



CRANLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT – MAY 2007

Following the elections in May, we said farewell to Councillors Leslie Clarke and John Emerson, and welcomed new Councillors Mrs Mary Forszewski, representing Cranleigh North; Brian Arendell, representing Cranleigh Rural; and Stewart Stennett, representing Cranleigh East.

During 2006/07 the Parish Council continued the programme of improvements on the facilities we provide for the community, but mindful of the increasing burden of Council Tax, we restricted the Parish Precept to £0.75p per week measured at Band D – an increase on the previous year of just £0.01p.

As planned, the new floor was installed in the Village Hall during August 2006. This required the hall to remain closed for longer than expected, with a consequent fall in letting income. However, due to the careful management of the hall by Cllr Mrs Dodd and her committee, this loss in revenue has been accommodated within the planned budget. It has been some years since the hall was decorated, and in August this year interior decoration will take place, with exterior decoration planned for 2008/09.

The provision of disabled access and facilities in our sports pavilion planned for 2006/07 was unfortunately delayed while we waited for plans to be drawn up, but these have now been completed and we hope that this work will be carried out during the coming year. In October last year, following completion of the High Street improvements, the old bus shelter was transferred to the recreation ground for use as a youth shelter. The shelter had been welcomed by many of our local young people, and it is particularly disappointing that persistent vandalism resulted in the structure having to be demolished. At present we have no plans for a replacement. Elsewhere in the recreation ground, we have been putting together long term plans for a major refurbishment of the children's playground, and we are hopeful that our recent application for government funding via Waverley Borough Council will see a major contribution towards this programme. Where possible, we will work with the sports clubs that use our facilities so that additional funding, augmenting our limited resources, can be secured for grounds improvements. We appreciate the continued commitment and hard work of Nick Barnett, our Grounds Manager; his assistant, Derek Hessewood; and our Sexton, Kevin Cave.

The Parish Council's Planning Committee, chaired by Cllr Mrs Ellis, has continued meeting every three weeks throughout the year, in order to provide timely and

comprehensive input to Waverley Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority, in spite of a further increase in planning application during 2006/07 beyond the 16% increase in the previous year.

Turning to finance, our income is obtained from several sources. We levy fees for the use of the facilities we provide, seek grants where these are available, and receive a Compensatory grant from Waverley Borough Council, reflecting that Cranleigh Council Tax payers not only pay for their own recreation facilities, but also contribute towards those elsewhere in the borough. We receive interest on our reserves, and may draw on those reserves where they have been earmarked for specific projects in previous years. The shortfall between this income and our planned spending for the year is levied as the Parish Precept, and the following table shows how our total income has been made up over the past four years: -

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/8
Fees & Charges	51302	53247	51688	53670
Interest on Reserves	7301	8102	8492	9025
Compensatory Grant	34186	34285	36758	36758
Other Income	2605	2886	18336	0
Parish Precept	194901	197593	200283	203263
Total Income	290295	296113	315557	302716

Our revenue expenditure – the day-to-day spending on providing, maintaining and improving our facilities – is spread over a number of areas as follows: -

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/8
Administration	98100	90931	101797	114356
Grants	1920	3720	3087	4000
Recreation	69861	76880	77757	80542
Cemetery	29288	29807	32150	33096
Village Hall	39544	37022	37835	40235
Total	238713	238260	252626	272229

Capital expenditure – our spending on new equipment for grounds maintenance, IT, etc. – is also spread over several areas: -

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/8
General	10311	16845	11200	13550
Recreation	20659	10033	13379	12875
Village Hall	2578	2820	15587	14600
Cemetery	13799	0	1115	2500
Total	47347	29698	41281	43525

We continue to invest in opportunities that we believe will be of benefit to the wider community of Cranleigh. We remain fully committed to the Cranleigh Initiative and have contributed £30,000 to the Healthcheck process since this was initiated. We continue to work with Cranleigh Village Hospital Trust and our local GPs towards a satisfactory completion of the new community hospital and health centre. Having worked in partnership with Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council, and SEEDA during the year, we are pleased to see the enhancement of the High Street finally completed. We particularly appreciate the help and guidance of the Rector, Nigel Nicholson in gaining a Coat of Arms for Cranleigh, and for the holding of our

first Civic Service, held in April this year to recognise the efforts of the many voluntary and statutory organisations that support our community.

In May this year, your Parish Council was awarded Quality Status, reflecting the dedication and hard work of our Clerk, Pauline Whitehead and her staff in the Council offices.

As in previous years, we received a grant from the Henry Smith's Charity to be spent on disadvantaged local residents. This year we received £4,400 and agreed to transfer £4,400 to the Cranleigh Community Fund which distributes it on our behalf.

Clerk Pauline Whitehead,
Assistant Clerk Mrs A Scully

Chairman Cllr B Ellis



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