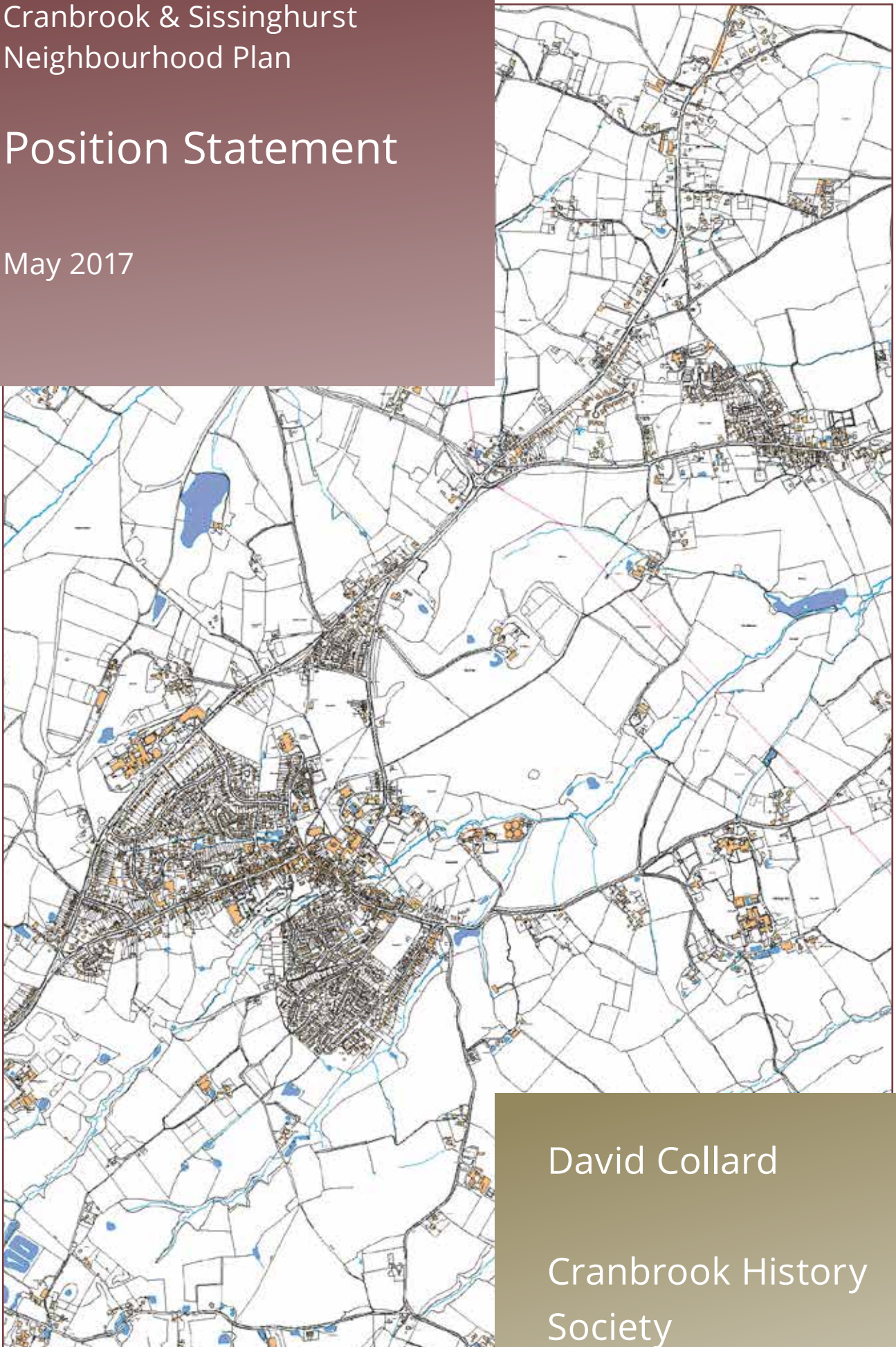


Cranbrook & Sissinghurst
Neighbourhood Plan

Position Statement

May 2017



David Collard

Cranbrook History
Society

CRANBROOK & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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28 April 2017

Chair of the NDP Steering Group,
Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council,
The Old Fire Station,
Stone Street,
Cranbrook,
Kent TN17 3HF

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our Society would like to make the following comments on the Neighbourhood Development Plan which is currently being undertaken:-

Cranbrook is first and foremost an historic rural town of some beauty, fortunate in retaining many medieval and early modern buildings which significantly contribute to its attractiveness for visitors as well as involving many local volunteers in their maintenance and the welcoming of visitors. The NDP should do everything possible to bring out this historic character and to enhance the attractiveness.

In particular:

1. So far as possible, no future development should be damaging to the setting of sensitive historic sites. Most obviously, these include the National Trust's Sissinghurst Castle and gardens, Cranbrook's St Dunstan's Church, Windmill and Museum. No less important, however, is the extraordinary number of listed buildings throughout the parish, including the former Cloth Halls and all the Tudor buildings, many of them now weather-boarded, throughout town centre and surrounds.
2. Much of this historic beauty is linked with the age-old 'green' character of the town, which was long a major hop-growing centre as well as an older market centre. The NDP should do whatever is possible to maintain and enhance it. This 'green' character has in recent decades been marred by heavy traffic and polluting congestion in the centre, which the NDP should seek, if possible, to ameliorate: it significantly reduces Cranbrook's, and particularly Sissinghurst's, attractiveness.

Continued

3. The NDP should, so far as it can, seek to support and facilitate Cranbrook's welcoming of lively-minded visitors, including non-British ones, who will significantly contribute to local incomes from retailing, catering and accommodating, as well as directly benefiting historic maintenance of castle, mill, museum and churches.

I trust our views will be considered in your deliberations.

Yours faithfully,



David Collard
Chairman,
The Cranbrook & District Local History Society