

North Crawley Parish Bulletin

Hi folks, Steve Garner here with another update of your Parish Council (PC) - as there is no SCAN in January we thought it would be helpful to give you some feedback to bring you right up to date. This will appear on the PC website (northcrawley-pc.gov.uk) as well as the PC and Community Facebook pages.

It looks likely that Milton Keynes Council (MKC) will be phasing out bus routes that are not commercially viable, including the sort that service North Crawley. The proposal is to replace them with an "on demand" service where people can book a mini bus to take them where they wish to travel. It would be booked by phone or on line. In principle it sounds a good idea but we are advised that similar schemes haven't worked well as you never know how long it will take for the pick up to happen which might make it difficult if you have, say, a doctors appointment to attend. We will watch this development closely and keep you informed.

There has been a review of the Conservation area (which MKC are obliged to do occasionally) and suggestions put forward to reduce the area it covers. We feel it should not be reduced as the area provides protection to the look and feel of the very heart of the village. We have now written twice to the appropriate authorities requesting no change. We know several villagers feel the same and have commented on the public consultation (which is now closed). We'll let you know the outcome.

There has been no crime reported in the village which is excellent.

MKC want to close the walk through between Hackett Place and Bryan's Crescent car park. We feel it should remain as it is a useful walkway for residents and we are in discussions with them. MKC own the car park which is for residents of Bryan's Crescent only. They intend to put up signs to explain this and might even erect height restriction barriers. We have no jurisdiction over this of course as it is their land. MKC have agreed to repair the entrance area as we have requested for some time.

The Neighbourhood Plan group aim to get a fairly comprehensive leaflet out to all residents during January. Although 15 plots of land have been considered some of them are unlikely to be allowed to be developed because of Highways limitations. This would make them non-viable. The leaflet will show all 15 sites but indicate which sites are most likely to be viable and which ones are not. We are really sorry we can't have public meetings at the moment because of COVID-19 restrictions but, hopefully, this leaflet will help everyone know where we are so far.

Mick Chilton has helped us around the village for around 16 years. He empties waste bins, including the dog waste, helps in the Churchyard, cleans the bus shelter and a host of other jobs that help keep our village looking so beautiful. Mick has decided to retire and we wish him every happiness for the future and our heartfelt thanks for all he has done for the village. We will soon be looking to find someone to take over. It will be a paid role and we are suggesting the role is called Village Warden. We will be advertising to see if there are any candidates (either employed or self employed) early in the new year.

The PC website is getting more and more information on it as we encourage every village group or enterprise to tell everyone about it via the website. We have already identified 17 such groups and hope to find even more. The website is a public window into the village as well as being a useful place to find out what is going on. The recent survey told us that very few people look at the website so we are trying to make it more interesting and helpful. Do take a look when you get the chance as we know that most people use the Internet even if they don't use Facebook. Northcrawley-pc.gov.uk

The Play Park is getting a smart new gate to replace the rotten one that is hanging on by a thread!! Should all be done before Christmas. And, talking about Christmas, don't forget the Carol Singing on 18th December at 5.30 at the back of the Institute - sing for half an hour and then enjoy mulled wine and mince pies! It's completely within Tier 2 regulations.

Well, on behalf of Sheila (our brilliant Parish Clerk), Cuca, Sue, Derek, Terry and me may your Parish Council wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Next bulletin in February 2021 SCAN.