
From: Cathy Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 February 2022 15:39
To: Matthew Dickins; Plan Cranbrook - DPD consultation
Subject: Re: Cranbrook Plan - Proposed Main Modification consultation

Dear Cranbrook Planning Team

Thank you for this.

I have spent a great deal of time going through the documents and am both saddened and disappointed to see that none of my previous observations appear to have been taken into account.

Having participated in and been positive about previous consultations - and encouraged others to do so - I now begin to see why so many give up, feeling unheard and frustrated by the process, which by the way demands considerable literacy and mental rigour which I'm beginning to see also makes it inaccessible for many of our residents.

Further, when I went to respond this time and found respondees were required to complete and email a separate form for each observation I'm afraid I decided that was an impractical and unreasonably onerous format. Whilst I understand the need for specificity, this is just not practical for most people. I have a degree, other higher level qualifications and have worked for a council and I found it off putting. I would however, in good faith, offer the following general comments based on my reading of the entire document:

- Despite the strong, consistent view of the community that we already have insufficient community meeting spaces to meet our needs I'm concerned to see several occasions of the removal of 'Land capable of accommodating a community building or meeting space of a minimum of 620 square metres of floor space'. We only seem to have one instance left now - in the Grange area? This is clearly woefully inadequate for a town of the current size, let alone that being proposed, and is a betrayal of the vision for a strong, healthy community. The only reason Phase 1 has worked at all is because its infrastructure was 'front loaded' and its Younghayes Centre has never been able to accommodate the growing requirements of phases 2 to 5/6 such that the Cranberry Farm, a pub and so a commercial venture with no public remit, has often had to step in to offer meeting spaces for community groups on a goodwill basis! I note that we are expected to accept a 'room being made available in a school building' as a viable alternative. I would point out that this is again woefully inadequate as i) a single room is just not enough space or flexible enough for most medium sized and larger meetings - no dedicated kitchen facilities to provide hospitality for meetings, no break out space for use during meetings etc ii) it is not a 'neutral' space for many potential attendees for a number of reasons and may have negative or unhelpful associations for them iii) access to such accommodation during holidays and evenings is often far from straightforward as we have already seen with existing provision of shared space at Cranbrook Education Campus. This is not an acceptable or workable substitution!

- Despite the vision of Cranbrook as a town with expansive areas of public green space providing ecological connectivity and biodiversity I am horrified to see numerous references to clear reductions to the size of such open spaces in the modified plans. How CAN this be acceptable or justified?

- I am dismayed to see the doubling up of cemetery and SANGS provision - again we would have had two green spaces, for different purposes, so why should we accept this as equitable or reasonable?

- Throughout the documents it seems there are multiple examples of further, considerable reductions of expectations from the developers and from others as to what will be provided for the town. I have for many years strongly defended Cranbrook against accusations of being a mere dormitory, giving the response it is

the first new town in Devon in modern times which will have its own infrastructure rather than be a burden to nearby existing settlements. I can no longer, in all conscience, say this and believe myself that we are indeed just a large housing estate with 2 schools and a couple of small shops at one end. This is deeply - bitterly - disappointing and nothing like the vision we were sold both by EDDC and by developers. I would strongly suggest we need a lot more MUSTs instead of SHALLs in any modified plan to prevent this project becoming a very public failure!

- An example of this 'dumbing down' is the loss of the bridge which is clearly merely due to financial considerations but is also very clearly far less safe, desirable and practical for the community.

We feel we have been thoroughly let down and mis-sold and are being asked time after time to accept reductions in provision/infrastructure. Whilst we understand the challenges now being faced as a result of the Covid pandemic (which could not have been foreseen) other settlements such as Ottery, Honiton and even Broadclyst (much smaller) have generous community infrastructure way beyond ours despite the extent of occupation here even now and I am registered with the Broadclyst & Pinhoe medical practice because ours did not have capacity to take on more patients.

In sorrow and frustration

Yours sincerely

C Hill (Cranbrook resident since 2014)

On Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 3:37 PM Matthew Dickins <MDickins@eastdevon.gov.uk> wrote:

Cranbrook Plan - Proposed Main Modification consultation

Consultation period: 17 January 2022 to 28 February 2022 closing at 5pm

Dear participant

We are writing to you following your previous expression of interest/involvement in the production of Planning Policy documents at East Devon and specifically the Cranbrook Plan.

We are now pleased to report that the Cranbrook Plan has reached the proposed main modification stage of plan making. This means that in conjunction with the independent Planning Inspector, Janet Wilson BA (Hons) BTP MRTPI DMS, who is examining the Plan, and following a direction from her, a schedule of changes (more formally called Proposed Main Modifications) (PMMs) has been prepared. These represent potential changes to the submitted plan and follow lengthy public examination sessions where the Inspector has heard evidence from a range of local people and organisations.

In accordance with Regulation 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the identified potential changes are now subject to a formal 6 week consultation. If you would like to make any comments on the potential changes, these should be submitted on the prepared forms which are available on the Council's website. A link to the website where both the consultation documents and response forms are available, is provided below.