



Crawley & District Group

Newsletter: Summer 2026

**PRESIDENT: Mike Card CHAIRMAN: Brian Sturtevant VICE CHAIRMAN: Derek Williams
SECRETARY: Sylvia Sturtevant TREASURER: Brian Barton SOCIAL SECRETARY: Vacant
EDITOR: Ralph Groves**

Dear Colleague,

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER 2026 GROUP NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Corner

The Group has been discussing the implications of the proposed move to limited liability status for the CSPA, in other words moving from being an unincorporated organisation to becoming incorporated and being a limited liability company. I will not go over all of the arguments, as they have been well aired in The Pensioner magazine, But the Group need to have a view in order to vote at the national Alliance Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October, for or against limited liability status.

On the 8 April the Group briefed their delegates, Brian Barton our Treasurer and me, who were attending the Regional meeting where the issue was to be discussed, so that our concerns could be aired. The Regional meeting was held in London where representatives from our Region, the London Region and the Eastern Region met on 21 April. Twenty-six delegates attended and a comprehensive and very interesting discussion was held. The General Secretary, National Treasurer, and legal adviser Bernard Seymour LLB briefed us and answered many questions, the meeting lasted from 1100am until 3.00pm so the topic was well examined.

On 13 May the Group met to hear the report back from our delegates who both strongly recommended that we move to limited liability status. It was explained that not only had the world moved on from when the Alliance was first set up and even though a comprehensive liability insurance policy was obtained in 2000, that as an unincorporated organisation the Alliance was vulnerable to litigation that could land the whole membership with unlimited costs. The benefits of incorporation were far outweighed by the risks of not obtaining such a change of status. The Group meeting agreed and also carried a motion to be debated at the national AGM in favour of limited liability status. Therefore the Group has made our decision and we have a clear policy to pursue; we will know our future status after the National AGM. More news will be contained in future editions of The Pensioner magazine and on the national CSPA website.

Brian Sturtevant Group Chair

FURTHER GROUP MEETINGS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2026

The Group continued to meet on the second Wednesday of the month except for January and August at the offices of Crawley Community Action, 1-2 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Crawley, RH10 6AD. Meetings start at 10.30am with tea/coffee and biscuits and consist of Alliance business followed by a guest speaker, we then adjourn to a local pub for lunch at 12.30pm. If you have not been before please come and join us we are a small friendly group and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

At the Group meeting in May we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Karl Parks, the Group Development Manager at Crawley Community Action (CCA). Karl explained that the CCA work in helping local voluntary organisations was being hampered by government funding cutbacks. He amazed us all by telling us that 86 different languages were spoken in Crawley of which he managed to speak three with difficulty.

The guest speaker at the June meeting was Lucy Rayner from the Sussex Community Foundation who was due to explain her job. In July Vivien Hill a local historian will provide a lighter brief history of Sussex.

The Group Summer lunch will be held again at the Old Dunnings Mill public house in East Grinstead as last year. The pub provides good quality food at reasonable prices in a lovely setting. If you want a seat reserved for you please let Brian Sturtevant know.

Continuing in the East Grinstead area of the Group's wide membership base members who like Jazz would be interested in the East Grinstead Jazz Festival which is now in its third year. A wide variety of Artists will be performing at different venues in the town and in the High Street, between Friday 14 August and Sunday 16 August. Many events will be free. There will be something to suit all tastes from New Orleans to Gospel to Swing., Latin and Modern. Check out the Festival Website www.eastgrinsteadjazzfestival.com The High Street will be closed to traffic so it will be possible for you to wander from pub to pub without the fear of being run over. As a dedicated fan Brian Sturtevant will be at as many events as possible, so if you see him go and say Hi! The Festival is a good example of many community interests coming together to provide a good time to young and old alike.

CAMPAIGN ISSUES AND UPDATES

Due to the local elections taking place in the areas covered by the Group and the ongoing debates and proposals regarding the future restructuring of the local authorities covering East and West Sussex and Brighton, it has not been possible to make much progress regarding local campaign issues. We will be providing further information and comment if and when it becomes available regarding the future local authority structures that are being proposed for East and West Sussex and the possible implications any future changes may hold for the provision of services affecting members.

In the meantime the following updates have been provided by the Group Chair Brian Sturtevant and Vice-Chair Derek Williams:

Changes to NHS Services in Sussex Many members use the NHS and major changes are being planned which will affect us especially for those who may be carers. A new organisation called the 'Sussex and Surrey Integrated Care Board' will be established and will be charged with the planning and delivering of services from 2026. Thirteen Integrated Community Teams will be established across Sussex and will refocus care away from hospitals into the community. These teams will have wide areas of responsibility and delegated budgets.

The intention is to bring Care closer to home co-ordinating support and services. However the NHS has to cut significant costs which could mean a greater reliance on carers who are already under considerable pressure. Carers Support in West Sussex are fully aware and are pressing for full involvement in the planning process.

Add to this the major local government re-organisation currently being undertaken in Sussex which will also have a significant impact on the local services on which we depend on you can see this is going to be a testing time not only for older people but all who depend on local services. The CSPA will do what we can to help our members in the testing times that lay ahead, but we also need your help and support in this task.

Road Safety in Horsham Police and local Councillors in the Horsham area continue their efforts to discourage unwelcome late night noisy driver gatherings which have attracted vehicles from outside the area. Readers should also be aware that across the local district in a recent four week period, AI equipped mobile cameras have detected 2,200 driving offences involving the use of mobile phones and failures to use seat belts, and the penalties are increasingly severe – all too many motoring crashes involve avoidable personal injury with the resultant consequences for individuals.

A further area of particular concern for older drivers is the issue of failing eyesight and its potential for causing accidents; it is therefore essential where drivers who wear glasses ensure they have regular eye tests as recommended by their Optician, but also for all older drivers to be alert to any deterioration in their eyesight because it is sadly an aspect of growing older that affects all of us to some extent.

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JOINING AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIP OF THE CSPA CRAWLEY & DISTRICT GROUP

Subscriptions for 2026 are £12 per household. There is no limit on the number of members living at the same address. If you wish to subscribe or donate to the Crawley and District Group, please complete this form and send it with your membership fee and/or donation to the Treasurer, Brian Barton at the address shown below.

Name:.....

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Please return to: Brian Barton, Serena, 30 Horley Row, HORLEY, Surrey, RH6 8NH

If you wish to subscribe and/or donate to group funds, please enter the amount below:

Subscription to Group funds: £

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Please send cheques made payable to the “Civil Service Pensioners Alliance Crawley Group” or use postal orders, thank you.