

North Crawley Parish Council

Bulletin - October 2025

Hi Folks, Steve here with your autumnal roundup of PC issues, activities and plans.

As you may already know, the owners of The Cock Inn have been granted planning permission to convert it into 3 houses. The PC supports this as it seems the only way to preserve this important and historic building which sits at the heart of our conservation area. Indeed, if you study the exterior of the building, you can see it used to be 3 separate houses, each with its own individual architectural style. Past owners of The Cock Inn sold off its original car park which now has a house on it and because of this, users of the pub took advantage of the concessionary parking on the land in front of the Church (known as the Waste Ground) which is owned by the PC.

What the PC is extremely concerned about is the fact that MKCC have granted planning permission to the developers with no requirement for them to provide any parking spaces! This is an extraordinary breach of their own planning regulations! Despite there being what appears to be ample space for car parking at the rear of the building it will now mean that up to 9 cars will either be parked on the High St or on PC land (which we all know is often chock a block already!!). We fear this will compromise our obligations to maintain clear access on the East of the waste ground up to Myrtle Cottage and on the West up to Church Walk both for residents and emergency vehicles. We're also concerned that it may complicate efforts to keep a clear space to the Church Lychgate for weddings, funerals and other Church services.

Because of this we are forced to consider having a strip either side of the waste ground painted with the words "Keep Clear at All Times" and we are seeking advice as to whether planning consent is needed to do this in good time before building and alteration work commences.

Back to more regular issues - don't forget you're entitled to benefit from the ongoing Institute subsidy scheme, funded by the PC. It means that if you're organising a function or event to which anyone in the Parish is invited (such as a craft or jumble sale, an activity class or a club) you get free use of the Institute (up to a maximum each year). Lots of use is already made of this scheme - why not try it yourself if you organise this sort of event?

Well, with the countdown to Christmas already started, please make sure you've got the 19th of December in your diary for this year's Carols by the Lychgate which will be followed by the Lights for a Loved One. It's a wonderful village get together and it all starts at 5.30pm on the Waste Ground.

We aim to undertake our Biennial parish survey in January 2026. This survey asks a series of questions to allow us to understand what you, our residents, think about the work that the PC does. It also asks you to prioritise which type of issues you feel we should put most focus on. This survey allows us to understand a wider perspective and will form the basis of our planned activities over the next couple of years.

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor - and when I leave the PC in December this year that will create another vacancy. As a Councillor you only need to commit to attending the meetings which last for a couple of hours once a month - that's it!! Two hours of your time once a month to help keep our village thriving and cared for - that's all we're asking for. Naturally some Councillors are happy to give far more time (and regularly do) - but that's a personal choice, not an expectation. Your village cannot function properly without a PC - and the PC cannot continue without volunteers to run it. Please come and join us!

Well with Halloween and "Fireworks night" around the corner it really feels Autumnal and it's a great time to get out and walk our many footpaths if you're able. They are (mostly) kept in excellent condition and provide many miles of beautiful walking straight from your doorstep. Don't forget we

have our own Footpath Officer, Terry Smith, so if you spot a problem or a broken style just let us know and Terry will liaise with MKCC to get things sorted.