

North Crawley Parish Bulletin July 2023

Hi Folks, Steve here with your monthly update of Parish issues and events.

At long last we've got some clarity from MKCC over the issue of the School Crossing Patroller (it's only taken 2 years!!). Basically our school can apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to employ our own patroller - previously they have been employed by MKCC. The school will need to have a "School Travel Plan" in place and will be sent all the details directly. Your Parish Council has written to the school to offer any help we can give both with the application and the recruitment of a potential Patroller. Please give some thought as to whether you could potentially be our next Patroller - it's a very part-time role and, although the money is useful, the main reward will be the regular interface with the youngsters in the village and their parents. If you want to know any more details, please contact our Clerk on clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk and we'll keep you updated.

The Travellers I mentioned in the last bulletin have moved out of Sherington - and out of MK altogether! The Planning Enforcement team at MKCC managed to secure an injunction that prevents them returning to MK for 2 years. The travellers actually left before the injunction was served but if they return MKCC can take immediate action. Keep your eyes peeled and report anything suspicious to MKCC via the PC website links.

The weight of traffic through the High St has recently been monitored (at our request) and the findings analysed. Although the "strips" that monitor vehicle weights were only in place for a week it gave a reasonable indication of the types of vehicle coming through the High St. It revealed that an average of 4 HGV's drive through the village each day. This information was given to Thames Valley Police to establish if they would support a weight restriction (as they have to enforce them). They felt the number of vehicles was so low they would object to a restriction being imposed. We will therefore not be seeing a weight restriction through the High St anytime soon!

There are still regular meetings of the Archery Club down at land adjacent to the Ford. No planning permission has been applied for (along with the mandatory safety checks that would involve) and the PC is discussing this with MKCC's planning enforcement team as it would appear to be a breach of the regulations. I'm sure none of us object to such a traditional sport being encouraged but it is vital that it is carried out safely, especially as it is alongside a well-used footpath. Without a proper planning application, we have no independent examination of the risks and how they are managed. We'll keep you posted!

Next time you go up to the Institute have a look at the Coronation artwork hanging in the corridor (opposite the kitchen). Many thanks to the many people of all ages who contributed to this. The original artwork now hangs proudly in the village school but these pictures are a reminder of what was a special occasion for so many of us.

We have had an annual inspection of the play equipment (both the "kiddies" and "adventure" parks). Whilst nothing is too concerning there were a few things they brought to our attention. Some fittings were not as tight as they should have been (and indeed our Village Warden, Kevin, has taped off the "double swing" for the time being for this reason). Some of the timbers have cracks in them - which is to be expected with natural materials - but they need monitoring to make sure no sharp edges are formed and that the cracks don't cause any structural weakness. Again, Kevin will keep a regular eye on these (he carries out monthly visual checks on both parks).

Many people will know that the area outside the Church and The Cock is known as The Waste Ground. Whilst that isn't a particularly attractive name, it has very longstanding historical significance. Very few people know the detail of this history and at some time we would like to produce a plaque that explains it. The Waste Ground is registered as North Crawley Village Green and not a car park - indeed, officially car parking is not permitted on a Village Green! But successive Parish Councils have been pragmatic and allowed temporary parking to take place unofficially and on the proviso that cars may need to be cleared for church functions or other reasons (such as Remembrance Day).

Finally, a quick reminder that the Fun Day takes place on Monday 28th August between 12 noon and 5pm. There will be fun and games for all the family, mostly free, as well as some cracking food options with a Hog Roast, Cream Teas, ice creams and Indian Snacks. Hope to see you there!