

Headlines 2021-22

- Created in May 2015
- 12 Councillors
- Precept: £505,403.22
- Stable Band D council tax with 0% year-on-year increase at £256.03
- Employed 4.3 FTE staff

Cranbrook Town Council



Annual Report

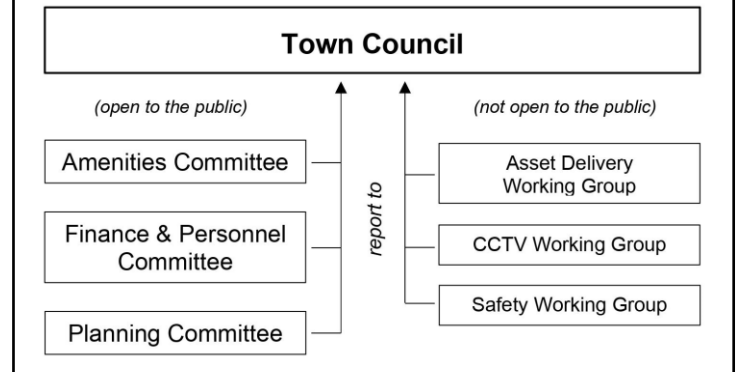
1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

Our Vision

We want Cranbrook Town Council to be 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.

Our Governance Structure



AMENITIES AND ASSET DELIVERY

Our councillors always work with partners to resolve issues affecting the town and to propose suggestions for improvements to its existing and future infrastructure, e.g. the built environment, street scene, landscaping, play areas, the Country Park, the train station to name but a few. The Town Council hosts regular meetings with every organisation involved in the development of Cranbrook and these have led to, e.g.

- Expansion of the Cranbrook Medical Centre completed
- Public consultation completed and order placed for the new Crannaford Play Area in Rush Meadow Road
- Delivery of new permanent barbeques
- Delivery of table tennis tables
- Treatment of weeds
- Assumed management and maintenance of the Younghayes Place car park previously covered by an expensive management company
- Tree planting
- Metal detecting in the Country Park
- Programme of path replacements where paths struggle to handle high rainfall
- Commenced programme of verge replanting to enhance urban biodiversity
- Country Park Management Plan changed to e.g. increase hedge cutting in residential areas

Our **councillors** are **volunteers** who are not paid a salary or an allowance and who work hard to improve life and services in Cranbrook.

Town Council Office

Our office on the ground floor in the Younghayes Centre is open to the public on

Monday to Friday from 10:00am until 2:00pm

or at any time by prior appointment.

Sadly... Parking and driving on grass verges is remaining a big issue throughout the town. If you cannot find somewhere to park, do not park on verges which can cause damage to plants and wildflowers, or in front of gates and driveways. Please respect the environment and other residents.

Memberships on Outside Bodies

As well as serving on the Council, its Committees and working groups, our councillors are also busy representing Cranbrook on external bodies, including Catchment-Sensitive Communities, the Cranbrook Strategic Delivery Board, Cranbrook Ottery St Mary Community Safety Group, East Devon Arts and Culture Forum, Exeter Airport Consultative Committee, Exeter University Geography Research Programme, Gypsy and Traveller Liaison, Larger Councils Forum, Move More Group, Police and Crime Commissioner Councillor Advocate, Sky Park / Hayes Farm Liaison Group, Sport England Local Delivery Pilot and the Tree Warden Forum. The Council is also a member of the National and Devon Associations of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Show me the money...

Our **Finance & Personnel Committee** develops and monitors the Council's budgets, administers the Council's grants scheme and manages employees.

Summary financial statement

We received **£505,403.22** from council tax plus other income e.g. rent from the allotments, pitches and the Younghayes Centre. We also received funds which are ring fenced for delivering specific projects.

Our total expenditure was **£703,523.00** which includes spending funded from external sources e.g. the expansion of the Cranbrook Medical Centre from NHS funds.

The Town Council element of the council tax remained stable at **£ 256.03** per Band D household. We are forecasting that it will remain stable for the next five years in our five-year business plan.

Our **grants scheme** benefitted five community organisations at a total value of **£4,995.41** in 2021-22.

We continue to be awarded substantial assurances by our internal and external auditors, the highest within their assurance rating hierarchy, concluding that the Council maintains a very high standard of financial management, financial controls and risk management.

Detailed financial information, including our five-year business plan, is available on our website at <https://www.cranbrooktowncouncil.gov.uk/finance/>.

Our Charity of the Year

2021-22 was the Devon Air Ambulance Trust and raised **£1,156.69** for them. Due to a lack of fundraising opportunities in 2020, we decided to keep the Trust as our Charity of the Year for a second year.

We also appointed the British Red Cross as a second Charity of the Year in March 2022 following the tragic outbreak of war in Ukraine and donated **£1,000.00** to them immediately.

Charity donations are made as a result of fundraising efforts and are not funded through the council tax.

Delivery of Community Assets

In June 2021 an open spaces deed of variation to the Section 106 agreement was finally signed after some three years of negotiations. Under Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, developers and the local planning authority (in our case East Devon District Council) can enter into agreements about contributions which the developers must make to the community.

The open spaces deed of variation saw the responsibility and, most crucially, the funding for the following obligations transfer to the Town Council:

- Ingrams sports pavilion
- Wheeled sports facility (skatepark)
- All future play areas within the 3,500 consented homes area
- Trim trail

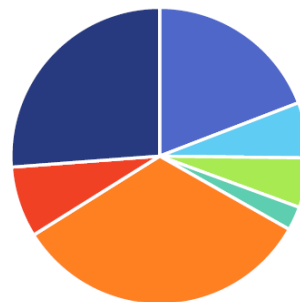
During 2021-22, we have been progressing all of these capital projects and we hope that most of these will be completed over the next 12-24 months.

Furthermore, we are working on the delivery of a bicycle pump track and received a funding pledge of £10,000 from the Exeter and Cranbrook Sport England Local Delivery Pilot towards the project in March 2022.

Spotlight on... the Younghayes Centre

The Younghayes Centre remains the only multi-purpose community building in Cranbrook and is very popular with the following uses:

Younghayes Centre Hall Use 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022



- Club Organisations
- Sports Clubs
- Community Projects and Events
- Toddler Groups
- Training
- Council Meetings

What we spent your money on in 2021-22

Staffing costs: £180,873

Administration including audit, licenses and subscriptions, training, rent and utilities, legal costs, insurance, events etc: £23,947

Councillors' expenses: £35.75 for wood filler for repairs and a Remembrance Day wreath

Grounds maintenance: £180,565

Youth service: £18,206

Climate Plan

In February 2022, the Town Council adopted its comprehensive climate action plan which details the steps the Council is planning to take to reduce its carbon footprint. Work on implementing the various initiatives has begun and progress is reviewed regularly.

Our **Planning Committee** commented on 32 planning applications during the year, including the delivery of the first tranche of the delivery of a town centre in Cranbrook, the expansion of the district heating network as well as extensions and conversions, variations of conditions and tree works.

The Town Council does not determine planning applications but make comment to the local planning authorities as a statutory consultee.

The Cranbrook And Ottery Community Safety Group

is a group of professionals who respond to community-related issues. It coordinated e.g. a multi-agency response from Devon and Cornwall Police, the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and the Cranbrook Education Campus to deal with fire starting and other damage in Cranbrook as well as drawing together other agencies to deal with anti-social behaviour. The group was responsible for encouraging the local **Community Speedwatch** initiative which has held sessions in areas of concern and would very much welcome volunteers.

The group also funded **Paul Hannaford, an ex-drug taker/dealer** who spent a day at the Cranbrook Education Campus delivering drug awareness sessions. Paul delivered an assembly to Years 9-11 (200 pupils) and then facilitated three one-hour targeted workshops with six pupils each who had been invited due to their involvement with anti-social behaviour and he then facilitated a drop-in session where he met with 10 pupils who had requested to speak to him. Paul's Instagram post from the visit received 1,136 likes and 45 comments from Cranbrook pupils. Paul also spoke to one pupil on the phone two weeks later after the pupil got into trouble with the police outside of school.

Cranbrook Development Plan Document (DPD)

Towards the end of 2021-22, East Devon District Council had submitted the Cranbrook Development Plan Document – which will guide the expansion of the development to approximately 8,000 homes – to the Planning Inspector. At the time of writing the plan was still under review and the Inspector's verdict on whether the Plan is sound was being awaited.

Cranbrook Town Centre

The Town Council forms the Cranbrook Strategic Delivery Board together with East Devon District Council and Devon County Council. Both officers and members have been working tirelessly with partner organisations to deliver the town centre which the residents Cranbrook desperately desire.

The town centre will be delivered in phases. The first phase will be a supermarket, town square, a number of retail units and a commercial nursery. At the end of 2021-22 the first planning application consents were granted with an aim to have the supermarket open ahead of Christmas 2023.

Partners are also working on proposals for a temporary commercial centre (Cranbox) similar to the Box Park locations in London which will house small retail and social elements which could function as a unique attraction for the town, bearing in mind it will have to exist with Exeter nearby.

Liaison with E.ON

In partnership with the Town Council, E.ON UK PLC delivered two customer events on Zoom and face-to-face to Cranbrook residents fronted by senior E.ON representatives. Over 40 residents attended with varying issues including billing and issues relating to heat interface units (HIUs). This also provided an opportunity to chat with town councillors and to tour the E.ON Energy Centre. In our experience, E.ON have always been very forthcoming in providing a personalised customer service in Cranbrook.

Introduction of Parking Restrictions

In August 2021, the Town Council submitted a proposal to Devon County Council to introduce parking restrictions in four trial locations along Younghayes Road, at the Cranbrook Education Campus and at the junction of Yonder Acre Way with Crabtree Close. After the County Council simply ignored the proposal for many months, we finally reached support for their introduction towards the end of 2021-22 with installation expected in 2023.

Partner Consultations

During 2021-22, the Town Council contributed to East Devon District Council's Leisure Facilities strategic plan; future of public conveniences in East Devon; a gambling policy consultation; a code of conduct consultation as well as Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service's service community risk management plan.

Celebrating the Community



◀ Our mindfulness trail being installed in spring 2021. Since its installation we have been changing the trail theme regularly for residents and visitors to enjoy.

We are always looking for ways to provide or support events which celebrate our fantastic community. Events we organised or supported during 2021-22 included the Cranbrook fun fair in June 2021, a mindfulness trail installed in spring 2021 which was developed into a Christmas trail later in the year, delivering a summer holiday programme for disadvantaged young people, providing a “Heads Up Café” through our youth service provider Youth Genesis and delivering free activity taster sessions with Sport England Local Delivery Pilot funding.

Citizen Award

Town Council presented the Citizen of the Year award to Sharon Jewell for her tireless efforts to keep all of the Cranbrook (and Broadclyst) Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units operating and offering as many opportunities to the girls as possible throughout the Covid pandemic under some very difficult circumstances.

The Town Council celebrates the Citizen Award in recognition of outstanding local achievements every year. Congratulations to the well-deserving winner!



▲ Some of our litter-picking volunteers in action.



▲ The final design of the new Crannaforde play area in Rush Meadow Road which will be installed during 2022.



▶ Children trying their hands at apple pressing in one of the orchards in the Country Park.

Our existing assets and services at a glance:

Younghayes Centre
 Country Park and the Country Park Ranger
 Ingrams Sports Pitches
 Play areas at St Martin's, Hayes Square and Northwood Acres
 Crannaforde Allotments
 All other areas public open space across Cranbrook
 Permanent barbeques across the Country Park
 Table tennis table in the Country Park

Litter picking and bin emptying away from the adopted Main Local Route (MLR)
 Youth service provided by our service provider Youth Genesis
 Community development work



▲ Some of our fantastic volunteers at a tree-planting event. During 2021-22 we planted approximately 500 trees and we are planning to multiply that number in years to come in addition to implementing a verge replanting programme to enhance urban biodiversity in many neighbourhoods.

For further information please contact Janine Gardner, Town Clerk, on tel. 01404 514552, mob. 07746 909933 or email

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