

Annual Report 2010

Cllr Brian Ellis, the Chairman of Cranleigh Parish Council, welcomed local residents to the Village Hall on 26th May 2010 for the Annual Parish Meeting. In his report Cllr Ellis explained that Cranleigh Parish Council has core responsibilities for the Village Hall, Recreation grounds at Snoxhall, the Cemetery, for commenting on Planning applications, managing Finance, Community Support and the Henry Smith Charity for Cranleigh. The Parish Council's income consists of fees and charges, reserves, interest, the Compensatory Grant for Recreation, the Parish Precept and other income and grants. A detailed breakdown of income and expenditure showed that the precept had increased 5.7% for 2010/11 to a cost of £45.63 for Band D Council Tax payers and that this represented 3% of the Council Tax payment overall. The increase in the precept was necessary as the interest received from reserves had plummeted due to the general economic decline and the Compensatory Grant for recreation awarded by Waverley Borough Council had been frozen, which equates to a reduction in real terms. The figures displayed confirmed that the Parish Council assets do not run at a profit.

The Parish Council had spent a total of £112,979 on capital projects for Recreation during the 2010/11 period, however over half of this was money received from grant funding which went towards equipment in the Play Park, fitness equipment and necessary compliance work at Snoxhall pavilion. The Parish Council had very gratefully received support for the Play Park from the Betty Riseley Trust, the Surrey County Council Youth Fund, Surrey County Council Leader Fund, Cranleigh and District Rotary Club, the Action for Cranleigh Play Park Association and other local donors.

The Parish Council has forged positive partnerships with other organisations during the year and has contributed in providing important improvements within the community and raising the profile of Cranleigh, strengthening its position within Waverley and raising awareness of local needs. The Parish Council had worked with WH Smiths on improvements to the High Street flowerbeds.

Cranleigh Parish Council is the first Parish Council in Surrey to achieve the Power of Wellbeing which benchmarks the Council and enables it to have increased power, including spending power, to support and promote its community.

The Parish Council organised for structural repairs to be made the War Memorial, especially the surrounding wall and gates. This was achieved with significant funding from the Surrey County Council Local Committee in Waverley, the War Memorial Trust and local donations. The Parish Council had stepped in to do this in the absence of any other organisation accepting responsibility for it.

Finally the Chairman reported that £4,620 had been received from the Henry Smith's Charity to the year ending 30th September 2009 and that £4,700 had been transferred to the Cranleigh Community Fund.