

North Crawley Parish Bulletin February 2023

Hi Folks - Steve here again and, because there was no SCAN in January, I'll briefly recap on the items that were in the December bulletin which "non-Facebook users" wouldn't have seen!

We have three new Village Champions (voting was tied), Brian Currie, Teresa and Maxy Walker - all of whom do a great job helping so many people and village activities - very worthy winners I'm sure you'll agree and thank you for all you do!

Don't forget to come up to the Institute on 11th February at 10am where MKCC will have a team explaining how the "4 Bins" approach to litter and recycling will work - we know many of you have reservations - this is the forum to raise those - there will be a presentation at 10am but the team will be there for another hour or so to answer any questions.

This year sees the King's Coronation on May 6th of course and we are planning a "Village Get Together" on Sunday 7th at the Institute - more details in future bulletins!!

Marshall Aerospace have submitted their Outline Planning Application for their development in Cranfield. We have written to Central Bedfordshire planning (who look after Cranfield) expressing our concerns over the impact of increased traffic and have suggested ways this could be mitigated. We don't know if they will accept our suggestions but at least we have tried.

By the time you read this in SCAN we will know whether we have voted to accept the Neighbourhood Plan - and, regardless of the outcome, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Helen Beauchamp and the Steering Groups (for both Neighbourhood Plans) for the huge amount of effort and time they have put into this task - all volunteers and all for the benefit of our community. Thank you!

Now on to fresh news!

As you will all know work has started, between J14 of the M1 and Newport Pagnell on the infrastructure for the Milton Keynes East development. It looks likely that we will have to put up with traffic disruption around that area for some time to come, probably a couple more years. Meanwhile the developers are progressing with their plans for the housing and support facilities once the basic road network is in place. North Crawley will be represented at a meeting of Parish Councils this month where the design codes (the look and function) of the development will be discussed. I will give you feedback in next month's bulletin.

We are still chasing MKCC to give us clarity over how we appoint a new Crossing Warden to escort children across the High St. We recognise what an important role this is, not just from a safety perspective but as a conduit of communication between parents, children and the School. It looks likely that our school will need to bid for funding and recruit the individual - and the PC pledges to help in any way it can. It looks likely to be another couple of months before MKCC make up their minds as to how this will work. That will be a whole year without a warden. All very frustrating!!

We had a speed camera van in the village during December (which was welcome, as a deterrent) but it was parked in the centre of the village where we don't have a speeding problem!! Apparently it has a "designated place" to occupy and we will be asking if we can change this with the police at the Rural Forum in January. It would be far more beneficial to be located on Cranfield Rd, Brook End, Folly Lane or Chicheley Rd where we do have a speeding problem!

We are putting another Owl box up - this time one for Tawny Owls, in the trees by the Ford. These boxes are made and managed by one of our Councillors, Gary Baxter - thanks Gary, let's hope we get a lodger there soon!!

The annual budget for the PC was approved at the January meeting which will result in a small increase in the precept we need from MKCC. This is due to increased costs of landscape work (grass and hedge cutting) and forecast decreased income from cemetery fees and charges.

Finally, another plea for you to think about joining your Parish Council - we could really do with one or two voices from the members of our community who have younger children - it is their future village environment we are shaping today and we'd love to get your views as to how we can tailor it to their needs - it's only a couple of hours a month but it can make a big difference.

That's it for this month - bye for now!!