

## North Crawley Parish Council Bulletin - March 2024

Hi Folks, it's Steve bringing you another update on Parish Council news.

The flooding on the Cranfield Rd has caused a lot of concern to all road users and has left behind debris and potholes. We are pushing for the various responsible parties to get on with putting things right so it doesn't flood like that again. It's a combination of the Water authority, the Highways department and the landowner of the adjacent field and it's not easy to get them all on the same page!! But we will carry on regardless!!

We have submitted a planning application for a small information sign to be erected on the area in front of the Church to give information about this historical centre of the village. The area is known as the "Waste Ground" and the sign explains why (although it is now registered as our Village Green). It also gives information about the buildings around it, and we are particularly grateful to the Historical Society for their contribution both on historical facts and a grant. We also benefited from a grant from our Ward Councillors. And a big thank you to Cllr Terry Smith who has worked his socks off on this project! We hope to have it installed over the next few weeks (assuming we are granted permission!!).

The Implementation Group (IG) met with the developers of the proposed properties on the Maslin plot and adjacent to Orchard Way (H4 and H5 from the Neighbourhood Plan (NP)). From that meeting further changes were agreed including decreasing the height and angle of roof profiles. H4 now has 3 of the 5 houses as 1.5 storey. The PC felt it was especially important that the 3 properties in the build line from the bungalows leading to the site are 1.5 storey which is now the case. The developer of H4 explained they had tried to include bungalows but could not find a viable way of doing so given the constraints of the site. It's worth pointing out that it is only through collaboration between the developers of H4 and H5 that the NP was able to avoid a road entrance crossing the Orchard Way verge - a point residents were particularly keen to see resolved.

H5 design policy requires 1.5 storey "where appropriate" which is open to interpretation and clearly not deemed appropriate by the developers of this part of the site. Some mitigation is achieved through the agreed reduction in roof height by 0.5m. We know the specifications of car parking, road entrance, rights of way and the interpretation of the 1.5 storey elements of the application are all being reviewed by MKCC but, based on the discussions and subsequent changes the IG achieved, the PC felt a reasonable compromise had been reached.

It's important to remember that developers have no obligation to liaise with our IG or comply fully with the specifics of the design guides in the NP. However all 3 developers that have produced planning applications have had meetings with the IG which have led to changes that brings them closer to the vision of the NP - none of which would have happened without the IG and the PC is very grateful for their work and advice.

I can't say too much but it looks like we might have a new Parish Councillor coming on board. There is a technical process to go through but, all being well, we might even be able to make an appointment at our next meeting!! More details in the next bulletin!

You may well have seen notices about the new MK City Plan designed to take us up to 2050. They aim to expand Milton Keynes by 33,000 additional houses (over those already planned) and some of that expansion is bound to include areas on "our" side of the M1. A call for sites over a huge area has resulted in landowners putting forward more than double the land area than is required. This is known as the "long list" which will be worked on over the next few weeks to produce a shorter list of potential areas for expansion.

Some land in the North Crawley area has been put forward as you can imagine. Villages as such are less attractive to the planners because residents tend to use cars far more than public

transport but we cannot be complacent as to whether this land makes it to the “short list”. To keep close to this issue, your PC will join a forum whose goal is to minimise the potential impact to our rural environment. This plan and its process are outside of the PC’s authority so if you have any queries or questions about this at any time please contact our Ward Councillor, Peter Geary on - 07774 939404 or [peter.geary@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:peter.geary@milton-keynes.gov.uk).

The Public Inquiry on the Brook End nursery site recommences on 19th March. Members of the PC will attend some of the Inquiry and I will give some brief feedback in the next bulletin.

The Winter Warmer scheme will continue until the end of March so please make sure anyone who needs it takes advantage of the free cans of food each week.

We have a bright shiny new defibrillator hanging on the side of the Institute. The old cabinet was in poor condition and the old defibrillator needed a new expensive battery so with the help of a grant we were able to replace both at little cost to the village.

On 7th May at 7pm (before our PC meeting at 7.30pm) we will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting is very much a resident-focused meeting covering topics that are important to you. Everyone is welcome so look out for further notices in SCAN.

Well, that’s it for now as we look forward to Easter and the abundance of growth and renewal in our wildlife, gardens, parks, trees and hedgerows which, for many people, makes Spring one of their favourite times of the year.