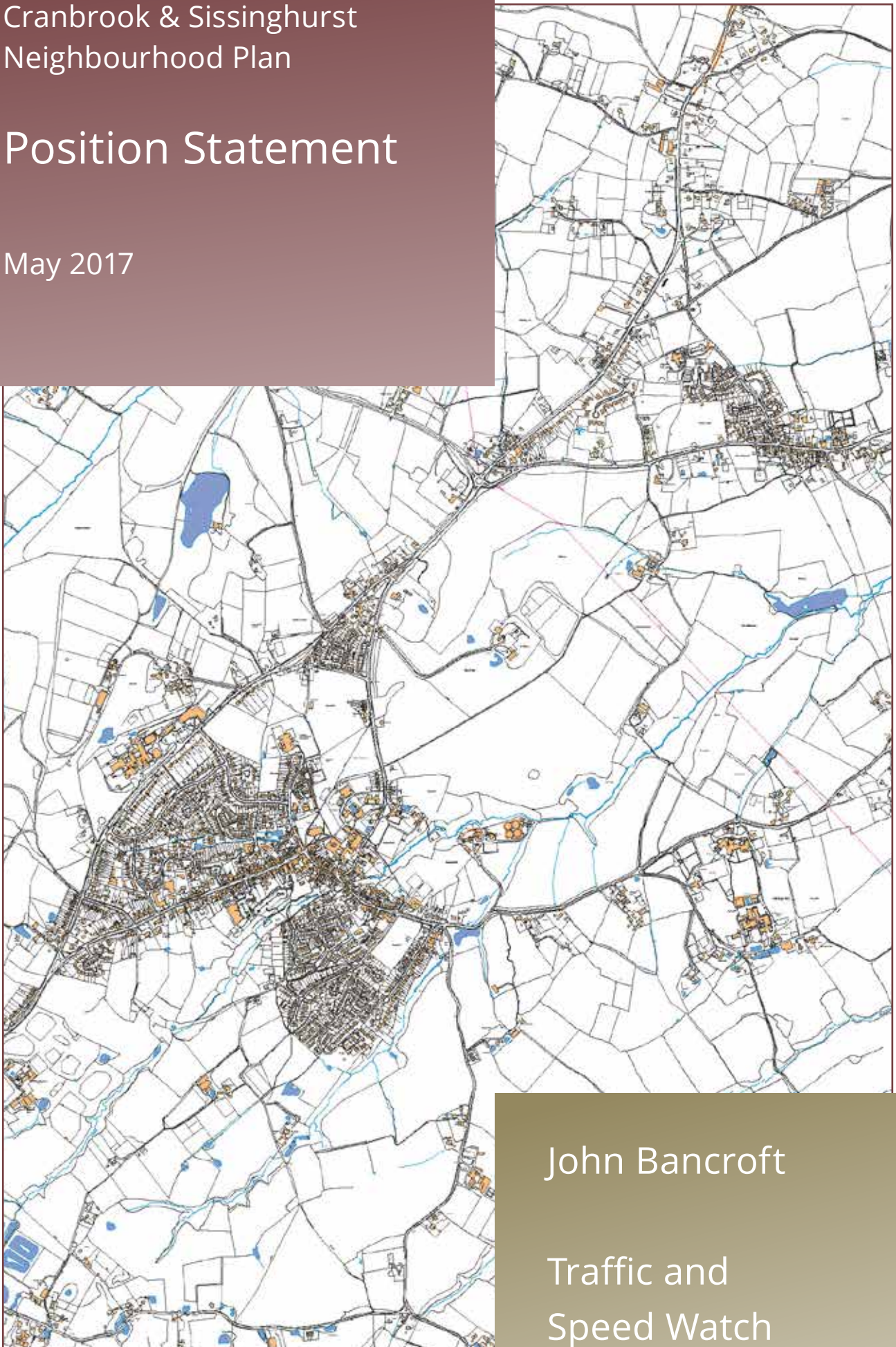


Cranbrook & Sissinghurst  
Neighbourhood Plan

# Position Statement

May 2017



John Bancroft

Traffic and  
Speed Watch





**A safe  
place to  
live**

# TRAFFIC VOLUMES IN CRANBROOK

**Cranbrook** has the Angley Road, the main A229, as a bypass which takes away from the town the worst of its problems.

## **BUT:**

- It leaves those attending the High Weald Academy and the Cranbrook Sports Centre with hazards to face.
- Particular problems for passing traffic are caused by 'parent parking' at the start and end of each school day outside High Weald Academy.
- Single-lane Stone Street is plagued by impatient drivers often mounting the pavements, risking pedestrians and neighbouring buildings, rather than waiting for convenient gaps to proceed.
- Stone Street and High Street are still hostage to the occasional visit from rogue HGV drivers.
- Speeding is seen by some as a problem in Angley Road, The Frythe and St David's Hill.

# What are the solutions?

- Action to remove the parent parking problem?
- Traffic lights or bollards in Stone Street?
- More action to control speeding vehicles?
- Make the whole of the Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish area a 'NO SPEEDING ZONE' with signs at each entry point?
- Encourage volunteers to operate Community Speedwatch at more locations throughout the Parish area?
- Form a Cranbrook Community Forum to address these problems and to react to other concerns and ideas for the town?

# TRAFFIC VOLUMES IN SISSINGHURST

- **Sissinghurst** has no bypass and all traffic passes through the village centre along The Street, the main A262.
- Traffic problems in the village are made worse by minimal off-street parking availability.
- This leads to on-street parking which severely restricts the width of The Street.

# TRAFFIC VOLUMES IN SISSINGHURST

- Older people, who often have no car, shop daily at the village shop or they take the bus into Cranbrook.
- They regularly have difficulty in crossing The Street.
- Their need to cross is because the village shop and the bus stop to Cranbrook are on the south of The Street.
- Almost all villagers live on the north side of The Street.
- Most future development is proposed to take place on the north side of The Street – which would only add to these problems.

# What solutions are there?

- Consider how off-street parking could be increased?
- More action to control speeding?
- Make the whole of the Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish area a 'NO SPEEDING ZONE' with signs at each entry point?
- Encourage volunteers at more locations throughout the Parish area to operate Community Speedwatch?
- Form a Sissinghurst Community Forum to address these problems and to react to other concerns and ideas for the village?

# SPEEDING IN SISSINGHURST

- **Speeding is a problem.**
- Kent Police records show that Sissinghurst was the 16<sup>th</sup> worst area for excessive speeding in 2016.
- This is based on the number of speeding observations recorded by the 107 Community Speedwatch Groups operating in Kent.
- Speeds as high as 54mph have been recorded in Sissinghurst village.
- And speeds of greater than 45mph are not uncommon.
- Despite a limit of 30mph existing through the village.
- Sissinghurst Community Speedwatch has provided Kent Police with data showing the extent of the speeding problem.
- Kent Police officers, with speed guns, are now more active in the village - although limited funds restrict their availability.



# A speeding vehicle can kill

- Data shows that around 20 pedestrians could die out of every 100 hit by vehicles travelling at 30mph,
- Even worse at 40 mph when around 90 are likely to die out of every 100 pedestrian casualties.
- And survivors are likely to suffer serious permanent injury.
- **Excessive speed is dangerous.**

# COMMUNITY FORUM

- Running alongside the Parish Council, which would continue with its existing duties and responsibilities, there could be formed -

- **Cranbrook Community Forum**

and,

- **Sissinghurst Community Forum.**

# Community Forum

- The Forum would be open to all residents but would also seek volunteers from local clubs, societies, Churches and groups.
- The Forum volunteers would work together to keep each of Cranbrook town and Sissinghurst village –green, clean and safe and communities where you would want your family to live.
- Their aim would be to help Cranbrook and Sissinghurst to prosper.

- Each Community Forum would seek, for its area, to:
  - improve amenities
  - tackle vandalism
  - littering
  - dog fouling
  - ensure clear and clean footpaths;
  - recognise and encourage those improving their community;
  - embrace local activities, clubs, societies, Churches and groups;
    - work to set up websites, one for the town and another for the village, which encompass and link to each of the above.