



**CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL**

# **NEWSLETTER**

[www.cronton.org](http://www.cronton.org)



**SPRING 2016**

## **THE PASTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

### **DRAINAGE OF FACILITY**

**O**ver the last 5 years, the Parish Council and Cronton Neighbourhood Network has overseen discussions between local residents, user groups and key stakeholders interested in the development of The Pasture. Specific issues have been raised around the quality of the facilities in the Park, particularly the drainage which serves to limit local people's meaningful use of the site in the winter months.

The ambition has been to apply for funds to enhance the Pasture for other activities such as a new Play facility for the under sevens, picnic areas, community wildlife area, football pitches and quiet areas in which to sit and enjoy the environment. This has been successful, but the main factor now limiting the use of the Pasture during late autumn, winter and early spring is the damp nature of the ground making it unusable for walking, playing football and generally enjoying the area, indeed we had to cancel a summer Gala event in 2014 due to water logging and is always a worry when organising this event that is so dependent on the weather. Drainage of the facility will increase the period of usage

Cronton Parish Council envisages being a key partner in achieving this ongoing drive

for improvement to this most valued facility in our Village and to this end we will apply for a Grant of £50,000 from the Cory Environmental Trust, to enhance the drainage in the flat area of the Pasture where events are held. To assist in our Application for a Grant matched funding has been pledged by the Parish Council, Junior Football Teams and Gala Committee.

Will Cook  
Chairman



## THE KNOWSLEY LOCAL PLAN

At a full council meeting held on 6 January 2016 Knowsley Councillors formally adopted the Local Plan.

The Local Plan contains the statutory planning policies for the borough which will guide investment and development.

The plan went through a long consultation period and was examined in detail by an independent planning inspector. The inspector required a number of amendments to the plan before giving full approval.

The core strategy of the plan will set the strategic framework for the growth and development of Knowsley up to 2028 and beyond. It also includes site allocations for areas to be removed from the Green Belt to meet future development needs. These are referred to as 'Sustainable Urban Extensions'

9 such sites have been removed from the Green Belt to meet requirements up to 2028 and beyond. The sites and their proposed primary uses are listed below:

- a) Bank Lane Kirkby (residential)
- b) East of Knowsley Industrial and Business Parks Kirkby (employment)
- c) Knowsley Lane Huyton (residential and employment)
- d) Edenhurst Avenue Huyton (residential)
- e) Land bounded by A58 Prescot (residential)
- f) Carr Lane Prescot (residential)
- g) East of Halewood (residential)
- h) South of Whiston (residential)
- i) Land South of M62 (employment and country park)

The plan also carefully examined Green Belt boundaries and it is pleasing to report that there will be no change to the Green Belt around Cronton Village. This will provide The Parish Council with a strong argument should any developers try to build on Green Belt land around the village.

**The plan also states that it should:**

***Capitalise on the area's unique heritage by preserving, protecting and enhancing historic assets, particularly in Prescott Town Centre, Cronton and Knowsley Village.***

The plan is a welcome document which clearly sets out planning principles which include recognition of villages like Cronton and has policies to maintain Cronton's unique identity and prevent it from being absorbed into neighbouring towns.

## THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The National Planning Policy Framework is the guiding policy by which all local authorities must formulate their local plan. It has replaced over a thousand pages of national policy with around fifty, written simply and clearly.

It deals with many issues such as:

- Ensuring the vitality of town centres
- Supporting a prosperous rural economy
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Requiring good design
- Promoting healthy communities

And most importantly for Cronton, Protecting Green Belt land. In this respect the framework policy is very clear and is mirrored in The Knowsley Local Plan.

**The most important paragraph states:**

***As with previous Green Belt policy, inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances.***

The council monitors the weekly planning list to look for any likely applications that may threaten the Green Belt.

We will always fight any development that threatens the identity and unique environment of Cronton Village.

~ Shaun Cooper, Vice-Chairman ~

## SCRAMBLER MOTORBIKES

A recent and potentially dangerous situation is now developing in Cronton with increasing numbers of illegal scrambler bikes coming into the village.

These motorbikes are unlicensed without any insurance and are ridden by individuals who have no regard for other people's safety or property.

We have brought this problem to the attention of Merseyside Police. The police are well aware of the problem and they have a clear policy of crushing any illegal motorbikes they impound.

All calls to the police are assessed and then graded at the Force Contact and Command Centre. It is very important that the Police are contacted each time these motorbikes are seen in the village. **In the first instance call 101 and give the call handler as much information as you can.**

We have been informed that the **999 system should only be used where there is an issue of significant risk.** We have been further advised **that using the system does not in itself guarantee a deployment of fast response since every call is assessed and graded.**

The Neighbourhood Police Inspector has directed some further patrols and resources to Cronton, particularly in the area where the bikes are damaging crops and farmland.

If you have any knowledge of any individuals living in Cronton who are involved in this activity then please pass on the information to the police.

## CRANTON GALA COMMITTEE

The Cranton Gala Committee is busy organizing the **2016 Cranton Gala** which will be held on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at The Pasture**. Keep an eye on and like our Facebook page for updates, and also see notices in the Parish Council Office window. Leaflets will be posted throughout the village nearer the time.

The Gala has struggled financially since grants became scarce and so it has become necessary to make a very modest charge for entry. We will be charging just £1.00 per adult for admission and children will still be admitted entirely free of charge. We trust that everyone will understand how vital it is that we make a charge to ensure the survival of this much loved annual traditional village event. Any additional donations though not expected will be much appreciated and will certainly make a difference.

In support of the Gala there was a Spring Coffee Morning on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in the Parish Council Office, 7 Hampton Drive (next door to the Newsagents). All were welcome, especially new faces, pop in for a quick refreshment or linger and catch up with friends and neighbours, always a very informal and jolly little gathering.



For further information or if you think you can help and wish to join our happy band call **Ian on 07770 395 599** or email **ian@linian.com** we are always looking for more helpers and new ideas.

### Remembrance Wreaths

Each year following the service of remembrance, the wreaths are carefully secured to the railings. We have been asked by a number of residents at what time we remove the wreaths.



We think it is important that the wreaths should remain in place for as long as possible. There is no protocol on the removal of wreaths from war memorials but we feel that they should be removed prior to Christmas just before the tree lighting ceremony.

The tree lighting ceremony is an act of celebration and we feel it to be inappropriate for the wreaths to remain at this time.

Your views on this matter are very welcome. The Parish Council has an answering facility 24hrs a day on **0151 420 0235** or email - **council@cranton49.freemove.co.uk**.

### MERSEY GATEWAY TOLL

**As many of you have heard. The Chancellor George Osborne has agreed for residents of Warrington and Chester West (Frodsham) to receive free tolls on the new Mersey Gateway Bridge and the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge. The Parish Council has strongly opposed this decision with HM Treasury, as we in Cranton have much closer ties to Widnes and we use a Widnes postal code. I have had responses from three MPs backing the Parish Council's proposal for Cranton residents to get free access to the new bridge, George Howarth MP, Marie Rimmer MP and Derek Twigg MP. The request has been sent to HM Department for Transport who have assured me that our case is being investigated. Any updates will be published in the Parish Council Office notice board.**

~ Cllr Mike O'Dowd ~

### Historic Cranton Signs

The Parish Council is working with Knowsley Borough Council to introduce historic Cranton signs at all entry points to the village. This has been achieved by a welcome donation by a resident of Cranton.

They are needed to give the village a sense of identity to a place that has historic links and a number of listed buildings and sites. It also helps the emergency services when they are called to visit Cranton.

We are also hoping to erect a historic village montage in Coronation Gardens which will record various events in Cranton's history. We hope to have these items in place in 2016. ~ Cllr John Foran ~

### HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE

Tarmac is dealing with all enquiries relating to highway maintenance, so if you want to report a pothole, broken guardrail or other defect on the roads and pavements, you can call **0800 0232334** (The same number can also be used for out-of-hours emergency calls - where there is an immediate threat to life or limb), or use (and Tweet) the link below:

<http://ow.ly/XMDcl>

Forecast net payments 2016/17	£25,474
Reserve	£9,973
<b>Total revenue resources required</b>	<b>£35,447</b>
Less: estimated starting balance 2016/17	-£12,867
Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant	-£1,328
<b>Precept required 2016/17</b>	<b>£21,252</b>



## Parish Precept 2016/17

At a full council meeting held in February it was decided not to increase the Parish precept. This is good news for residents particularly after last year's big rise which was necessary for us to pay for maintenance of the pasture.

Each year we examine our expenditure carefully reviewing each of our budget lines to ensure that we provide a good level of service for the money you pay.

As part of the budgeting for the pasture maintenance we included a contingency to cover for additional unforeseen costs. Fortunately we were able to negotiate a contract below that which we had budgeted for.

The money saved has been placed in a reserve fund. It is not our intention that this fund should grow each year but in fact should be spent on projects for the benefit of Cronton.

Part of the reserve will be used this financial year to provide matched funding for a project we hope will greatly improve conditions at the Pasture.

If you examine the council budget you will see that most of our expenditure is fixed and spent on such things as insurance, the Pasture maintenance, utility bills and the services that enable the council to function. We try to minimise any increase in expenditure on these items by seeking alternative providers at the best cost.

**Shaun Cooper, Vice-Chairman**

### CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL

7 Hampton Drive, Cronton, Knowsley,  
Merseyside WA8 5BZ

#### Chairman

Will Cook 0151 424 4612

#### Vice-Chairman

Shaun Cooper 0151 424 6006

#### Councillors

Denis Bray 0151 424 2908

John Foran 0151 424 5248

Pat Green 0151 424 5109

Ged McGann 0151 424 0770

Mike O'Dowd 07904 977231

Geoff Pentin 0151 423 0038

Dave Rostance 0151 424 4799

**Parish Clerk** — Vitti Osborne

**Answer Phone No. 0151 420 0235**

**email :**

council@cronton49.freemove.co.uk



**Meeting notices will be posted on the notice board.**

**The press and public are welcome to attend all Council meetings and will be invited to speak at the public participation session.**

### Coming Council Meetings

At Cronton Parish Council Office,  
commencing at 7.00 pm

#### **Monday 9 May 2016**

Parish Annual Meeting  
Council Annual Meeting

#### **Monday 23 May 2016**

General Purposes and Environment  
Committee  
Finance and Policy Committee

#### **Monday 20 June 2016**

Council Meeting

#### **Monday 4 July 2016**

General Purposes and Environ-  
ment Committee

Finance and Policy Committee



precept 2016/17	2015/16		2016/17
	original budget	Forecast outturn	Fore-cast
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	£	£	£
Common investment income	47	47	47
Bank interest	10	12	10
Office rentals	30	75	0
VAT refund	229	229	976
<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>1,033</b>

### PAYMENTS

Core			
Council Insurance	1,232	1,145	1,355
Non domestic rate	475	0	475
Clerk's salary	8,717	8,680	8,680
NI Employer's contribution	120	0	120
Pension Employer's contribution	2,310	2,300	2,301
Postage	115	79	200
Stationery	252	146	252
Photocopying	350	287	370
Audit (External + internal)	450	210	450
Clerks expenses	60	60	100
Electricity	1,000	567	1,000
Water Rates	263	260	300
Telephone	350	242	350
Website	175	140	175
Elections	600	60	600
Chairman's allowance	200	200	200
Councillors Expenses	150	0	150
Publicity & Advertising	100	0	100
Affiliations	353	325	400

### Maintenance

Premises	550	550	550
The Pasture ground maintenance	6,000	4571	6,000

### Non-Core

Members & Clerk's training	250	85	250
Donations	950	850	950
Remembrance Day	52	42	52
Christmas	500	459	500
Hall hiring	150	0	150
Office cleaning	381	377	377
Housekeeping	100	48	100

<b>Total</b>	<b>26,205</b>	<b>21,683</b>	<b>26,507</b>
<b>Net payments</b>	<b>25,889</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>25,474</b>

### RESERVES

Reserve for ear-marked items	4,028	4,483	6,244
General Reserve	3,251	3,729	3,729
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,279</b>	<b>8,212</b>	<b>9,973</b>

## CRONTON COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

The Voluntary Committee have recently spent quite a large sum of money on various upgrades within the Centre. For example, a new central heating boiler, decorating, toilets refurbished, etc etc.

The next large job that has to be completed is the Car Park area.

We are still looking for more volunteers to help run the Centre. So if you have an hour or two to spare each week, you will be made very welcome.

### Cronton Mission – the Church of England in Cronton village

We meet on Sundays at 10.30 am in Cronton CE Primary School, Smithy Lane. Services are relaxed and range from traditional (Morning Prayer) to fresh expressions (café church). There is something for everyone – and everyone is welcome. Not been to church for years? Why not give it a try?



Would you like prayer for something that is a concern or worry? We have people who will pray for you or with you – or just listen without judgement.

Everywhere these days, we tend to live in isolation from others around us. We don't want to be nosy or interfering, we are busy and pre-occupied. Do you or someone you know, want a visit – for companionship or chat? Please ask... we would love to meet you.

Just drop a note into the Parish Council office – addressed to Cronton Mission Team

We look forward to seeing you. ~ Lesley Wright ~

**Cronton Methodist Church**  
**Chapel Lane**



**Spring Fair**  
Saturday 23rd April 2016  
From 11.30 am



- Stalls - cakes, raffle, tombola, face painting, games and more

Sunday	10.30 am at Cronton CE School
April 3rd	Morning Prayer
10th	Café Church
17th	No service
24th	Holy Communion
May 1st	Morning Prayer
8th	Café Church
15th	No service
22nd	Holy Communion
29th	Team Service at St Luke's 10.30 am

### Police and Crime Commissioner election

- On **Thursday 5 May**, electors can elect the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Merseyside, which encompasses the authorities of Knowsley, Liverpool, St. Helens, Wirral and Sefton.

**EU Referendum** - The date for the EU referendum has been confirmed as **Thursday 23 June 2016**.

**Local elections** - The next scheduled local elections will take place in Knowsley on **Thursday 5 May 2016**

With effect from May's elections, the number of electoral wards in Knowsley has been cut from 21 to 15, with the number of councillors reducing from 63 to 45.

All 45 council seats are up for election in May, which means you will be voting for three councillors to represent your local ward.

[Cronton will be in the re-named ward of Whiston and Cronton](#)