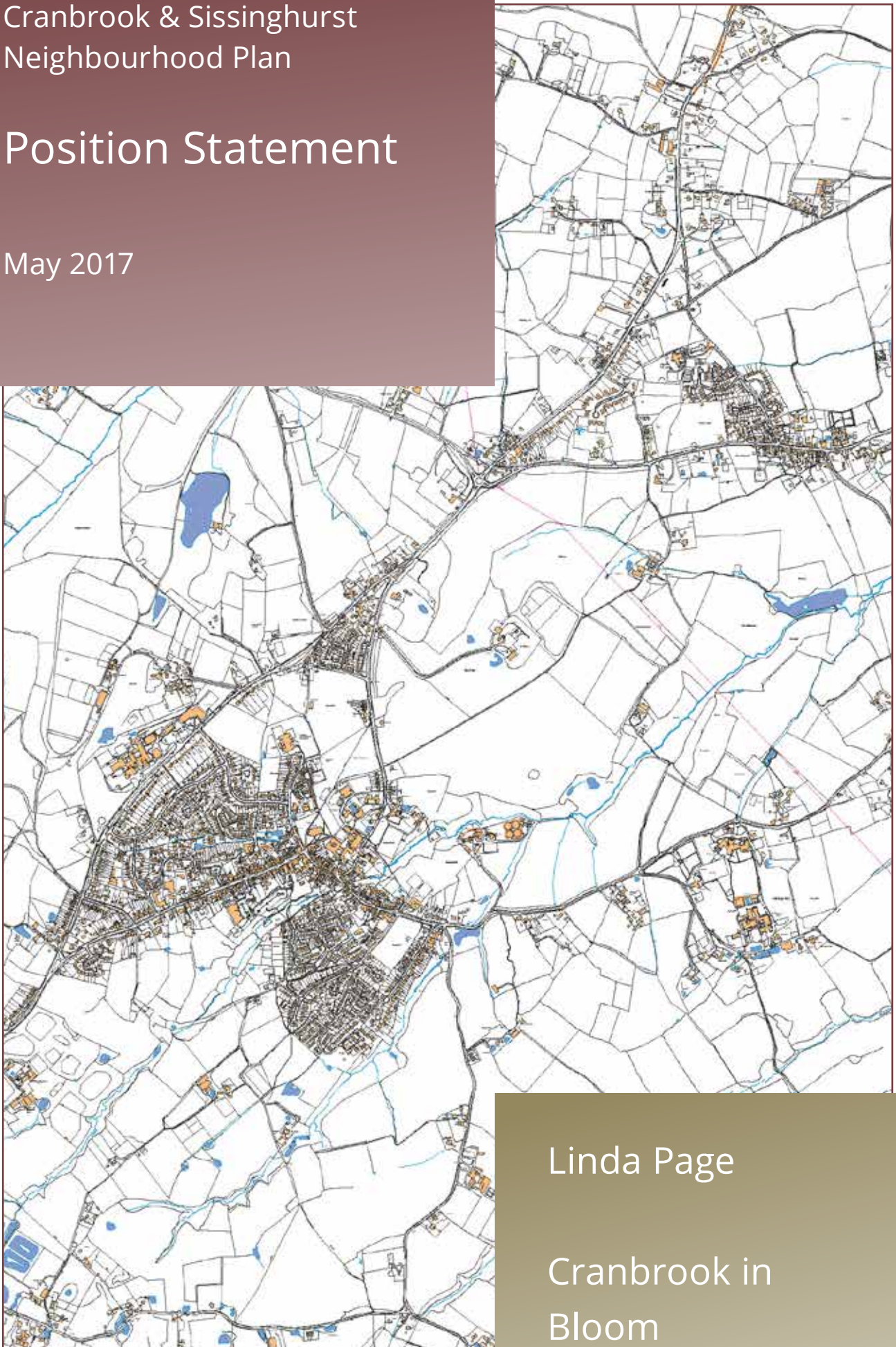


Cranbrook & Sissinghurst
Neighbourhood Plan

Position Statement

May 2017



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Bloom

A report from Cranbrook in Bloom to inform & assist the Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Our Objects;

To promote community spirit, social inclusion, and improved opportunities for everyone to fully engage in enhancing Cranbrook Town Centre and various green areas around the Town. This will be done by planting and maintaining of flowers and shrubs, thus improving the cultural life of the community with the object of improving the quality of life for people who live and work in Cranbrook and surrounding areas.

This community group has been involved in the enhancement of Cranbrook Town since 2001.

We are run by a volunteer committee and involve over 25 clubs, groups, schools and churches within the Town. We enter the annual, regional, South East in Bloom competition which is headed by the Royal Horticultural Society. As such we are guided by the societies' overview of Cities, Towns and Villages, involvement of communities and furthering the use of plants and planting to enhance the many different places within residential and business areas.

We have over the years developed the Wilsely Pound Round-a-bout, The Library Pond, The Copse at the South end of the High Street and the Forge Orchard, Waterloo Road.

The copse is now a designated `Roadside Nature Reserve` having been cleared of overgrown brush, and by working with the Kent Wildlife Trust. Several working parties have taken place to re-instate wild flowers to this previously neglected space.

Our experience shows that when areas have been tended and taken care of by volunteers they are less susceptible to vandalism.

Unfortunately there are areas that attract groups of youths, who can then cause trouble. They need a place to meet and enjoy teenage pursuits, but not around the streets.

As we go forward we want to be able to continue working on areas to provide a place for residents and visitors to enjoy.

When there is a housing development, there must be consideration of floral areas that can be used, to enhance the said area, by the immediate adjacent community.

The green areas in and around the Town are important to people's wellbeing and we are fortunate to have so many areas within walking distance. We would not want any of the public green spaces taken over with housing. We need to maintain access to the open countryside for walks and green areas.

The Windmill, St Dunstan's Church and Museum, in this historic town are precious. It is a very attractive Town and any development must not take away our unique assets and individuality.

The Town needs to move forward and houses need to be built but we do need to maintain our historic character.

There must also be consideration that the Town needs to continue supporting the community and provide further opportunities for the younger generation.