



## CRANLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

**PRESS RELEASE – Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> 2007**

Cranleigh Parish Council has regrettably found it necessary to demolish and remove the youth shelter in Snoxhall Fields.

Standing in the High Street for more than 30 years, the '50p' shelter provided comfort from the weather and a meeting place for many residents while they waited for buses. It was regarded with affection by many local young people, and following the High Street improvements last year, the Council's proposal that it should be moved to the recreation ground as a youth shelter was strongly welcomed by many of them.

Disappointingly, the re-siting of the shelter was not without problems. The concrete base on which the shelter was to be sited was vandalized on the day it was laid, and following installation on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2006, the first of three large panes of toughened glass was destroyed, probably by a high powered air gun. Two further panes were similarly destroyed within days, and with each pane costing £250.00, the Council decided not to replace them. Since then, vandals have continued to damage the shelter, breaking seats and kicking in panels, so that by June this year, only two seats remained. On Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> the vandals returned, and using motor vehicles to displace it, they damaged it beyond repair and rendered it unsafe. The Council has therefore had to demolish it.

Brian Ellis, Chairman of the Council, said 'It is deeply disappointing that our attempts to provide a safe and comfortable meeting place for local young people should have been so badly abused by the actions of a few thoughtless and irresponsible vandals.'

He continued: 'While we did not have to purchase the shelter – it was kindly donated by Waverley Borough Council – the Parish Council spent a considerable sum of public money laying a sound base with the necessary drainage and access to electricity for lighting; moving the shelter from the High Street to the recreation ground; and, with the help of additional external grants, providing additional lighting close by. While it was intended primarily for local young people, it also provided a temporary resting place for shoppers returning home to the Hitherwood estate.'

With no money in the current budget, the Council will not be able to replace it.



Council Offices, Village Way, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8AF  
Telephone 01483 272311, Fax 01483 277573  
Website:- [www.cranleighpc.org](http://www.cranleighpc.org), E-mail [Clerk@cranleighpc.org](mailto:Clerk@cranleighpc.org)