

## PARISH PRECEPT for 2013/14

The Parish Council agreed the precept for 2013/14 at a specially called Council Meeting on 12th February, and agreed a reduction of 3.6% on last year's figure.

The reduction was despite the fact that during 2012, the Council was faced with some difficult decisions regarding local services that had previously been provided by other agencies, and which were likely to be withdrawn. We felt strongly that we wanted to uphold the service level that had been enjoyed by our community in the past, if this were possible within our resources.

Following affirmation through public consultation, we took responsibility for the Public Conveniences in Cranleigh in August 2012. As part of the transfer from Waverley Borough Council we received full funding for the facility for the first year, but this will reduce to 65% for the second year, reduce again to 30% for the third year and then be fully financed by the Parish Council. The estimated running costs for the Public Conveniences is £20,000 per annum.

In April, after admirable service, the Trustees of the Youth Centre at Snoxhall Fields stepped down at the end of a 21 year lease and the responsibility for providing the Youth Centre fell to the Parish Council. This coincided with changes in how Surrey County Council delivered youth services in the County, which in turn impacted on Cranleigh's Youth Café which had previously been run by a Management Company. The Parish Council now has responsibility for the Youth Centre and also for the Youth Café which runs three late afternoons a week during term time.

The Council has an extensive portfolio of buildings and facilities for which money is set aside on an annual basis to build up reserves in readiness for when the replacement of an asset is required. The Village Hall roof has been under close surveillance since a buildings survey identified a problem in 2008.

The latest professional advice is that the roof needs to be replaced during 2013. Whilst we have a reserve of £54,375 the full cost for the work could be in the region of £95,000. The Council has decided that the deficit will be raised through short term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board who charge preferential interest rates.

As part of a land transfer to facilitate a new health facility in Cranleigh, the Parish Council swapped the Paddock Field (which had not been maintained for sport for several years) for the significantly larger Bruce McKenzie Memorial Field which is situated on the west side of Knowle Lane. As this was a new site for recreation, significant work is required to enable it to be used by the local community.

However, despite the reduction made by the Parish Council, tax bills for the Parish precept will increase. This is due to changes to the Council Tax Benefit System introduced by the Coalition Government, which has meant that Cranleigh's Council tax base has been reduced. Waverley Borough Council has awarded a one off grant of £8,129 to help to offset the adverse effect of the new system, which coupled with the careful and controlled budgeting by the Parish Council has enabled the Council Tax payment at Band D for 2013/14 to increase by only 1.98%. This means a cost of £49.91 in comparison with £48.94 for the same period last year. The precept for this year is £245,808 against a precept last year of £255,004.

### 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 Forszewski	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.  
A copy is displayed on the Parish Notice Board.

Available from:  
The Parish Council Office, Village Way, Cranleigh. 01483 272311 and  
downloadable from the website [www.cranleighpc.org](http://www.cranleighpc.org)