

## North Crawley Parish Bulletin September 2022

Hi Folks, Steve here with a round up of what's going on behind the scenes in the Parish Council. Gosh it seems a long time since the last Bulletin! I think Julia, our SCAN editor thought we'd stopped posting these - but fear not!! The Parish Council doesn't meet in August, hence the gap, but in future years I will write a special August bulletin just to keep us all up to date. And there is plenty going on!!

Let's start with the issue of Travellers. There were "transient" travellers for many weeks camped on the verges around North Crawley who have now moved to Sherington. For some reason, even though there is now a new Act which gives Police enhanced powers in these cases, the problem has still not been resolved. I'm attending the Rural Forum later this month to ask the Police directly what more can be done. In addition the PC is writing to MK Council to encourage them to make adequate provision for temporary sites for Travellers as this could be a recurring issue.

Of course the Brook End site continues to be occupied residentially without planning permission and we are still awaiting the date of the public inquiry to resolve this. We will make sure everyone is kept up to date with progress on this important case.

We know how vital the School Crossing Warden is to families in our village and that the role is so much more than just helping people cross the road safely. Along with the School governors we are keeping the pressure on MKC to commit to the funding needed to recruit a new Warden. Disappointingly MKC have just told us that funding is unlikely to be available before next calendar year, even though we were told it should be in place for the start of the Autumn term. It looks like the school itself will receive any funding and will be responsible for recruiting the new Warden and the PC have pledged to provide as much support as possible to fill this vital role. Meanwhile if you or someone you know could consider taking on the role please contact me and I can make sure your name is put forward.

I'm sure we are all feeling the effect of rising household costs one way or another and the same applies to small businesses - please don't forget how important it is to use our corner shop and our two wonderful pubs who rely on our business to keep going - keep local if you can!

The traffic working group produced a range of options for the PC to consider to help traffic flow and reduce speeding through the village. Additionally they arranged "crowd funding" for a SID (smiley face speed indicator) which you may already have noticed up around the village. At the moment there are only two of us who look after the SID i.e. charging the battery and moving the SID around the village every few weeks. We could really do with a couple more volunteers to keep the SID campaign going - not only does it remind motorists of the correct speed but also data of vehicle speed and movement is captured by the device and reported to the Police for them to consider siting speed camera vans. It's not a huge commitment but would be much easier if a couple more volunteers helped out. Give me a buzz if you can help.

Talking about volunteers - we now have a shiny new speed gun (donated by our Ward Councillors) and all the info to set up a Community Speed Watch campaign. All we need now is someone prepared to be the Coordinator! You would get training from the police and all the equipment needed. We would also help with advertising for further volunteers to form the team (we need 6 people altogether). But the start point is appointing a Coordinator. Could you help? It won't take much out of your month but does serve a really helpful role in slowing traffic (indeed the police will issue warning letters to any speeding motorist). We all complain about speeding traffic - let's get some of our community involved in helping reduce it - please!!!

We have applied to MKC to ask them to repaint the "on road" white signage (signs such as "Slow", "30mph" etc). Many of them are so faded you can't read them. We will await the response!

Well, the Fun Day was a great success again with even more people than last year (based on the scientific formula of how many hog roasts were sold!!). Thanks so much to all the volunteers who helped to make it happen and for the “professionals” for doing a super job. Next year - is already being planned - and it'll be bigger and better yet again!!

We are asking residents to complete a survey in October (as we did 2 years ago) to find out what you think we should focus on and how you think your PC is doing so far. The answers and feedback will help us frame our budget for next year when we meet to plan it in November.

It will also soon be time for you to vote for our Village Champion for 2022. Think about who is helping our community be a better place to live in - who are the unsung heroes out there? Who is going the extra mile to help others? November will be your chance to vote.

We are still engaging with Marshall Aerospace regarding their likely relocation from Cambridge to Cranfield. This included a site visit by a few of us during August and attendance at several consultations. It would seem that the “negative” impact on North Crawley will be minimal and certainly much less than the proposed Air Park which will probably be built if the Marshall proposal falls through.

Finally you will have seen that MKC is moving over to exclusive use of wheeled bins for waste and recycling. Whilst that will be better in some ways it does present the problem of where these bins are going to be stored, especially for some properties with very limited space to do so. We are hoping to organise a walk around the village with the MKC team to highlight difficult areas and consider options. Please do let our clerk know if you have any concerns and give her your address so we can make a specific note to raise it. Please email her on [clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk)

That's about all for now folks - see you around the Parish!