

Crawley CITY BID 2022

NEW TOWN TO NEW CITY





SUMMARY

75 years ago the government made Crawley a New Town. We have grown to become a regional powerhouse. **Imagine what we might do if we were a New City.**

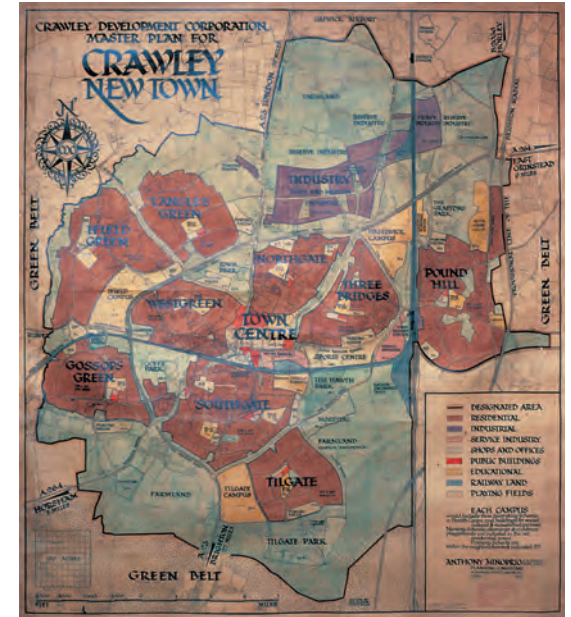
Crawley is a success story that encapsulates all that is good about post-war Britain.

The Platinum Jubilee marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Crawley as a New Town, which has the motto 'I Grow and I Rejoice' – and how it has grown!

This ancient Sussex market town, with a population of 9,000 in 1947, is transformed and now home to more than 120,000 residents, one of the UK's largest business parks, 43,000 people commuting into Crawley for work everyday, a £6bn economy and Gatwick Airport, the world's busiest single runway airport.

This is one of the most economically productive areas of the UK but COVID-19 has had a major impact, with several studies highlighting Crawley as the town most affected by the pandemic. With the economic and social challenges we are facing, this bid celebrates and promotes our wonderful town.

As we start to rebuild our economy, optimism and pride, the granting of city status would send a strong message nationally and internationally: that



Crawley is a place for the future and that the UK is a forward-looking country, proud of our past but looking to the future.

Our supporters from across the political, business, community, military, sporting and entertainment spectrum in Crawley all believe that the time is right to create the UK's first 'New Town to New City'.

Crawley – a place to call a city

This document has been designed in-house by Crawley Borough Council.

Crawley **Crawley** **Crawley** **Crawley** **Crawley** **Crawley**

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

A PLACE TO INSPIRE

A PLACE TO INVEST

A PLACE TO GROW

A PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

A PLACE TO ENJOY

ROYAL CONNECTIONS

Our royal connections go back more than 200 years.

Queen Victoria stayed at The George Hotel in the High Street and the Prince Regent was also known to stay there in the early 19th century. His regular travelling

of the London to Brighton route brought about the upturn in fortunes experienced by Crawley.

In 1950, the then Princess Elizabeth opened Manor Royal, the main road through Crawley's industrial estate. The name had been kept a secret because it

had been chosen by the Princess after looking at an old tithe map of the area.

The Royal Family has been closely associated with many important moments in our history, particularly since becoming a New Town, including the opening of Gatwick Airport and Queens Square.



Royal visits to Crawley

1837

HM Queen Victoria and HRH The Duchess of Kent
Stopping at The George Hotel for a change of horses

1908

HRH Princess Alice
Opening a grand bazaar and fete at The Elms in Horsham Road, held in aid of Crawley and Ifield Cottage Hospital, which she then went on to visit

1932

HRH The Prince of Wales
Southern Railway electrification system in Three Bridges

1950

HRH Princess Elizabeth
Opening of Manor Royal and a visit to the Commission for New Towns' office at Broadfield House

1958

HM The Queen
Opening of Gatwick Airport and Queens Square

1969

HM The Queen
Opening of Holy Trinity School and visit to the Town Hall

1977

HRH Princess Alexandra
Town Hall

1982

HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother
Laying the foundation stone at St Catherine's Hospice

1984

HRH The Duchess of Kent
St Catherine's Hospice

1987

HRH The Duke of Kent
Sussex Business Exhibition at Gatwick Airport

1988

HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
Opening of the North Terminal at Gatwick Airport

HRH The Duke of Gloucester
Aviation House, Gatwick Airport

HRH The Princess of Wales
St Catherine's Hospice and air traffic control at Gatwick Airport

1989

The Duchess of York
North Terminal, Gatwick Airport

HRH Princess Alexandra
Dan Air, Gatwick Airport

The Duchess of York
Crawley Drugs Advice Centre

1990

HRH The Duchess of Kent
Philips Medical Systems and St Catherine's Hospice

1991

HRH Prince Edward
Gatwick Airport

HRH The Duchess of Kent
St Catherine's Hospice

1992

HRH The Princess of Wales
The Hawth

1994

HRH The Duchess of Kent
St Catherine's Hospice
HRH The Princess Royal
Crawley College

1995

HRH The Princess Royal
Opening of Maidenbower Community and Day Care Centre

1996

HRH The Princess Royal
Civil Aviation Authority

1997

HRH The Duke of Gloucester
Crawley Sea Cadets (TS Cossack) and
Crawley Youth Centre

1998

HRH The Duke of Gloucester
National Crime Squad

1999

HRH The Duke of York
A&M Hearing Ltd

2000

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
GB Airways, Gatwick Airport

HRH The Prince of Wales
Tinsley House, Gatwick Airport

2006

HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
Queens Square, County Mall, Thomas Bennett Community College, Varian Medical Systems and Carey House

2007

HRH The Duke of Gloucester
Crawley and Horsham Home-Start and
Crawley Open House

2009

HRH The Duke of Gloucester
Crawley CVS and a citizenship ceremony

2013

HRH The Princess Royal
Victim Support conference
HRH The Duke of Gloucester
Hazelwick School

2014

HRH The Duke of Gloucester
Queen's Award presentation to Elekta Ltd., Crawlers Brook People's Park and
Queen's Award for Voluntary Service
presentation to Sussex Neighbourhood
Watch Search Teams

2015

HRH The Duke of Gloucester
Gurjar Hindu Union
HRH The Duke of Kent
Queen's Award presentation to Acro
Aircraft Seating Ltd.

2017

HRH The Duke of Gloucester
Queen's Award presentation to
Servcorp Aviation Security

2018

HRH The Countess of Wessex
Opening of the Emergency Operations
Centre and headquarters of the South
East Coast Ambulance Service

2019

HRH The Prince of Wales
Opening of the L3Harris Training Centre

2021

HRH The Earl of Wessex
Gatwick Airport



“In 75 years, our home has developed from a small collection of villages, farms and country estates into the largest urban area in the county, with one of the UK’s strongest economies, and the world’s busiest single-runway airport. We’ve even managed to produce some of the country’s leading sporting and cultural figures along the way.

“As we look towards the next 75 years, city status would recognise the modern, diverse community we have become, the significant contribution the community has and continues to make to the economic and cultural life of the country, as the promise of what is yet to come.”

Councillor Peter Lamb
Leader, Crawley Borough Council

Crawley A PLACE TO CALL HOME

After Crawley was designated a New Town under the New Towns Act of 1946, the population greatly expanded in the 1950s and 1960s across nine new neighbourhoods.

The population continued to grow steadily and by 2011 had grown to 106,597.

As of 2021, Crawley has an estimated population of more than 120,000 living in 14 neighbourhoods.

Large housing developments at Kilnwood Vale, Pease Pottage and Copthorne are built up to our boundaries and there are more development proposals coming forward in our neighbouring districts.

We continue to grow and our size, influence and gravitational pull mean that we are now outgrowing the town’s boundaries.

Crawley is the most multi-cultural town in Sussex and home to people from all over the world. Our cohesive communities are one of the many qualities that make Crawley distinct and a successful New Town.

In our city status consultation, we asked residents what they were most proud of in Crawley. Diversity was chosen by more than half of respondents while community spirit, inclusive and welcoming all featured.

Since the mid- to late-20th century, Crawley has become home to established Indian, Pakistani and Chagossian communities, with Indians accounting for 5.2 per cent of the population, followed by Pakistanis and Chagossians at 4.3 per cent and two per cent respectively.

Polish and Portuguese communities have also become established since the early 2000s.

The 2011 census showed that 20.3 per cent of Crawley’s population were born outside of the UK – double the West Sussex average.

This expansion has occurred most acutely between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, where the foreign-born population grew 87 per cent, the largest increase since achieving New Town status.

Crawley’s continuously evolving diversity means that there are now more than 50 different languages spoken (other than English) in the town, with Polish, Gujarati, Urdu, Tamil and Portuguese being the most widely used.

There are more than 40 places of worship in Crawley, including churches, gurdwaras, mosques and temples.

We also have more than 350 community and voluntary groups in the town, who all contribute to our sense of community, place and pride.

It’s estimated that 3,500 Crawley residents volunteer in some capacity.



As well as being home to a large number of residents, businesses and community organisations, Crawley is also a base of the Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment.

Governance

Crawley Borough Council has 36 elected members across 13 wards.

All 36 councillors support our bid for city status.

The Cabinet is made up of six councillors who each hold a special portfolio of responsibility.

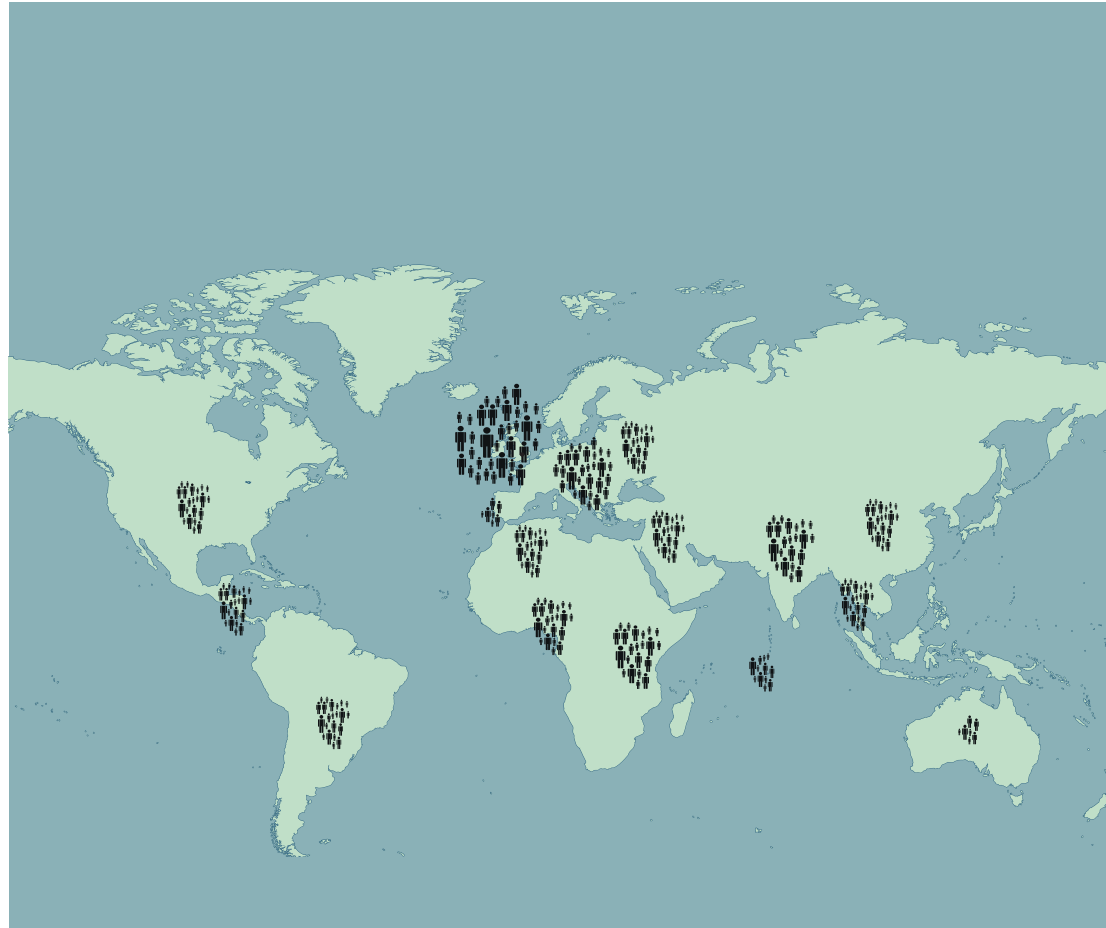
The Governance Committee is responsible for recommendations to Full Council in areas such as constitutional issues, councillors' allowances, by-laws and elections.

Council staff give advice, implement decisions and manage the day-to-day delivery of council services.

Staff are led by the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive supported by eight heads of service.

Crawley Borough Council works with West Sussex County Council to deliver local public services.

Strong working relationships between the council and our partners in the public sector enhance our governance.



The world in one borough.

Crawley is home to people from all over the world. Residents come from every continent and more than 50 different languages are spoken.



“I support the bid from Crawley Borough Council to enter Crawley in the Civic Honours Competition for 2022 to mark HM the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The success of this bid will help our community to further fulfil its role as the major urban centre between the south coast and the capital. To do so will provide significant benefits to local residents and area businesses. I am proud to support this bid and have highlighted this in the House of Commons.”

Henry Smith
MP for Crawley

Crawley A PLACE TO INSPIRE

Crawley is home to a vibrant community and voluntary sector, strongly supported by Crawley Borough Council. The hundreds of groups, large and small, all contribute to Crawley's sense of community, place and pride.

Our thriving voluntary and community sector is enhanced with innovative partnerships working together to build the capacity and resilience of communities, enabling individuals and communities to achieve their potential and make positive changes to their lives.

More than 50 community groups and organisations have come together to form Crawley Community Ambassadors, which was developed in July 2020.

The group comprises key community representatives who work with statutory partners to share information within their communities and discuss community issues in a timely manner. This group has wide representation from minority and diverse communities, young people, older people and disability groups.

Neighbourhood Forums have also been developed in many of Crawley's neighbourhoods. These are resident-led groups which bring people together to enhance community pride. They do this by developing community projects to make positive changes to the area they live, discuss matters concerning their neighbourhood and find solutions.

We also have four winners of 2021 Queen's Voluntary Service Awards in Crawley.

There are also key partnerships which bring statutory, community and voluntary organisations together around specific areas of interest and issues including the Disability Forum, Young Crawley Youth Forum, Crawley Contextualised Safeguarding Group, Outreach and Detached Group and Crawley Inter Faith Network.

Whether it's remarkable sporting achievements, historic figures, contributions to culture or voluntary services, inspiration in Crawley comes in many forms.

K2 Crawley leisure centre is home to the 'Crawley's Sporting Excellence' wall. We have a strong sporting tradition which features sportspeople including double Olympic decathlon champion Daley Thompson, England men's football manager Gareth Southgate, double Paralympic gold medallist Katie-George Dunlevy and champion boxer Alan Minter.

Blue plaques showcase historical figures, including:

- Roger Bastable, author, historian and co-founder of Crawley Festival
- Sir Malcolm Campbell, world water speed record holder who tested and developed Bluebird on Tilgate Lake, known as Campbell's Lake
- John Goepel, who named the New Town streets
- Frederick Knott, writer of *Dial M for Murder*
- John Leech, illustrator of Charles Dickens' Christmas stories
- James Pulham, who laid out Worth Park using Pulhamite artificial rocks, also found at Buckingham Palace
- Sarah Robinson, an education pioneer who founded a charity school in 1827
- Peter Vaughan, a film, television and stage actor.

Dame Caroline Haslett, an electrical engineer who became the first Director of the Electrical Association for Women, has a blue plaque on Haslett Avenue East.

Mark Lemon, the first editor of Punch magazine and an important figure in Crawley society, lived on the High Street; a blue plaque is located on the George Hotel.



“Crawley is a growing, vibrant and diverse regional and national centre for economic, social and cultural activity, and the economic boost from obtaining city status could be significant both for the residents and businesses of Crawley and also for the wider economy of the county and neighbouring areas.

“The County Council understands the importance for Crawley of the timing for this bid, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which also marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment as Crawley as a New Town. The town has developed and thrived during the entire reign of Her Majesty and the County Council sees the enormous benefits that could flow from the town receiving city status as its next stage of development.”

Councillor Paul Marshall
Leader, West Sussex County Council

The visual interpretation of *Alice in Wonderland* was based on his daughter, Kate. She was transformed into an icon of literature after her father invited illustrator John Tenniel to visit at the same time as he was commissioned to depict Lewis Carroll's character. The drawings, produced in Crawley in 1865, set out how Alice was to be seen forever.

Crawley is also the hometown of celebrated comedian Romesh Ranganathan, musicians Akala and Ms Dynamite, broadcaster Dan Walker, actors Erin Doherty, Grace Saif and Sam Tutty, travel journalist and broadcaster Simon Calder.



Crawley's most influential cultural export are The Cure.

The rock band, formed by primary school friends in the 1970s, played regularly in local venues. They have gone on to release 13 studio albums and sell more than 30 million records.

They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2019 and have fans all over the world.

We are home to Creative Crawley, an innovative arts organisation and lead delivery partner for a new three-year project called The Creative Playground. This project is led by a community consortium that is one of just 11 new consortia in England to receive Arts Council Creative People and Places funding in 2021 with a £1m investment in arts and culture from 2022 to 2025. The programme is for local people to choose, create and take part in the arts and culture on offer to them.



Our annual Crawley Community Awards at The Hawth recognise and reward people who go the extra mile for their community.



MADE IN CRAWLEY

Crawley is the seventh most innovative place in the UK, with 55.8 patents published per 100,000 people.

Manor Royal Business District accommodates a range of world-leading, innovative firms that provide high quality, highly advanced products to their customers across a number of growth sectors.

The vitality and diversity of Crawley's business population includes expertise in healthcare, such as the radiotherapies developed at Elekta and Varian; a strong aviation presence typified by the flight simulation technologies offered by L3 Harris, Boeing and CAE and the avionics pioneered at Thales; as well as promising developments in the field of renewable energy at firms such as Bramble Energy and Naked Energy.



"I have lived, worked and remained in Crawley throughout my life for a number of reasons. Beyond the geographical location and its transport networks, it is a place that has so much going for it, with a thriving and diverse community that typifies the very essence of what makes me proud to be British. My parents chose Crawley as a place to settle when they arrived from Sri Lanka, and I think its growth and development has done more than enough to cement its claim for city status."

Romesh Ranganathan
Comedian and presenter

“We would like to express our positive support for Crawley to obtain city status. Not only would it provide a much welcome boost for the area, which has been so badly affected by COVID-19, it would enhance Crawley’s profile and reputation and reflect its aspirations to bring prosperity, boost the economy and improve opportunities for residents.

“Crawley and Gatwick have a shared history, starting when the New Town was first developed and Gatwick Airport was officially opened by the Queen. As we look forward to the future we support all efforts which will bring benefits for future generations.”

Stewart Wingate

Chief Executive Officer, Gatwick Airport Ltd.

“Crawley is at the heart of our region. We believe there is opportunity to make another city here, and Crawley is ideally located for such an honour. Research shows that towns awarded city status have raised their economic profiles and the status gives them the platform to highlight their success to the rest of the country and internationally. As it starts to rebuild its economy, the message that Crawley is a place for the future and a region in which to do business is an important one to send to the world.”

Brett North

Chairman, Gatwick Diamond Initiative

Crawley A PLACE TO INVEST

Crawley is a town with big dreams. We’re ambitious and our wealth of opportunity sites, exciting plans, Gatwick Airport and Manor Royal make Crawley the place to invest in.

The major programme of regeneration and development currently taking place, with £300m of investment planned in the next five years, is testament to this.

The Crawley Growth Programme is a £60m investment package designed to support significant increases in homes, business investment and employment growth. The value of the investment unlocked by the Crawley Growth Programme is estimated at £750 million.

There is also £23m of gigabit speed full fibre being laid across Crawley, making us one of the best connected places in the country.

Investment at a glance

The Town Hall site is currently being redeveloped as part of a £150m scheme. A new Town Hall, grade A offices, 273 homes, a public square and commercial units are being built. All will be powered by a district heat network, supplying affordable heat and hot water for residents and businesses.

The Eastern Gateway scheme is a Crawley Growth Programme project, which will enable jobs, business space and home building in the town through major infrastructure improvements. The £8.3m scheme will improve public spaces, connectivity and accessibility by removing physical barriers created by large roads.

County Buildings is part of a wider regeneration programme of Crawley town centre and ties in with the Eastern Gateway scheme. This key town centre site is the ideal location for high-grade commercial use along with residential.

The Arora Group is behind the £70m Station Gateway scheme to redevelop Crawley Station and Overline House, which will revitalise one of Crawley’s key gateways and public realm areas, and build 306 homes. The scheme will unlock more than £7 million of public funding to upgrade and modernise Crawley Bus Station and the surrounding public realm.

£57m in transport and logistics sector investment is going into Manor Royal. And around £2.6m is being invested to improve Manor Royal Business District in the five years up to 2023.

Crawley College has a brand new, multi-million pound STEM Centre, which is home to a suite of innovative interactive spaces being used to integrate the use of technology and STEM into all subjects taught across the college. Crawley College is also awaiting the outcome of a bid for an Institute of Technology, one of just 10 across the country.

Metrobus is carrying out the largest investment in hydrogen buses in Europe to serve Crawley and the Gatwick Diamond.

We’re also making a £4m investment in the decarbonisation in homes.

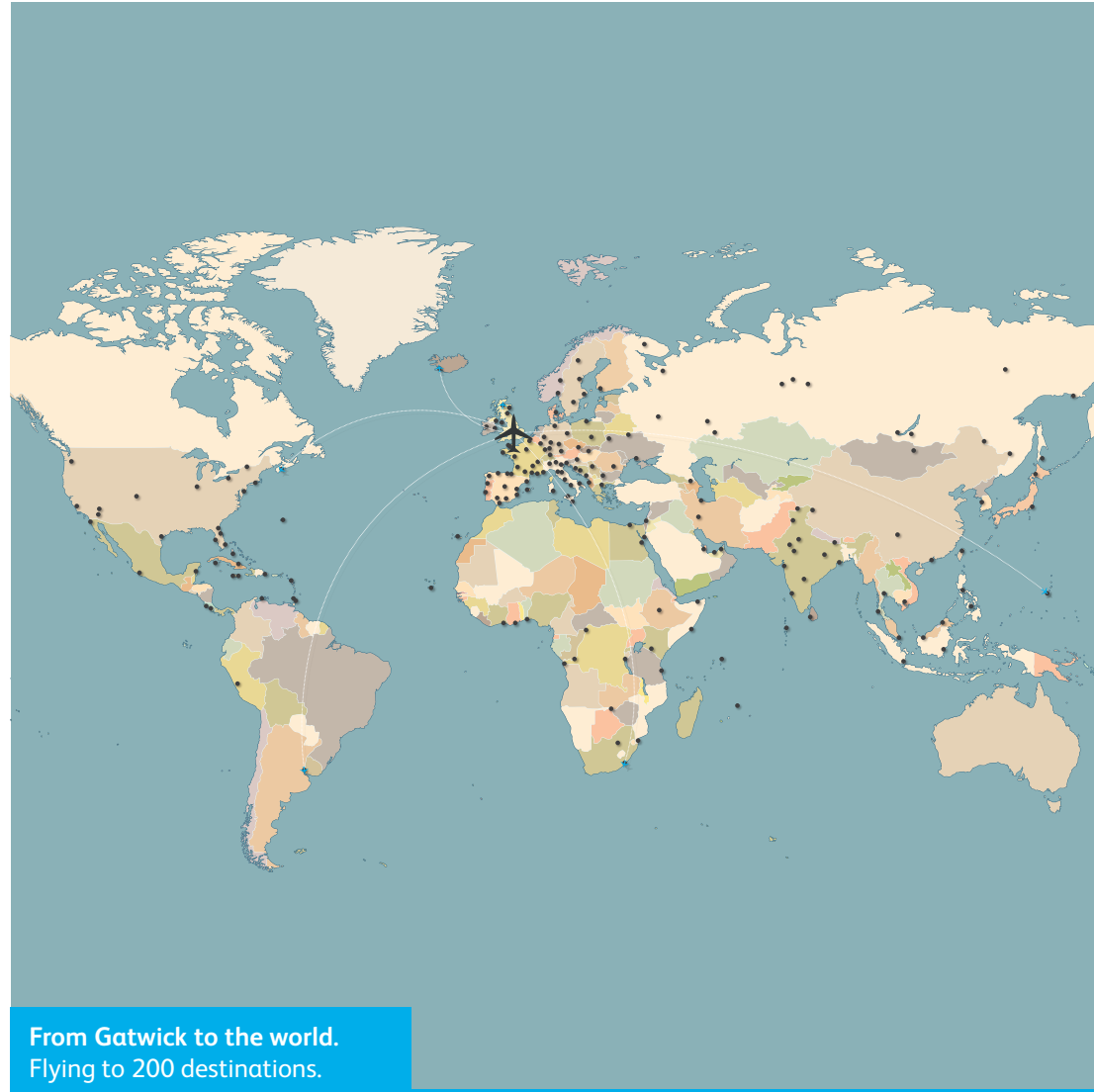
Towns Fund

Crawley has been granted £21.1 million from the government's Towns Fund to help boost job creation, business growth and economic recovery.

The Town Investment Plan includes 10 priority projects to help Crawley embrace its full potential and ensure it can absorb more investment in the future.

It also takes into consideration the impact of the pandemic on Crawley, Gatwick Airport and the economy, and seeks to deliver transformative regeneration schemes, which will unlock jobs and boost economic activity.

The projects are guided by the Crawley Town Deal Board, an established group of more than 50 representatives from businesses, community organisations and public organisations.



From Gatwick to the world.
Flying to 200 destinations.



“Crawley’s journey as a town has been relatively short, but it is a town that continually seeks improvement for residents and those working there, with continued investments in infrastructure a significant feature. The commitment to sustainable means of transport is just one feature that makes the town different.

“I believe city status would be an appropriate recognition for the above, and a reward for the previous and future successes and celebration of our cultural diversity.”

Chris Maidment

Chair, Crawley Town Deal Board and
Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce



“I wholeheartedly believe granting city status to Crawley will attract greater investment into the area, which in turn will drive development and create opportunities for our students. It will raise aspirations of our young people – the leaders of the future, and will help the community to build back stronger.”

Andrew Green
Chief Executive, Chichester College Group

“Crawley punches well above its weight. Crawley has fully embraced the Military Covenant, being one of the first towns to sign the covenant during Armed Forces Day in 2013.

“Since this time Crawley Borough Council has continued to invest time and resources into making the covenant one of substance.

“Our sister battalion, the Second Battalion, The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment currently has the freedom of the town, but as they transit to become a new Ranger Battalion, the Fourth Battalion will take their place as the Infantry Battalion proud to be linked with the would-be city of Crawley.”

Captain Paul Furber QGM,
D Coy 4 PWRR

Crawley A PLACE TO GROW

Crawley’s history can be traced as far back as the Stone (Neolithic) Age. **Crawley’s name is derived from the Anglo Saxon ‘Crow’s Leah’ meaning a ‘crow infested clearing’.**

The town itself incorporates three historic parishes, including Ifield, Crawley village and part of Worth. Worth Church is Crawley’s oldest building originating from Saxon times.

Crawley continued to grow steadily over the next 400 years, helped by the continuing success of the iron industry bringing wealth in the 16th century.



Crow’s Leah to Crawley
(a history of our town)



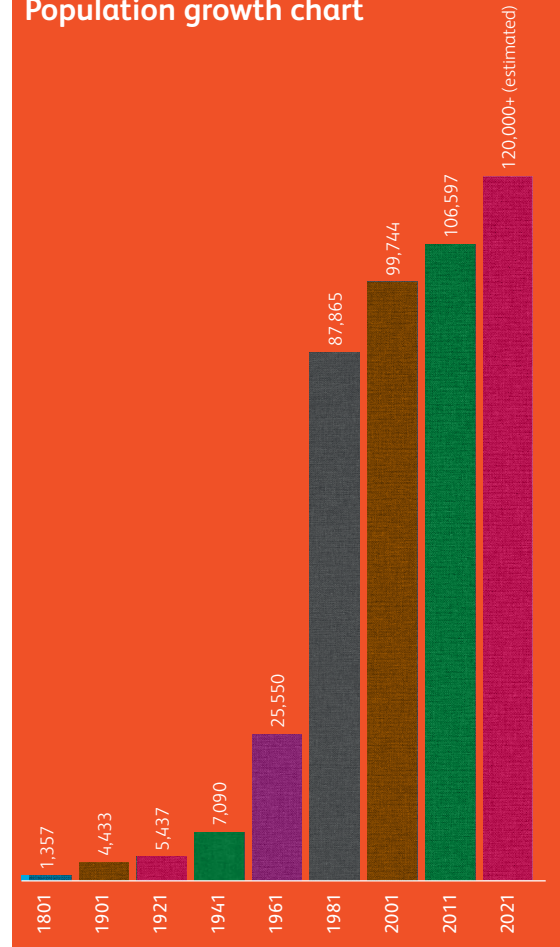
Crawley also became a busy staging post on the London to Brighton road, and it is this strategic position that has continued to play such a critical role in our development. The arrival of the railway from London to Brighton in the 1840s, stopping at Three Bridges, brought a further surge in the population. Its arrival gave Crawley a boost in the second half of the 19th century, with as much as a quarter of the town’s workforce working for the railway at one point.

Crawley continued to prosper during Victorian times, and did not suffer too badly in either World Wars.

The sale of many former country estates, which now provide several of the main parks and gardens in town, also made land available for building and around 900 new houses were built between the wars.

Gatwick Racecourse opened in 1891 and hosted the Grand National from 1916-1918. An airfield was opened nearby in the 1930s. Gatwick Aerodrome was then requisitioned by the Royal Air Force during World War II, after which Gatwick Airport was opened by HM The Queen in June 1958.

Population growth chart



5th century
Saxon settlers name the area Crow’s Leah, meaning crow-infested clearing

940

947
Gatwick and Hazelwick are mentioned in the Washington Charter

950-1050
Worth Church is built and owned by the son-in-law of William the Conqueror, William de Warenne

1070

1086
Ifield and Worth are mentioned in the Domesday Book

1080



Crawley was designated as a New Town on 9 January 1947, merging the villages of Three Bridges and Ifield with the small market town of Crawley filling in the gaps. The planners envisaged nine residential neighbourhoods, each based on a village concept, grouped around a town centre with an industrial estate. Each would have a neighbourhood centre with shops, a primary school, church, community centre and pub. This neighbourhood principle continues to this day.

In 1962 the town had a thriving community of 60,000, and the original nine neighbourhoods increased to 10. Crawley's boundaries were extended by 1,800 acres in 1983, stretching to the M23 in the east and the new Ifield West development in the west. Work started on Forge Wood, Crawley's 14th neighbourhood, in 2014. Crawley now has a population of more than 120,000 and is the biggest settlement in West Sussex with significant additional growth on our boundaries.

Today Crawley is a regional powerhouse. We are the biggest urban area for miles around, serving many towns and rural parts of West Sussex, East Sussex, South London, Surrey and Kent. Growth has been continuous and rapid since 1947, so much so that we are now built up to our boundaries.

This bid for city status demonstrates our ambitions and reflects our growth over the past 75 years.

The crest and logo



Crawley Urban District Council received its coat of arms from the College of Heralds in 1957. After the change to borough status in 1974 a modified coat of arms, based on the original, was awarded in 1976 and presented to the council on 24 March 1977.

The cross signifies the importance of Crawley's position at the junction of the London to Brighton and Horsham to East Grinstead roads.

The nine flying martlets are from the traditional arms of the South Saxons. Their gold colour on the blue background gives the Sussex colours and their number suggests the nine neighbourhoods which made up the original New Town.

The motto featured is 'I Grow and I Rejoice' – a translation of a phrase from the Epistulae of Seneca the Younger – and refers to the building of a happy, expanding community.



Colour and vibrancy is a strong part of our identity and is a visual link to the diversity within the borough.

The council's logo features a tree with 14 different coloured leaves, with each colour representing one of our 14 neighbourhoods. The colour of the leaf matches that which is used on street signs in that neighbourhood. The use of a tree provides a link back to our motto.

"It's time Crawley got the recognition it deserves. Crawley is the economic engine house of not just the Gatwick Diamond but the whole of Sussex. With Gatwick Airport at its heart and a raft of top flight businesses at Manor Royal, it is critical to the success of UK plc.

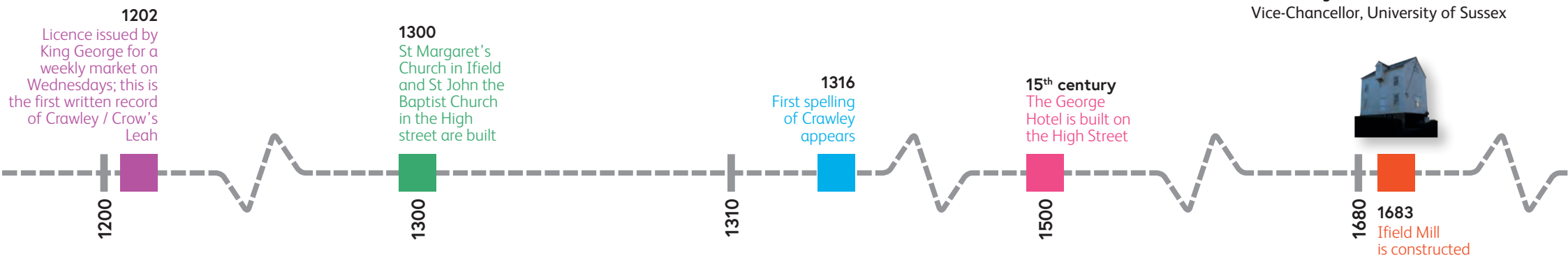
"More than that it has grown up from its 'new town' status. It is a mature, diverse community full of wonderful people making their lives here. There is no better place to live or work than Crawley. It's time Crawley was given its city status."

Mark Dunford
Editor, Crawley Observer



"The University of Sussex believes that Crawley thoroughly deserves city status as a thriving and vibrant part of southern Britain and is very happy to support the bid."

David Maguire
Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex



“Crawley is already a city all but in name, with an international airport and raft of global businesses. The city status bid is a once in a lifetime opportunity to attract more high value businesses into the area and cement our status as a leading part of the country driving innovation and trade.”

Julie Kapsalis
Chair, Coast to Capital



“We believe that city status would be a fitting way to celebrate the development of the New Town and its success as it evolves as a thriving place to live, work and visit.”

Suzanne Holloway
Partner, Vail Williams

Crawley A PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

Crawley is a town with a city-sized economy, employment, business base and infrastructure.

We are at the heart of the Gatwick Diamond region physically and economically.

We are a major commercial and business centre and widely regarded as the main economic driver of the region with £6 billion economic output per annum and yields 103,000 jobs in the borough alone.

There is a huge amount of redevelopment currently taking place and £300m of investment planned in the next five years, creating 2,000 jobs.

We have a large concentration of professional services businesses, particularly in the town centre. We are also a popular shopping destination with excellent transport links and companies of all sizes are based here.

However, the impact of the pandemic has been well-documented, with reports from organisations such as Centre for Cities highlighting Crawley as being the town most impacted by the pandemic. These impacts continue to cause significant harm to our communities.

After the difficulties of the pandemic and the economic and social challenges the town is facing, this bid celebrates and promotes our town and the granting of city status will help us to continue to rebuild our optimism and pride.

Research has shown that becoming a city would raise our economic profile, while the status can give us the platform to highlight our successes to the UK and beyond.

Manor Royal Business District

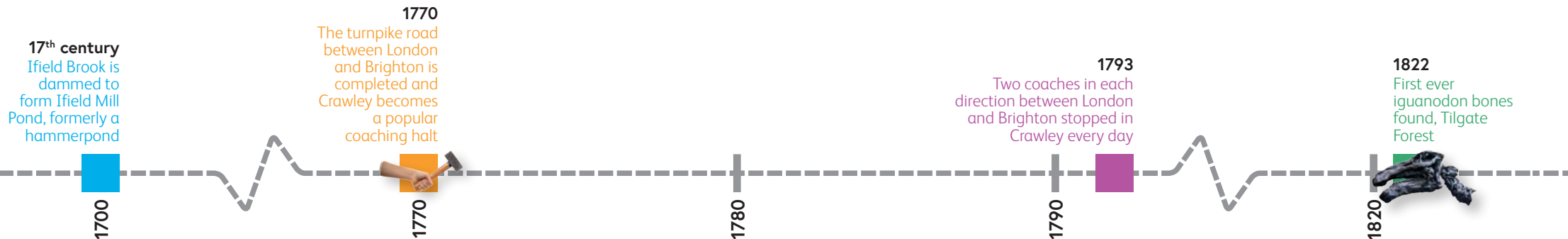
Manor Royal Business District is the single largest business park in the south east and one of the biggest in the UK.

Manor Royal Business Improvement District is incredibly diverse and successful having originally been designated for industry as part of the Crawley New Town project of 1947.

Since then, Manor Royal has grown to a size that has far exceeded original expectations and is now the largest business district in the south east, providing 9,000,000 square feet of commercial floor space and is home to more than 600 businesses generating 30,000 jobs.

Economically, and in other ways, Crawley already functions like the city centre of the Gatwick Diamond.

Alongside our highly productive business community we have a collective ambition for our place and our people that city status could provide a welcome boost to.





- Crawley contributes 25 per cent of the economic output of West Sussex despite occupying just two per cent of the land mass
- Manor Royal Business District is 218 hectares in size and home to more than 600 businesses, employing 30,000 people
- Crawley is home to Gatwick Airport, the busiest single runway airport in the world, and Manor Royal, the largest business district in the south east
- Four railway stations have fast direct routes to London from Crawley, Gatwick Airport, Ifield and Three Bridges
- More than 21 million passengers use Gatwick Airport train station every year
- Crawley has the highest economic activity level in West Sussex at 89.5 per cent and highest employment rate at 86.6 per cent
- Crawley has the highest jobs density (1.42) in the UK outside central London (higher than the south east (0.90) and UK (0.87))
- Crawley has a daytime population of more than 270,000, with 43,000 in-commuters – the highest in the south east (except London)
- The town centre has more than 220,000 visitors every week and will have more than 2,000 homes within the next five years
- Crawley ranks 11th in Grant Thornton’s Prosperity Index (out of 324 local authority areas)
- The borough has more than 3,500 active businesses, including a diverse range of world-leading occupiers: Virgin, easyJet, Boeing, TUI, Nestle, Rentokil Initial, Elekta, Doosan, L3 Commercial Training Solutions, Kier Construction, Tesla, Harwood Jaguar Land Rover, Varian, Thales, PwC, KPMG and OCS
- Crawley has the highest economic productivity per worker in the Coast to Capital area of £45,000 per capita and the highest net volume of commuters into Crawley of anywhere in the south east
- There are 103,000 jobs in the borough
- Crawley College has more than 3,700 students.



“Crawley already functions like the city centre of the Gatwick Diamond providing a focal point and hub for business, leisure and employment. Formally recognising this will provide a boost for the town when it most needs it but also provide a focus for the surrounding areas that collectively make up the Gatwick Diamond.

“The growth of Crawley since its creation as a New Town has exceeded expectations. Perhaps we have now exceeded and outgrown the “town” classification that no longer does justice to what we have become and the plans we have to improve our economic, public and civic life.”

Steve Sawyer
Executive Director, Manor Royal Business Improvement District

1840

1841
Three Bridges Railway Station opens

1848
Crawley Railway Station opens

1850

1855
Three Bridges to East Grinstead railway line opens

1858-1870
Mark Lemon, Editor of Punch magazine, lives on the High Street. His daughter, Kate, modelled for illustrator John Tenniel for *Alice in Wonderland*

1860

1880

“Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival is proud to support Crawley in its bid for city status, which we believe would have a transformational impact. There are exciting developments ahead with the Cultural Quarter programme and Creative Crawley’s successful £1m bid to Arts Council England’s Creative People and Places. City status would build on this momentum and help galvanise investment for Crawley’s creative regeneration.”

Andrew Comben
Chief Executive, Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival

“Crawley is welcoming and inclusive. It has helped, supported and allowed multicultural communities to grow. These communities in turn have contributed positively and fully support Crawley’s bid to become a city.”

Ashwin Soni
Crawley Inter Faith Network and Gurjar Hindu Union

Crawley A PLACE TO ENJOY

Crawley is home to a wide range of regional attractions, leisure facilities, events and festivals enjoyed by residents and visitors. And there really is something for everyone.

We’re home to fantastic parks and open spaces, a professional football club, a zoo, a leisure centre with Olympic-sized swimming pool, a theatre and arts centre, leisure park with huge IMAX cinema and bowling alley, dozens of restaurants, a regional shopping centre, lots of public art, a museum and extreme sport facilities.

We host and provide a wealth of entertainment and activity throughout the cultural year, including Crawley Festival, Crawley Pride, Crawley Irish Festival, WORDfest, STEMfest, British Airways Run Gatwick, the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run, St George’s Day, Armed Forces Day and outdoor cinema.

We are recognised by prestigious cultural organisations, including Brighton Festival, as a place to deliver great, innovative performances.

Our parks

In our city status consultation, we asked residents what they were most proud of in Crawley. Seventy per cent said parks and open spaces.

We have eight large parks and 16 conservation areas, with beautiful Tilgate Park the jewel in the crown.

Tilgate Park has been named in the top 10 per cent of attractions worldwide by TripAdvisor. Set in 400 acres, its natural landscape boasts ancient woodland, stunning lakes, gardens and lawns.

Tilgate Park’s Tree Trail features 30 of the best champion trees of their particular species, with trees from China, Africa, Europe and America. The park also boasts the Lakeside Café, Tilgate Zoo, Tilgate Forest Golf Centre, the Walled Garden Café, Go Ape, lake activities with Tilgate Park Watersports Centre and the Smith & Western restaurant.

Bollywood movies have been filmed in Tilgate Park, which is so picturesque that filmmakers use it as a classically British location.

In 2021, Tilgate Park achieved a Green Flag Award from Keep Britain Tidy for the 19th consecutive year. Memorial Gardens (13 awards), Worth Park (three), Goffs Park (13) and Ifield Mill Pond (two) also won Green Flags.

The Memorial Gardens is situated in the heart of the town centre and is popular with shoppers and workers for relaxing and enjoying the colourful surroundings. The Victorian bandstand, originally located at Gatwick Racecourse, hosts regular events.

Goffs Park features a lake, woodland walks, miniature railway and great play facilities.

Historic Worth Park has been restored to its Victorian heyday with Heritage Lottery Funding and boasts formal gardens, a stunning fountain, stone balustrading, a listed rockery, a wooded lake, an arboretum, a meadow, croquet lawns and a tennis court.

Ifield Mill Pond, considered our most important wetland site and a Site of Nature Conservation Importance, is made up of northern and southern ponds, as well as Bewbush Water Gardens, an area of semi-formal ponds and natural planting.

1881

The Crawley Observer begins life as Simmins Weekly Advertiser



1887

Jubilee Oak planted on the High Street to celebrate HM Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee

1890

1891

Gatwick Racecourse opens



1896

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle makes The George Inn central to his mystery novel *Rodney Stone*



1900



1905

Robert Whitehead, inventor of the self-propelled torpedo and grandfather of Agatha Whitehead whose seven children with George von Trapp are immortalised in *The Sound of Music*, is buried at Worth Church



Our extreme sport facilities include the inclusive BMX track, which gives disabled children and young people access to cycling activities, an outdoor parkour training site – the first in the UK – with obstacles that provide a unique opportunity for traceurs to practice and improve their skills, an indoor parkour centre and Crawley Skate Park, a popular facility features a mixture of transitions and street obstacles.

The Hawth offers one of the liveliest and most diverse programmes of arts and performance in the south east.

The studio allows for a varied programme of events including comedians, bands, dance and touring theatre. The gallery spaces, dance studio and the ‘Loft’ arts space provide an ever increasing range of classes and workshop activities, allowing the community to learn new skills and find new interests by participating and engaging with the arts for themselves.

K2 Crawley remains one of the leading leisure centres in the country and has more than 1.3 million visits every year. Since opening, the leisure centre has had more than 20 million visitors and hosted a number of high profile events including:

- Pre-Games training camps for elite athletes in the build up to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games
- World Karate Championships
- GB Basketball International Championships
- England Netball International Championships
- GB Volleyball International Championships
- English Badminton National Championships
- British Judo National Championships
- National Table Tennis Championships
- National Swimming Championships
- National Schools Swimming Championships
- National League One Athletics
- Sussex Schools and Sussex Athletics Championships
- The popular television series *Superstars*.

The Hawth

The Hawth was built by Crawley Borough Council and opened in 1988.

It features a main theatre boasting 862 seats, a studio with capacity for 160, amphitheatre, cinema, dance studio, arts spaces, meeting rooms and a restaurant.

The regional arts venue has staged more than 10,000 shows and sold more than five million tickets.

The vast programme includes West End musicals, comedy, family shows, established high quality pantomime to dance, world-class classical music and keynote speakers.

K2 Crawley

K2 Crawley leisure centre opened in 2005 and quickly became established as one of the premier leisure centres in the UK.

It has significantly increased participation in sport and physical activity in the community. More than 40 sports and activities are offered, including an eight lane, 50m Olympic swimming pool, 12 badminton courts, a state-of-the-art fitness suite, a 12m high Olympic-standard climbing wall, full size 3G football pitch and eight lane UK Athletics certified floodlit arena.



“A large percentage of our business at Arora Hotel Crawley is linked to the various domestic and global companies located in Crawley as well as guests travelling through Gatwick Airport.

“Crawley is already a city in all but name. We very much support your bid for city status and wish you every success.”

Surinder Arora
Founder and Chairman, The Arora Group



1930
A small airfield next to Gatwick Racecourse opens

1916-1918
The Grand National is run at Gatwick Racecourse



1920

1930

1907
Lyons Crossing Halt opens; becomes Ifield Railway Station in 1930

1910

“County Mall are delighted to be supporting Crawley in its bid to become a city. Being part of Crawley’s vibrant history since 1992, the centre has seen significant growth and development in the town. Crawley has shown immense tenacity during the pandemic, and with the introduction of the Crawley Town Centre BID earlier in the year, and the recently announced development plans to key town centre locations, Crawley is perfect for acquiring city status next year.”

Simon Cuckow
Centre Manager, County Mall



“As a cultural film hub located in the heart of Crawley, we feel the town being granted city status would become the catalyst for helping young people from within the area to achieve their aspirations.”

Callum Johnston
Founder, Crawley Film Initiative

Crawley Town Football Club

Crawley Town Football Club play at the council-owned Broadfield Stadium and play in League Two of the English Football League (EFL).

The 2021/22 season marks the 125th anniversary of the club, which adopted semi-professional status in 1962 and joined the Southern League.

The club took the decision to go full-time in 2005 and in April 2011, the club won promotion to the Football League with a National Conference record of 105 points. They’ve remained in the EFL ever since.

Crawley Town FC has formed a partnership with Crawley Wasps FC, one of the largest all-female football clubs in the country, bringing together the two major forces of football in the area. Crawley Wasps play in the FA Women’s National League.

Crawley Museum

Crawley Museum is an independent local history museum consisting of two sites; Crawley Museum and Ifield Watermill.

Crawley Museum is housed in a listed building in the town centre and is a place where you can find out about the history of the town and the surrounding areas through objects and exhibits along with the stories associated with them.

The museum has an active programme of events, temporary exhibitions and permanent collections which reflect various aspects of the town’s development.

Collections include objects from Crawley’s prehistory and Iron Age beginnings, its medieval settlement, the Victorian town and the 20th century New Town development.

Ifield Watermill is believed to be the only working watermill in West Sussex which is still powered by its original water source (Ifield Mill Pond). It contains a variety of working mechanical instruments which show how the mill used to function when it was operational and also houses exhibitions about the history and restoration of the mill and the history of the local area.

Town centre

Shopping and leisure have long been staples of the town centre experience. County Mall, Queens Square, the High Street, Crawley Leisure Park and all areas in between have attracted tens of thousands of people every day from across the region.

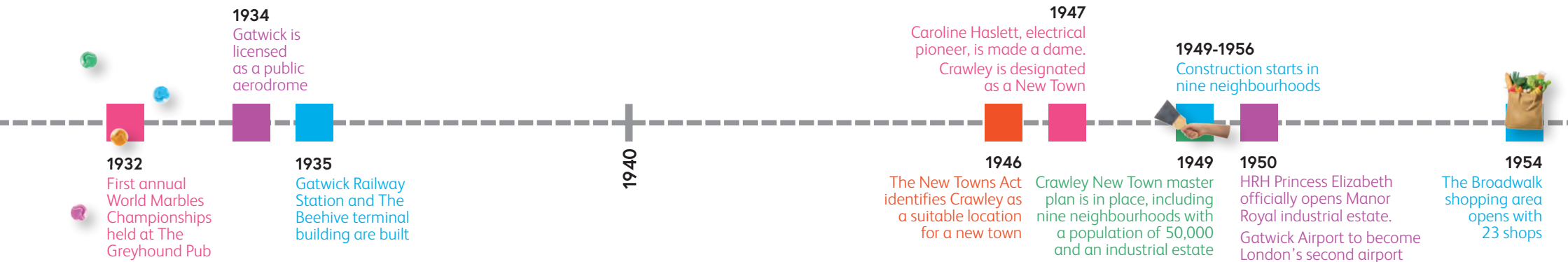
County Mall shopping centre is home to more than 80 stores, providing the best and widest ranging retail offer in the area.

The pedestrianised town centre includes another 150 shops, cafés and gyms, plus dozens of bars and restaurants which create a vibrant night-time economy.

Crawley Leisure Park is also home to state-of-the-art 15-screen cinema, a 26-lane bowling alley, a fitness centre and several restaurants.

If visitors need a place to rest their weary head after all that fun, Crawley has more than 10,000 hotel rooms.

The recently-formed Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) supports all the businesses within the BID area and works to bring new investment, occupiers, customers and shoppers to the town centre.



We consulted residents on the bid. This is what they said:



76 per cent **agree** or **strongly agree** that city status could provide greater recognition for Crawley



72 per cent **agree** or **strongly agree** that city status could enhance Crawley's reputation



79 per cent **agree** or **strongly agree** that city status could provide opportunities for increased investment



67 per cent **agree** or **strongly agree** that city status could provide enhanced civic pride and a sense of belonging



71 per cent **agree** or **strongly agree** that city status could help improve aspiration, provide better job prospects and employment opportunities.

Our Community Grants programme supports a diverse range of voluntary and community action in Crawley. We fund local, non-profit, voluntary and community organisations with setting up or running projects, services and events that benefit and meet the needs of our residents and visitors.

Each year we consider a range of proposals that support our funding priorities and we regularly award one-off and recurrent grants. The total amount provided for 2021/22 is £512,000 to more than 25 charities and groups. This is the highest figure in West Sussex. Since 2003, we have given grants totalling more than £11.2m to groups in Crawley.



"Diverse Crawley has unanimously supported the bid for Crawley to be a city because Crawley is the most diverse area in West Sussex, with 20.1 per cent people identifying as non-white.

"As Crawley was adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, becoming the "furlough capital of the UK", city status would possibly increase investment, thus reducing unemployment to everyone, especially the diverse community that was affected."

Marilyn Le Feuvre
Co-Founder and Chair, Diverse Crawley

Community and voluntary organisations backing the bid:

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association

AudioActive

Autism Support Crawley

Brighton Dome and Brighton Festival

Citizens Advice in West Sussex

Cohesion Plus

Crawley Arts Council

Crawley Arts Society

Crawley Campaign Against Racism

Crawley Community Church

Crawley Community Garden

Crawley Community Youth Service

Crawley Festival

Crawley Film Initiative

Crawley Game Changers

Crawley Inter Faith Network

Crawley Islamic Centre and Masjid

Crawley Mindfulness Centre

Crawley Museums

Crawley Observer

Crawley Old Girls (COGs)

Crawley Women United

Crawley WORDfest

Crawley Young Persons Council

Crawley Youth Centre

Creative Crawley

Dancehub CIC

Diverse Crawley

Free Shop Crawley

Friends of Goffs Park

Gems of Faith

Ginger Moo

Gurjar Hindu Union

The Hawth

Home-Start Crawley, Horsham and Mid-Sussex

Langley Green Forum

Leacroft practice

Maidenbower Park Community Club/Café in the Park

Manor Green College

New Writing South

Olive Tree Cancer Support

Relate North and South West Sussex

Rivers LPC

Same Sky

Siri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara

Sohaya Visions

St Alban's Church

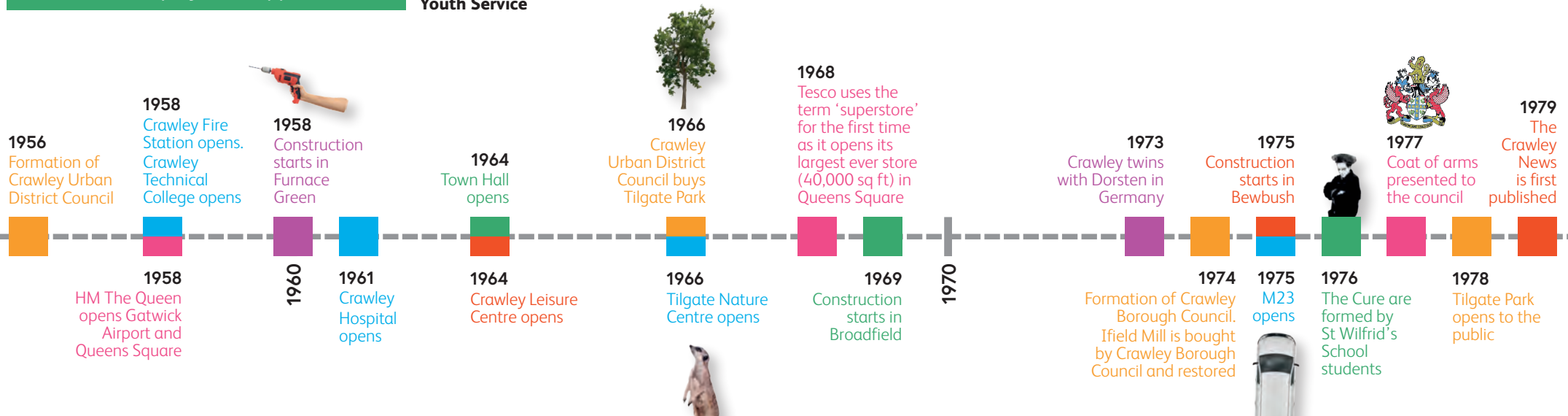
Sussex Community Foundation

Sussex Cricket Foundation

Tamil Learning Centre

The Charis Centre

Three Bridges Forum



“Crawley Town Centre Business Improvement District offers its full support to the application by Crawley Borough Council to become a city.

‘I grow and I rejoice’ was Crawley’s motto when it was designated a New Town in 1947; the town continues to grow and would certainly rejoice if this was acknowledged by becoming a city. As a significant contributor to the south east economy we believe that Crawley would be as successful as a new city has it has already proved itself to be as a New Town.”

Wendy Bell
Manager, Crawley Town Centre Business Improvement District

“I think giving Crawley city status is an amazing idea and I think this will open up a sea of opportunities for the youth of Crawley.”

Laiba Baig
Chair, Crawley Young Persons Council

WHY *Crawley* SHOULD BE A CITY

We believe that Crawley has a strong and compelling case to be made a city. The growth in our economy, communities, diversity and connectivity over the past 75 years all make Crawley a city in all but name.

But don’t take our word for it. We asked our residents why they back the bid.

“I think having city status would reflect how far Crawley has come in 75 years and would bring the town together after such a difficult year.”

“Crawley is in an excellent position to not only become a city, but a ‘smart city’ of the future. We have excellent infrastructure and transport links, we could lead the way in using technology to provide smart solutions. All this could make Crawley a truly ‘new city’, using innovation as the factor to differentiate it from other towns and cities.”

“I believe this would put Crawley on the map and improve the reputation of the town. It will attract more visitors too.”

“It would recognise the huge strides Crawley has made in size, economy and importance to the region. Important that city status should move with the times.”

“Crawley is a wonderful town with so many diverse opportunities for work and leisure, and so many sports facilities and parks. Manor Royal looks like it is booming and must surely be the envy of so many other towns.”

“As we come out of Covid this would be a tremendous opportunity to enhance business development, community opportunities and to further upgrade the town centre.”

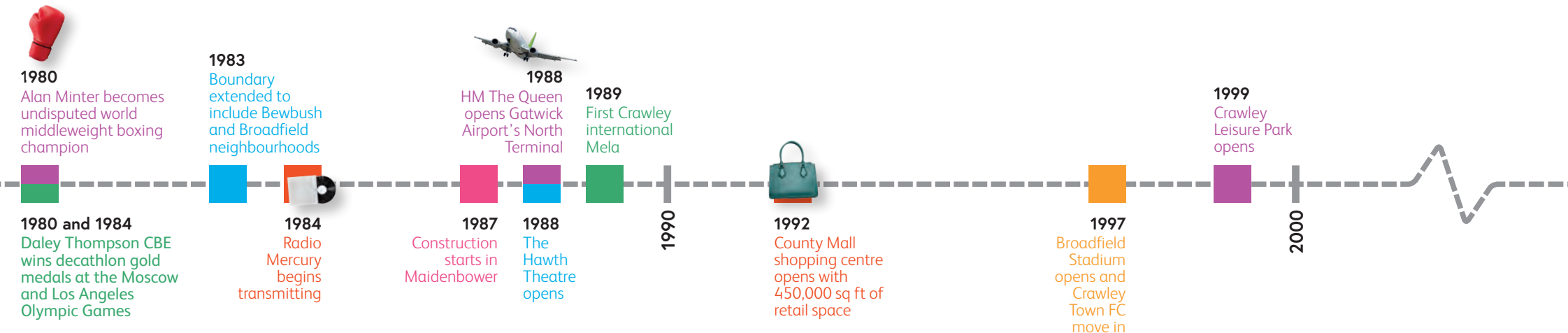
“Crawley is diverse and vibrant. It has reached the level to become a city as it has Gatwick Airport and Manor Royal Business District, an amazing town centre with business activities for entrepreneurs and residents, as well as road, rail, air and fibre connectivity.”

“We have great green spaces and parks, entertainment for all ages, whether it’s the cinema, sports centre at K2 Crawley, swimming or bowls greens indoors and outdoors, our Hawth Theatre with great shows and plays, our lovely historic bandstand and the airport to name a few things.”

“Crawley is a great meritocracy. There are opportunities here for all. Anyone who works hard and takes opportunities on offer to them can do very well. I moved to Crawley in 2003 when my children were young. They went to Hazelwick, a great school the town should be proud of. Me and my children have done well in our careers in Crawley. I love the cultural mix and the green spaces.”

“Crawley has everything I would want from a city – good leisure facilities, large green spaces, good transport links and good shopping.”

“City status would mean a lot to Crawley but would also be important to the wider region.”



“The vast majority of what has happened to get it to where it is today has happened in the last 75 years. Prior to the pandemic we had one of the lowest unemployment rates nationally and one of the highest earning rates, which is incredible considering our relative size and history.”

“I’m very proud of our town and being the third generation of my family to live here, feel like I owe it a lot. Applying for and supporting city status would be a great way of giving back to the town and all it has done for so many people.”

“It would be great recognition for the town and improve job and business opportunities.”

“I love living in Crawley. Moving here was the best decision I made, the community is fantastic, and my kids have had plenty of opportunities here.”

“I’ve seen first-hand how we as a community have grown closer and done more for one another, highlighted by COVID and how we as a community stood tall, got behind local groups and really came through together.”

“Crawley was planned using the best model of community planning ever used in this country, based on neighbourhoods with their own shops, church, playing field, community centre, doctor, school etc. to serve everyday needs and build communities. Although more mobile, we still use these facilities and identify with our neighbourhood – a far cry from many modern developments elsewhere with houses but no facilities and no chance of forming a community. Crawley is a model of a New Town that has gelled, grown and prospered. It has a special place in the history of urbanisation and should be held up as a model for today. Granting city status would be recognition of this.”

“I completely support the idea of becoming a city!”

“Crawley was built as a post-war New Town attracting new industries and new residents from afar. It has continued in this tradition and attracted a highly diverse community. Being granted city status would be both a testament to the past and a boost to the future as a diverse and dynamic community.”

“Crawley is a great place to live. There are sports facilities, Crawley Town FC, a great location, beautiful outdoor spaces, a theatre, great schools and a long list of successful, inspiring people who began their journey to fame and fortune in our diverse town.”

“I have only recently moved to Crawley but have been working here for three years. I was aware that Crawley had good community spirit before I moved but I was still shocked to see how many people help each other out. Crawley is one of the hardest hit towns after Covid because the airport brought a lot of money and people to the town. We need something to help pick us up and return us to our former glory. I believe becoming a city would secure more funding and give Crawley more opportunities to improve.”

“An exciting opportunity for Crawley residents both new and old from those who are connected to the original villages, the New Town of the 50s, the extending estates of the 80s through to the present day new residents who have always come together and connect in such a unique way.”

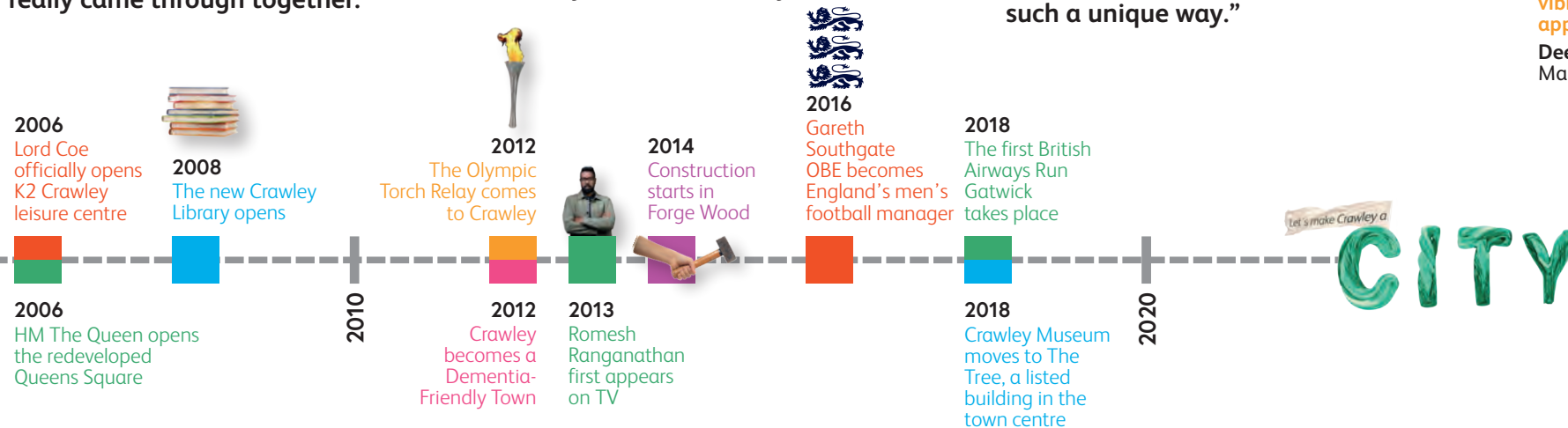
“City status would give Crawley a huge boost for a period of transformation unequalled since its establishment as a new town. This is not just a matter of status: the prestige of becoming a city would lever significant investment essential both to the recovery and to the longer term contribution Crawley will make as a regional capital driving the wider economy.”

Jeff Alexander
Chief Executive, Gatwick Diamond Business



“Chichester is currently the only city in West Sussex and adding Crawley as a city will reflect the importance that the town brings to the growth and development of the both the county and the country. I foresee an increased sense of local pride that would come with Crawley becoming a city and the creation of a feeling of vibrancy which makes it even more appealing to work and live in.”

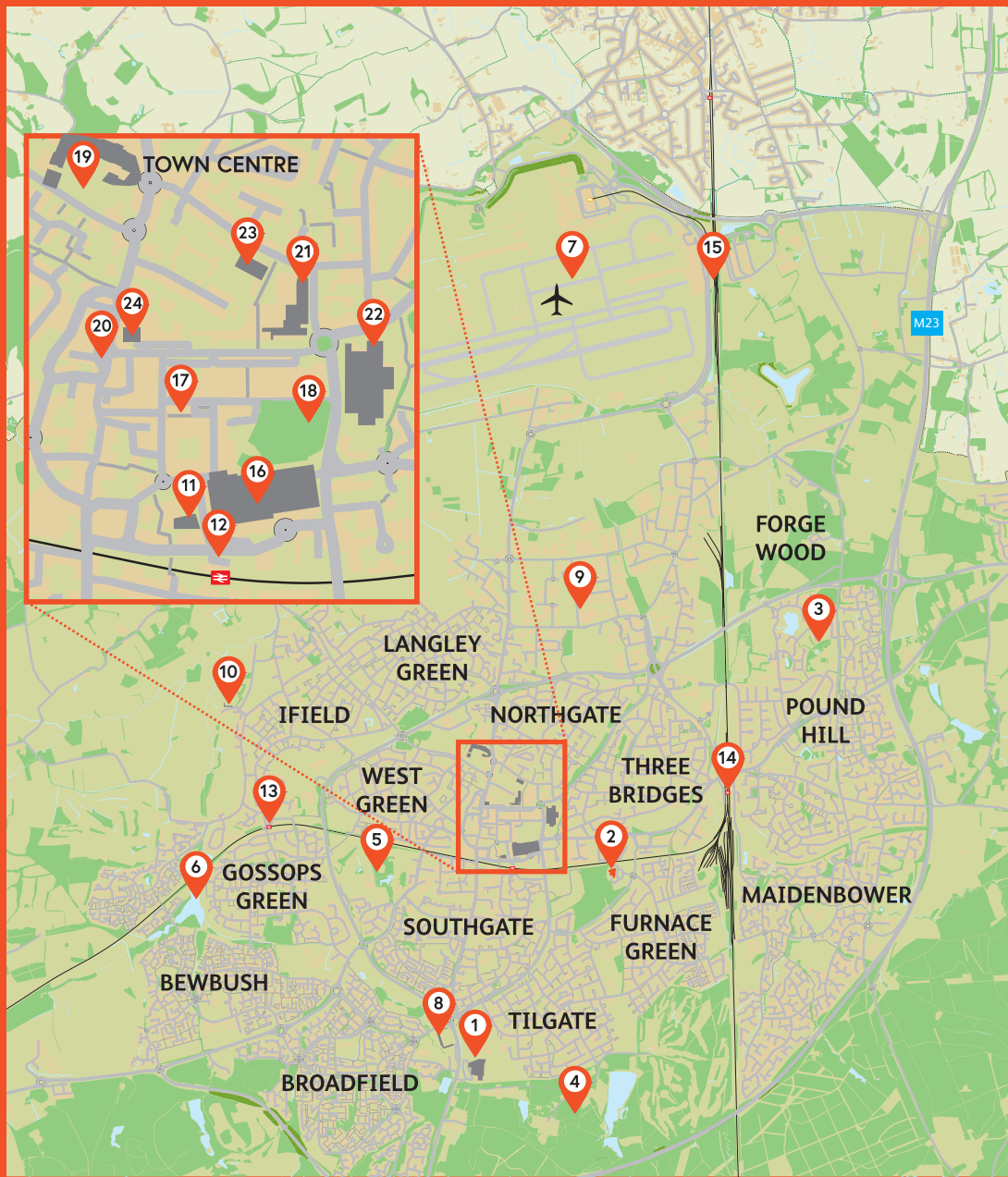
Dee Mathieson
Managing Director, Elekta Ltd.



CONNECTIONS AND FREQUENCIES

Crawley map

- 1 K2 Crawley
- 2 The Hawth
- 3 Worth Park
- 4 Tilgate Park
- 5 Goffs Park
- 6 Ifield Mill Pond
- 7 Gatwick Airport
- 8 Crawley Town FC
- 9 Manor Royal
- 10 Ifield Barn Theatre
- 11 Crawley Bus Station
- 12 Crawley Station
- 13 Ifield Station
- 14 Three Bridges Station
- 15 Gatwick Airport Station
- 16 County Mall
- 17 Queens Square
- 18 Memorial Gardens
- 19 Crawley Leisure Park
- 20 High Street
- 21 Town Hall
- 22 Crawley College
- 23 Army Reserve Centre
- 24 Crawley Museum



Crawley is incredibly well connected – **locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.**

Four train stations, a bus station and the busiest single runway airport in the world are all in the borough. From Gatwick Airport Station alone, 21 million passengers every year reach 120 rail destinations directly and more than 700 with just one change.

More than 20 direct trains an hour operate to and from Crawley to London, while 12 go between Crawley and Brighton.

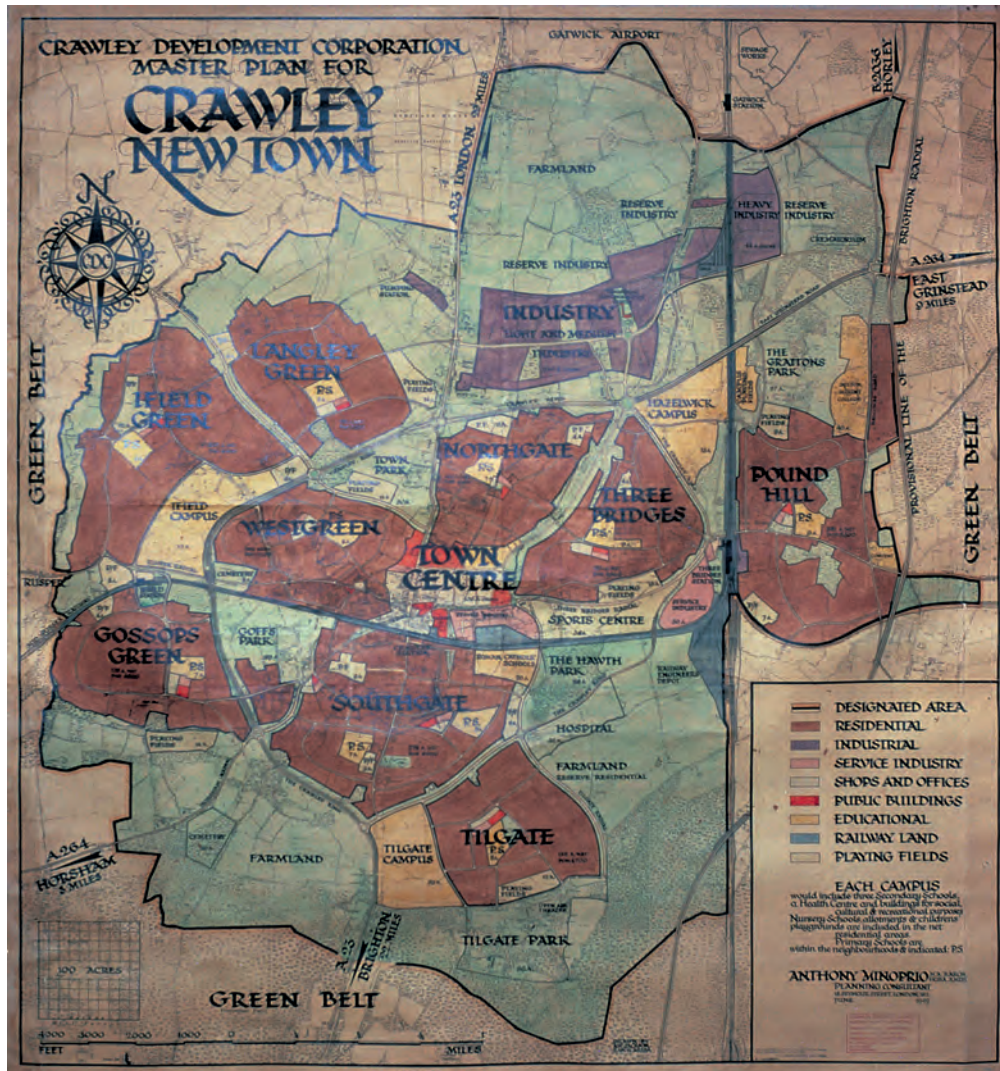
Twenty buses run to and from Crawley to Gatwick Airport every hour, including 10 Fastway buses which avoid congestion by travelling along guided busway and dedicated bus lanes to avoid other traffic.

Sixteen buses go to and from Manor Royal every hour, while 14 run to and from Crawley Leisure Park every hour. Five buses an hour run to and from the town centre to K2 Crawley.

Buses also run to and from Horsham every 30 minutes, Brighton (every 40 minutes) and Worthing (every 60 minutes).

There are various cycle routes, including leisure routes along the Worth Way and through Tilgate Forest. Crawley is also home to a section of Avenue Verte along National Cycle Route 21.

The M23 forms our eastern boundary and connects the town with London and Brighton.



The New Town masterplan from 1949, created by Anthony Minoprio and delivered by Sir Thomas Bennett



Crawley from the air, with Gatwick Airport in the north, Manor Royal to the south and the neighbourhoods surrounding the town centre



Some of the first New Town housing, in West Green



New council housing on the site of our former depot; Crawley Borough Council builds around 250 homes a year, one of the highest rates in the country



Platform_ and Geraint Thomas House, two of several new housing developments in the town centre



New housing on The Broadway in the town centre sits above commercial units; more than 3,000 residents now call the town centre their home



The George Hotel in Crawley's Historic High Street dates from the 15th century and is associated with many royal visits



Ifield Watermill, believed to be the only working watermill in West Sussex still powered by its original water source (Ifield Mill Pond), was in commercial operation from 1660 until the 1920s



The Bandstand, now an events space in the Memorial Gardens in the town centre, was built in 1891 and located at Gatwick Racecourse until 1948. The Cure played one of their first public gigs on it



St Nicholas Church is the oldest building in Crawley, one of the oldest churches in the UK and has been a place of Christian worship and devotion for well over 1,000 years



St John the Baptist's Church in the High Street is the oldest building in the town centre, dating back to 1250



Crawley College is a further education college offering technical and professional courses in the town centre, home to more than 3,700 students



Manor Royal Business District is home to more than 600 businesses providing employment to more than 30,000 people; Gatwick Airport generates 24,000 jobs and between £2bn and £4bn for the economy



The Queen and Prince Philip visit the High Street on their visit to the town in 1958



The Queen opens Queens Square in 1958



The Queen and Prince Philip arrive in Queens Square for their visit to the town in 2006



The annual Crawley Community Awards at The Hawth recognise and reward the wealth of community spirit in the town



Events like Crawley International Mela bring our diverse communities together



Crawley's first ever Pride event in 2021 was an important milestone for the town's LGBTQ+ community



The Belonging Bandstand, created by award-winning artist Morag Myerscough, hosted a week of events in the High Street



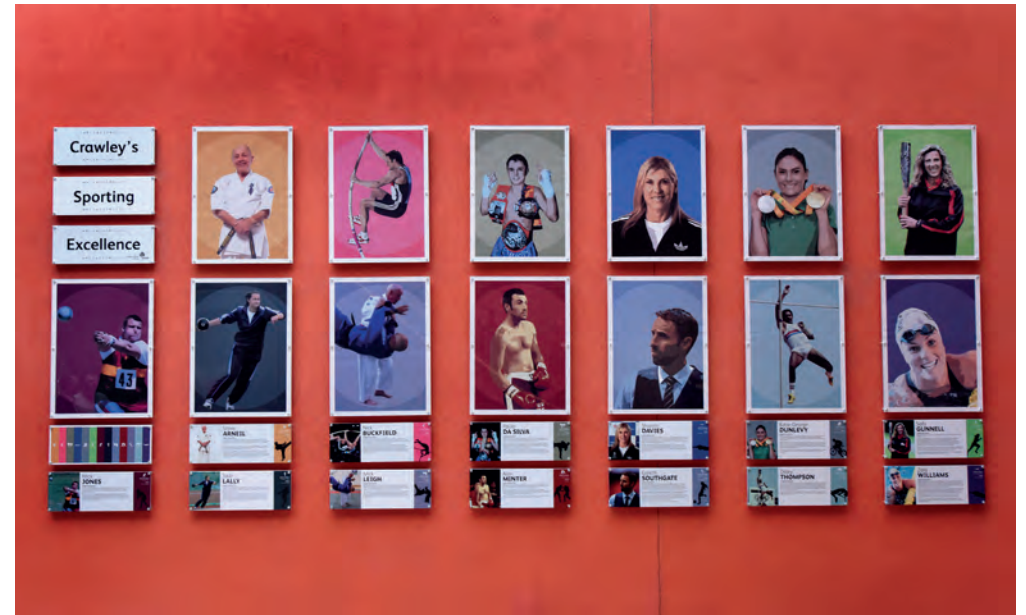
The new Town Hall is part of a £150m redevelopment scheme which will also include 77,000 sq ft of grade A offices, 273 homes, a public square, commercial units and a district heat network



Crowds surround the 130-year-old Pulham fountain in Worth Park after it was restored to working condition as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund project



The Queen's Mosaic, built in the 1950s by master mosaic fixer Len Baker and now in the Memorial Gardens, depicts chess boards and a scene from the Lewis Carroll classic, Alice in Wonderland. The visual character of Alice in Wonderland is based on a girl living on Crawley High Street



K2 Crawley's wall of sporting excellence features 13 high achieving sportspeople with connections to the town – and more are to be added next year



K2 Crawley Leisure Centre was opened by Lord Coe in 2006, includes the only Olympic-sized swimming pool in the south east and was used as a Pre-Games training camp before the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics



Broadfield Stadium, owned by Crawley Borough Council, has been leased to Crawley Town Football Club since it opened in 1997



The boardwalk across Ifield Mill Pond gets people closer to a variety of flora and fauna at this Site of Nature Conservation Importance



The Hawth is our regional arts centre and features an 862-seat theatre, studio with 160 seats, amphitheatre, dance studio, gallery space and a restaurant. It's surrounded by woodland and a short walk from the town centre



Crawley Leisure Park houses one of the UK's largest cinemas and a multitude of attractions and restaurants, drawing visitors from far and wide



Crawley Borough Council's Tilgate Zoo, in Tilgate Park, is home to several exotic species, including meerkats, serval, tapir, raccoon dogs, coati, capybara and lemurs



Tilgate Lake, known locally as Campbell's Lake, in Tilgate Park is a base for several watersports and the trial waters for Campbell's Bluebird record



Crowds gather to watch the Christmas lights switch on in Queens Square



Queens Square is the heart of the town centre and was redeveloped in 2017



The Queen's Rocks are an art installation commemorating the New Town's 60th anniversary; they include The Queen's and Prince Philip's signatures, as well as elements of residents' signatures



Queens Square is a prime focal point for the town centre's vibrant events programme



The Cure, Crawley's most influential cultural export, were formed by primary school friends in the 1970s. They played local venues, including the Bandstand, before filling stadia around the world. They have gone on to sell more than 30 million records.



The Martlets, a busy shopping street in the pedestrianised town centre



The London to Brighton Veteran Car Run has its halfway stop in Crawley's High Street. This year was the 125th anniversary of the famous Emancipation Run of November 1896 and the run has taken place most years since its initial revival in 1927



British Airways Run Gatwick brings runners from across the world to Crawley, including locals, international athletes and celebrities



Ridleys Court, a Grade II listed building, is the former stable block for Worth Park. It now houses the Worth Park Visitor Centre and council housing



The Martlets Tree sculpture, designed by Peter Parkinson, outside Crawley Library celebrates the heraldic origin of The Martlets and is covered in shimmering metal 'Martlet' birds. Crawley boasts an extensive collection of public artworks



The Flying Spiral, designed by Ray Smith, is located close to The Hawth theatre. Crawley has one of the largest collections of public art in the south east



Crawley Museum is housed in a listed town centre building and has an active programme of events, exhibitions and permanent collections reflecting various aspects of Crawley's development



Memorial Gardens are a haven of tranquillity in the busy town centre, a popular lunch spot for workers and shoppers and an events space



Grade II listed Broadfield House, in Broadfield Park, has been the offices of the Crawley Development Corporation, the studios for Radio Mercury and a school



The Apple Tree Centre is the impressive home of the Gurjar Hindu Union



Broadfield Mosque; Crawley has many places of worship which reflects the wide diversity of the town, including 31 churches, five mosques, three temples, three gurdwaras, two Kingdom Halls, a Meeting House and a Buddhist Centre



Three Bridges Station, rail operating centre and Siemens train care facility from the air



Crawley is home to Gatwick Airport, the busiest single runway airport in the world



Crawley's excellent public transport system includes 20 buses every hour to and from Gatwick Airport

Crawley CITY BID 2022

NEW TOWN TO NEW CITY