

North Crawley Parish Bulletin - September 2021

Hi Folks, Steve here bringing you up to date with what's happening within the Parish Council and beyond! Well, wasn't the Fun Day fun!! Despite the best efforts of the weather to make it cold and miserable we had a fabulous turnout (we reckon about 300 people!) and most people seemed to have really enjoyed the event. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who made it possible and to everyone who supported the event. Put the 29th August 2022 in your diary as it is definitely planned for next year!!

Still no news about any proposed changes to the conservation area. This seemingly simple project has taken over a year for MKC to complete and we still don't have a date for completion! A tad frustrating to say the least!

We were introduced to PCSO Dave Huckle who will be working with Arlene for the time being. Dave is the Neighbourhood Watch "guru" and we are hoping he can get the scheme up and running for North Crawley. He also advised residents to phone 101 if they see evidence of Fly Tipping as Dave is keen to minimise this antisocial behaviour for our community.

We are hoping for lots of nominations for this year's Village Champion - you'll be able to vote by email, post or phone. Voting will take place during November and we hope to make the award during December. So get your thinking caps on for who is making a really positive contribution to our community and look out for details of how to vote shortly.

The Wildlife Group are installing the new large bug hotel in Nixey's Walk mid September and already have plans for putting up nesting boxes there too, which the PC is funding. Additionally, one of our Councillors, Gary Baxter, is hoping to set up a number of Owl boxes around the Parish and possibly stream images of nesting activity through to our school and PC website! That should be a hoot! (sorry!). Seriously, I think the kids will love it, thanks Gary.

We are very aware that many stiles and gates that form part of our footpath network are in need of repair or replacement. It isn't something the Parish Council can fix as it is either MKC or the Landowner's responsibility to maintain them. Our footpath warden, Terry Smith is continually hounding the relevant authorities to take action and is achieving slow but sure progress.

We are still monitoring the activity of the Bedford Archery Club at Broadmead but as the Government has relaxed the rules on the use of private land until the end of this year it looks like it will be 2022 before we can ensure the group conforms to applicable planning regulations and is properly insured.

The MKE development of 5000 houses has plans at a consultation phase and your PC is very concerned about the potential impact of traffic, both commuter and construction. We are putting together an initial response, which we will share with residents of course, and strongly suggest that you lodge concerns and objections if you are equally concerned about the issues.

Traffic in general has been a concern to our community for many a year and it is really noticeable how much additional traffic flows through our village, sometimes at considerable speed, compared

with, say, 20 years ago. The PC has very limited resources as we are simply residents who volunteer our time but we feel this whole issue needs a proper look at and options considered that take all “stakeholders” views into account. It is for that reason that we are calling for volunteers to join a working group to help us consider options for our community. You will soon see adverts asking for your help. It should only take a few hours a month probably over a 12 month period. If you have the same concerns as we do about this topic and feel you could lend a hand please give it serious consideration.

The new play park extension (near the MUGA) is being installed during September. This will provide lots of activities for older children for whom the current play park is a bit “tame! Meanwhile a little bird tells me that the Play Park Committee has been successful in securing a very large grant that should transform the toddlers play park next year!! Look out for announcements and, in time, exciting plans to look at! Well done to the fantastic PPC!!

It shouldn't be too long before we publish the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan and deliver it to all residents. We are just finalising some discussions with landowners and having the document checked before sending it to the printers. It will give everyone the chance to have a good look at what is proposed and give feedback to the Steering Group.

We will be putting our 2022 budget together in a couple of months and already have a few ideas that will, hopefully, ensure that “working alongside our community” continues to be at the centre of what we do as a Parish Council.