless households to remain within their community, near to where they work and their children's schools. Temporary housing remains by far one of the biggest cost pressures for the council and the pressures in the local private rented sector means that the need for many local households to access this from the council is unprecedented. By owning its own stock the council has been able to retain more of the money to pay for other services it would otherwise have lost. However, with the level of demand still far higher than supply and only likely to increase substantially in the near future, we will look to increase the council's temporary housing stock further, including through bringing forward modular housing solutions on council land.

Improving rights for renters and the private rented housing sector

Over recent years, the range of powers available to local authorities for tackling poor housing conditions in the private sector has increased. We recognise that costs and conditions for many private renters, of who there are a large number in Crawley, are in many cases getting worse and affordability is becoming an increasing problem, at the same time as some private landlords have exited the market. We will review the work of the Private Housing Team at Crawley Borough Council and encourage a more thorough use of these new powers, in addition to Article 4 directives and HMO Licensing, working to ensure that private rented housing meets acceptable standards.

A Labour council will protect renters. We will take action to stop illegal evictions. Where unscrupulous landlords allow tenants to live in sub-standard conditions and threaten eviction if they complain, Labour will intervene with formal action at the earliest opportunity and take a zero-tolerance approach to rogue landlords.

We will work with honest landlords to improve the quality of rental accommodation. We will demand devolved powers from government to introduce rent caps.

It is recognised that in the past year given the other pressures relating to temporary accommodation, that there needs to be more progress made on this. While this may be the case, our commitment remains strong as the plight of many private renters remains a crucial issue of concern.

Vacant houses

There are relatively few houses in Crawley which are vacant at any one time and as a council we intend to keep it that way. Notwithstanding this, recent figures from the have suggested that these numbers have increased. With housing in short supply it is impossible to justify units remaining empty while others are in need. That is why as a council, Crawley has consistently used the powers available to the local authorities to charge council tax on empty units and an extra high rate for any unit left empty for a number of years. We will continue to charge the maximum amount available to us to ensure that empty units are made available for housing as quickly as possible and work with our contractors to ensure the council's own stock is turned around as quickly as possible between tenancies.

In addition, we will use our new powers on second homes, and have recently doubled the council tax levied on second homes to help tackle the affordable housing crisis in the area.

Delivering sustainable housing for Crawley

Housing is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions and the council is Crawley's biggest landlord. For the last eight years we have tried to substantially improve the carbon footprint of new council housing, such as through the use of Passivhaus standards, which by reducing heat loss to a minimum not only helps save the planet but drastically reduces the energy costs for those households. A Labour-run Crawley Borough Council will continue to work with partners on proposals for drastically lowering the environmental impact of the town's affordable housing by undertaking a range of major modifications, benefitting tenants and the environment alike.

The second phase of the council's extremely successful decarbonisation programme of council housing stock is set to begin on site which will see hundreds more homes in Crawley become significantly more energy efficient as well as delivering substantial fuel bill savings to the families concerned of approximately £600 annually. We will look at following this up in due course with further proposals and applications to Government to increase this decarbonisation programme to an even larger proportion of our stock.

No Bedroom Tax evictions

Crawley Labour will continue to work to prevent any household being evicted on the basis of Bedroom Tax arrears, as we have done ever since regaining control in 2014.

Tackling fraud

With housing in short supply, it is important that people are able to access council housing on the basis of need rather than through duplicity. While housing fraud remains very rare, a Crawley Labour council will maintain its tough position on housing fraud, ensuring that the units go to those who need them most.

Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change

We only have the one planet and we're running out of time to save it. While reaching net zero will require a massive international effort, the practical changes necessary to achieve it will have to be delivered at the local level.

When Crawley Labour regained control of the council in 2014, the Cabinet Member for 'Environmental Services' was a role focused on services related to the physical environment around us, rather than on the broader issues affecting the environment as a whole. We changed that, bringing 'Sustainability' into the role, declaring a climate emergency and getting on with delivering much of what other councils are still only talking about.

Crawley can feel confident that it now has a leading council in the fight against climate disaster, but the reality is that if we are going to deliver the change which is needed much more needs to be done.

Under Labour the council's approach to the environment has been driven by data and matched with action. Unlike other parties, Crawley Labour will continue to set out actual deliverable proposals for taking our sustainability commitments forward, rather than substance-less platitudes.

Funded-Climate Emergency Action Plan

After several years of detailed research, the council has clear data on the size of its own carbon footprint and that of the town. While a plan for meeting net zero has now been agreed, the ongoing funding for delivering the plan is not yet in place. Much of it is on a scale required that the Government will have to provide a large amount of the funding to make it achievable.

A Labour-run council will continue to deliver on a climate change and net zero strategy over the coming months to help set out in detail what will be needed to realise these plans, in addition to working with partners to reduce the town's emissions as a whole.

We also recognise that since previous commitments were made, the urgency for delivering on our net zero targets has increased, as well as how this could be

achieved in shorter timeframes if Government support and funding can be successfully sourced to provide the resources required to finance the level of decarbonisation work required.

We will also confirm our commitment to this by joining the UK100 in the next council year, a network of local leaders who have pledged to lead a rapid transition to Net Zero with Clean Air in their communities ahead of the government's legal target.

This means that Crawley Borough Council will be looking to have reached carbon neutral levels for SCOPE 1 and SCOPE 2 by 2030.

District Heat Network – extending the network through a second phase

The council's District Heat Network is already delivering a substantial reduction in carbon emissions over the Town Hall site and adjacent new developments. We will continue to look to extend the network across the town centre with a further bid to BEIS having been submitted, reducing the level of carbon emissions even further while generating additional revenue to fund council services and infrastructural investment. As the technology and availability for using fuel sources with a lower carbon footprint develops, we will look to bring forward changes to the district heat centre to deliver a further reduction in emissions.

The council will examine all suitable options and ways to deliver this, including partnership working.

Decarbonising travel

Working with West Sussex County Council and other partners, Crawley Borough Council are bringing forward major improvements to the town's low carbon transport infrastructure. We are in the process of rolling out electric vehicle charging points across Crawley, undertaking improvements to the town's cycle connectivity (part of our town-wide walking and cycling travel plan), , facilitating car-share clubs, and investing heavily in bus connectivity—including delivering new bus stations in the town centre and on Manor Royal.

Collective buying for renewables

We will support the efforts of property owners to try to reduce their own carbon emissions, such as through the recent collective buying scheme for PV solar panel purchasing the council helped to run.

Wildflower verges and promoting other forms of biodiversity

Following significant public feedback over the town's wildflower verges and concerns regarding the need to provide safe spaces for bees and other pollinating insects, we will continue to implement new wildflower verges and maintain existing ones, where they can be made to fit-in with the visual appearance of the local neighbourhood.

This is part and parcel of the council's commitment to biodiversity and a Labour council will continue to examine new and innovative ways this can be further promoted.

People's Forest

A New Town built on the "garden city" model, Crawley has an estimated half a million trees within the Borough, well in excess of most urban areas. We care deeply about looking after and safeguarding those we have, as well as committing to a programme of replacement for those very mature trees approaching the end of their life.

Last year the council set aside land to enable a "green canopy" programme of trees in Tilgate Park and forest, creating a community woodland which will help to reduce the impact of carbon emissions on our environment.

If re-elected, a Labour council will enable communities through additional funding derived from developers' contributions, to embark on tree planting projects on council-owned land where it is assessed as feasible and appropriate

to do so, to enhance even further the Borough's already very extensive canopy cover for such a predominantly urban area.

Grass cutting and neighbourhood maintenance

Keeping neighbourhoods in good condition is one of our highest priorities, it's why one of our first decisions on regaining control in 2014 was to restore the number of grass-cuts which had been reduced under the Conservatives. While the roads, pavements, and much of the grass belongs to West Sussex County Council, we will continue to work to ensure local streets are kept in as good condition as we have the resources to deliver. The new agreement successfully negotiated by the Labour council will ensure neighbourhood cuts remain at up to seven every year, well in excess of elsewhere in West Sussex.

We will also use regulation where necessary to deliver this, such as continuing to seek the maximum fine for litterers.

Cemeteries

We know that the town's cemeteries provide a major role in many people's lives, enabling them to feel a connection with their lost loved ones. We will continue to work to maintain a high standard in these facilities, including bringing forward a £330,000 extension to Little Trees as increasing numbers of residents are laid to rest in our town's new cemetery.

We will continue to investigate further ways that we can give greater recognition to cultural requirements where this can be delivered, as well as investigate options on increasing the length of tenure of plots.

Recycling

There is currently a scrutiny panel at the council looking at recycling rates and practical ways they can be improved. The recycling rate in the Borough has increased by 4.8% since 2015, largely because of garden waste, but has broadly

remained the same over the past three years, from around the time that West Sussex County Council took away the recycling credits that helped Boroughs and Districts cover the costs of adopting new methods of recycling.

Recent benchmarking has identified that our recycling rates compare favourably with those authorities that operate weekly collections. However, the council will continue to investigate new initiatives to assist in the improvement of recycling, notwithstanding the compulsory implementation of the national waste strategy and “Simpler Recycling Policy” being imposed on all councils nationwide by the Conservative Government, currently scheduled to take effect in stages over the next two to three years.

Street naming

Rather than the generic names developers often give new roads and buildings, Crawley Labour commits to using names with a history attached to the area, from honouring fallen soldiers and looking back to the old tythe maps used by the New Town’s planners, to recognising local heroes and deceased councillors with a substantial track record of contribution to Crawley.



Leisure and Wellbeing

Crawley was always intended to be a well-planned community where people would have plenty of opportunities to live, work and play. While there is no legal obligation on the council to provide leisure or culture facilities, since Crawley Labour first took control of the council it has been the party's strong belief that giving people the opportunities to enjoy themselves and do the things which make life worth living is a central part of what we were elected to do.

It was under Labour that Crawley Borough Council bought Tilgate Park and created its many attractions, the council opened a nationally-renowned theatre at the Hawth, and built one of the country's best leisure centres at K2.

While Austerity threatened the existence of these facilities and resulted in many of their equivalents closing across the country, we realised that by investing in leisure and culture we could not only ensure that the town had the best such facilities of any town of our size, but that by increasing their level of use the revenue generated would help them to cover their own costs. Instead of privatisation and closure as the Conservatives proposed, under Labour the leisure and culture facilities in Crawley are better than ever.

Under Labour, Crawley Borough Council will keep on working to ensure the town's existing facilities continue to grow and improve, while looking for new options for increasing leisure opportunities in Crawley.

Upgrading playgrounds

Over recent years, many of Crawley's playgrounds have been upgraded using money generated from housing developments in the town, with £218,000 being set aside this year to undertake improvements to play areas in Broadfield, Bewbush, Ifield, Pound Hill and West Green.

Our young people need a place to play and we will continue to recognise the importance of that, and we will look at all appropriate ways to renew play equipment and to maintain the number of existing playgrounds.

While there is already an existing, well developed and ambitious programme of play improvement works, at play areas across the Borough a re-elected Labour council will bring forward, based on residents' feedback, playgrounds at Northgate Playing Fields, work to begin in the council year 2025, and also at Carman Walk to recognise the overall need for a playground to replace the one lost at Creasys Drive in Broadfield some years ago.

Health in Crawley

We will maintain Crawley Borough Council's strong track record on public health, helping residents to improve the quality of their own health and to support others, such as through the 'Dementia-friendly Crawley' approach. Our focus, however, will be to reduce health inequalities across the Borough, and to help address the shocking eight year gap in life expectancy depending on which part of the Borough one lives in, including work on life-limiting illnesses and accessibility to appointments.

While we do not control general health services in Crawley, we will continue to use planning decisions as an opportunity to provide health facilities within the borough and lobby decision-makers to make it easier to secure access to a GP.

We will continue to strongly oppose the recent announcement of a cut in hours by the NHS at the Urgent Treatment Centre at Crawley Hospital from 24 hours to 7.30am to 10pm and will call for the reversal of this as soon as possible.

In addition, we will maintain a strong position that any attempt to close the Crawley Hospital site without providing a new hospital for Crawley will be met with total opposition. We will also lobby hard for more services to be returned to be provided locally at the hospital by the NHS and in that spirit we will continue to support the recent work by the local NHS to make Crawley Hospital a major diagnostics centre, with more services and patient centred care located there, including a new Child Development Centre, bringing them closer to local residents.

Goffs Park

The improvement in Tilgate Park's facilities over recent years has been incredible and the park is on-course to becoming self-funding. However, the park's popularity has now reached the point the park can become too busy on sunny days.

Crawley is blessed with a range of urban parks and there is now an opportunity to reduce some of the pressure at Tilgate Park by investing in the facilities at Goffs Park.

With Goffs Park's 70th anniversary approaching, there has never been a more appropriate time to celebrate the Borough's first and oldest park.

Following the conclusion of public consultation some time ago and the analysis of those responses, we will investigate the opportunities for making Goffs Park even more special, with a goal of making the park a more attractive location for people to visit while achieving long-term cost neutrality.

Already a number of improvements have been delivered to enhance the park in recent months including new fencing for the Goffs Park Light Railway and relining the pitch and putt golf course.

We have worked with the Friends of Goffs Park on establishing a blossom trail and a tree trail similar to the one already existing at Worth Park Gardens.

In the next year the council will also put in place a sensory garden in consultation with all the groups who have called for it to be located here.

More investment in Tilgate Park and taking our nature centre to the next level

Tilgate Park is getting better than ever and it has become a hugely popular park for people from miles around. But a Labour council isn't prepared to rest on our laurels, we want to make it even better than before and we have ambitious plans.

Bringing in a whole new themed zone to the Park for all the family to enjoy, we will also be bringing forward refreshed and vibrant new park signage and making improvements to the Park's website. We will be developing an improved education and meeting space, as well as looking at introducing other new visitor experiences.

Tilgate Nature Centre has been a storming success, with its conservation work, opportunities to feed some of the resident animals such as the meerkats and an increased variety and range of creatures over the past few years, including most recently the Scottish Wildcats.

But this is only the beginning, a Labour council will prioritise improvements to bring in new, upgraded animal enclosures through an ambitious investment programme that has already seen the reopening of the popular Boardwalk, as we transform our nature centre into something very special indeed! Tilgate Park is fundamentally, however, a nature park and a Labour council will always keep this in mind as part of our commitment to retaining its beauty and character, so that it remains true to its original purpose, as well as providing a varied offer of recreational options alongside this.

Adventure Playgrounds

The pandemic forced Crawley Borough Council to close two adventure playgrounds and remove supervised play at the remaining sites, as part of the joint Labour-Conservative council budget. The council is now investing in the remaining sites at the Millpond and Cherry Lane to ensure they retain existing attractions for children with the facilities parents need while supervising their children, including toilets.

Exciting plans for K2

We will continue as a council to look at ways to make our Leisure Centre K2 even more responsive to the needs of our residents. We will look at extending the ever popular gym area further as well as renewing the centre's seating and changing facilities to keep standards as high as possible for our users.

Investing in wellbeing

A Labour-run council will continue to invest sustainably in the town's wellbeing provision, including providing an extra £150,000 to combat erosion at Tilgate Lake and bringing forward a 10-year management plan to manage ancient woodland in Tilgate Forest.

We will also look at promoting at K2 and elsewhere different sports including padel tennis and the council's new and impressive tennis facilities in several of our parks. We will also review our popular outdoor gym provision in our parks and look at any improvements that can be made there.

A Labour council recognises the importance of our playing fields and recognise in particular supporting the provision of more 3G pitches and resolving drainage so that more of the grass pitches can be played on for longer parts of the year. We will undertake to use money derived from developer contributions to facilitate this policy intention as far as it can be achieved within existing demands on this resource.

We will also continue to encourage community groups dedicated to improving physical and mental health, including support for those suffering from dementia, both through the wonderful activities put on by Crawley Wellbeing as well as through the third sector with the community grants budgets.

We will also commit to promoting even wider awareness of these valuable activities and opportunities, including further coverage in the council's quarterly publication "Crawley Live".

Community Engagement and Culture

The number and the range of community groups active within Crawley is a testament to the strength of the town's community spirit. Far from being divided, the diversity we find in our community is a source of strength, enabling us to draw upon the best traditions of the many cultures which make up our town.

As a council, we will continue to do what we can to encourage and support all those who want to make a positive difference in Crawley, and to foster understanding between all the parts of our community.

Armed Forces Covenant

Crawley Labour is committed to supporting current and former members of our Armed Forces and their families. It was Labour councillors who proposed Crawley's Armed Forces Covenant and we continue to work to deliver upon its ambitions. In addition to the requirements set out in the covenant, we have introduced the Veterans Interview Scheme and ensured that those who have recently lost their lives in the service of their country are remembered in the naming of new roads in Crawley. We are committed to continue to hold a successful Armed Forces Day in Crawley each year and to working with armed forces organisations and other interested stakeholders in maintaining and improving the covenant.

COVID-19 Memorial

Many have called for some form of memorial to remember all those we have lost and those whose lives have been permanently impacted due to COVID-19. We have committed to taking this forward, and are in the process of obtaining more detailed designs which will then be put forward to the public to ensure it reflects our collective experience before going ahead.

Community grants

Crawley Borough Council's grants pot remains one of the largest of any council of our size and type, in addition to providing a range of properties for non-profit organisations at low rents. While continuing to provide a system of major grant funding for local community organisations, we will review the council's current community funding provision as a whole to ensure it delivers the maximum value for our local community. We will continue to include funding support for events which promote community spirit here in Crawley. We will commit to ensuring that the amount of grant funding available for local groups remains at its current level for the whole of the current 24/25 financial year..

Promoting culture and developing a cultural strategy for Crawley

In recent years, it has become increasingly clear how many local artists, musicians and other talents are located within the Borough, which has been recognised by investment and activity from the Arts Council England, Creative Crawley, the Business Improvement Districts and the activity of many local creative groups.

A Labour council will bring forward a cultural strategy that builds on this work and gives assistance to developing this into something even bigger and more ambitious, working in partnership.

As part of this we will recognise the strong role that public art has in enhancing the public realm and improving the quality of life for all residents. While most of the current work is being led independently from the council we will act as a critical friend to these creative activities and promote and celebrate the work being done within the community to facilitate this.

A re-elected Labour council will also make a major part of our strategy unlocking grant support and other investment from bodies such as the Arts Council England to facilitate this exciting cultural growth that is taking place within the Borough.

Promoting equalities

As a council, every decision we take where there is an impact is subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment. Unlike many public bodies, we take these seriously and are committed to ensuring that equalities of all forms remain central to the decisions we take. Under Labour, the council has become a far more diverse organisation and we remain committed to doing everything we can to ensure that everyone has the ability to participate fully in the life of the town.

Fighting discrimination

Crawley's has a substantial Black, Asian and ethnic minority population and it is an important part of what makes our diverse Borough so special and welcoming. There are Black, Asian and ethnic minority businesses in all parts of our Borough, providing essential services and jobs and contributing to our local economy.

A Labour council will continue to listen and work closely with our Borough's Black, Asian and ethnic minority population on these matters and also continue to work with all faith groups in Crawley.

But prejudice has many forms, and we will fight it on grounds of race, religion, gender or sexuality. We will continue to work to maintain community cohesion and addressing hate speech through the Safer Crawley Partnership where it manifests itself.

Equality and inclusion for disabled people

In the spirit of 'nothing about us without us', we will work with and properly consult disabled residents where the borough council has a role on improving accessibility across the Borough. Labour pledges to advocate equality for disabled people.

Community volunteering

We will promote employee volunteering, at the council and other organisations, as a way of supporting people who want to give something back and to increase the level of community activity within the area.

Town Twinning

The Borough's Town Twinning with Dorsten in Germany reached its 50th year anniversary recently, with our Mayor leading the local celebrations in January.

We believe in the principles that form the foundation of town twinning and we will look at ways we can assist in encouraging even more people to get involved.



Public Protection

Last year, Labour appointed a Cabinet Member dedicated to Public Protection, in order to further recognise the growing importance that residents have to issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour.

According to recent figures released, just 6.3% of crimes reported to have taken place in Crawley last year resulted in any suspect being charged.

Much of this is the responsibility of the Police and will require strengthening of community policing, much of which will be up to a future Government and the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to resource.

In addition, however, a Labour council will continue to work to address concerns residents have around public safety, undertaking interventions directly where it is within the council's power, and calling-upon our local police service to act where needed.

Keeping people safe

Sussex Police are responsible for not only addressing all criminal activity, but in many cases are the only organisation with the powers to address anti-social behaviour. While Sussex Police are ultimately only answerable to the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, we will campaign for the service to commit the level of resources necessary in Crawley to address residents' concerns regarding crime and anti-social behaviour. We will also tell them when we think they need to be more responsive where there may be increasing pressures on specific parts of the Borough.

Where partnership working between Crawley Borough Council and the Police may more effectively address such problems in the borough, we will continue to build on an already successful relationship with the Police and other public protection bodies through the Safer Crawley Partnership.

This worked most recently in successful calls from the Labour leadership at the council, responding to concerns from residents and town centre businesses in

encouraging Sussex Police to take decisive action on crime and anti-social behaviour issues happening in the town centre and High Street areas, which saw Crawley being chosen for the implementation of the Clear Hold Build project. Thanks in part to the support required from local authority partners such as Crawley Borough Council, we are the only Clear Hold Build area to have received a 'green' rating, largely owing to CBCs engagement in the project alongside wider partners. We will work to continue to build on this successful record.

We believe that there is scope for greater dialogue between the Police, elected representatives and residents. Following a successful inaugural event recently, we will arrange further regular public meetings where local people will be able to have their say, as well as recognise the growing concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour that some residents have reported to us.

A Labour council will push for more police visibility on our streets. Working with Sussex Police, we will look at additional ways to make sure that residents are aware of how to contact their police neighbourhood teams and work with them to safely report and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in their areas.

We will also work with Sussex Police to clamp down on drug related crime, particularly those running 'county lines', as well as continue to support awareness events for young people to make them aware of how to avoid being exploited in these activities.

A Labour council will also continue to prioritise attempts to reach out and consult with hard-to-reach communities from across the community, recognising they are some of the most vulnerable to criminal behaviour and their voices are not always heard as well as they should be.

We will look to form working groups with housing associations, Police and councillors, where appropriate, to focus on hotspot areas for crime and anti-social behaviour.

Keeping all our parks and parades safe

We recognise that the success of the Clear Hold Build project in the centre of the Borough may sometimes be having the unintended consequences of displacing

some of the poor behaviour to other areas, including local parades and some of our parks. All such behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The council will remain vigilant and use all its influence with the Police and its own departments to address such behaviour and any illegal activity.

Continuing to use CCTV to best effect across the Borough

Crawley Borough Council recently spent over £200,000 investing to upgrade our CCTV across the Borough and this will continue to be an important part of our work to ensure public safety. In addition in recent years to new CCTV at the Memorial Gardens and Church Walk in the town centre, we will continue to take suggestions from the community as to where cameras should be deployed and a Labour council will continue to keep locations where this is needed under constant review.

Using our Borough's reorganised Community Protection Team to best effect

We recognise the council's Community Protection Team (formerly known as Community Wardens) have a role to play in our communities too. A Labour council will maintain the establishment numbers of wardens at their current level and use them in new, focused ways to achieve the safest outcomes for residents where their involvement is appropriate.

Zero tolerance on car cruising

We have recently renewed the council's Public Space Protection Order, banning car cruising at Tilgate Park and across the town. Due to the major impact it has on local residents in the form of dangerous driving and noise pollution, we will maintain a zero tolerance stance on car cruising.



Taxi licensing

Under Crawley Labour, we will continue to maintain the high standards in the taxi and private hire sector of which residents can be proud. The hackney carriage and private hire trade have suffered significantly from the changes in Crawley's economy and we will do what we can to support them, including encouraging residents to always opt for a locally licensed cab, rather than vehicles which are licensed outside of the area (such as Uber).



