

North Crawley Parish Bulletin - March 2022

Hi Folks, Steve here with the latest update from your Parish Council. Well, there is certainly a lot going on at the moment so I'll give you a brief update on the main issues.

The unauthorised development at Brook End has had an enforcement notice served which the owner of the land is appealing against. Your Parish Council, our Ward Council and Milton Keynes Council have all submitted objections to the appeal based on planning regulations. In due course there will probably be a public enquiry where the respective parties will be represented by Barristers and, ultimately, the Secretary of State will decide the outcome. This is likely to be a lengthy issue so I guess we all need to be patient.

As reported in the last bulletin the first phase of the MKE development will be underway this year and for the first 2 or 3 years will focus on the road infrastructure and installation of a new bridge over the M1. Meanwhile our Traffic Working Group (TWG) have continued to meet and identify the steps we need to take to minimise the speed, volume and weight of traffic through the village.

As part of the data gathering process the Parish Council has successfully bid for funds (from our Ward Councillors) to buy a "speed gun" - a hand held device that can accurately identify the speed of motorists. Apart from giving the TWG some up to date data it will no doubt act (even temporarily) as a deterrent for speeding motorists as it looks just like the devices used by the Police. The group are also looking at the use of Truvelo strips and SIDS (smiley/grumpy faces and speed read out). The traffic expert from the MKE project has offered to visit and provide advice to the TWG as well.

Hopefully you will have read the notification we put on the community Facebook page and the PC Website regarding Marshall Aerospace (I had incorrectly referred to it as Marshall's Aerospace). In summary Marshall is a very large operation (1200 staff) involved in servicing and maintaining large cargo planes known as C130's who are looking to relocate from Cambridge Airport to Cranfield. It will result in thousands of aircraft movements each year as well as the testing of engines. They are looking at land alongside the current runway on the North Crawley side of Cranfield and aim to build a large complex including hangars and head office buildings.

We expressed deep concern over the noise and pollution this would cause to North Crawley and all the SCAN villages, disturbing the peace and tranquility that drew so many of us to live in this area. As Cranfield is in Central Bedfordshire it will be their planning department who will adjudicate over the planning application and so far they seem pretty keen. Cranfield University have already agreed to work with Marshall on the relocation.

There will be a public exhibition of the plans for the new operation in Cranfield on 25/26th March. All residents should receive a letter of invitation. They have also agreed to run one in North Crawley, which will take place on 28th March between 5pm and 7pm in the Institute. They hope to submit an outline planning application by late summer. If they are successful it will take several years to construct the operation before aircraft will be regularly flying in and out. Your Parish Council will continue to liaise with Marshall to mitigate the impact of this operation as much as possible.

You may have heard that Paula Rowe, our wonderful "lollipop lady", is leaving her role in a few weeks. Paula has "shepherded" kids, parents and traffic for the last 12 years and we owe her a huge thank you. MKC are responsible for the role and will shortly be advertising for a replacement. It's a paid role of around 10 hours a week, 38 weeks of the year and would be ideal for someone who, like Paula, can be at the heart of our community and enjoy being a vital part of youngsters lives. Full training and uniform will be provided.

The Ford at Broadmead has been managed as a nature reserve by the Parish Council for many years. We know that many people enjoy the peaceful and wildlife friendly place it has become.

It has, over time, become over "silted" and work is underway to reduce this, improve the water flow and, at the same time, plant wildflower seeds in the area. A big thank you to Derek Harpur who works on this area, for no reward, for the benefit of our community.

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation Historic England have asked us to undertake an assessment of the impact of the plan on the "historic environment" of North Crawley. This will involve identifying all areas of historic importance and demonstrating that the Plan contains mitigation to ensure the end result is not detrimental to them. It will take a few months to complete this and the consultation it will require so the Plan has been held up from our original timetable. The NP steering group will produce a leaflet for residents explaining the situation so everyone is up to date.

Finally plans are developing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 5th June and we're delighted to announce that Tim and the team at The Cock have kindly offered to donate up to 200 free portions of scones, cream and jam to make the day especially sweet! Thank you so much guys!