

**Sent:**

21 November 2025 13:28

**Subject:**

MAKING THE DREAM A REALITY: IFIELD PARK NATURE AND HERITAGE CENTRE  
[LETTER TO CBC, HDC, WSCC & GATWICK AIRPORT LTD]

**Attachments:**

586194017\_25573403082245720\_7520030100860225392\_n.jpg; 584040163\_25553211910931504\_3803057808907515585\_n.jpg; 524046589\_24491164670469572\_7157785143700904545\_n.jpg; thumbnail - 2025-11-21T112034.178.jpg

**Categories:**

Comments Received

## MAKING THE DREAM A REALITY: IFIELD PARK NATURE AND HERITAGE CENTRE

To: Chief Executives – Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council, West Sussex County Council and Gatwick Airport Ltd

**Subject: Partnership Proposal – Ifield Park Nature & Heritage Centre**

Dear Chief Executives,

Following the Government's proposed 'Environmental Protection' legislation, I urge you to fully support the parish community vision of making 'Ifield Park Nature and Heritage Centre' a reality. I am writing to propose a formal partnership between Crawley Borough Council, Horsham District Council, West Sussex County Council and Gatwick Airport Ltd to explore the creation of Ifield Park Nature & Heritage Centre.

This Centre would serve as a flagship gateway to the ecological and cultural landscape of this ancient Parish - linking the historic areas of Ifield Court Farm Moat (Scheduled Monument), Ifield Brook Meadows [LGS], The Mill Pond (SNCI), Willoughby Fields (LNR) and the wider Upper Mole Valley Corridor [which includes significant ecological mitigation land associated with the growth of Gatwick Airport].

### **1. Strategic Purpose**

The proposed Centre would bring together:

1. Ecology – wildlife education, environmental protection, river tributary restoration and biodiversity

2. Heritage – archaeology, parish history (1026–2026), Ifield Court Farm, medieval and Roman features
3. Community – volunteering, wellbeing, storytelling, inclusive learning
4. Nature Recovery – a public base for Local Nature Recovery Strategy [LNRS] engagement

It would provide a year-round public facility serving Crawley, Horsham, Horley and the wider region of West Sussex and Surrey.

## **2. Benefits for Each Partner**

### **For Crawley Borough Council [CBC]**

Supports green space management, climate strategy, LNRS delivery, health & wellbeing, heritage engagement.

### **For Horsham District Council [HDC]**

Aligns with landscape protection, archaeology strategies, countryside access and heritage interpretation.

### **For West Sussex County Council [WSCC]**

Strengthens county-wide LNRS leadership, active travel, climate action, and educational outreach.

### **For Gatwick Airport Ltd**

Provides a public-facing anchor for ecological mitigation, biodiversity net gain (BNG), and community partnerships arising from the Northern Runway Project.

## **3. Proposal for Initial Discussions**

I request that each organisation nominates a senior representative to join an exploratory meeting to consider:

1. A shared vision for Ifield Park
2. Potential sites and land options [eg Ifield Court Farm]
3. Development of a joint feasibility study
4. Funding opportunities
5. Integration with existing ecological, planning and heritage policies

This approach would allow all partners to shape a long-term community asset that reflects the past, present and future of the Ifield parish landscape.

## **4. Enclosed / Attached**

1. Poster concept for the Ifield Park Nature & Heritage Centre
2. Centre logo
3. Additional materials available upon request (prospectus, display boards, maps)
- 4.

I would be pleased to meet individually or to support the arrangement of a joint discussion at a time convenient to all parties.

Yours sincerely

  
The Ifield Society

2 Lychgate Cottages

Ifield Street, Ifield Village

Crawley, West Sussex

RH11 0NN

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# ENVISIONING THE FUTURE **IFIELD PARK** NATURE AND HERITAGE CENTRE





# IFIELD PARK NATURE & HERITAGE CENTRE

