



CRANAGE PARISH COUNCIL

# SPRING PARISH NEWSLETTER

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS • 2nd MAY 2019



Do you care about where you live? Are you passionate about your community? If so, you could make a great local councillor. Stand for election and make a local change.

### WHAT IS A LOCAL COUNCIL?

Local council is a universal term for community, village, neighbourhood, parish and town councils. They are the first tier of local government and are statutory bodies. They serve communities and are elected by residents. They can raise their own precept (a form of council tax). There are 10,000 local councils in England and 120,000 councillors who serve on these local councils.

### WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS DO?

Your local council has overall responsibility for the well-being of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

- **Delivery of services**
- **Improve the quality of life for residents**
- **Give communities a democratic voice**

### BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

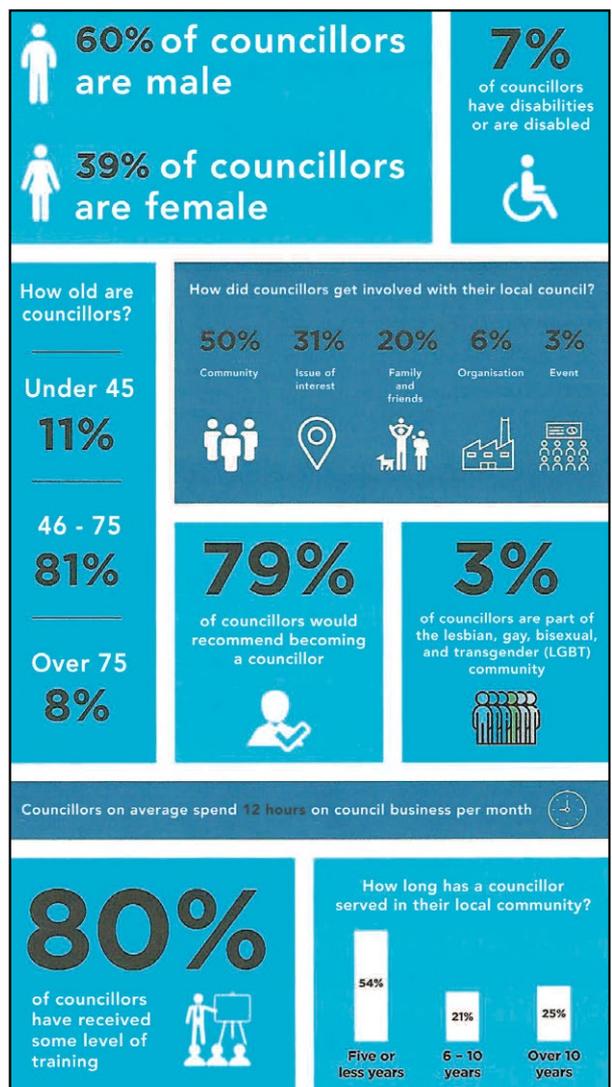
As a local councillor, you can become a voice for your community and make a real change. Local councillors are community leaders and represent the interests of the communities they serve. Local councillors have three main responsibilities: Decision-making, Monitoring, Getting involved locally.

### GETTING ELECTED

To stand for election to a local council you must:

- **Be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union**
- **Be 18 years old**

All nomination packs have to be returned by **3rd April, 2019**. Please contact Ms Julie Mason [jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com) or telephone 01260 641854 for more details.



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was with some trepidation that I took the Chair of the Parish Council back in May last year because of the turbulent couple of years before, thankfully, things have settled down and the year has been relatively quiet.

The PC started the year by appointing Mr J Caruthers of VTC consultants to look at the the road signage, hardstanding for school pickup and speed of traffic feeding onto the A50 from Byley Lane, Twemlow Lane, Goostrey Lane, Northwich Road and Middlewich Road. A report was submitted to Cheshire East Highways, a number of the recommendations are being actioned.

During the summer the PC assisted financially with the drainage issues on the football pitches in the Dane valley, we have been informed that the pitches are much improved and have been playable all winter.

Our Parish Clerk Julie Mason has, like many other people, been trying to get to grips with GDPR, the regulations appear completely disproportionate for a PC, however, we must try to do our best to adhere to the rules. On the crime front the regular police liason meetings are proving very useful and our local PCSO Ms Chesters is keen to address any issues raised at the meetings. It is also good that crime levels are declining, particularly antisocial behavior.

Persistent gripes in the Parish include speed, Northwich Road in particular, lorry trailers adjacent to the M6 for advertising purposes and FP Mc Cann. All of these issues are proving difficult to resolve, however, the PC is doing what it can. The PC wanted to purchase a speed display unit (SDU) for Northwich Road, however, this was vetoed by CE because SDUs are not permitted on roads with a speed limit above 40mph.

This year saw the building of the Adult Fitness Area near to the bowling club, a substantial lottery grant was secured to help finance it. Hopefully, it will be well used by the residents.

Two long running issues the PC has been dealing with has been the land behind Deans Cottages and a footpath claim adjacent to Carver Avenue. The latter has been running for over a decade and the PC appealed to the Secretary of State for a resolution, an independent solicitor was appointed to deal with the claim, unfortunately, her report recommended refusal of the claim, which it subsequently was at the rights of way meeting. The Council is currently appealing this decision. The land behind Deans Cottages is currently work in progress which involves getting the owners of the land (Health Authority) to register it, then any land grabbing can be dealt with.

Councillor R Hocknell

## PLEASE NOTE

The Parish Council have decided to change the venue of their meetings from the Village Hall to Cranage Hall Hotel.

The venue is free and the Parish Council will still make the same donation to the Village Hall.

Any comments please email the clerk  
[jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for a Litter Pick

SUNDAY, 14th APRIL, 2019

The Village Hall, 10.00am



Cranage Parish Council is organising a litter collection team to help tidy our Parish, your help would be greatly appreciated. Equipment and bags will be supplied on the day by the team.

Please contact Councillor Rachel Hurst;

**01477 534415**

or the Parish Clerk if you can attend;

**[jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:jmasonparishclerk@gmail.com)**

or call:

**01260 641854**

## Footpath between Carver Avenue and Byley Lane



On 3rd December 2018 the Public Rights of Way Committee of Cheshire East Council considered the claim of an existence of a public right of way between Carver Avenue and Byley Lane. This route lies behind Cranage Cottages, Yew Tree Cottage, Deans Row Cottages and joins the south end of Carver Avenue at the turning circle. The application was made in 2007. At the Committee stage, Cheshire East Council turned the application down.

As there is a right of appeal against the decision to Rights of Way Team, at The Planning Inspectorate, an appeal was lodged before the end of January 2019. The Authority (Cheshire East), the Appellant (Cranage Parish Council), the land owners and any third party can make representations. The target timescale to determine the appeal is 26 weeks. If the Inspectorate considers that there needs to be a more formal procedure, an inquiry or a hearing, this will take longer.

# QUARRY CONTROVERSY

*Quarry application shrouded  
in yet more controversy –  
Jodrell Bank conditions  
unlikely to be met*



Residents have been left angry and shocked following the latest developments in the long running Sibelco proposal to quarry for silica sand at Rudheath Lodge Farm.

Matters were presented to Cheshire East Planning, for a second time, on 27th February 2019. This was a highly unusual and somewhat unprecedented situation brought about following extensive local scrutiny of the information submitted to the first planning hearing back in April 2018, and to the Cheshire West hearing on 8th January 2019. I was honoured to be selected to speak at all three hearings on behalf of all residents, businesses and parishes who will be affected.

With a host of fresh objections, ongoing legal challenges and a significant amount of supporting documentation the Cheshire East planning committee were required to undertake a fresh vote. The committee once again narrowly and controversially voted to approve the application. In my most humble opinion, the case officer's report was far from factual and did not include any of the last-minute, vital, legal challenge information.

The second Cheshire East planning hearing has, once again, raised a host of issues and concerns leading to the submission of a series of fresh complaints to the Council's monitoring officer.

The accuracy and blatant untruths related to the committee on the day both verbally and in writing is now being called into question as a direct result. Sibelco, have made it very clear that they have little regard for the impact that this proposal will have upon local residents. This is purely a business venture for Sibelco that brings no local benefit, whatsoever, to anyone.

It now looks increasingly possible that the entire matter could be "called in" by the Secretary of State in order for an ultimate decision to be made, potentially via a formal public enquiry.

Sibelco, meanwhile, who initially submitted their plans for Rudheath Lodge Farm back in 2014 remain no closer to bringing their plans to fruition. Myself and a well informed team of local residents and experts have been campaigning against the proposal from the beginning, the five years of setbacks for Sibelco are the direct result of the mistakes and errors that we continue to identify within the planning process.

There are almost 100 proposed planning conditions which Sibelco must adhere to in order to make their proposal viable. Many of these conditions are extremely complex and are, from our perspective, completely unenforceable.

We are in no doubt that Sibelco will not adhere to all these conditions, so we are currently seeking clarity as to who would actually monitor their compliance. Sibelco have not been forthcoming with this and seem to think the conditions do not count. They are wrong!

A number of very important and complex conditions relate to Jodrell Bank. Cheshire East acknowledge that Sibelco "may just be compliant" with these and require further clarification and testing as a result. Professor Simon Garrington states that Sibelco's ability for future compliance with the Jodrell Bank conditions is "marginal at best" and he will have to be satisfied that Sibelco can achieve compliance prior to any quarrying being undertaken. We await the submission of further test results by Sibelco with interest and we hope Jodrell Bank will be following this up, as planning approval cannot be given full consent without this test for JB being fulfilled.

Crannage, Goostrey and Allostock could potentially never be the same again. The fight continues...

**Councillor M Cohen**

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman: COUNCILLOR R HOCKNELL  
[RHocknell@cranageparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:RHocknell@cranageparishcouncil.co.uk)

Vice Chairman: COUNCILLOR G MORGAN  
[GMorgan@cranageparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:GMorgan@cranageparishcouncil.co.uk)

COUNCILLOR D BENNETT  
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COUNCILLOR J SWITHENBANK  
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CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL;  
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FOOTPATH AND TREE OFFICER REPRESENTATIVE;  
Mr T Sheldon  
[TSheldon@CranageParishCouncil.co.uk](mailto:TSheldon@CranageParishCouncil.co.uk)



The Parish Council continues to be very active in working with various external bodies to improve road safety in the Parish.

From simple measures, such as ensuring the responsible bodies keep existing road signage clean and visible, through to successfully lobbying Cheshire East to install new road signage, for example that now in place at junction of Goostrey Lane and the A50. All of which should help to mitigate some of the collision risk where roads meet the main A50.

Speeding continues to be an issue on some roads in the Parish and off the back of the traffic data surveys we commissioned, we have worked with the police to have mobile speed display unit temporarily installed on Northwich Road. In addition, we continue to engage with CE Highways to lobby for reduced speed limits, where we feel the requirements of their own speed management strategy are met, on certain roads in our Parish, in particular Northwich Road which is currently a 50mph road which we would like to see reduced to a 40mph limit.

Councillor D Bennett

## PARISH ACCOUNTS

Opening Balance £62,973.69

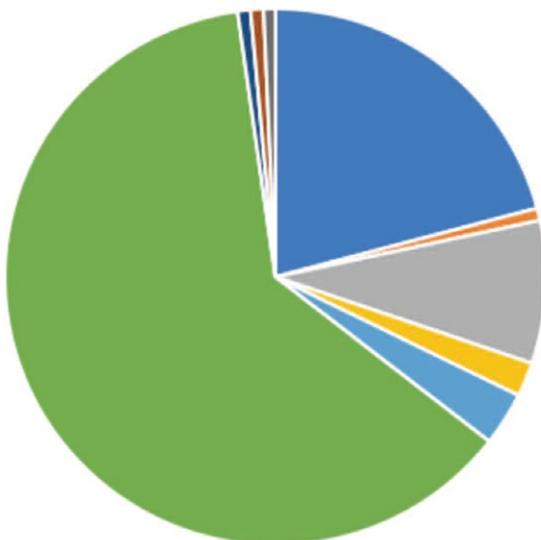
Income = £48,722.67

Outgoings = £49,658.74

Balance = £62,037.62

Precept for 2018/19 = £20,000

This would result in a Band D Council tax of £29.64 using the new tax base.



■ Salary /HMRC	■ expenses
■ Fixed Assets	■ Meeting Costs
■ Professional Fees	■ Memberships
■ Donations	■ Training
■ Communication	

You are invited to our  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
 at Cranage Village Hall  
 23rd April 2019 at 7.30pm

### AGENDA

- Welcome and Apologies
- To approve the minutes from Tuesday 27th April 2018
- Chairman's Report
- Financial Report
- Presentation from Lisa Lowe, Community Engagement Officer at Ansa Environmental Services, Environmental Hub
- Question and Answer session

This is an opportunity for all the members of Cranage to meet the Parish Council and express your views. Gain support on issues that concern you or just come and see what we do and introduce yourself. We would all love to meet you.

Cranage Village Hall

## HIRE OUR HALL

WHY NOT CONSIDER US  
 FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

- WEDDINGS -
- BIRTHDAY PARTIES -
- CONFERENCES -
- CHRISTENINGS -
- CLUB EVENTS -
- MEETINGS -
- CHILDREN'S GROUPS -

With prices from £15 an hour  
 we're the ideal venue!

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 email us at [contact@cranagevillagehall.co.uk](mailto:contact@cranagevillagehall.co.uk)  
 or find, like and follow us on Facebook