

North Crawley Parish Council

Bulletin July 2024

Hi Folks, Steve here again with an update on Parish Council news and activities.

I'm sure we've all noticed the stretch of semi-broken barrier on North Crawley Rd on the left as you approach Brook End. Apparently, its main purpose is to shore up the ditch but it clearly represents a hazard to any cyclist, runner or horse rider that has the misfortune to fall or be forced on to it by a passing vehicle. Your PC has repeatedly asked for it to be repaired but has been advised it is not considered a priority to the Highways Department. We will be trying one more time, this time with the support of our Ward Councillor - we've even had an offer from our local Police team to temporarily stop traffic to allow them to take detailed pictures of the hazard it represents. Let's see how we get on this time!!

We are progressing with the installation of the SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) following the news last month of a generous donation. The first task is to remove the current poles that hold the SID and replace them with taller, stronger poles which will support a solar panel as well as the SID. We are replacing all 5 poles to future proof them for further SID placements. Once we know when the poles will be installed, we will then order the new SID and the Solar Panels. We're hoping they will be installed sometime in September.

Each year we have an independent internal audit of our books and administration to make sure we are following all the regulations. I'd like to share the fact that, as usual, we were found to have outstanding compliance and control systems. This is largely due to our Clerk, Sheila Bushnell, who does a cracking job at keeping our administration in good order - thank you Sheila! The Annual Finance Return is now on the PC website for inspection by residents and is with the external auditor.

You may have heard that Milton Keynes City Council is putting together a plan for expansion between now and 2050. This will include building on some of the countryside on our side of the M1. This is in addition to the MK East development currently underway. Currently it doesn't look like it will extend as far as North Crawley but we are keeping careful track of progress and will be attending a briefing on the plan on 22nd July. You can view the draft plan and make planning related comments on it from 5th July onward.

This is our last chance to attract someone to be our School crossing warden - the offer ends at the end of July and, regrettably, that will probably mean North Crawley will never have a Crossing warden again as there was a lot of competition for the funding our school has been offered.

We're still trying to get the kiddies play park surfacing properly drained to stop the buildup of water in certain areas (which leads to squishy muddy areas, especially near the trampoline). The original supplier is not great at providing us with information, so we are getting an alternative company to review the problem and propose a solution. We really want to get this sorted before Autumn if possible.

The zip wire is very popular with the young (and not so young) and occasionally needs re-tensioning. This has now been done and should be a little more exciting now it doesn't sag in the middle!!

The Fun Day is coming up soon on 26th August - we're still putting the final touches to it but it promises to be bigger and better than ever! Hope you get the chance to come up and join in the fun.

The Parish Council traditionally does not meet in August (nor is there a SCAN magazine) but if there is sufficient news to pass on, I will put a Bulletin on the Community Facebook during August - but if not - the next Bulletin will be in September after the next PC meeting on 2nd. Meanwhile I hope you enjoy the rest of Summer!!