
Cranbrook Town Council

- Formed in May 2015
- 12 volunteer Councillors working hard to deliver services and improve life in Cranbrook
- Budget for 2018/19 of £509,100.00
- Employs 2.25 FTE staff
- Works with other partners to deliver a new town
- From April 2018 owns and has responsibility for the first phase of the town's public open spaces



Annual Report

2017-18

Your Town Council

- The Town Council office is located on the ground floor in the Younghayes Centre and is open to the public between 10.00am and 2.00pm Monday to Friday
- Contact us by phone on 01404 514552
- Email us on clerk@cranbrooktowncouncil.gov.uk
- Website www.cranbrooktowncouncil.gov.uk
- Noticeboards at the Younghayes Centre, Tillhouse Road and Southbrook Meadow
- Facebook www.facebook.com/cranbrooktowncouncil
- Monthly page in the Cranbrook Herald

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Town Council meetings and there is an opportunity at each meeting for residents to have their say.

Our 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.



▲ Town Councillors at a Full Council Meeting in the Younghayes Centre

Cranbrook's public open spaces

During the year April 2017 to March 2018 the Town Council

- Entered into an Agreement with the developer Consortium to transfer ownership and responsibility to the Town Council for the first phase of public open space, including parts of the Country Park and St Martin's and Hayes Square play parks
- Set a budget for 2018 - 19 of £509,100.00 which included the additional responsibility for public open spaces
- Agreed a precept (the Cranbrook Town Council element of the council tax) of £388,398.00. The precept will be collected by East Devon District Council through the council tax from April 2018 onwards



▲ Cllrs Kim Bloxham & Kevin Blakey sign the transfer agreement



◀ Hayes Square

Part of the Country Park ▶



How is the Town Council structured?

- The full Town Council comprises all twelve Councillors and meets every month at 7.00pm on a Monday evening. The dates and the agendas for each meeting are posted in advance on the website and members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and put their views to the Council
- The Council delegates some aspects of its work to Committees and Working Groups. Committee meetings are also open to members of the public

Amenities Committee ~

The Amenities Committee of six Councillors has responsibility for monitoring the delivery and maintenance of

- infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, utilities and landscaping
- public open space including the Country Park and play areas
- street furniture - bus stops, benches and waste bins

The Committee works hard to identify, discuss and resolve any issues arising from the development of the town and meets regularly with:

- representatives of the Consortium
- other developers
- Exeter and East Devon Growth Point
- District & County Councils
- utilities and other partners

Planning Committee ~

The six members of the Planning Committee meet as and when required to

- discuss and agree detailed comments on planning applications. The Council has no power to determine planning applications and acts as a statutory consultee only
- put its views to developers during the early stages of planning applications
- campaign for good planning design including protection of green spaces and verges, proper provision for storage and collection of waste and recycling bins and a good mix of housing to ensure that Cranbrook develops into a balanced community
- form the Town Council's response to consultations such as the Cranbrook Masterplan

Finance & Personnel Committee ~

The Finance & Personnel Committee

- develops and monitors the Council's annual budget
- administers the grants scheme for community organisations
- manages the Council's employees

££ Detailed financial information is available on the Town Council's website ££

Representing Cranbrook

As well as serving on the full Council, its Committees and Working Groups, our Councillors also represent Cranbrook on outside organisations including:

- Citizens Advice East Devon Board
- the Exeter Airport Consultative Committee
- the Healthy New Towns Executive Board
- the Devon and Exeter Rail Project Working Group
- the Cranbrook Move More Group
- the East Devon Arts and Culture Forum.

Individual Councillors also have special responsibility for:

- Sports, health and wellbeing
- Liaison with youth services
- Applications for funding for projects from the Parishes Together Fund
- Liaison with Exeter University Geography research programme
- Overseeing suggestions for the naming of new streets in the town.

What else does the Town Council do?

Community grants

Each year the Town Council has money available for grants to local groups and organisations. During the year 2017-18 five community groups were supported with grant funding. Further information is available on our website.

Community Safety Partnership

In January 2018 a new Cranbrook Local Action Group (LAG) was formed under the East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership. This Group replaced the previous Cranbrook Community Partnership which was hosted and chaired by the Town Council. The Council will continue to play a central role in the LAG which addresses issues such as anti-social behaviour, highway matters and community safety. Membership of the LAG enables the Town Council to have direct access to the Police and other agencies who are able to support and advise on the various issues affecting the town.

Youth service

Since January 2017 a youth club has been provided by Youth Genesis on behalf of the Town Council. Sessions run every Tuesday evening during term time and are supported outside by a street-based youth team. Youth Genesis also provides free volunteer youth worker training.



◀ Young people at a Youth Genesis session

The Younghayes Centre ▶



Younghayes Centre

The Town Council manages the Younghayes Centre on behalf of East Devon District Council and is in negotiation with EDDC to take on the ownership and full responsibility for the building. Rooms are available to hire, so please contact us on bookings@cranbrooktowncouncil.gov.uk for information.

Charity of the Year

The first ever Charity of the Year for 2017-18 was Citizens Advice East Devon. The Town Council has supported the charity during the year and agreed to present a cheque for £500 to CAED at the Annual Town Meeting in April.

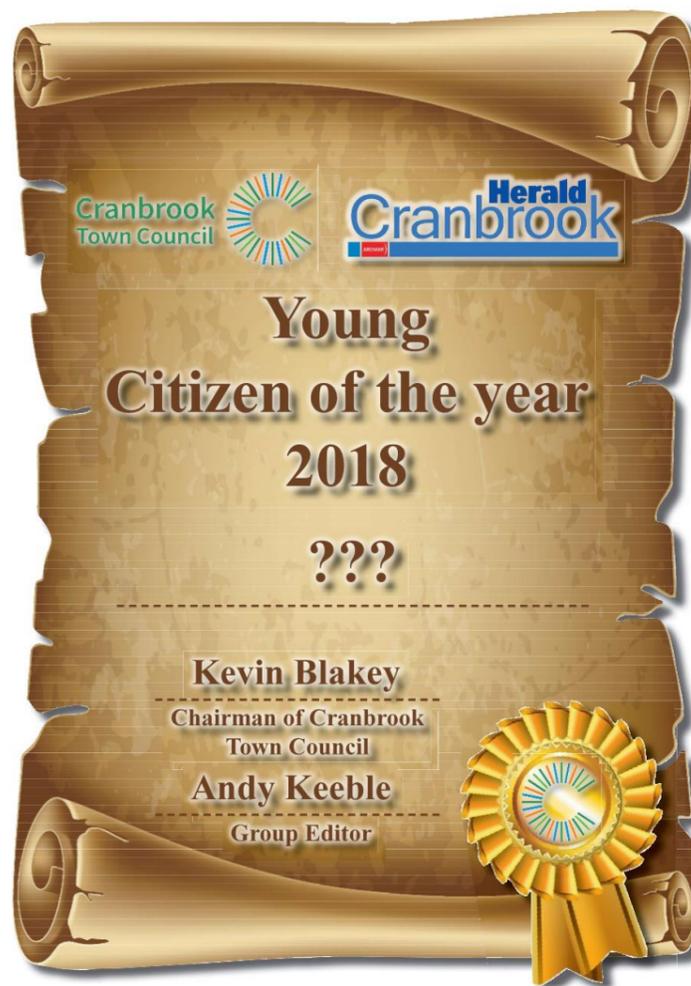
For 2018-19 the Council's Charity of the Year will be Devon Freewheelers, a voluntary organisation which delivers vital supplies of blood to hospitals in Devon.



Young Citizen of the Year Award

The Town Council is proud to support the Cranbrook Young Citizen of the Year Award, in partnership with the Cranbrook Herald.

This award celebrates the young person who made the biggest contribution to the town during the year and the £100 prize is provided by the Council.



The Year Ahead

The Town Council will continue to work on your behalf to:

- Deliver a balanced and vibrant community
- Deliver future play parks, working directly with the developer Consortium
- Develop plans for a new Town Hall with a library and start up office space
- Take on responsibility for the Younghayes Centre as an asset for the town
- Manage public open spaces, including the first phase of the Country Park, as an asset for the town
- Manage open space waste management services to ensure that the town is clean and safe
- Ensure the best possible delivery of facilities such as allotments and sports pitches with an enhanced pavilion
- Make Cranbrook's voice heard with our partner organisations.