

North Crawley Parish Bulletin - July 2021

Hi Folks, Steve here, as usual, with a round-up of village issue and events. We held our second “physical” Parish Council (PC) meeting in the Institute and overall felt it was a better venue for PC meetings than the Village Hall. It allows us more space, is brighter, it has WiFi, better facilities and, of course is owned by our Parish so, with great thanks to the Village Hall, we have decided to permanently relocate future meetings to the Institute.

There is a commercial user of the Institute who has pre-booked many Tuesdays for its meetings so we intend to change the regular date of PC meetings to the FIRST MONDAY of each month (when there is a Bank Holiday it will be the Second Monday).

For many years the PC has rented land between the Grange Boundary and Broadmead known as Peter’s Path (named after wonderful Pete Jeffrey). The land is owned by our own North Crawley United Charities. There is very little documentation to clarify who is responsible for what in regard to the maintenance of the copse, so I’ll be meeting with the Charity to look to getting that clarification in writing for the benefit of future PC’s. Meanwhile we are removing the three dilapidated benches in Peter’s Path and replacing them with one new one.

We sometimes have projects that would be eligible for one of the many grants which are available throughout the UK. The trouble is it can be quite a task to research which is the most appropriate grant and then work out the best way to apply for it. Our newest Councillor, Gary, has volunteered to be our Grants Officer and will help us do this next time we have an appropriate project to consider.

I thoroughly recommend having a look at our Parish Council Website which has been substantially updated this year. It has lots of really useful links to documents, MK Council departments, village activities and news. There’s also an increasing number of photos including some really cute ones of the North Crawley Alpacas! Try it out on www.northcrawley-pc.gov.uk

We have been working with MK Basketball Club and are delighted to announce that there will be free Basketball coaching for older children throughout August! Every Friday, at the MUGA there will be two sessions: 10am - 11.30am for 10 -13 year olds and 11.30am - 1.00pm for 14 - 18 year olds. We are really hoping these will be well attended as it may be possible to make this an annual event. No need to book – just turn up!

Not everyone knows that the land between the bus shelter and the Church is **not** a car park but is, in fact, the official Village Green! We’ve even had tenants of the Cock Inn claiming it is the Pub car park! Parking is allowed there at the discretion of the PC but there are occasions when either the Church or the PC need it to be cleared and we are putting a notice on the back of the bus shelter to remind everyone this may happen.

The Fun Day is looking really exciting - many activities are free - Bouncy Castle, Pony Rides, Face Painting, Mini Sports Day - all free. A few stalls will be raising money and of course there will be Cream Teas, Hog Roast and Ice Creams for sale. I’ll put up some posters around the village at the end of July just to make sure everyone is aware of the date (30th August 12 noon to 5pm). Should be a good “old fashioned” village event.

Have you seen the wildflower bed in Nixey’s Walk? It’s a riot of colour just now and has really brightened up an area that previously was just overgrown brambles. And we have a new resident in one of the hedgehog houses!! We are hoping that a small group of volunteers are going to make a large Bug Hotel to place nearby and involve youngsters in the village to supply the contents (old pine cones, air bricks, bamboo etc etc). I’ll try to give you an update on this in the August Bulletin.

Councillors have been busy weeding the Garden of Remembrance and replanting the trough in front of the bus shelter. Small jobs which make a big difference in keeping our village so beautiful - thank you!

The new "on demand" transport system is available to residents now (it's a minibus which you can ask to pick you up and drop you off anywhere in the Milton Keynes area). We don't know if anyone has used it but would be most interested if there is any feedback as to how easy, convenient or troublesome the service is. Email or note to the Clerk please.

It looks like the big MK East expansion of 5000 houses will start early next year. It will be mainly new road and bridge structures to begin with. We remain concerned about the impact of construction traffic and, more importantly, the potential volume of traffic using North Crawley as a cut through to Cranfield. We are holding a special informal meeting of the PC before our September meeting to discuss the options we may have and, probably, set up a working group to focus on this issue. Nothing will be done before all residents are fully consulted of course.

We are still trying to find a route to ensure the Archery Club set up near the Ford is operating safely, is insured properly and conforms to the planning regulations related to such activities. The Parish Council has no powers in regard to this and is wholly reliant on MKC to enforce proper controls. The responses from MKC Planning have been slow and ineffective so far (which we hope will improve) so we are seeking advice from MKC Health and Safety to see what they have to say. At all times we are being advised by our Ward Councillors who act as an interface between the PC and MKC. We'll keep you posted!!

The new Play Park (at the MUGA end of the recreation ground) will be installed toward the end of September. It will include the trim trail, zip wire and slide on the mound which you may have seen at the public open morning held by the Play Park Committee last month. What a brilliant team they are having raised so much for the benefit of village youngsters. (And not so young - I can't wait to have a go on the zip wire myself!!).

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is nearing the time when the actual policy documents need to be written (goodness me this is a long process!) and before we do we want to hold some public meetings so you can hear why we are where we are and what happens next. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and leave comments and recommendations for the Group to consider. Please do try to get to one of the meetings if possible as the more feedback we get the better we can make sure the Plan reflects the views of the community.

Well, that just leaves me to remind you that in November we will be asking you all for nominations for our 2021 Village Champion - so keep your eyes peeled for people who are going the extra mile to help in our Parish and make North Crawley such a great place to live. The winner receives a £50 voucher, a Village Champion medal and, most importantly, the gratitude of our community.