

**Cranbrook
Town Council**



Vision

“We see Cranbrook Town Council as a modern organisation which strives to be open to all, transparent and responsive. We pride ourselves in working with and for people in order to help create a place where everyone feels part of a strong, prosperous and vibrant community. We want Cranbrook to be a safe, clean and green environment where everyone is proud to live and bring up their families.”

Introduction

Cranbrook Town Council was established in May 2015. It has twelve Councillors, currently eight elected, three co-opted and one vacancy. Councillors are, generally speaking, younger than average and have ambitious plans for the Town Council and the community.

The Council's vision statement defines the organisation's purpose and values, goals and aspirations between now and the next ordinary elections in May 2019. It is also intended to provide inspiration and motivation to Councillors and residents as well as everyone who is involved in the development of the town and the work of the Council.

Cranbrook Community Survey

For the first time in 2015, the Cranbrook Community Survey contained a section on the Town Council, asking residents which areas of work should be important to the Council:

- 93% of residents felt that it should be a manager and facilitator of projects to develop the town
- 92% a provider of local services to the community
- 91% leading the community in campaigning for resources and services
- 90% a democratically elected representative voice for the community
- 89% a manager of community facilities and open spaces
- 88% a one stop shop for communication with public authorities and voluntary agencies
- 87% closely examining and inspecting the work of other public bodies in Cranbrook
- 86% a place for debating the community's priorities
- 78% a figurehead for the community and leader of civic events

The Council's Vision

We see Cranbrook Town Council as a modern organisation which strives to be open to all, transparent and responsive. We pride ourselves in working with and for people in order to help create a place where everyone feels part of a strong, prosperous and vibrant community. We want Cranbrook to be a safe, clean and green environment where everyone is proud to live and bring up their families.

The Council aspires to be a leader of the development in the town and is working hard together with partner organisations to develop the future development of the town, including an inviting and attractive town centre, to propose suggestions for improvement to existing and future infrastructure, and to resolve outstanding issues affecting the town. Furthermore, it is looking to start managing **assets** as soon as possible, including:

Multi-purpose Town Hall (see below)
Spaces for the arts and sculptures
Public toilets
Interactive noticeboards

Parks and open spaces
Car parks
Skate park(s)
Allotments

The Council is also looking to provide many **services**, including the maintenance of community areas and open spaces, hosting social events and festivals, community competitions and opportunities for young people.

The Council is looking to develop a **Neighbourhood Plan** during the life of the current Council.

The Council is working together with partner organisations in the **delivery of:**

- excellent public transport
- 21st century telecommunications
- top class sport and leisure facilities, including swimming pool
- road policing and speed control
- Cranbrook as a destination, e.g. the shopping location outside Exeter
- cycle routes and facilities, hire bikes
- car sharing
- enterprise and business development and support
- improvements to the Country Park, e.g. transforming flood plains to water gardens and board walks

The Town Council is non-political and non-religious in nature, and serves all members of the community, regardless of their age, race, sex, national origin, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

Town Hall

Cranbrook Town Council is looking to commission a multi-purpose Town Hall in the centre of Cranbrook in partnership with other agencies. This building will incorporate the Town Council offices and Council Chamber, a library, one or more cafés, a catering kitchen, public toilets, small offices for business hire, a large flexible entertainments space and a bar, exhibition space as well as car parking spaces. It is anticipated that the Town Hall will be designed and built within two to three years.

The Council hopes that the Town Hall will be at the heart of the community of Cranbrook as the hub for community and social activities, and will benefit residents, tradespeople and visitors alike.

Risk Appetite

In January 2016, the Council formulated its risk appetite and stated that it strived to be entrepreneurial and therefore content to take measured risks, and that it will consider each case on its merits.