NUSRAT GHANI MP
Member of Parliament for Sussex Weald

Madam Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons
Chairman of Ways and Means
House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Cllr Rachel Millward
Leader
Wealden District Council
Council Offices
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Our Ref: NG56294 21 July 2026

Dear Cllr Millward

Crowborough Training Camp (CTC)

As Crowborough Shield CIC take our community's case to the High Court, without your support, I wanted to raise two items Wealden District Council could act on.

1. **Street Drinking**

The presence of groups drinking alcohol in the street is never a welcoming part of an area and can quickly spiral into anti-social behaviour issues.

As you will be aware a district council may impose a Public Spaces Protection Order on any public space if it is satisfied that the behaviour being targeted:

- has had, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of people in the area
- is persistent or continuing
- is unreasonable

It is clearly unreasonable and detrimental to the quality of life for residents if groups gather in Crowborough's public spaces solely for the purpose of drinking alcohol.

This is almost certain to be a continuing issue now the Home Office has confirmed its intention to remain at CTC until 2030.

It also sets a precedent for street drinking being seen as "acceptable" if no action is taken, creating an unwelcome incentive for others to do so in the longer term.

I am aware a PSPO cannot ban street drinking of itself, but what it can do is give the Police and authorised officers of the Council powers to require someone to stop

drinking. If they refuse an offence is committed.

This power is used effectively elsewhere and could be applied in Crowborough for the long-term benefit of residents.

Ahead of Wealden District Council's forthcoming abolition as part of Local Government Reorganisation, I would urge you to take this forward for the long-term benefit of Crowborough.

A wider Unitary may be less likely to focus on issues like this in our communities and it's something Wealden District Council can do to make a difference.

2. **Expansion of CTC**

Following the failure of Wealden District Council to take planning enforcement or legal action against the Home Office, the potential time frame for the Home Office to occupy CTC has now been extended to 2030.

Yet I am also concerned the Home Office may look to physically expand the camp to accommodate asylum seeker numbers beyond the current 540 maximum on site.

I appreciate the site's physical layout makes this more difficult, but the Home Office has recently announced other sites which will accommodate approximately 1,200 individuals. From the expert advice I am receiving this number makes it more cost efficient for the Home Office to provide the type of services it is required to deliver on large sites, eg Health Facilities.

What work is Wealden District Council doing as the local planning authority in terms of ensuring this prospect cannot come to pass? Simply relying on Home Office assurances is not enough given what happened to the claims they would only be there for 12 months which you naively accepted.

Have you ensured all landowners surrounding CTC, land which is not owned by the crown, are aware Planning Policy would not support any application for development or access to support the growth of the Home Office's use of CTC?

It may not happen, but after their actions over the last year, it is vital we are prepared for any possible move the Home Office may make.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Nusrat Ghani MP