

# North Crawley Parish Council

## Bulletin - December 2023

Hi Folks, Steve again with a round up of Parish Council news for you.

There is still time to vote for your choice of who should be our Village Champion 2023. Votes will be accepted until the end of December. (Vote by emailing your candidates name to [clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk).) We've already had several very worthy candidates proposed and we will be finalising the winner(s) at our January meeting. Exciting stuff!!

We've had our first budget discussion in preparation for the new financial year which begins in April 2024. The notes of this meeting are available to read on the PC website. Subject to a vote at the January meeting it looks like there shouldn't be an increase in the precept next year. (The precept is a small part of the Council Tax bill we all pay which allows the Parish Council to operate). Please be aware that although MKCC are intending to increase Council Tax none of that increase will go to the Parish Council.

Don't forget the Winter Warmer scheme is back up and running with free canned food for anyone who needs it. Simply mention the scheme at the Village Shop and there will be no charge (up to 4 cans of food per week per person). Please feel free to take some for anyone you know who may not be aware of the scheme or perhaps finds it difficult to get up to the shop.

We have now heard back from MKCC about the Ford, which has been closed to traffic for over 13 years. Although it technically remains under MKCC control they have never inspected it or shown any interest in it. Consequently the PC intends to continue maintaining the area as a nature reserve (as we have for many years) and keep it a pleasant place to walk through. Following consultation with horse riders in the area we believe the pathway and bridge are considered passable for small to medium sized horses but not for large horses. As always it is down to the judgement of the horse rider as to whether they feel the route is safe as it is not specifically maintained as an official bridle way.

We have been aware of the damaged area of the footpath at the Northern end of Church Walk which, we believe, occurred when a skip was dropped on it. We have been asking MKCC to repair it for some months now. They have now shown us that it is a few inches outside of the footpath and therefore part of the Waste Ground (or, officially, North Crawley Village Green) which is Parish Council land. The PC will therefore organise for it to be repaired as soon as we can book a suitably qualified contractor.

The verges along Folly Lane, especially beyond the 30mph signs, have been badly damaged by heavy traffic using it when the M1 was closed last month. It has left deep ruts on both sides of the road which make it dangerous when pulling over to let other vehicles pass. The problem is compounded by the increased traffic using Folly Lane as a "rat run" to reach the M1 J14 now London Rd is closed. We are in contact with Highways department to reinstate the verges.

MK East, (the development of 5000 houses along London Rd) which has just begun, is part of around 20,000 houses in various parts of Milton Keynes that already have planning permission. MKCC is already developing the next MK City plan which aims to add another 40,000 houses by 2050. This new plan is due to be complete by 2025 (just over a year away!!!). Your PC is pushing for MKCC to set up a forum to allow Parishes to have a voice in where the development takes place and throughout the construction phase of any future development. Certainly the communication during the MK East development has been woefully lacking so far. We will keep trying to get this forum operating so we can keep you informed of what is happening and when.

We are still awaiting a response from the developers of the Maslin/Orchard Way land following our meeting with them last month.

Hopefully we have all worked out the new wheelie bins rota and are managing to store the bins or share with a neighbour. If you have any problems with bin collection it is important that you report it to MKCC online (see a link on the PC website) as they have a penalty system with the contractor based on the number of complaints received. They can't improve the service if they don't know what's going wrong so please - don't hold back!!

I'm sure we've all seen the serious flooding just outside the village on Cranfield Rd. This has been a problem for over 5 years and several attempts to deal with it have clearly not worked! We are hounding MKCC to get it sorted urgently - it really is an accident waiting to happen (imagine if it froze over!!) - it doesn't bear thinking about!

We held our first draw of the Young Fun scheme - and a winner in Orchard Way will be getting their voucher soon. If you have youngsters who live in the Parish why not contact our clerk, Sheila ( [clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk)) and register them for the scheme. Each month one lucky entrant will win a £30 voucher either for books or for Cineworld.

Hopefully I'll see many of you on 15th December at 5.30pm for Carols in the Park but, wherever you are in our beautiful Parish, may I (on behalf of your Parish Council) wish you a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and happy 2024.