



Council Meeting – 26 September 2019

Agenda Item – CC2043/19

Looking ahead – Strategic Planning and Budget Setting

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to start the Council's deliberations on what we want to achieve over the next four years, drawing from the proposals put forward by those elected in May 2019. Annex B summarises some of the things that we proposed to do.

Discussion

Our whole new Council was elected in May, with two very experienced councillors, seven who were co-opted during the previous Council, and seven who were elected for the first time.

We have inherited a number of commitments and continuing activities, as well as an approved budget for 2019-20. We have the opportunity to decide what we want to achieve and our priorities for the next four years.

Parish Councils have a wide range of powers that enable us to do things and we can be ambitious but we also have to be realistic about what is practical:

- There are some legal limitations, the Clerk can advise us what may, and what may not, be possible.
- We have financial resources – money we already have in reserves, what we decide to raise though the precept for next year (which we have to decide), and how much we are willing to borrow.
- We have time and people – we employ four staff directly, and Councillors can volunteer to do things although we have many other commitments.
- We mainly get things done through small working groups, or by funding other groups or organisations that want to achieve things in, or for, Croxley Green.

Our website includes our Mission statement and Objectives (copy at Annex A) which were agreed some years ago. We could change them, if we wanted.

We do not (at the moment) have a strategic plan for what the Council wants to achieve or a method for developing our strategic approach, except for the annual budget setting round. We could develop a strategic plan, if we wanted.

Recommendations

- Each of the three standing committees (F&A, LEE and P&D) to review their longer term strategic priorities in the light of Councillors' ambitions and shape their budget proposals for 2020-21 to achieve them.

Cllr Andrew Gallagher
September 2019

ANNEX A KEEPING CROXLEY SPECIAL

“Croxley Green Parish Council is committed to promoting pride in Croxley Green by focusing on its people, community ideals, environment and the economy.

“We care about Croxley Green, not only for what’s going on today, but what’s going on for the future.

COUNCIL

“Mission:

“The Parish Council is committed to promoting pride in Croxley Green by focusing on its people, community ideals, environment and the economy” - ‘Keeping Croxley Special’.

“Objectives:

- *“To encourage residents to express their views, aspirations, expectations and concerns about Croxley Green;*
- *To facilitate taking forward residents ideas in partnership with others as appropriate;*
- *To provide a professional, economic and effective service;*
- *To enable, assist and encourage other local organisations and agencies to provide, develop and extend their services;*
- *To encourage local businesses;*
- *To promote and represent the best interests of Croxley Green;*
- *To encourage the provision of recreational facilities within Croxley;*
- *To enhance the use of the natural environment available within the Parish.*

“The Council raises its money to perform its functions through taxation, the Precept, from the residents of Croxley Green. This Precept is collected for the Parish Council by TRDC each year via TRDC's general taxation demand to residents and passed to the Parish Council in two half year payments – one in April and the other in September.

“The Council each year considers its budget requirement, usually between November to January of the successive year, to perform the services it undertakes on behalf of the residents and taking into account any income that may be forthcoming this determines the Precept. It is to be noted that the Council's Budget may differ from the Precept as the budget takes account of any other income that the Council derives from other sources.

“Where the Parish Council does not have specific powers to enable them to develop their role the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137, provides the Parish with the power to spend a limited amount on activities for which it has no specific power, but which the Council considers 'will bring direct benefit to the area, or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.' The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 added the requirement that the benefit obtained should be commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

As well as the planning policies which can be applied by the local planning authority (Three Rivers District Council) the Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of related “Aims” which are not planning policies but which represent the community’s aspirations.

Many of them require the Parish Council to do something – we need to find ways to put them into practice.

ANNEX B ELECTION CAMPAIGNING

DICKINSONS WARD

Six councillors for Dickinsons Ward:

- *Secure the future of the Red Cross Centre as a resource for the whole community and ensure it is sustainably funded.*
- *Take full responsibility for the Green and Stones Orchard, which we have maintained for many years under contract to TRDC.*
- *Engage with residents through traditional and web-based media, including social media.*
- *Foster, promote and enhance a sense of community within Croxley Green.*
- *Get the best value for money from the Council Tax precept and the Council's reserves.*

Nigel Cole:

- *If elected I will continue to protect our local green spaces from the depredations of over development and over attention.*

Andrew Gallagher:

- *If elected, my priority would be to strengthen the Council's links within the Community, to work together for the benefit of all.*

Andy Hobbs:

- *If elected I will continue commenting on developments in the area.*
- *I am campaigning for a village clock outside the station and to*
- *Extend the planter scheme to other areas.*

Chris Mitchell:

- *If re-elected I will ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is fully implemented by TRDC,*
- *Challenge proposed over-developments,*
- *Work towards saving the Red Cross Centre and*
- *Negotiate with TRDC to transfer control of the Green and Stones Orchard.*

David Montague:

- *I am leading a working group to review our New Year "Fireworks on the Green" event.*
- *A strong and independent Parish Council is essential to ensure the needs of the residents are heard when trying to protect our urban and rural environment from the pressures of over development.*

Cliff Vassiliou:

- *My main aim is to secure premises, such as the Red Cross Centre, for the benefit of local residents.*
- *To improve community policing to help residents feel safer;*
- *To work with residents to protect our green spaces against unsustainable development;*
- *To maintain and improve support services for elderly and vulnerable residents*

INDEPENDENTLY:

Karen Taylor:

- *Born and living in Croxley Green, I care about the area and its future*
- *I want to become more active in the decisions that affect Croxley Green.*
- *Bring my experience of working with people, resolving the issues which affect them and forward planning for a better future*
- *Enthusiastic and committed, looking forward to working with the team to ensure Croxley remains a great place*

David Tobin:

- *I want to contribute to the safe keeping of the wonderful resources on our doorstep.*
- *I hope to bring my experience to help the Council continue to run efficiently*

DURRANTS WARD

Emily Benner:

- *Maintain our village atmosphere and continue adding a different viewpoint to the Council*
- *Represent your views to keep Croxley special*
- *Improve Councillor visibility*
- *Support in saving the Red Cross Centre*
- *Youth Club / activities*
- *Local business festival*
- *Annual Quiz night*
- *Women's self-defence classes*
- *Community calendar*
- *Outdoor cinema (planning for 2020)*

Adam Birch:

- *Young families*
 - *Support local playground development*
 - *Guided nature walks for young children*
 - *Support grant applications from schools*
 - *Inspire young children to become eco-literate*
 - *Opportunities for young children to reduce, reuse and recycle*
 - *Promote sustainability in young families*
- *Planning & Development – keep Croxley Green*
 - *Use the Neighbourhood Plan to fight overdevelopment*
 - *Partner with Woodland Trust, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust to fight proposed Green Belt development*
 - *Negotiate transfer of ownership of the Green and Stones Orchard to CGPC*
 - *Support members of the public facing planning applications detrimental to their own home*
- *Raise profile of Parish Council and drive a sense of community*
 - *Join forces with groups like CGRA and fight for community assets*
 - *Encourage the public to attend council meetings and tell us what matters*
 - *Promote the many valuable events CGPC runs*

Susan Hughes:

- *Keen to help local businesses*
- *Wants to give a voice to local Children focusing on activities and groups they might like to get involved in.*

Martin Jacob:

- *[to be included when available].*

Harry Kyriakou:

- *Find out more about how our Parish Council works*
- *Have more say in what happens in our local community*
- *Be a voice for people in the community*
- *Local business man*

Tony Walker:

- *Local resident, children grew up here and went to local schools,*
- *Now semi-retired, bring a lifetime of experiences & a wealth of enthusiasm*

- *Our community is important to me and my family and I want to make a difference*
- *Easily accessible and approachable.*
- *Chair of Governors at Rickmansworth School, Local Shopkeeper and Local business man*

Derek Wallington:

- *Keeping our community a place to be proud in which to live*
- *As a member of committees making choices to improve and benefit the whole community*
- *Supporting the Community Bus*
- *Organising the annual coach trip for Senior Citizens*
- *Promoting the annual school sunflower competition*
- *Supporting events like Xmas market, Dog show, Revels, Wassail, Croxfest, NYE fireworks, WW1 anniversary and Peace picnic*

Anita Yeung:

- *Married to a Croyley born man, with a young child, working in London full time, passionate about supporting working mums*
- *Bring a different perspective to the Council with ideas for young families in the area*
- *Love how welcoming and close knit the Croyley community is, want to grow that community with family oriented activities*
- *Promote inclusivity on the Council (gender and racial diversity)*