

North Crawley Parish Council

Bulletin October 2024

Hi Folks, Steve here as usual with a summary of what's currently keeping your Parish Council busy!

Well, the atrocious weather at the end of September left the Parish with the worst flooding I've witnessed in the 46 years I've lived here. Every route into the main village was impacted by flood water, especially Chicheley Rd, and Little Crawley bore the brunt of diverted traffic as motorists tried to use Gog Lane as a diversion and ended up getting stuck there. The verges have been badly damaged and silt is still running into drains and blocking them up.

The PC is in contact with MKCC to ask them to clear up Gog Lane. We have also asked for advice on producing a Disaster Recovery Plan for the village to cover unusual events such as Flooding, Major Fire or Major Road Traffic Accidents. The idea is to have a plan ready to roll, with phone numbers, contact details, authorities to contact etc rather than making it up as we go along. Naturally it will need annual updates to ensure we have the most recent data. Hopefully it will never be needed but it's good to know it will be there.

Please contact Sheila Bushnell, our Clerk on clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk with your address details if your home was flooded during this recent poor weather - we hope to maintain a register of properties which may be at risk so we can check in with them if there is another episode of such extraordinary rainfall.

At last MKCC have indicated the SID poles may be installed soon - as soon as we have a firm date for the installation we can order the new solar panels and SIDs and get them up and running.

We have also received a quotation for repairing the surfaces in the kiddies play park. It will hopefully result in a permanent fix of the soggy areas. Kompan, the original installer, is carrying out the work and are covering around half of the total cost - despite being out of warranty period.

The Implementation Group (IG) of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) arranged a meeting with MKCC's planning manager to discuss the apparent lack of progress with the sites which have submitted planning applications (one of which has been refused). The feedback we had was that MKCC was as keen as the PC to see the NP be implemented but that the applications, of course, had to conform to planning guidelines. Apparently the use of a "pre-application" is always advisable for larger developments, where, before the application is submitted, the developer discusses the principles of the plan and receives advice on what planning guidelines would apply. The application that was refused did not undertake a pre-app whilst the other application did - and it is still going through the planning process. The IG will try to keep a closer contact with developers and the planning department to ensure any issues are resolved where possible to avoid developers needing to start all over again such as happened here. We were pleased to hear that the developer whose application was refused has now started work on a pre-app.

Now is your chance to vote for the Village Champion 2024 - a member of our community who has gone the extra mile to contribute to all that makes North Crawley such a great place to live. It could be help for older, younger or vulnerable residents. It could be contributing to projects that make a positive difference to our community. It could be little actions that mean a lot or grand gestures that make a big difference. Every resident, young and old, has a vote so please use it. The person with the highest number of votes will be awarded the prize. Remember you can vote any time from now up until the end of November 2024. After that your vote will not count. Email your vote to clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk or post vote to 3 Folly Lane, Attn. Parish Clerk. (Please note, serving Parish Councillors are not eligible for this competition).