

From: Crow, Duncan [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 April 2018 21:22
To: reviews
Subject: Submission for review of Crawley Borough Council
Attachments: CBC 2018 Review - Submission to LGBCE from the Crawley Borough Council Conservative Group.docx; WSCC proposed scheme for CBC review - shaded areas moved from neighbourhoods.pdf

Please see attached a submission from the Crawley Borough Council Conservative Group with an accompanying map that is referenced in the submission.

Best wishes, Duncan.

Duncan Crow.
Councillor for Furnace Green.
Leader of the Conservative Group.

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Introduction

The Crawley Borough Council Conservative Group consists of 17 out of Crawley's existing 36 elected Borough Councillors (one current vacancy excluded) which at 47% of the Council's current membership, represents just under half of all its Councillors. This submission is written on behalf of and with the full support of all our 17 members.

We give our strong support to the warding pattern proposal that has been submitted by West Sussex County Council and we oppose the parts of the Crawley Borough Council proposed warding pattern that differ from the West Sussex County Council proposal.

A mixed pattern of wards

There is a universal view from both Crawley Borough Council and West Sussex County Council, all three political groups that have representation on either Local Authority, as well as from the Member of Parliament for Crawley, that Crawley Borough would be best-served by having a mixed pattern of wards consisting of 10 three-member wards and 3 two-member wards, and that those two-member wards should be Furnace Green, Gossops Green and Tilgate.

We sincerely hope that the LGBCE takes on board this unanimity across Councils and political groups and does not impose an all three-member scheme that would badly comprise Crawley's much-valued neighbourhood principle.

We firmly believe that maintaining Crawley's neighbourhood principle with its Council wards matching its neighbourhoods should carry greater weight than having an all three-member warding pattern, which would inevitably split neighbourhoods that currently have exactly matching wards, or that add parts of other neighbourhoods to an existing ward that is solely

made up of one neighbourhood. Crawley's cherished neighbourhood principle can be best achieved by adopting the West Sussex County Council proposal which maintains 3 two-member wards of Furnace Green, Gossops Green and Tilgate, while still having 10 three-member wards.

Background

Under the existing arrangements, we note that the only electors in Crawley who are currently situated in a ward based outside of their neighbourhood and whose ward name does not reflect their local area, are the 315 electors of the Orchards estate in Ifield, who are currently in Langley Green ward for the purpose of maintaining electoral equality. This was implemented at the previous 2002 review.

Other than for the Orchards estate in Ifield (which is addressed in both the WSCC and CBC proposals) the existing warding pattern for Crawley Borough Council is exactly a perfect match for all of Crawley's neighbourhoods, with the exception of the two largest neighbourhoods of Pound Hill and Broadfield, which have sensible splits through the middle of each and which have always been uncontentious.

We feel strongly that any new warding pattern should only deviate from exactly matching Crawley's neighbourhoods if electoral equality would be otherwise badly compromised. We support West Sussex County Council's proposed scheme as it is a minimum-change scheme from the existing neighbourhood-based warding pattern that still meets the 10% electorate variance threshold for all of its proposed wards.

In recognising that some changes need to be made for the purposes of electoral equality, the Crawley Borough Council Conservative Group wishes to see the minimum changes from the existing arrangements with the smallest possible number of

Crawley electors moved into wards based outside of their existing neighbourhood.

We welcome the fact that the West Sussex County Council proposal seeks to maximise the total number of Crawley electors within a ward that matches their neighbourhood boundaries, as well as to maximise coterminosity with the County Council Electoral Divisions, both in terms of electors and geographical area.

With the naming of two new wards of Bewbush & North Broadfield and of Langley Green & Tushmore, we welcome that the WSCC proposal also seeks to give a familiar identity to the two main residential areas (the north of Broadfield and the area around the Tushmore Roundabout and Tushmore Lane/Tushmore Avenue) that are proposed to move from their existing neighbourhood wards into a new ward for the purposes of electoral equality.

It is worth noting that other than those two significant areas above, the only other areas in the WSCC proposal that move outside of their existing neighbourhood-based ward are five streets in Bewbush and two as-yet undeveloped sites on the extremities of the town centre. We cannot see how any other scheme could possibly maximise Crawley's much-valued neighbourhood principle as much as the WSCC proposal does, without breaching the 10% electorate variance threshold.

Comparison of Warding Patterns

Our key consideration throughout is the following paragraph taken from the Crawley Borough Council submission to the LGBCE which states: *"In order to ensure that the new pattern of wards properly reflects both neighbourhood and community identity, it will be important for ward boundaries to align with the neighbourhoods as closely as possible."*

This statement has our complete support but the warding pattern proposed by CBC is inferior to the warding pattern proposed by WSCC when applying it.

Attached with our submission is a map of Crawley showing the warding pattern proposed by WSCC. This map has the benefit of being shaded in those areas that will no longer match their neighbourhood boundaries - showing how limited that is for the WSCC proposal which we very much welcome.

We urge the LGBCE to carefully compare this map with the official map of Crawley's neighbourhoods that is included in the Crawley Borough Council submission to the LGBCE, and then to compare a map of the proposed scheme from CBC with the Crawley neighbourhood map.

Doing these comparisons will clearly show that the WSCC proposal compares very favourably to the CBC proposal in terms of matching Crawley's neighbourhoods, by virtue of being a minimum-change scheme from the current warding arrangements that are virtually a perfect fit for Crawley's neighbourhoods.

Another useful comparison in comparing the proposed schemes from WSCC and CBC is calculating the number of electors who are moved out of their existing neighbourhood-based ward based on the projected 2023 electorate.

The WSCC proposal sees the following electors moved out of their existing neighbourhood-based ward into a new ward:

- 1471 Broadfield electors into Bewbush & North Broadfield
- 861 Northgate & West Green electors into Langley Green & Tushmore
- 331 (currently zero) Northgate & West Green electors into Three Bridges.
- 299 (currently zero) Northgate & West Green electors into Southgate

- 285 Bewbush electors into Gossops Green

Total = 3247.

The CBC proposal sees the following electors moved out of their existing neighbourhood-based ward into a new ward:

- 1014 Northgate & West Green electors into Three Bridges
- 985 Broadfield electors into Bewbush
- 815 Broadfield electors into Gossops Green
- 718 Three Bridges electors into Langley Green & Manor Royal
- 584 Northgate & West Green electors into Langley Green & Manor Royal

Total = 4116.

The WSCC proposed warding scheme is clearly better than the CBC proposed warding scheme in geographically matching Crawley's neighbourhoods, as well as moving the fewest number of electors to a ward based outside of their neighbourhood boundaries.

Convenient and Effective Local Government

With the existing West Sussex County Council Electoral Divisions based on existing Borough wards and neighbourhoods within Crawley, a Crawley scheme with minimal changes would be clearly be best for maintaining convenient local government by maximising coterminosity between County Electoral Divisions and Borough Wards.

Because the WSCC proposed scheme better matches Crawley's neighbourhoods than the CBC proposed scheme, both in terms of geography and electors, it also has better coterminosity with the West Sussex Electoral Divisions in Crawley. The WSCC proposal sees the existing Three Bridges Electoral Division covering two Borough wards (Three Bridges/Pound Hill South)

and six Borough Councillors, and the existing Broadfield Electoral Division also covering two Borough wards (Broadfield/Bewbush & North Broadfield) and six Borough Councillors.

By contrast, the CBC proposed scheme has the Three Bridges Electoral Division covering three Borough wards (Three Bridges/Pound Hill South/Langley Green & Manor Royal) and nine Borough Councillors, and the Broadfield Electoral Division also covering three Borough wards (Broadfield/Bewbush/Gossops Green) and eight Borough Councillors.

The CBC proposed scheme would also clearly be more complicated and onerous for liaising with Borough Council colleagues for both the Three Bridges and Broadfield County Councillors given the additional Borough wards and Borough Councillors proposed to be within their Electoral Divisions.

In terms of actual neighbourhoods, the CBC proposal sees the Three Bridges neighbourhood containing two Borough wards and represented by six Borough Councillors, and the Broadfield neighbourhood containing three Borough wards and represented by eight Borough Councillors. The WSCC proposal compares much more favourably, with the Three Bridges neighbourhood containing one Borough ward and represented by three Borough Councillors, and the Broadfield neighbourhood containing two Borough wards and represented by six Borough Councillors.

Cross-Party and resident support for the WSCC proposal

West Sussex County Council's Electoral Review Panel consisted of Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour County Councillors. At the meeting of this panel, there was strong and unanimous support that Crawley would be best served by

having a mixed pattern of 13 wards, consisting of 10 three-member wards and 3 two-member wards, with all members agreeing that those 3 two-member wards should be Furnace Green, Gossops Green and Tilgate. There was no support whatsoever from the panel for an all three-member scheme due to the splitting of neighbourhoods that it would entail and the creation of wards made up of part of one neighbourhood and part of another.

Of the nine members attending this Electoral Review Panel meeting, the vote in support of the WSCC proposed scheme was nearly unanimous at 8-1 with only one (Labour) member opposing. This was the same for the County Council's Governance Committee which again only had one (Labour) member opposing the WSCC proposed scheme.

By contrast, the vote in favour of the CBC submission at the Crawley Borough Council Boundary Review Working Group was 3-2, the Governance Committee vote in favour was 6-5, and the Full Council vote in favour was 19-17. At this Full Council meeting, several residents from the Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges attended in order to make their feelings known that they wished to remain within Three Bridges ward.

All these votes at Crawley Borough Council were split down party lines with the only support for the CBC submission coming from Labour members. Crucially, we have observed no support whatsoever for the CBC submission other than from Labour Party Councillors and Members.

By contrast, the WSCC proposal has both Conservative and Liberal Democrat support, as well as strong support from Three Bridges residents who wish to see their long-established neighbourhood ward stay together.

It should be noted that support at WSCC for its proposal was almost unanimous, whereas at CBC the support for its proposal was by the narrowest of margins.

Community Identity

The WSCC proposed warding scheme gives names for the two new wards of Bewbush & North Broadfield and Langley Green & Tushmore, which give a familiar identity to those electors who reside outside of the neighbourhoods of Bewbush and Langley Green but who are being moved into these new wards. **This means that for Crawley as a whole, only 285 current electors (in Bewbush) would move into a ward whose name did not reflect a familiar identity of their local area**, although these 285 electors would be within very close proximity to Gossops Green and have easy access.

By 2023, this would be added to by the projected 299 new electors in Station Way into Southgate and 331 projected new electors at the Town Hall/County Building sites into Three Bridges, **giving a total of 915 electors**. It should however be noted that all three of these small areas are immediately next to the existing wards they would be moving to.

In contrast, by 2023 the CBC proposed scheme sees **3,532 electors moved into wards outside of their neighbourhood, which does not give them an accurate or familiar identity to their new ward**. These electors are:

- 1014 Northgate & West Green electors into "Three Bridges"
- 985 Broadfield electors into "Bewbush"
- 815 Broadfield electors into "Gossops Green"
- 718 Three Bridges electors into "Langley Green & Manor Royal"

It is clear that the WSCC proposed scheme is superior to the CBC proposed scheme in terms of community identity.

Electors moved from their existing neighbourhood ward

The WSCC proposal sees the following electors by 2023 moved outside of their existing neighbourhood-based ward:

- 1471 Broadfield electors into Bewbush & North Broadfield
- 861 Northgate & West Green electors into Langley Green & Tushmore
- 331 (currently zero electors) Northgate & West Green electors into Three Bridges.
- 299 (currently zero electors) Northgate & West Green electors into Southgate
- 285 Bewbush electors into Gossops Green

Total number of electors = 3247.

The CBC proposal sees the following electors by 2023 moved out of their existing neighbourhood ward:

- 1014 Northgate & West Green electors into Three Bridges
- 985 Broadfield electors into Bewbush
- 815 Broadfield electors into Gossops Green
- 718 Three Bridges electors into Langley Green & Manor Royal
- 584 Northgate & West Green electors into Langley Green & Manor Royal

Total number of electors = 4116.

It is clear that the WSCC proposal sees the fewest Crawley electors moved out of their existing neighbourhood-based ward.

Warding Arrangements

The Crawley Borough Council Conservative Group supports the warding arrangements of 13 wards proposed by West Sussex

County Council. We make the following comments on each ward proposed in the WSCC submission.

We support no changes to the following five existing wards as per both the WSCC and CBC proposals: **Furnace Green** (2 members). **Maidenbower** (3 members). **Pound Hill North & Forge Wood** (3 members) - other than the updated ward name to reflect the new Forge Wood neighbourhood. **Pound Hill South & Worth** (3 members). **Tilgate** (2 members)

New wards:

Bewbush & North Broadfield (3 members)

This proposed ward sees the entire northern part of Broadfield that is closest to Bewbush, added to the Bewbush neighbourhood to create a new and well-defined ward. This area of housing in Broadfield is immediately adjacent to Bewbush and crucially, it is the closest area of housing in Broadfield to housing situated in any of the bordering neighbourhoods.

Good access between Bewbush and North Broadfield is achieved via the two roundabouts on Horsham Road, as well as via the pedestrian underpass that connects Plantain Crescent and Jewel Walk. We also feel that this proposal creates the strongest and clearest possible boundary within Broadfield while maintaining electoral equality.

We feel that the 1471 electors from Broadfield within this proposed ward which represents 16% of Broadfield should be recognised and given their own identity in the name of this new ward, with the name of Bewbush & North Broadfield being the most logical. This will also assist residents in the rest of Broadfield in identifying which ward they are situated in.

We view it as a weakness in the CBC proposal that the 1,800 Broadfield residents who are moved into either "Bewbush" or "Gossops Green" are not recognised in the naming of those

wards. We can clearly see that having a three-way split in Broadfield in the CBC proposal makes this much more complicated as it is harder to justify Broadfield being named in three separate wards, so these 1,800 Broadfield electors end up being disenfranchised which we find very disappointing, especially when it is preventable by adopting the Bewbush & North Broadfield proposed ward.

In order to achieve the 10% variance for electoral equality for both this ward and for Gossops Green, we recognise that 285 Bewbush electors from five roads need to be moved into the Gossops Green ward, with a strong boundary being created on Mowbray Drive as a result.

Broadfield (3 members)

This ward proposed by WSCC sees 84% of the existing Broadfield neighbourhood contained within one ward with a clear, well-defined, and continuous boundary in the north of the neighbourhood. We believe it preferable for as many Broadfield residents as possible to be situated in the main Broadfield ward. The CBC proposal sees 80% of Broadfield electors remaining in the main Broadfield ward with the other 20% moved into either "Bewbush" or "Gossops Green" which disenfranchises 20% of Broadfield electors - a fifth of the entire Broadfield neighbourhood which is Crawley's second largest.

In recognising that part of the Broadfield neighbourhood will have to leave the Broadfield ward in order to maintain electoral equality, we strongly believe that Broadfield will be best-served and be the least confusing for its residents by only having a two-way split as per the WSCC proposal, as opposed to being split into three separate wards in the CBC proposal.

We find it absurd and expect that Broadfield residents are likely to share our view, that Broadfield Drive within Broadfield is the boundary between "Bewbush" and "Gossops Green" in the CBC proposed scheme, although further south Broadfield Drive then

becomes the boundary between "Gossops Green" and Broadfield. The three wards of Bewbush, Gossops Green and Broadfield meet on the roundabout of Broadfield Drive and Seymore Road - all well within the Broadfield neighbourhood.

This means there are three separate ward boundaries contained inside of the Broadfield neighbourhood. These are Broadfield/Bewbush, Broadfield/Gossops Green and worst of all Bewbush/Gossops Green. The WSCC proposal has only one ward boundary within the Broadfield neighbourhood which clearly has to be more preferable, that being the boundary of Broadfield with Bewbush & North Broadfield.

It is obvious that a three-way split for Broadfield is bound to be more confusing for residents. This is entirely preventable if the WSCC proposal for Broadfield were to be adopted.

A two-way Broadfield split would also mean that the Broadfield County Council Electoral Division which is the same as the entire Broadfield neighbourhood, would contain only two Borough Council wards with six Councillors leading to more convenient local government, as opposed to three Borough wards with eight Councillors under the CBC proposed scheme.

Gossops Green (2 members)

This proposed ward matches the existing Gossops Green ward and neighbourhood with the addition of 285 electors from five streets in the far east of Bewbush in order to maintain future electoral equality. This part of Bewbush is closest to Gossops Green and backs onto the Holy Trinity School site in Gossops Green. There is a strong boundary of Mowbray Drive and Bewbush Drive with the exception of Lulworth Close to the south of Bewbush Drive, although it should be noted that this would be a north/south flipping of the existing arrangements where Burbeach Close is included in Bewbush ward despite it being to the north of Bewbush Drive.

In recognising that Gossops Green needs to accommodate additional electors to avoid breaching the 10% electorate variance by 2023, we feel that this very small area consisting of five streets in Bewbush that are very close to Gossops Green, is preferable than adding a large north-eastern part of Broadfield, most of which is further away from Gossops Green and which is less likely to see pedestrian or vehicular travel from there into Gossops Green than from nearby Bewbush.

Potentially, the LGBCE could consider further strengthening Crawley's neighbourhood principle in the WSCC proposal by breaching the 10% variance threshold for Gossops Green by retaining between one and all five of these roads within the Bewbush & North Broadfield ward.

Lulworth Close would be the logical first street to consider returning to Bewbush & North Broadfield as it is to the south of Bewbush Drive. Such a move would create the strongest possible ward boundary between Bewbush & North Broadfield and Gossops Green along Mowbray Drive and all of Bewbush Drive. It would mean that only four Bewbush streets with 219 electors would move into Gossops Green, with all these electors being to the east and north of Mowbray Drive and Bewbush Drive. It would however take Gossops Green to an electorate variance of -10.9% by 2023 and Bewbush & North Broadfield to +9.49% by 2023 if the LGBCE were minded to recommend a Lulworth Close change from the WSCC proposal.

Ifield (3 members)

This proposed ward comprises of the entire existing ward plus the addition of the Orchards estate which is currently within Langley Green ward. The Orchards estate is a part of the Ifield neighbourhood so this proposed ward entirely matches the neighbourhood which is an improvement on the existing arrangements. We support this proposed ward as per both the WSCC and CBC proposals.

Langley Green & Tushmore (3 members)

We support this proposed ward that comprises of the existing Langley Green neighbourhood and ward, with the removal of the 315 electors of The Orchards estate in Ifield neighbourhood moving into the Ifield ward. This ward sees the addition of 861 electors immediately to the east and to the south of the Tushmore Roundabout being moved from Northgate & West Green for the purposes of electoral equality.

It is worth noting that the relatively modern housing around Longmere Road and Windmill Court in West Green is closer to housing in Langley Green than to any other housing in West Green. This area is very detached and separated from the rest of West Green by a major shopping area, the Crawley Leisure Park and the busy Ifield Avenue. We see no evidence of any interaction between residents of this area with the older and more established West Green neighbourhood to the south of Ifield Avenue.

The small area of Northgate immediately to the south of the Tushmore Roundabout, from Caledonian House northwards, all faces onto London Road and is very close to Langley Green as well as the Tushmore Lane area of housing to the north.

In recognising that Langley Green needs additional electors in addition to those added from around the Tushmore Lane area in order to meet the 10% electorate variance criteria, we strongly believe it is much more logical to add only the residential areas and electors which are in properties that directly access London Road and which are closest to Langley Green. The area immediately to the south of the Tushmore Roundabout clearly has more community of interest with Langley Green and the Tushmore Lane area than the Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges could ever possibly have.

The area immediately to the south of the Tushmore Roundabout is by far the most logical area to add to Langley

Green in order to achieve electoral equality. After this, the second most logical area to add would be The Orchards estate in Ifield although we are not advocating that. There is however no logic whatsoever in adding the Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges.

The Tushmore name is very predominate in the area which WSCC is proposing to be added to Langley Green. Tushmore features in four road names including Tushmore Lane which provides access to Redwood Close and Tuscany Gardens, as well as the major and well-known Tushmore Roundabout which gives an identity to those electors by calling this proposed ward Langley Green & Tushmore. In addition to the residential streets of Tushmore Lane, Tushmore Avenue, Tushmore Crescent and Tushmore Court, there is also Tushmore Villa which is a holiday villa on London Road.

We see no purpose in moving the Manor Royal industrial estate out of Northgate into Langley Green as per the CBC proposal. The only electors in Manor Royal are on the eastern side of London Road at First Choice House (70 electors) and two houses further north (7 electors). The entire industrial estate is devoid of any housing and Crawley Borough Council has been successful in gaining an Article 4 Direction from the Government which stops any new residential development via permitted development within Manor Royal. With CBC's Local Plan having Manor Royal as a key employment site, we can be very confident there will be no new residential development in Manor Royal.

We also see no purpose in the CBC proposal in creating one ward of Langley Green & Manor Royal that geographically comprises what looks to be about 40% of the entire Borough, especially when Crawley is a small urban Borough. This proposed ward would incorporate both Gatwick Airport and Manor Royal and we question how effective local government is demonstrated, when just three out of Crawley's 36 Councillors

would be the local members for 40% of Crawley's land space and for a huge area that covers well over 90% of the Borough's entire employment land.

Northgate & West Green (3 members)

We support this ward proposed by WSCC that sees two existing wards and neighbourhoods combined to create a new ward which best matches the County Council Electoral Division of the same name. This proposed ward maintains as much of the Northgate and West Green neighbourhoods together as possible including the entire town centre that currently has any electors.

We recognise that in order to maintain electoral equality, the area to the east and south of the Tushmore Roundabout need to move into Langley Green & Tushmore, plus the southern side of Station Way moves into Southgate and the County Buildings site & Town Hall site moves into Three Bridges.

The town centre is the key place where Northgate and West Green meet, so we welcome that the WSCC proposal manages to keep the town centre within Northgate & West Green, with just the exception of two (as yet undeveloped) extremities in the south and the north-east of the town centre.

This WSCC proposed ward has the benefit of bringing the entire Crawley High Street area and the western part of the town centre around Peglar Way and Asda into one ward, whereas currently there is a ward boundary along the length of Crawley High Street which creates a split in the town centre.

Southgate (3 members)

We support the WSCC proposal that adds 299 future electors from major new development on the southern side of Station Way to the existing Southgate ward and neighbourhood. While there is already a footbridge from Station Way to East Park and direct access to Crawley Station from East Park, there is likely

to be improved pedestrian access from Station Way into Southgate as part of the planned major redevelopment of Crawley Station which also sees significant new flatted development along the southern length of Station Way towards the level crossing on Brighton Road. We feel that Station Way will still be a very strong boundary, joining up with Brighton Road and Southgate Avenue.

The nearest residential housing to Station Way will be in Southgate and we note that East Park is also likely to have major new flatted development on the site of previous office blocks immediately to the south of the railway station. This major new housing development at Station Way will be much closer to adjacent housing in Southgate than it will be to housing in any other neighbourhood such as Three Bridges or Northgate.

We oppose the CBC proposal that puts Station Way in with Three Bridges ward. Three Bridges is of course closely associated with Three Bridges Station. It is going to look bizarre and be very confusing for the future residents of Station Way (note the name of the road), which is part of same new development that includes a new Crawley Station, to be placed in Three Bridges ward when Three Bridges Station is a considerable distance away.

Three Bridges (3 members)

The WSCC proposal is the same as the existing Three Bridges neighbourhood ward, with the addition of 331 future electors from new developments at the County Buildings and Town Hall sites which are immediately adjacent to Three Bridges. We strongly support all of Three Bridges neighbourhood being within the Three Bridges ward as per the existing arrangements and the WSCC proposal.

We object in the strongest possible terms to the CBC proposal that removes the Tinsley Lane part of Three Bridges in order to

place it in with Langley Green, and that then adds the entire town centre that has always been part of Northgate. We feel it is perverse to remove a long-established part of the Three Bridges neighbourhood from the ward and then to replace it with an area from outside such as the town centre, especially when there is no sound or logical reason to do so.

This proposed change from CBC is not required to maintain electoral equality and it actually has an adverse effect on existing electoral equality by giving Three Bridges a current variance of -17.7% for three Councillors and is then reliant on all of the planned town centre development happening in order to take it up to a variance of -4.4% by 2023. The WSCC proposal has much better current electoral equality for Three Bridges of -13.5% and its projected variance of -3.6% by 2023 is marginally better than the CBC proposal of -4.4%. This evidence shows that arguments put forward to remove Tinsley Lane from Three Bridges on the grounds of electoral equality are completely without foundation.

We support the residents of the Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges who wish to remain within Three Bridges ward and who are justifiably upset at the CBC proposal to remove their area from Three Bridges ward. Much of the Tinsley Lane area predates the Crawley New Town when Three Bridges was a village. This area has always been a part of Three Bridges and its residents has a strong affinity with their Three Bridges neighbourhood going back decades.

There are no other residential areas that Tinsley Lane residents could realistically feel any part of other than Three Bridges. They do not regard themselves in any way as having any local connection whatsoever with Langley Green and nor do they regard themselves as being a part of Manor Royal, which is purely an industrial estate and employment zone that is completely devoid of any housing within its interior.

All of the nearest neighbourhood facilities to Tinsley Lane are in the rest of Three Bridges, with the major Tesco superstore being within walking distance, as is the Hazelwick School. This is why there is a pedestrian footbridge over Crawley Avenue to provide easy access to the rest of Three Bridges and its facilities for the residents of Tinsley Lane.

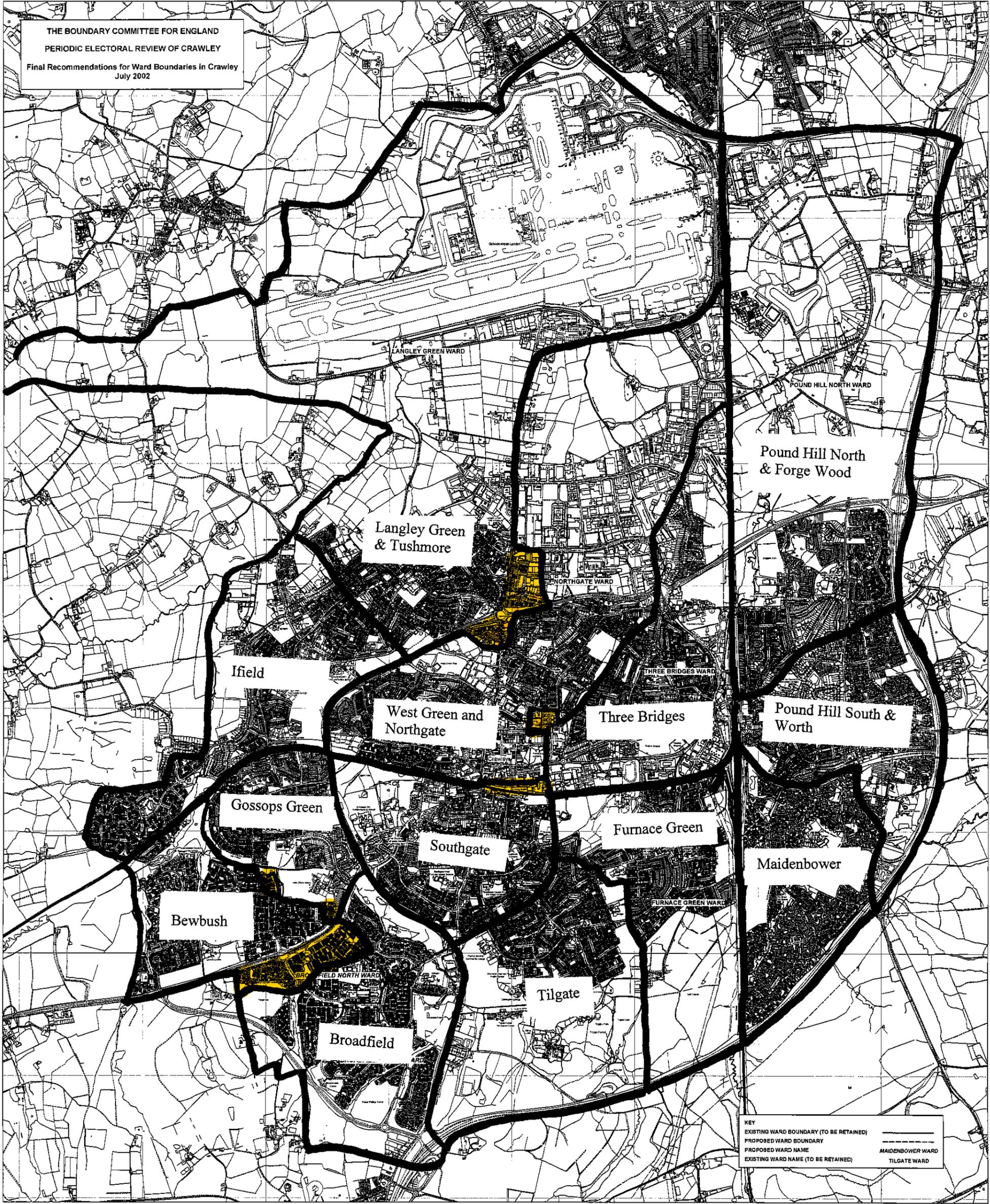
Conclusion

The Crawley Borough Council Conservative Group believes that the evidence and rational set out in this submission gives strong justification that the West Sussex County Council proposed warding scheme should be the one that the LGBCE publishes as a draft recommendation for public consultation. We envisage that public opposition to the WSCC proposed scheme would be much less than for the CBC proposed scheme, which has already generated strong opposition from Three Bridges residents.

The WSCC proposed scheme maintains electoral equality for all 13 wards, most closely aligns with Crawley's neighbourhoods - both geographically and in terms of electors, minimises the number the electors in a ward that does not reflect their local area, has better coterminosity with WSCC Electoral Divisions, has cross-party and resident support, and is clearly better for local community of interest and for effective local government, especially for Three Bridges and Broadfield - which are the two neighbourhoods that vary the most from the CBC proposal.

If the LGBCE to publish a draft all three-member scheme that was to split the Tilgate neighbourhood, we do envisage a huge amount of local opposition from Tilgate residents and we strongly urge the LGBCE to allow 3 two-member wards in the Crawley warding pattern. We are very keen that whatever draft scheme is published by the LGBCE for public consultation that Crawley is allowed to keep 3 two-member wards.

THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND
 PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CRAWLEY
 Final Recommendations for Ward Boundaries in Crawley
 July 2002



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