

North Crawley Parish Council

Bulletin - April 2024

Hi Folks, Steve here again with another round up of your Parish Council news.

I'm delighted to say we have co-opted a new Parish Councillor, Laura Butterworth, which brings our Council back up to full strength. Laura and her husband have lived in North Crawley since mid-2020 and she is a young Mum with two little boys. She is a qualified Chartered Accountant and explained to us that she wants to "contribute, participate and support our village through being a Councillor". Great to have you on board Laura and we look forward to working with you to ensure the voice of the younger members of our community is properly heard and considered.

We have been working "behind the scenes" for ages to ensure the village gets a Crossing Warden as it's been over 2 years since Paula retired and our High St has become even busier than it used to be. MKCC changed the rules shortly after our vacancy arose and now, instead of the Warden being employed by the Council, they must be employed by the School. We understand from MKCC that the funding for a crossing warden in North Crawley has been approved and that the school now needs to take the next steps to make an appointment. The Parish Council will give whatever support it can to this. We believe this is a one-off opportunity so we hope that the School, the Governors and Parents get behind the idea so that, once again, our youngsters can cross safely at both ends of their school day.

Back in February I reported we had ordered 4 Solar panels to power the SID (speed indicator device). To our dismay the supplier has told us they cannot fit them to the current poles and we will need completely new poles installing before they can go ahead! We are currently getting a quotation for this and will then revisit the whole project to ensure we can afford it. Sorry for the delay!

The paths in the Southern (main) section of the cemetery have some sections in poor condition following frost and vegetation damage to the concrete. We are getting a quote to repair it as it could develop into a trip hazard.

The "Winter Warmer" scheme is now closed and the grant fully spent! Our village shop has supplied over 275 cans of soup, rice pudding and custard at no cost to our residents and we hope that has provided a little bit of help in these financially testing times. Thank you to Pardeep and the team at the shop for managing the scheme for us. Fingers crossed we get the grant again ready for next winter.

Our footpath officer (Cllr. Terry Smith) has secured a new "kissing gate" which should be installed soon on footpath number 20 (in the South-West corner of the Slype). Thanks Terry!

We are going to have Grassguard tiles installed around the steel slide (on the grass mound near the zip wire) to create a more resilient (and safer) surface for youngsters to run up and down on. We hope they will be installed in time for the warmer, dryer weather (when it eventually arrives!!).

The Public Inquiry into the Brook End Nursery site reconvened in March at the Kent's Hill conference centre but was beset with technical problems with audio equipment. What made it worse was the fact that MKCC's barrister was trying to cross examine, not in person, but via a Teams call. It led to the first couple of days being largely wasted and, yet another delay, with the Inquiry being further postponed to September this year. Very frustrating for everyone.

We have so far awarded £150 worth of book tokens or cinema tickets to youngsters in the village via our "young fun" scheme. Each month we award £30 to the winner of the draw. Make sure your youngsters are registered with Sheila, our Clerk, as they need to be in it to win it (to coin a phrase!!). Children need to be between the ages of 5 and 16. We have enough donated funds to keep the scheme going for another couple of years.

Well, that's your round up for April - stay safe, healthy and happy - it'll be Summer before we know it!!