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CRANLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012

2011/12 was another busy year for the Parish Council. The Village Hall on the High Street has been used more extensively throughout the last year. As a result income has significantly increased. The long serving Village Hall caretaker retired in November 2011 and a more flexible approach to running the Hall will be taken in the future, covering hires with staff who provide services across all Parish Council sites.

The Council provides recreation services at Snoxhall Fields. 2011 was the final season at Snoxhall Fields for Cranleigh St. Andrews Cricket Club. They have joined with Cranleigh Cricket Club based at Cranleigh Common. Sport continues at Snoxhall with Cranleigh Youth and Senior football teams.

The Parish Council has two allotment sites, one off Knowle Lane, the other on Elmbridge Road. To satisfy the demand for allotments, full size plots at the Elmbridge Road site are divided in two as they become available. This compliments the provision of additional allotments in the green space at the end of Elmbridge Road allotments and allows the Council to give a greater opportunity for more members of the community to benefit from the ability to 'grow their own' produce.

The Parish Council is responsible for the Cemetery on Dewlands Lane which still actively serves Cranleigh residents.

Whilst the Parish Council is not a statutory consultee on planning matters, the Parish Council Planning Committee takes seriously its ability to comment, from a local viewpoint, on planning applications within the Parish. During 2011/12 the Planning Committee considered the Swallows Tiles Development along with a large number of other planning applications. Whilst Dunsfold Park is not in the Parish, the Planning Committee considered a planning application for aviation use at Dunsfold Park during the Olympic Games 2012, and did not object to additional flying during that period as they felt that it did not set a precedent for the future.

The 'Big Society' agenda promoted by Central Government, led to the Localism Act which was given Royal Assent in 2011. The Act gives communities increased opportunities to influence their development in the future. Communities are encouraged to produce a Neighbourhood Plan which is a community led development plan that sets out the parameters for future development. The Plan has to go through a referendum process within the community to enable it to be adopted by the Local Authority. Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan has to link in with the Borough Council's Core Strategy, it becomes Planning Policy in its own right. The legislation for this is still filtering through from Central Government but the Parish Council has committed to exploring how this can become a reality for Cranleigh.

During 2011 the Parish Council took responsibility for the Cranleigh Co-ordinator who organised a programme of successful events throughout the year to encourage people to come into Cranleigh.

In early 2011, the Bruce McKenzie Memorial Field off Knowle Lane was exchanged for land on which the new health facility will be sited. During 2011/12 work was undertaken to satisfy the conditions of exchange. The Field will be formally opened in July 2012 as part of the Cranleigh Games organised by Cranleigh and District Rotary Club.

In summer 2012, the Parish Council will take over responsibility for the Public Conveniences in Cranleigh from Waverley Borough Council, who have no statutory requirement to provide these facilities and who were looking to reduce their liability in this respect.

The Youth Centre at Snoxhall Fields became the responsibility of the Parish Council in April 2012.

Organisational structure changes within Surrey County Council's Youth Services around the same time resulted in the Parish Council stepping in to take responsibility for the Youth Café, a flagship initiative started in partnership with Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council a few years ago.

The Parish Council is funded from a variety of sources but mainly from the Parish Precept, which is received from Waverley Borough Council. In 2011/12 the precept was £246,331. This increased by 3.6% to £255,004 in 2012/13, which equates to a rise from £47.22 to £48.94 per year for a Band D taxpayer. The main reasons for the increase was a reduction in the Compensatory Grant paid from Waverley Borough

Council to communities like Cranleigh that provide their own recreation facilities, and the increase in service provision (Public Conveniences in Cranleigh, the Youth Centre, Youth Café and the organisation of community events). Other income comes from fees and charges levied on Parish Council assets, reserves, interest on our investments, the Compensatory Grant and other grants (mainly for specific projects). The Parish Precept covers day to day expenses, enables the Parish Council to set aside money for replacing registered assets through scheduled allocation of funds on a yearly basis, and provides towards new projects.

The main areas of expenditure are recreation and administration and the main bulk of the expenditure relates to staff costs. Revenue costs will increase commensurate with the expansion of our portfolio of assets. None of the Parish Council facilities run at a profit, however, in 2011/12 the Village Hall reduced its overall running costs from £18,841 to £7,178 through increased bookings and by reassessing how the hires at the Village Hall are staffed. Overall costs for running recreation slightly increased as would be expected as the new field was taken on and additional services are provided. The cemetery running costs were slightly down on last year which was elevated to include the improvements to the Children’s Section and the Garden of Remembrance.

Capital expenditure on elections and equipment in 2011/12 amounted to £17,000. In 2012/13 an amount of £36,000 has been set aside to replace existing equipment when it reaches the end of its life cycle as part of a ‘rolling programme’. A significant sum has been set aside to build up a fund for the Village Hall roof which is showing signs of deterioration and which is being closely monitored. £15,000 has been earmarked to go towards providing a Multi Use Games Area at Snoxhall. The Council intends to work with Waverley Borough Council and local sports clubs to seek grant funding to supplement the Council’s investment.

The Chairman noted that Cranleigh received £4,620 for the year ending 30th September 2011 from the Henry Smith’s Charity. The Trustees of the Cranleigh Henry Smith’s Charity are drawn from Councillors and the local community. The Trustees agreed that £4,700 be transferred to the Cranleigh Community Fund to help those in need within the community.

Your Councillors contact details

CRANLEIGH EAST	
Cllr Brian Cheesman <i>VICE CHAIRMAN</i>	01483 273293
Cllr Richard Cole	07718 588940
Cllr Ken Reed	01483 271896
Cllr Ruth Reed	01483 271896
Cllr Janet Somerville	01483 274488
CRANLEIGH WEST	
Cllr Brian Ellis <i>CHAIRMAN</i>	01483 272929

CRANLEIGH WEST	
Cllr Patricia Ellis	01483 272929
Cllr David Gill	01483 271565
Cllr John Bainbridge	01483 275949
CRANLEIGH NORTH	
Cllr Mary Foryszewski	01483 273020
ELMBRIDGE	
Cllr Robert Wilson	01483 542034
CRANLEIGH RURAL	
Cllr Brian Arendell	01483 273204

Larger text versions are available on request

Editor – Pauline Whitehead FdA PILCM, Clerk to the Council.

Available from, the Parish Council Office, Village Way, Cranleigh. 01483 272311 and downloadable from the website www.cranleighpc.org. A copy is displayed on the Parish Notice Board.