

North Crawley Parish Bulletin - February 2022

Hi Folks, Steve again with another round up of news from around the Parish.

We were delighted that St James Consulting (who represent Berkeley Homes) joined us for our Parish Council meeting on 7th February. Berkeley will be building 4000 of the 5000 houses on the MK East development off junction 14 of the M1. This will be a long term project as it is not due to be completed until 2048! Over the next 3 years they will concentrate on new road networks including a new bridge over the M1. The first houses will be completed in March 2025.

Naturally your PC is interested in the impact of this development on the village, especially vehicular traffic. Unfortunately the idea of a Moulsoe bypass is not something they can influence and is unlikely to be built any time soon. However, they were able to give us reassurance on two crucial points. Firstly traffic leaving J14 will continue to be clearly directed to Cranfield via Moulsoe (as it currently is) and not via North Crawley. Secondly their binding contracts with the commercial vehicles used in the construction will be specifically prohibited from driving through North Crawley.

Now, as we all know, there will be occasional rogue drivers who still drive huge lorries through the village - but if any of us spot one please take a note of its registration plate and pass it on to our Clerk, Sheila, who can forward it to St James. If it's one of their contractors they will take action. St James are also going to "loan" their traffic specialist to attend one of the Traffic Working Group meetings and advise on the best methods of reducing volume, weight and speed of traffic. Our Ward Councillors are hoping to set up a forum of all the parishes affected by the MK East development so we can pool ideas and put up a "United Front" to any problems that arise.

The Brook End Travellers' site was discussed. As you will know from our recent postings, the Travellers are appealing against the Enforcement notice that requires them to stop the unlawful development of the site. Residents are able to place their comments to the Inspector via our Clerk or directly to the Inspector if they would prefer. Your Parish Council is working on a response to the appeal and will be submitting this prior to the deadline of 7th March.

There has been a crossing from Pound Lane into the North Eastern corner of the recreation ground for many many years. No one seems to know who placed the sleepers across the ditch but it's been a handy way of nipping across for many of us. It is a bit narrow however and if you're negotiating a pushchair or wheelchair over it, it is precarious to say the least!! So we are going to add one or two more sleepers to make it easier to cross. We will ensure chicken wire is tacked over so they have grip in cold or wet conditions. But, of course, if you are unsure about crossing you are best to walk around.

We will have all seen the splendid new kiddies' play park which is proving hugely popular. Our village warden, Kevin, is attending a course to learn how to carry out regular inspections of the equipment so we can help ensure the equipment remains safe to use. Additionally there will be annual formal inspections by the installers. This also applies to the "Adventure Park" near the MUGA.

We have been granted a tree to plant to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It will be planted in Nixey's Walk opposite the WI tree. Although the planting will take place soon (as it needs to be in the ground) we will make the dedication and put a plaque in place over the Jubilee weekend in June.

On the subject of the Jubilee weekend we know of at least one street party planned for Sunday 5th June (Big Lunch day). If however you fancy something a bit different, the PC has hired out the Institute and the whole recreation ground for a "Picnic in the Park" for anyone who wants to come up with picnic blankets, tables, gazebos, candelabra etc. and join in a real community celebration! We'll have music playing and you can use the Institute if you'd prefer to be indoors. We have plans for a Kings and Queens fancy dress parade who will march down the High Street before judging the winner - every entrant gets a prize. At 2.30pm we will be serving free scones, jam and

cream plus there will be a memento for all youngsters in the Parish. Look out for more details as we get a little closer to the summer!

Terry Smith, our footpath specialist, has been patiently working away behind the scenes and has managed to secure new stiles or gates at Crawley Grange, Church Farm Slupe, Little Crawley, Horncastle Farm, and all stiles on footpath 15 (Pinfold Lane across to Cranfield Rd). Well done Terry! Your amazing tenacity has paid off for the benefit of all footpath users. Terry has also posted a new historic walk on the PC website - these are always well worth a look.

The first proper meeting of our Traffic Working Group has taken place and there is to be a focus on data gathering. Recording the volume and speed of traffic will help understand what type of mitigation is best used. The group is considering what equipment will be needed to help gather the data.

The Neighbourhood Plan is virtually complete but a late request by Historic England for more details has delayed things. We are hoping to resolve this quickly but it may add some time to the process, depending on how much information they require. A leaflet is being prepared for all residents to explain what is happening. As a consequence the PC is unable to vote on the plan and pass it to MKC until this issue is cleared up.

Well that's it for now in what seems a very busy time for your Parish Council - but it's great to see some progress on so many issues and our thanks go to all the volunteers who contribute to make our community so successful. Thank you!