



28/12/2015

## TIMELINE

This document has been put together to clarify the events that have taken place over the last four years. A lot of misleading information and rumours are being circulated and we would like to present you, the Sangat, with the facts.

Since 2009 the Gurdwara Committee and members of the Sangat have actively been looking for larger properties as a potential new Gurdwara. Seven properties were viewed, some of them included Centenary House £3m, Hazelwick Avenue £2m, Spindle Way £1.2m. None of these were pursued as they were simply too expensive and above our means.

In July 2011, the Ifield site was brought to the Committees attention. This was by far the most affordable property. Viewings were facilitated by the Committee and a large number of the Sangat personally went and saw the Ifield site.

On January 29th 2012, the motion of purchasing Ifield Green at a price not exceeding £550k plus disbursements (purchasing expenses) was put to the Sangat. The voting breakdown was;

- There were 105 members present at the start of the meeting.
- At the time of the vote there were 100 members present, but 4 votes of under 18s were declared invalid.
- Total members voted yes: **87** (49 men and 38 women) **91%**
- Total members voted no/abstained: **9** (6 men and 3 women) **9%**

From January 2012 a large fund raising exercise was carried out to assist the purchase, and in six months a total of **£83,075** was donated by **82 families**. Sangat continued to donate money, and by end March 2013 the donations had risen to **£110,946**.

On April 20th/21st 2012 the Sangat was asked to provide an interest free loan. Eighteen families donated £133,500 over 48 hours. These families were paid back their loaned money after a few months when the loan money came through.

**In June 2012 the purchase was completed. It's worth noting that there were no large scale objections to the buying of Ifield site. The majority voting to buy Ifield site and the highly publicised fund raising exercises caused no problems within the Community and were completed successfully. The term 'new Gurdwara' was used liberally, directly indicating future use.**

In August 2012 the renovation work started to prepare the site to be used as a fully functioning Gurdwara. Over £95,000 was spent on this work in 2012-13. Behind the scenes a lot of work was undertaken to obtain D1 status (place of worship) for the building. In September 2014, the Borough Council allowed additional interim use of the site for festivals and weddings.

In December 2014 the Sangat voted to celebrate Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Parkash Divas at Ifield site.

In April 2015 the Sangat voted to celebrate Vaisakhi at Ifield site.



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Gurdwara (Sikh Temple), Siri Guru Singh Sabha, Crawley, Sussex

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In August 2015 Crawley Borough Council granted formal planning permission for Ifield site to be used full time as a Gurdwara, full D1 status (place of worship).

Until Dec 2015 the committee have not encountered any constructive concerns about spending over half a million pounds procuring our new site, neither were any concerns raised when a further £95k was spent on renovation. The few issues that were brought up were:

a. *The Ifield site is too far away and not practical for elderly members who can't drive.*

The Gurdwara Committee was already conscious of this concern and on several occasions expressly offered to provide free transportation for those who wished for this. The committee would continue to offer this facility as requested.

b. *Ifield site does not have a Nishaan Sahib and therefore is not a Gurdwara.*

A brand new and beautiful Nishaan Sahib was installed and a new flag was hoisted for the first time on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

c. *Ifield has flooding concerns.*

Ifield has never been flooded. Even in 2013, when Crawley saw record breaking rainfall levels in 100 years, there was no flooding in any part of the property.

We never planned on keeping two Gurdwaras open for the small tight-knit Sikh community of Crawley that would split the community and its already limited resources. Now that Siri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara at Ifield is ready and that all the concerns have been adequately addressed, the perfect time to move is now.

The events of Wednesday 2nd December 2015 were unfortunate. We thank the UK Satkaar Committee for explaining the mistakes made and for providing us with the knowledge to never repeat them. To the Sangat of Sri Guru Singh Sabha Crawley, we would like to take this opportunity to once again apologise sincerely for the events that occurred.

The entire management committee is forever grateful to **ALL** those involved in providing, over many years, a Gurdwara for us all at Spencer's Road. It is with deepest thanks to those individuals and families that we were able to progress to where we are now. We live in a democratic society and the information presented in the timeline above illustrates that the majority of the Sangat have supported the move to Ifield. What to do with the Spencer's Road site will be discussed with full transparency with our Sangat in due course of time.



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**THE PRIMARY AIM OF SIRI GURU SINGH SABHA CRAWLEY COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES IS: ONE SANGAT, ONE SITE FOR WORSHIP AND ONE GOAL - TO PROMOTE OUR LOVE OF SIKHI**

**What is the full legal name and address for Ifield site?**

Sri Guru Singh Sabha Crawley  
The Gurdwara and Sports Centre  
Ifield Green,  
Crawley,  
RH11 0NU

**What did Ifield site cost?** £525k for site, £25k legal fees & £95k refurbishment.

**“Whole” Sangat voted; what does this mean?** UK law & UK Charity commission requires each charitable organisation to have a constitution. SGSS Crawley constitution states that at least 51 people (18+ and in area of benefit) are needed to make the necessary quorum for any AGM/OGM/SGM and for any vote to take place. This same “whole” Sangat process has been followed for over 30 years.

**£20k spent on planning permission for Spencers Rd, why?** In 2009 planning permission was obtained (expired in 2012) for a new two story Gurdwara on the Spencers road site £20K cost made up approximately of £13.5k Architect fee, £0.5k new Gurdwara images, Crawley Council £5k application fee. Estimated cost of new Gurdwara could only be calculated once permission had been granted. Estimated cost of new Gurdwara was £1.5m (in 2009) (our vigorous efforts over four years (2009-2013) yielded only a few hundred thousand pounds). This preliminary cost had to be undertaken. Plans for the future cannot be made without knowing what the Council will permit you to build (no. of storeys and domes etc will always impact the cost)

**Why is Ifield site an upgrade?** 80+ car park spaces (not including the fields) Coaches can be easily accommodated in our car park as demonstrated at two weddings in 2015. 2 times larger kitchen 3 times larger classroom Large grass playing surface (equivalent to 2 football pitches, numerous sports can be played; rugby, cricket, rounders, kabaddi, sports day) 1 caged tennis court (also utilised for 5-a-side football, volleyball, basketball) Allotments to grow own vegetables. Future potential (national and local community grants along with sports grants). Wedding days are more suited to Ifield due to extendable Diwaan hall and Marquee options as demonstrated in 2015.

**Can Ifield site building be extended?** A formal planning permission application for this purpose has not been made for Ifield site. It is untrue to say that the site cannot be extended. There is potential to extend all within the D1 footprint.



## Comparison Table

	Ifield	New Spencers Road double storey
Diwan Hall Size	100m <sup>2</sup> (223m <sup>2</sup> with sliding doors open)	188m <sup>2</sup> (fixed)
Langhar Hall	123m <sup>2</sup> (outside <u>any</u> marquee size will fit in 7 acre ground)	188m <sup>2</sup> (small limited space for marquees)
Parking Spaces	80+ spaces (plus additional free parking on field)	22 spaces (plus Asda NCP pay & display)
Surrounding Land	7 acres	0 acres
Cost to achieve this	£0	£1.5m - £1.8m

**20 Year Condition** If SGSS decide to sell some land to a housing developer within 20 years of purchase date (June 2012), for the sole purpose of house/flat development, then SGSS Crawley will have to pay BOC Edwards 50% of the net profit of the sale price.

**Flooding** Ifield site field and car park declared as category 2 by Govt. Environmental Agency 1 in 100 chance of flooding. Ifield site building declared as category 3 Govt. EA which means it has never been flooded.

**No confidence petition against SGSS Crawley Committee** David Clay (CCVS) has stated in writing that the petition on Change.org has not been advised by them. He has stated he will endeavour to contact those unhappy with the move to Ifield in order to listen to their concerns.

**Spencer Road facts** Spencers Road site is owned by SGSS Crawley. It holds a huge amount of sentimental value for everyone who has attended it over the years. Double storey Gurdwara planning permission expired in 2012. Asda grant of a 5 yearly licence for the car park entrance has expired. Trustees have declared that Spencers Road is being used unlawfully. No other charity or organisation can register themselves at this address. Interim committee selected for Spencers Road is therefore illegal. There is potential health risk due to presence of asbestos material in the roof. The classroom does not meet the required standards required by Department for Education. There are serious health and safety issues for the users. The SGSS Crawley Trustees are not responsible or liable for any harm or injury to persons or for any damage to any property or for any losses, claims, proceedings, damages, costs, expenses, or other liability incurred by the unauthorised use or attendance of the site 25- 29 Spencer Road, West Green, Crawley, RH11 7DE. Anyone attending Spencers Road does so solely at their own risk.

**Registered members of Sri Guru Singh Sabha Crawley** List of registered members will be put up at Ifield site. Registration forms are available at Ifield site. Note if you want to become a committee member you must first be a registered member but also you must have a CRB/DBS official check done.

There may be an opportunity to join Sri Guru Singh Sabha Committee in 2016. Individuals can start thinking now of the qualities, values and skills they could bring to the Sabha. If this is of interest to you then please start thinking about your short speech which you would present in front of the Sangat explaining why you deserve their vote.