

## North Crawley Parish Bulletin December 2022

Hi Folks, Steve here with a roundup of Parish news again.

Let me start by saying that we have new Village Champions for 2022! After going through the nominations there were two that had equal votes and the PC agreed to award both with the Village Champion award. Brian Currie is well known for his help with so many village groups and activities and Teresa and Maxy both put a huge amount of effort into the IMC (Teresa) and the Cricket Club (Maxy) that are such an important part of our village life. All very worthy Champions for 2022. They will be awarded with a gift voucher and the coveted Champions medals. Congratulations to the winners and thank you (residents) for taking the trouble to nominate candidates for this important award - it's a chance to say a big thank you to people who do so much "behind the scenes" to make North Crawley such a great place to live.

I'm delighted to say the Neighbourhood Plan has been inspected by an independent assessor who has confirmed it satisfies all the required criteria and that we can now move to a referendum. It's the culmination of 5 years' work (as the first plan failed to get support) and it will be our last attempt to produce a plan that is acceptable to the majority of our residents. The referendum will take place on Thursday January 26th and will be organised by MKCC. Whatever you think of the plan please, please take a few minutes to vote, yes or no, so we get a result that reflects what the majority of residents want. Details of MKCC's arrangements for the referendum will be notified as soon as we have them. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Helen Beauchamp and the Steering Group for all the effort that has gone into getting this far.

We know there are many questions around the introduction of the 4 wheeled bins per household MKCC intend to launch next year. So you can talk directly to the scheme organisers, we have arranged for them to make a presentation and answer any questions at 10am on Saturday 11th February 2023. Please do try to attend so you can hear their views and express yours.

Next year sees the King's Coronation on May 6th of course. We are planning a village "get together" for Sunday May 7th at the Institute. More details in future bulletins!

The Traffic Working Group has developed a range of useful pointers to help reduce the impact of traffic through the village as well as helping fund the SID's and the speed gun which allow us some methods to gather reliable data to share with the Police and MKCC (and we are doing both). Now their task has concluded, they are stepping down as a working group and I'm sure you will join me in thanking them for their contribution, especially the Chair, James Sandall. Thanks folks, your help has been much appreciated.

It's budget time again and we have had some hefty increases in the cost of landscape maintenance to absorb this year. They coincided (sadly) with an unusually high level of cemetery income which has offset them. We cannot plan for the same income next year so we expect our precept will need to increase a bit (it's been fairly static the last couple of years). The final budget will be agreed in January and full details will be publicly available as usual.

Marshall Aerospace have submitted their Outline Planning Application for their development at Cranfield Airport. Many residents will have visited the consultation exhibits in North Crawley and Cranfield during the year and certainly one or more of your Councillors have attended every one including a visit to their Cambridge operation and attendance at a special forum set up for all Parishes likely to be affected by the development. It's difficult to know for sure but we are hopeful the impact of noise will be modest for most residents. Very few residents will be able to see any part of the development so, again, we are hopeful the aesthetics and ambiance of our village will not be impacted. However, we are concerned about the impact of traffic, both during the construction phase (3 years) and, of course, when it is operational. We have written to Central Bedfordshire planning expressing our concerns and suggesting ways in which the issue of traffic through North Crawley can be mitigated. Naturally we do not know whether they will accept our suggestions but at least we have tried.

Thank you, Arnie and Zoe in Folly Lane, for helping with the SID battery recharging rota - we could really do with at least 1 more household to join us - maybe from the High St or Chicheley Rd?? It won't be a big burden but does help spread the load amongst us volunteers.

Talking of volunteers.... 2023 sees our Parish Council elections - we know at least one Councillor is not standing again - please do give some thought to putting your name forward - we really need a full team to help keep our Parish going "behind the scenes". If you fancy a 1:1 chat about what it entails please call me on 07973 192733 (no obligation).

That's all for now and, on behalf of the PC, may I wish you a peaceful, healthy and happy 2023!