

# CRAWLEY DOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION CIO



Mr S King  
Planning  
Mid Sussex District Council  
Oaklands Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH16 1SS

7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Mr King

## **RE: Wates Proposals to the west of Turners Hill Road, North and South of Huntsland**

I am writing to you on behalf of The Crawley Down Community Centre Association (CDCCA), which is dedicated to enhancing the lives of Crawley Down residents and the surrounding community. The CDCCA operates from and runs The Haven Centre, a cherished community hub that has provided invaluable resources, support and a sense of belonging to many.

Since opening in 1991, the Haven Centre has offered flexible venue facilities that support social welfare, education, business and leisure activities. Today, the Haven Centre provides a home for many local clubs, groups and organisations, including baby and toddler group, Taekwondo classes, the Monday Lunch club for over 65s, Parkinsons group and Crawley Down Gatwick Football Club (CDGFC), to name a few. Furthermore, the lounge and bar area serves as a vibrant social space, enhancing the centre's role as a cherished hub for the community.

The Haven Lounge & Bar has recently been refurbished with the support of the community who contributed both financially, via a gofundme.com page, and volunteering their time. This has significantly improved the bar area, which has seen a real uptick in the use of the facility, thereby helping to enhance its longevity in the community. However, the remainder of the building requires significant investment in order to meet the needs of the above groups and create a more welcoming environment generally and avoid the high operating and maintenance costs.

The Charity is working closely with CDGFC, who hold their training sessions and home matches at the Haven Sports Field.

The club stands at a critical juncture whereby the opportunity exists to bring football to a greater number of children and adults locally and sustain the viability of the club going forward – most recently evidenced by the launch of a Crawley Down Gatwick Football Club Women's team for next season. However, the club needs access to an all-weather surface to support and sustain this growth.

Additionally, the opportunity also exists to open up the facilities to Crawley Down Village School, and local community groups, for the benefit of more children.

The project would not only significantly upgrade the facilities for the Football Club, but it would also bring vitality to the Haven Centre, which would benefit from increased footfall – cementing the sustainability and viability of the Haven Centre for the long term. Furthermore, there is also the opportunity for Section 106 funding from the development towards improving facilities at

The Haven Centre to ensure the centre remains fit for purpose and continues to meet the needs of the community.

The community sees that further refurbishment of the centre, the upgrading of facilities together with the improvements required for the football club are necessary, the Parish Council, too, recognises this through requesting S106 contributions be specifically allocated towards these facilities, therefore, both CDCCA and CDGFC have been working with Wates Developments ('Wates') from the early stages to understand how these could come forward in line with the development.

The Crawley Down Centre Community Association would like to offer our support to the plans submitted by Wates for new homes, care home, play space, public open spaces, and new walking routes on Land to the West of Turners Hill Road, subject to Section 106 funding being directed towards improving facilities at The Haven Centre and a 3G pitch for Crawley Down Gatwick Football Club.

Thank you for your consideration.

