

Cranford Parish Council Annual Report 2020



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1 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Residents,

In the Local Parish Council Elections of 2015, Cranford was one of only three contested Parish Council Elections within the Kettering Borough Council Area (26 Parish Councils in total), and it is our sincere desire that the residents of Cranford should have another contested election, and hope that residents will rise to that challenge. This gives credibility to the work we do, and the authority to work with other statutory local government bodies. That said, we have operated for much of the past two years without a full complement of Parish Council members, and it is not a sustainable position for the immediate future, given the workload and challenges this community will face in the coming years. Kettering East is forecast to grow to 2700 homes by 2026 and continues to impose a significant workload that needs constant attention, and given Northamptonshire's Local Government reorganisation, other delegated tasks are likely to fall on the Parish Council. A diverse membership is essential for a healthy and functioning Parish Council and requires your support and commitment if effective representation is to be achieved.

Parish Council work is demanding in terms of time and commitment, but is also highly rewarding, and a good way of getting to know a wide range of residents. It is not without its achievements, and I would like to point to three in particular within the last five years, though these form only a snapshot of what is a busy and effective Parish Council. First, we secured the Wind Turbine Monies from The Burton Wold Wind Turbine Extension for local Cranford based projects-something which was not a given right and could easily have been lost. Cranford as a community has yet to fully utilise these monies for Local Projects, something which our Cranford 2025 Vision Project might put right. Secondly, we have secured over £70 000 of monies from Kettering East for High Street Traffic Calming, something we were not going to receive until 2030 or later, thereby securing a project way ahead of time, and giving better value to residents. Thirdly, the installation of kissing gates and footbridge on the path towards Twywell Hills and Dales indicates how Wind Turbine monies can be used for improved countryside access for all individuals, not least our four-legged friends! These clearly are highlights and must run alongside

statutory planning duties, essential maintenance, contacting Engineers with reference to blocked drains and potholes, as well as dealing with fly tipping. Serving your community is good for all, and the future work of our Parish Council is restricted only by our imagination. Much remains to be done, such as further improvements to our footpath network, a children's playground, the list is endless for a thriving community which the Parish Council wants to support with your help and commitment.

Finally, I would like to thank the 10 members of the general public who have served as Parish Councillors within the last 5 years. Without their support, advice and commitment, Cranford Parish Council would have not been able to operate. Retiring from this current Parish Council are Rex and Mo, who have altered their own personal schedules on more than one occasion to attend meetings and so allowed business to continue and decisions to be made. Jonathan and Gavin hope to stand as future Councillors and I wish them well, they both have been a tremendous support, whilst Huw has done much to lead the 2025 Vision Project which aims to link Community based projects. The energy of our Parish Council is only as effective as our Parish Clerk, Claire, who continues to work hard on behalf of residents in communicating with Statutory Public Bodies and private individuals/businesses.

As for myself, I would like to thank this Community for the opportunity of being Chairman of Cranford Parish Council for the 'past few years', something which when 'I was younger', I could never have imagined I would have been allowed to do! I wish the New Parish Council every success and encourage you to stand for election and learn so much more about your Community.

Kind Regards,

Stephen Pickard

Chairman Cranford Parish Council 2015 to 2020.

2 ELECTIONS- 7TH MAY 2020



Cranford Parish Council is coming to the end of this extended term. Due to the issues with Northamptonshire County Council the term was extended for an additional year.

The Structural Change Order for Northamptonshire has now been approved by the Government. This means that on 1st April 2021—the County of Northamptonshire is abolished as a local government area and the county council is wound up and dissolved. It will be replaced by two unitary councils North Northamptonshire Council (covering Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough) and West Northamptonshire Council, covering Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire. There are arrangements in place to prepare for the transition to the new councils, including elections and the establishment of shadow authorities in May 2020.

At the same time, Cranford will see elections for Councillors to the new Parish Council. This is a time of exciting change and possibilities, which will see Cranford PC as the first line of local government under the new North Northants Unitary Authority.

In April 2021, all Borough and District councils will be abolished, and some new Town Councils and Parishes may be created. What this will actually mean is still very much unknown. More powers and responsibilities may be devolved down to Parish Council level.

We are actively seeking residents to stand for election and hope for another contested election. You will find the role very rewarding and can make a real difference to your village.

Please either contact the Parish Clerk or have a chat with one of the current Councillors.

3 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

This year we have continued the upkeep of Jubilee Gardens and paid for all the signs in the village to be cleaned. We intend that signs will be cleaned twice a year from now on.



We continue to monitor the roads for potholes and blocked drains. Despite our very best efforts, Thrapston Rd towards J11 has yet to be resurfaced, but we are hopeful that some of the larger potholes will be attended to. All residents are encouraged to report any defects to www.fixmystreet.northants.gov.uk

There have been numerous incidents of Fly Tipping. The KBC warden has been very proactive and this, along with the installation of cameras has led to successful prosecution of some of the perpetrators. We encourage residents also to report any incident to Kettering Borough Council via the online form for Fly Tipping.

4 TRAFFIC CALMING

Village gates have now been installed along Grafton Road, to delineate the entrance to the village. It is hoped that this will encourage road users to slow down along this stretch. The Parish Council are considering installing vehicle activated speed signs in the village and your views are very welcome.

Remedial gulley works in the traffic calming area of the High Street have been scheduled in April, to stop the pooling of water near the bus stop.

5 WAR MEMORIALS

To mark the centenary of the formal end of the Great War in 1919, we installed a bench to commemorate the war dead from both the First and Second World War from the village. We hope to install a plaque detailing the fallen shortly.



6 HANWOOD PARK

Residents cannot fail to see the rapid transformation of Cranford Rd, due to the building works and road layout change. This has created considerable inconveniences for residents due to road closures, but the Parish Council continue to work with Kettering Borough Council and the Kettering East Liaison Group to ensure residents' concerns are heard.



Warkton Lane/Barton Rd junction now has traffic lights and the development along Barton Road is taking shape. The new roundabout coming off Junction 10 is ongoing.

Consultation on the boundary review of Cranford Road has been delayed due to Brexit and the General Election. It is proposed that that Cranford Road residents become part of the new Hanwood Park Development, and the old Cranford Road/Village Parish of Cranford be reduced in size. The Village Boundary will be located on the line of the Alledge Brook as it turns northwards towards Grafton Underwood, north of the Cranford Road, meaning the parish of Cranford will be smaller. Forecast is for 2700 homes to be built by 2026 which will trigger the creation of the new J10A

7 FOOTPATHS

We are pleased with positive reports from residents regarding the installation of kissing gates and bridge walkway along the footpath to Twywell Hills and Dales. Given the very wet weather, we are looking to extend the bridge walkway. We hope to continue to improve other Parish Footpaths as well. Any recommendations gratefully received.



8 CRANFORD VISION FOR 2025

A working party of the Parish Council undertook a village ‘Vision’ consultation process, involving questionnaires, some door to door discussions and an open event in the Village Hall. It is hoped that these will give the council and other organisations in the village a ‘feel’ for what residents want to see happening. Further correspondence and events will be arranged to feed back this information to residents at the Annual Meeting of the Parish in June

WANTED



Do you care about Cranford?

Do you want to do something positive
for your community?

Can you think, listen and act locally?

Elections to Cranford Parish Council will be held
on 7 May 2020*

Why not consider becoming a Councillor?

To find out more please visit

www.cranfordparishcouncil.com

or contact the Clerk at

cranfordparish@gmail.com or 01536 791893

*Applications must be submitted by 8 April 2020