

North Crawley Parish Council Bulletin - February 2024

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

I'm pleased to report there has been some movement with the implementation of our Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The developers of H3 (Top Croft field to the North of Orchard Way) have appointed architects who recently had a meeting with the Implementation Group (IG) to outline their ideas for the houses on the site. The minutes of that meeting are on the PC website under the NP. They aim to build 18 houses of which 6 should be offered under the "affordable" rules. There is a mixture of semi's, small detached, bungalows and larger detached properties. They have really taken account of the design codes in the NP as well as including sympathetic elements to echo the fact that Moat Farm is just across the road. They have shown the PC some layouts but, as they are subject to change, have asked us to keep them confidential for the time being. They hope to submit a planning application within the next 4 weeks.

And the planning application for sites H4 and H5 (the Maslin site and the Orchard Way site) has now been submitted and is available for public scrutiny on the MKCC planning portal (link via the PC website). Sorry we couldn't give you forewarning but they didn't inform us that they were going to submit the plans and we were expecting another meeting before they did. They have included some (but not all) of the changes the IG suggested, and the overall plans look good. We are hoping to meet with them again to cover some of the fine details before the IG reports to the PC with a recommendation of how we should respond to the application.

It is most encouraging that the majority of the houses promised in the NP should be delivered to our community within the next 24 months or so. The IG will liaise with the developers to try to ensure that disruption to our residents is minimised during the building phase, although it will not be possible to avoid it altogether of course.

We are hoping to receive a regular (4-6 weekly) update on the MKE development following a discussion with the planning department. Indeed, we have contacted every Parish in the Olney Ward and they all want to receive it as well. We will let you know when the first update is available to read on the PC website as well as publishing it on the community Facebook page. We also have a dedicated point of contact in the planning department for any queries or questions we have on the development.

We have now ordered the 4 solar panels to run the Speed Indicator Device (SID) - as I mentioned in the last bulletin. We hope they will be fitted over the next few weeks. We will still only have 1 SID of course (they are quite expensive) so we will move the SID to different poles on a regular basis. A big thank you to the team who have kept the batteries charged so far.

We've had a meeting with the company that installed the kiddies play park (next to the Institute) as the ground surface has not worn very well in the relatively short time it had been installed. There are some gaps between the different types of materials used and there are places where mud squelches through. They admitted some of it was their responsibility but not all so we are awaiting their proposals and will try to get it sorted at the least cost to the Parish.

Don't forget the Winter Warmer scheme is still running where anyone can ask for 4 cans of tinned food from our village shop each week at no cost paid for out of a fund given to the village by MKCC.

Please, please give some thought to joining us on your Parish Council - we have an immediate vacancy - and it would only take a few hours a month to help us keep our Parish such a great place to live in. That's about it for this month folks - keep smiling - Spring is round the corner!!

