

It's the same old story... 50 years on

ISSUES of infrastructure, employment and growth are not new to Cranleigh, as this 50-year-old report shows.

In May 1964, the *Surrey Advertiser* ran the article below with the headline 'Planners hold key to Cranleigh expansion.'

Within it, employment, thousands of 'new Cranleighans' due to housing developments, and the need to improve its sewage pipes are discussed. The article reads:

Some weeks ago Christopher Martin, prospective Liberal Candidate for the Guildford Division, said that Cranleigh was no longer a sleepy Surrey village. Like it or not - and a number of old guard Cranleighans may not be enamoured of the idea - Mr Martin was absolutely correct. Cranleigh can no longer be called sleepy, and Cranleigh is growing fast.

Following a recent planning decision a prolonged discussion on whether Cranleigh was the largest village in England or merely in the South of England took place in the correspondence

Planners hold key to Cranleigh expansion



The 1964 article from the Surrey Advertiser

columns of a national paper. In a few years' time there will be no doubt at all. Cranleigh will be the largest village in the country.

This week Mr Wagg, clerk to Hambledon Rural Council, gave the *Surrey Advertiser* some details of Cranleigh's future and growth.

Mr Wagg said that the population of Cranleigh in the future would come out in the Town Map, at present in course of preparation, by the county planning committee. In the meantime Surrey County Council has advised them to plan a new sewage works for a population increase of about 5,000 people.

"It has to be understood that this figure is purely for design purposes," said Mr Wagg.

The last census showed Cranleigh as having a population of 6,016; a July 1962 estimate was of 6,200.

Referring to the proposed railway closure of Cranleigh and its effect on the growth and future of the village, Mr

Wagg said that some people no doubt considered that the railway was a physical barrier that held back development from spreading to what was at present good farm land.

"Others saw its removal as an impediment to a well-planned and balanced small town.

"Its removal means either that people will have to find work locally or use the roads to commute, which would tend to bring retired or wealthy people to the village rather than middle income groups", said Mr Wagg.

Who will the 5,000 new Cranleighans be and where will they live and work? A large number of them may come from London to live in the houses to be built on 21 acres at Jenkins Farm.

Another large proportion will be living in the 146 homes on the Parkmead Housing Association estate.

The question of where they will work is less easy to answer.

At present Cranleigh is not industrialised. Permerks has probably the largest factory, but obviously could not swallow up many of the 5,000.

Said Mr Wagg: "The future of industry in Cranleigh is once again something that will come out of the Town Map. There may or may not be a small industrial zone. I cannot anticipate what the result will be."

But even if the Town Map includes provision for industry who will take advantage of this? The lack of a railway, which is quite on the cards, would surely discourage outside firms from building premises in the village.