



CRANAGE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING:

Your chance to shape the future of Cranage



Cranage has begun the process of putting together a set of policies that support local people getting more say in planning decisions that affect our parish.

Whenever someone applies for planning consent in Cranage, the planners at Cheshire East follow national planning policy and the Cheshire East Local Plan to shape their decisions. The Neighbourhood Plan we create will add another layer to that framework, meaning that local hopes and aspirations are considered and any future development in our parish is in line with the boundaries we, as residents, have set out.

The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have to be legal and relevant, and we have engaged expert help from Cheshire Community Action to help us get it right. They must be based on evidence, and Cranage Parish Council has been granted funding from Locality, an organisation providing support to neighbourhood planning groups on behalf of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to support the process. The plan will be drawn up by local volunteers co-ordinated by members of Cranage Parish Council and guided through the process by the parish clerk and our expert adviser. Costs of the process will be met by the grant funding, so other than an initial £830 already spent from Precept, there will be no cost to the parish.

We'd love you to get involved – the more people like you who take part, the more confidence we can have that the Neighbourhood Plan properly reflects the views and needs of the residents – see more inside this newsletter.

Councillor Sophie Levin

Please register on the Parish Council website www.cranageparishcouncil.co.uk to keep updated and meet your Parish Council representatives.

Your Village Hall is OPEN!

The Village Hall, that lovely old building alongside the A50, is back in action again.

The **Art Club**, the **Toddler groups**, the **Karate Club**, the **Bridge Club** and several other groups are meeting again, and with all paying due respect to the anti-Covid-19 precautions that are still being observed at the hall.

If you would like to have a friendly, and interesting venue for your event, please contact the merry band of volunteers who run the hall via;

www.cranagevillagehall.co.uk

• LITTER PICK •

SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2021

Meet at Cranage Village Hall at 10.00am

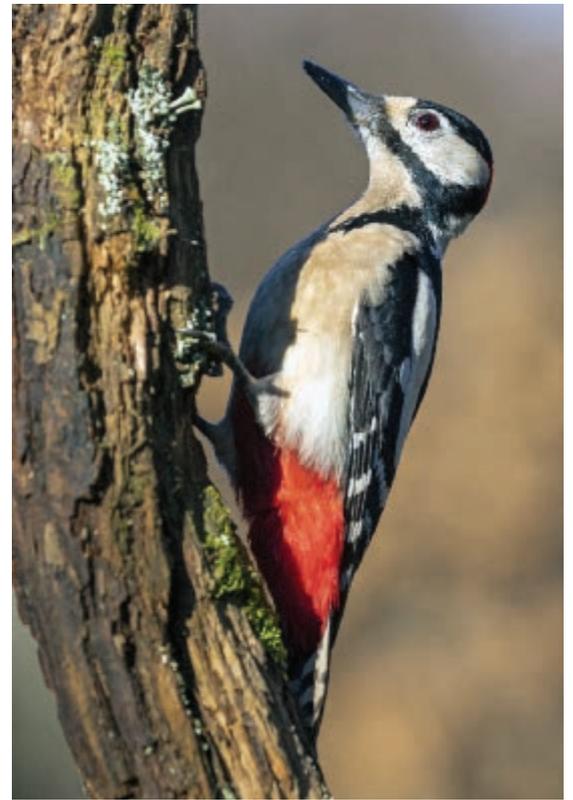
Litter Picking Kits will be supplied.

Afterwards have a tea/coffee and a biscuit.

If you could spare an hour to take part please contact

rhurst@cranageparishcouncil.co.uk

What you and your neighbours value about Cranage



As part of the Neighbourhood Planning process, we wrote to you about six months ago asking for opinions and feedback about living in Cranage. The results were extremely encouraging, with nearly 35% of households returning thoughtful and considered responses.

It was very clear that residents value Cranage's countryside and natural environment very highly. Access to green spaces, community spirit, peace and quiet, and places to walk and cycle are also valued by lots of you. Things people dislike about Cranage include road traffic, noise and pollution, and a lack of pavements and cycle paths. Understanding these views will help our community to create a Neighbourhood Plan that delivers what residents want and need.

People's hopes for the future of Cranage tended to centre around keeping things the same, limiting development, promoting rural tranquility and increasing safety for walking, cycling and horse-riding. We invited you to choose the three top issues for Cranage from a list. The responses told us that access to the countryside, the natural environment and community facilities were the most popular choices. Design of new developments and sustainable transport also scored highly. Tourism was the least selected issue.

In summary, there was a strong inclination from across the parish to protect green spaces from future development.

Where people raised issues that fall outside the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan – such as speed limits, highways maintenance and litter – the Parish Council have noted the concerns and remain committed to supporting residents to achieve change where possible.

Given the strong and recurring value placed on green spaces, the natural environment, and footpaths and cycleways, it was clear that we need to begin by gathering evidence about the wildlife and nature we all treasure. For this reason, a study has been commissioned by Cheshire Wildlife Trust to help inform policies that could protect biodiversity and wildlife corridors from unsuitable development.

If you spend time watching birds, butterflies or moths, and have some spotting sites in and around Cranage we would love to hear from you, please get in touch via;

clerk@cranageparishcouncil.co.uk



Find out more and have your say

Join us over the weekend of

SATURDAY
6th NOVEMBER

from 10am – 1pm
at Cranage Hall Hotel

SUNDAY
7th NOVEMBER

from 10am – 2pm
at Cranage Village Hall

Come to the open events in the Village Hall and at the Hotel to;

- Meet other people who are interested in Neighbourhood Planning
- See the initial findings of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust into the wildlife and biodiversity of our parish
- Comment on the initial draft policies of the Neighbourhood Plan so far
- Sign up to take part in one of three working groups to further develop the Neighbourhood Plan

There's no minimum commitment to being part of this process, and you can come and find out more without offering to be involved further. We understand that many of you are extraordinarily busy, and we also know that our parish houses people of all kinds of skills and talents. If you can spare even the tiniest amount of time, or the occasional email or phone call, we'll be grateful for your contribution.

Enjoy some tea, coffee and cake too!

The next steps are to focus on three areas of policy as follows:



1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT GROUP

to work together using the findings of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust investigation to create planning policies that help to protect our treasured rural environment. This group will also include work on the highly prized areas of footpaths, trees, hedges and watercourses.

2 AMENITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES GROUP

to work together on compiling a catalogue of existing valued amenities and green spaces in order to better protect them from development and look for opportunities to seek improvements in the future.

3 DESIGN & CHARACTER GROUP

to work together to survey the existing design characteristics of development in Cranage, to then form the basis of a design and character guide which will be included in the plan, supporting only appropriate and locally suitable development in future. This group will also consider sustainable transport and infrastructure policies, so that any new development will be expected to consider these aspects of rural life.

If you can't make it to the live event on 6th / 7th November, please don't let that be a barrier to getting involved. You can email us on clerk@cranageparishcouncil.co.uk or even write to us at; Clerk, Cranage Parish Council, 66 Elm Drive, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire CW4 7QG.

We'd love to hear from a broad spectrum of residents including the very young and the very old, business owners, commuters and full-time parents. There is no contribution too small and we're looking forward to meeting all of you.

Councillor Sophie Lavin

Please register on the Parish Council website www.cranageparishcouncil.co.uk to keep updated and meet your Parish Council representatives.

TREE PLANTING in the community



The Council have been gifted some free tree packs from the Woodland Trust – these are being given away in support of the ‘Green Canopy for the Queen’ – a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s **Platinum Jubilee** in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to ‘Plant a Tree for the Jubilee’.

We will soon be supplied with some mixed deciduous hedging trees, which will be planted to thicken up the hedge boundary at the rear of the Cranage Bowling Club – if you have green fingers, a spade and some energy – come and join us to plant these trees!

Please contact the clerk@cranageparishcouncil.co.uk for more details.



NEW COUNCILLOR Cllr MARK MORREY joined the Parish Council in July 2021

Mark Morrey, 44, is a local resident of Cranage, who runs a successful construction consultancy company based out of Knutsford.

Mark is a member of a number of professional bodies associated with the business.

Mark is a keen water sports enthusiast, enjoying time with his family on the North Wales coast during holidays. Throughout the year as a motorsport enthusiast he regularly takes part in novice track events at Oulton Park. Mark’s ‘why’ is his wife and two children with whom he enjoys spending as much time with as possible.



NEW PARISH CLERK SUE MCKAY

After 12 years of service to Cranage, Parish Clerk Julie Mason has moved on and is now the Clerk to Bollington Town Council. The Council have subsequently appointed Mrs Sue McKay, from Holmes Chapel. Sue has worked in the sector for almost six years, and has held her CILCA qualification for two years. Sue is also deputy Clerk for Holmes Chapel and looks forward to working further with the Council in Cranage, especially as they develop their Neighbourhood Plan in coming months.



The Parish Council wish Julie all the best in her new role at Bollington.

Cranage Playing Fields UPDATE

The football pitches have been worked on over the past few weeks; following on from the drainage work funded by the Parish Council in August 2020, with the pitch being spiked and around 30 tonnes of sand (donated by Sibelco) then being applied.

There are now five junior teams using and relying on the pitches this season from the local Holmes Chapel **Hurricanes Football Club**, but the pitches are also widely used by local residents for dog walking, golf, football and other sporting activities. The need to continue to improve the drainage and maintenance is ongoing to preserve this valuable community asset.