

# Crawley<sub>2029</sub>

September 2013

## **Additional Site Consultation Historic Parks and Gardens and Local Green Space Consultation Report**

# Contents

## Page no

2-3	Key messages
4-5	Historic Parks and Gardens
5	Protecting Local Green Space: Ifield Brook Meadows
5-10	Protecting Local Green Space: what other areas should be protected?

# Historic Parks & Gardens and Local Green Space

This report examines opinions and views about designations including Historic Parks and Gardens as well as Local Green Space within the town.

A designation can be made in the Local Plan, when there is evidence to demonstrate that an area fulfils the criteria for the designation.

The report includes the following information:-

- whether people supported extending the historic park designation at Tilgate Park,
- whether people agreed that both Memorial Gardens and Goffs Park should be designated as historic parks and gardens,
- whether people agreed that Ifield Park (Ifield) and Burley's Wood (Pound Hill) should lose their historic park and garden designation,
- whether people supported Ifield Brook Meadows becoming a Local Green Space,
- it considers what other open space areas within Crawley might also be included in the designation as part of the Local Plan
- highlights other issues emerging from the consultation.

In total 2,068 people took part in the Crawley 2029 consultation. Fewer people responded to the questions relating to historic parks and gardens and open space compared to other sections in the questionnaire with around two thirds of the 2068 respondents answering the questions regarding historical parks and gardens. ***Please note that percentages have been calculated based on the numbers of people answering each question rather than the total number of respondents.***

For a full list of those comments received please refer to Appendix D. Within this report a number of comments have been used to give a 'flavour' of the views being expressed; they are not necessarily representative of all comments received.

## Key messages – Historic Parks & Gardens

- Respondents supported the designation of the Memorial Gardens and Goffs Park.
- People agreed that the designation at Tilgate Park should be extended.
- Most people did not agree that the designations at Burley's Wood (Pound Hill) and Ifield Park (Ifield) should be removed. Support for the retention of these designations tended to be local to the respective areas.

## Key messages – Local Green Space

- The majority of people supported Ifield Brook Meadows becoming a Local Green Space
- While people came forward with suggestions as to other areas that could be protected within the Local Plan, and these are highlighted within the report,

arguments and reasons why they should be protected were generally not forthcoming.

- Respondents were fearful of future development and they were worried about losing the open spaces within the town which were very much valued. When reading the comments made by people this tended to be the main reason why areas had been suggested.
- People were looking to protect a number of different types of open space. These included:
  - 1) areas of land where proposals for development had already come forward,
  - 2) a small number of playing fields,
  - 3) small pockets of land within neighbourhoods; particularly within the Tilgate area,
  - 4) natural and wild areas

# 1. Historic Parks and Gardens

## New designations

1.1 The table below outlines the percentages of people supporting the new designations outlined in the questionnaire.

Area	% Yes	% No	% Don't know	Base fig (no)
Extension to Tilgate Park	90%	4%	6%	1297
Designation of Memorial Gardens	88%	6%	6%	1306
Designation of Goffs Park	81%	8%	11%	1292

1.2 Overwhelmingly, people who answered these three questions supported the proposals.

## Removing two designations

1.3 Respondents were also asked whether they supported removing two existing designations at Burley's Wood in Pound Hill and Ifield Park in Ifield. Because of development around the two sites the Local Plan suggested that these areas no longer satisfied the criteria for historic parks and garden designation, especially when compared to other historic parks and gardens in the town.

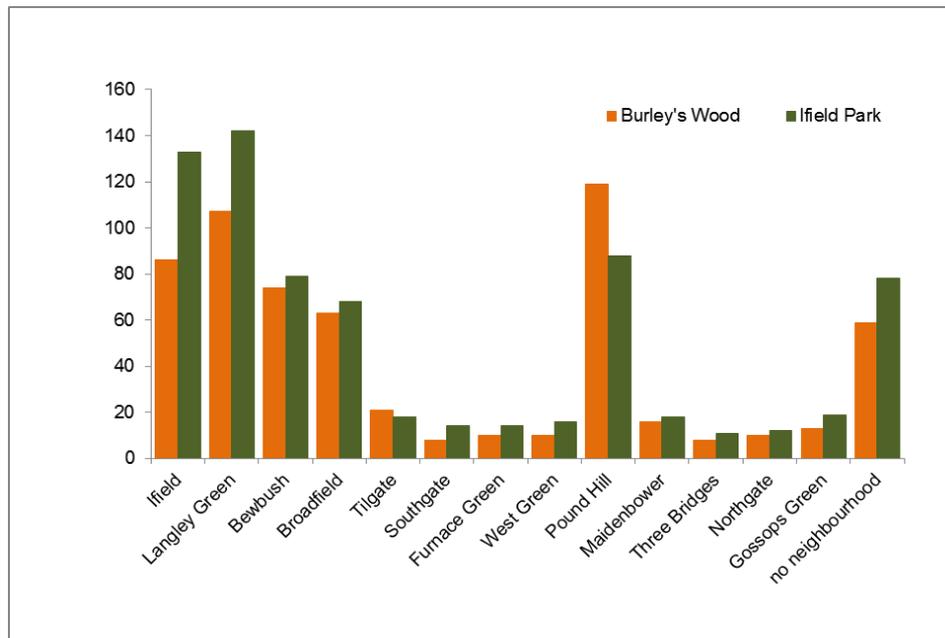
Area	% Yes	% No	% Don't know	Base fig (no)
Removing the designation to Burley's Wood	24%	47%	29%	1293
Removing the designation to Ifield Park	21%	55%	24%	1295

1.4 Although the majority of respondents did not support removing the designations, the majority was not overwhelming. In both cases approximately half of respondents either agreed that the designations should be removed or didn't know whether it was a good idea or not.

1.5 20% (119) of those respondents who did not agree with removing the designation from Burley's Wood lived in the Pound Hill area. 18% (107) came from Langley Green, 14% (86) lived in Ifield, 12% (74) came from Bewbush and a further 10% (63) lived in the Broadfield area.

1.6 20% (142) of those respondents who did not agree with removing the designation from Ifield Park lived in the Langley Green area. 19% (133) people came from Ifield itself, 11% (79) people lived in Bewbush, 12% (88) came from the Pound Hill area and a further 10% (68) lived in Broadfield.

## Where did people who didn't agree with removing the designations come from?



- 1.7 The graph above illustrates that within the Pound Hill area local people did not want to see the designation of Burley's Wood removed. In total 152 people who took part in the Crawley 2029 consultation indicated that they lived in the Pound Hill area. 119 (78%) of those people disagreed with the removal of the designation at Burley's Wood. Within Ifield, 211 people in total said they lived within this neighbourhood. Of those 211 people 133 (63%) did not agree with removing the designation at Ifield Park.

## 2. Protecting open green space

### Who agreed with the proposal and why did they agree?

- 2.1 1,297 respondents answered the question relating to the protection of Ifield Brook Meadows (63% of the overall sample).
- 2.2 There was overwhelming support for protecting this area with 83% (1,082) in favour.

### What other areas should be protected?

- 2.3 Within this part of the consultation members of the public were asked to consider what other public open space might be protected within the Local Plan. 178 people suggested areas that should be protected for the future. Unfortunately in many cases respondents didn't provide evidence or reasons why the area should be protected. Suggestions fell into four categories:
- 1) areas were sites were being proposed within the Crawley 2029 consultation
  - 2) playing fields,
  - 3) small pockets of open space, and
  - 4) natural and wild areas.

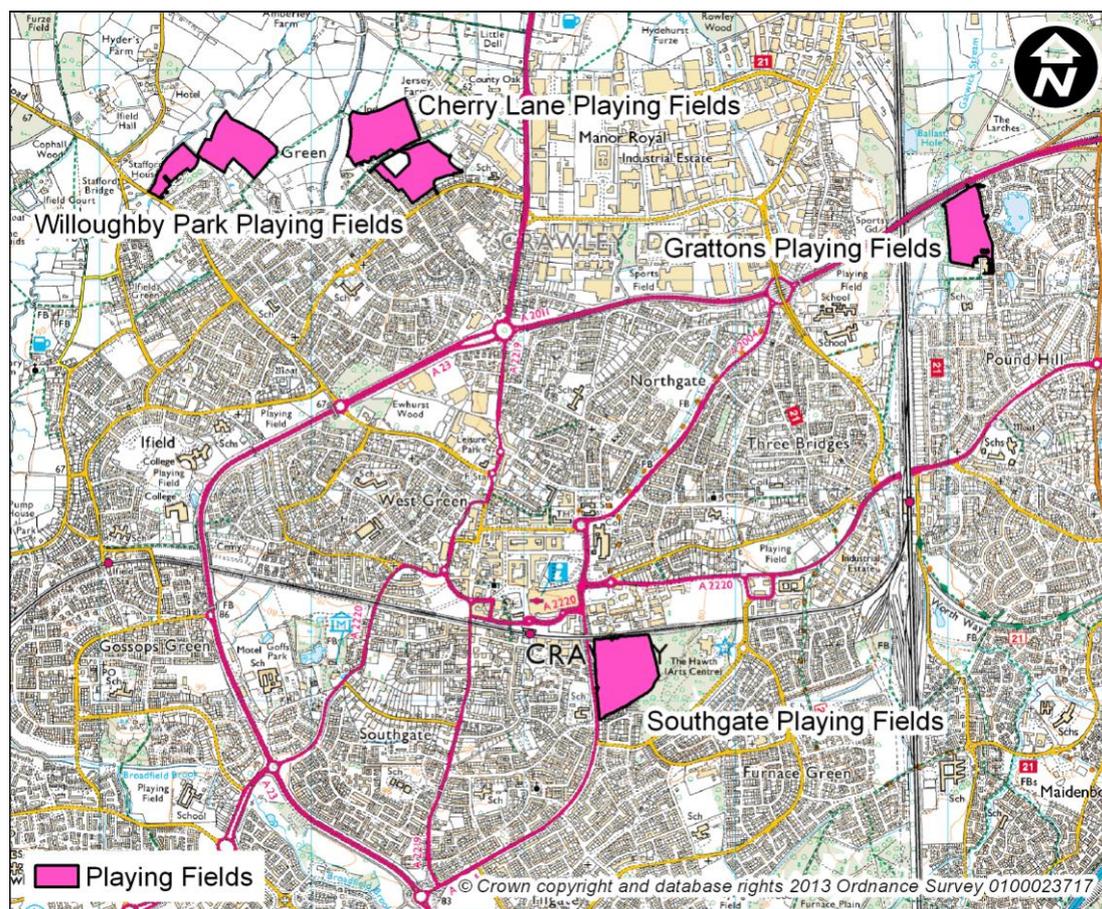
### Areas where sites were already being proposed

2.4 Some respondents used this part of the questionnaire to encourage the Local Plan to protect areas where development sites were being proposed within the consultation. These included:

- 1) Bewbush West and Breezehurst Drive playing fields in Bewbush
- 2) Ewhurst playing fields in Ifield
- 3) Langley Walk in Langley Green
- 4) Burley's Wood
- 5) Buchan Park

### Playing fields

2.5 As the map below illustrates respondents suggested four specific playing fields in addition to the playing fields already referred to within the consultation. These included Willoughby Playing Fields, Grattons Playing Fields, Cherry Lane Playing Fields, and those in Southgate. Comments suggest that these playing fields should be protected for fear of development in the future. Willoughby fields was suggested because it was well used as well as being a haven for wildlife. Southgate was considered to be a 'bit of green' near the town centre.



**“The woods and playing fields in Southgate between Furnace Green and Southgate – home to the skateboard park among other.” (resident of Southgate)**

**“The area around the rugby club in Langley Green is thoroughly used and enjoyed by walkers and dog owners and dogs alike. The greenery**

**is just beautiful, adding to the health for all who use it or drive along that area. The Orchard has already been filled with homes and the Hindu Temple. Greenery in this area needs conserving.” (resident of Langley Green)**

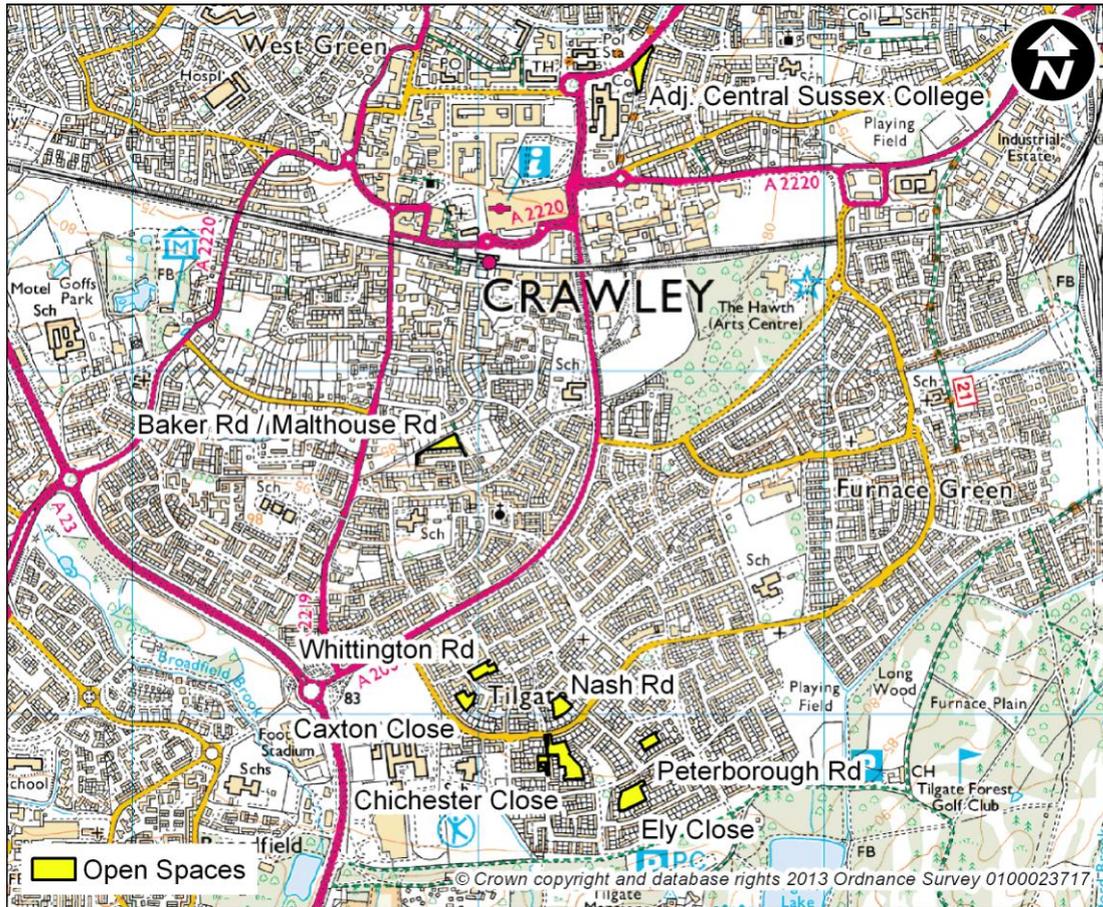
**“Cherry Lane Playing fields should be protected from any future development.” (resident of Langley Green)**

### **Small pockets of open space**

2.6 There were a number of comments received which supported protecting small pockets of open space. Again comments suggested that it was the fear of future development that was prompting the recommendation. Recently residents from Chichester Close and Ely Close in Tilgate have been opposed to a housing development on open space near their homes. From the comments received it is apparent that some respondents lived within this area and were hoping that this land can be protected within the Local Plan. Other residents within the Tilgate area also nominated small pockets of open space. Comments suggest they were fearful of future development and they talked about the ‘value’ these areas had on the health and wellbeing of the community. In a number of cases they were referred to as the “green lungs” of the neighbourhoods providing a safe space in which children could play. Overall, respondents were keen that any open spaces should not be lost or developed on in the future

**“Yes the open space behind Ashdown Drive, Nash Road, Chantry Road and Whittington Road in Tilgate is used as a safe space for local children to play together whilst being overseen by their parents and neighbours. It is a lovely secluded and safe space which is becoming very rare...” (resident of Tilgate)**

**“There are a number of what might be described as green lungs, small areas of undeveloped land that are used in ad hoc ways by residents which may mean little to the council but are important for local residents...” (resident of Tilgate)**



2.7 In addition to the small areas within Tilgate, an area of open space adjacent to the Central Sussex College and opposite the Police Station, and the land next to the allotments at Baker Close and Malthouse Road were also suggested.

**“The land next to the allotments at Baker Close/ Malthouse Road. This is used by children playing ball games and also by dog walkers. In any case, access would be difficult if houses were to be built here.”**  
(resident of Southgate)

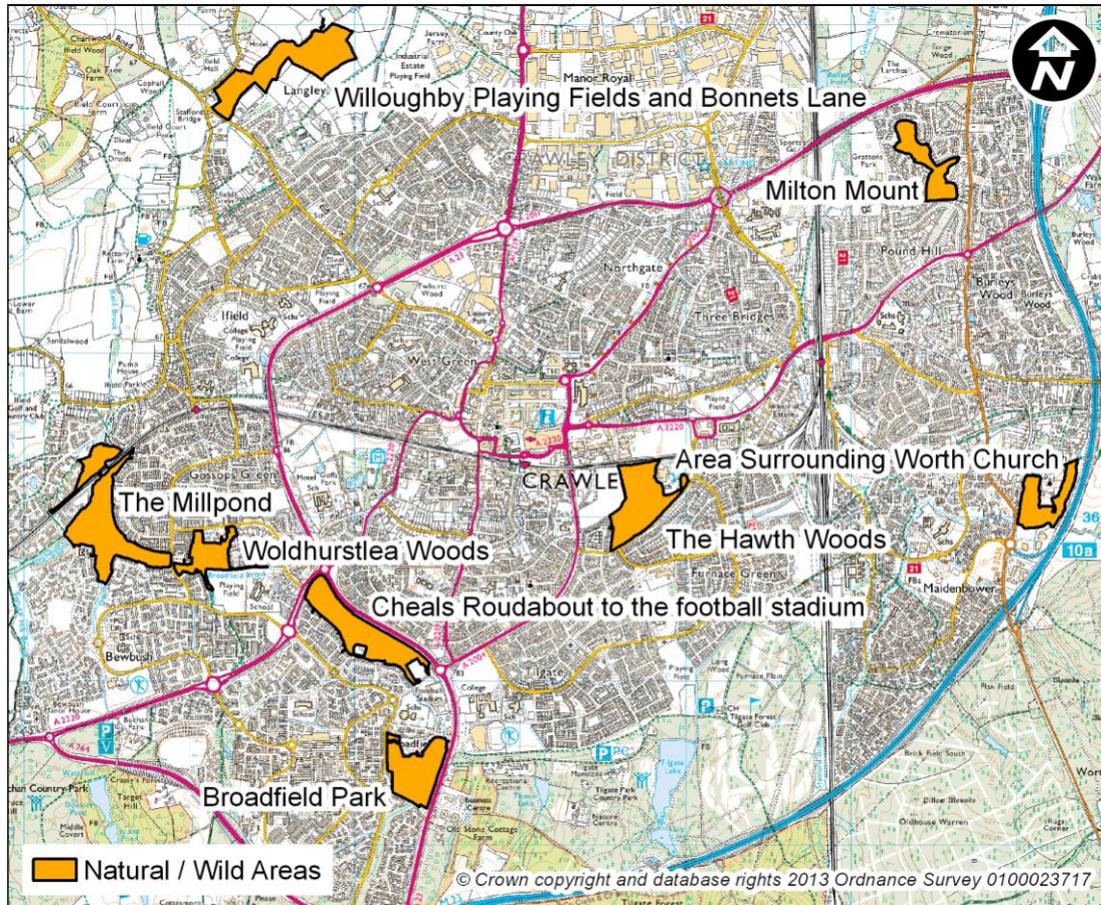
**“The area of open space at the rear of Central Sussex College along with a public footpath connects Haslett Avenue East and Northgate Avenue should be obtained from private ownership and maintained as a public open space. The land provides a useful open space between the commercial centre of the town and residential area.”** (resident of Three Bridges)

#### Natural and wild areas

2.8 Some respondents referred to what can be described as natural and wild areas of the town that they felt should be protected within the Local Plan. They were valued for the fauna and wildlife present within them. They included:

- 1) Hawth Woods in Southgate
- 2) The Millpond which spans Ifield, Gossops Green and Bewbush.
- 3) Broadfield Park and Broadfield Meadows alongside the A23
- 4) Willoughby fields in Ifield

- 5) Woldhurstlea Woods in Gossops Green.
- 6) Open space near Worth Church,
- 7) Milton Mount and surrounding lake and parkland



**“Willoughby fields and brook should be protected as a local green space and conservation area because of its distinctive vegetation and wildlife. There are bats, kingfishers, deer, foxes, rabbits, bees, butterflies and owls etc.” (resident of Langley Green)**

**“Broadfield Park – lovely park used by the local community that are unable to get to Buchan Park and Tilgate.” (resident of Broadfield)**

**“Raithlin Road flood pond and meadows has a variety of trees which shelter a wide variety of wildlife...” (resident of Broadfield)**

### **Other emerging issues**

2.9 Some respondents took the opportunity to reiterate the need for the town to hold onto its open spaces, this message has been a reoccurring one that has been voiced at all stages in the preparation of the Local Plan. These spaces are viewed by some as helping to maintain the health and wellbeing of the town; giving people a safe space in which to relax and enjoy, while some people saw them as community assets that should not be removed.

2.10 A few respondents recognised that the town needed more housing but stressed the importance of finding the correct balance between encouraging development and retaining our open spaces.

**“The whole ethos of Crawley new town is the idea of an open town with its green spaces being its unique selling point.” (resident of Broadfield)**

**“Open recreational space is an asset to the community and allows people to have quality time with their friends and family.”**

**“Children need space to play in a safe environment, outside of their home...” (resident of Langley Green)**

**“These meadows are used by many people, dog walkers, people just getting out for exercise. Where would they go.” (resident of Ifield)**