

North Crawley Parish Bulletin - June 2021

Hi Folks, Steve here with another update on the news from our Parish Council.

Well, we got physical at last!!! We actually had our first physical Council meeting since the first lockdown last year and it was great to see and hear Councillors and residents in person rather than stacked in a pile of screens during a Zoom call. There were obviously Covid protocols to follow but for most of the time it was just like a normal meeting - let's hope nothing happens to change that. We held the meeting at the Institute as it can accommodate far more people in a socially distanced format.

Roz Hatton is trying to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and has a few volunteers (thank you!) but still needs 1 or 2 people to cover Folly Lane. Please, if you live in that area and can help us put in place this important village safety initiative, do make contact with Roz or our Clerk, Sheila. It will only work well if the whole village is covered.

We hope you like the newly planted trough in front of the bus shelter. Thanks to Sue and Cuca for buying and planting the summer bedding plants.

The Family Fun Day is full steam ahead for 30th August and not only do we have a bouncy castle all day long but also Pony Rides between 2pm and 3pm and loads more. There will be lots happening so save the date in your diary and keep your eyes open for adverts in SCAN and around the village.

The IMC has also had a physical meeting in May and welcomed a new "user group" - the Play Park Committee. They presented their plans for the new play equipment which were broadly supported subject to an opportunity for residents to look at them and share their views. This was duly held on Saturday 5th of June and, with very few exceptions, there was wholehearted support for them. So, in due course our village will have a new trim trail and zip wire at the "MUGA" end of the recreation field and, probably next year, a completely revamped kiddies' play park next to the Institute. There are also plans to improve the netting which protects the kiddies' play area from cricket balls. Great work thank you Play Park team!!

By the end of June everyone in the Parish should have a leaflet inviting them to one of a series of evening presentations which will show exactly where we are with the Neighbourhood Plan. These will be held toward the end of July in the Institute. There will be display boards with plans and maps as well as a presentation from the Steering Group and a question and answer session. We are having to plan without knowing whether the restrictions in place now will still be there at the end of July but hopefully we will get more clarity over the next couple of weeks.

We had a visit by a member of the Bedford Archery Club who have set up on private land alongside the Ford near East End. We invited them to attend after residents had expressed concern about the safety of the activity as they walked along the Ford. Cars had also been parked so they blocked the access. It transpired that although the club had originally set up at this location as a temporary measure (during Covid restrictions) they now hoped to make it a more permanent satellite of their club. There are strict planning rules that cover this sort of activity when run on a commercial basis and most of this section of the meeting was spent debating whether planning permission would be applied for by the Club. We are awaiting their response but meanwhile we are liaising with MK Council as to what our next steps should be.

We've had an independent audit of all the Parish Council's books and banking and received a glowing report that everything is in good order and properly managed. Thank you to our Clerk, Sheila Bushnell, who is in charge of all this sort of thing.

Well, that's about it for now. With the weather on the turn and many in the village fully vaccinated, there seems to be a really positive feeling around North Crawley - and long may that continue.