

North Crawley Parish Bulletin November 2023

Hi Folks, Steve here again with a round up of Parish Council news. The Public Inquiry regarding the Traveller community in Brook End started on 17th October and, disappointingly, was postponed during the first morning as all the necessary reports were not in place. It will now start again on 19th March 2024. I'm sure that's frustrating for Parishioners and Travellers alike, as it prolongs the uncertainty over the future of the Nursery site.

There were lots of fireworks around over "Guy Fawkes Weekend" (as the actual day was a Sunday fireworks were set off Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings). Of course they can be great fun and a lovely spectacle but they can also be very frightening for animals and livestock. As we live in a rural community it would be really helpful if you could identify where there are animals (especially horses) and try to avoid letting off fireworks near them. I know some horses had to be sedated this year despite them being in well established stables.

Last bulletin I mentioned that there should be no parking of vehicles on the green spaces of Orchard Way verge, Kilpin Green, Nixey's walk and, of course, the Recreation Field (Crouchers). The PC is really grateful for the fact that this seems to have stopped. We pay to have these areas kept looking attractive for you so they are a village amenity. I'm afraid the same applies to letting fireworks off - by law you need PC permission to let fireworks off on any of these areas and, given how close they are to homes, pets and children, that permission would only be given in the most exceptional circumstances and with plenty of notice given to any homes that might be affected. Sorry to sound like a kill-joy but the PC needs to represent every member of the Parish, especially the "quiet" majority.

Well it's almost the end of the year which means it's time to vote for the 2023 Village Champion! From now until the end of December we are accepting votes for the person (or persons!) you feel has made a real contribution to our community. Naturally serving Parish Councillors are ineligible, but there are plenty of other people who put in a lot of effort to help make our community such a nice place to be in. Everyone has a vote - please use it - email Sheila, our clerk, on clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk. Awards of a £50 voucher and the coveted Village Champion medal will be made in January.

Plans are developing for the first two sites contained in our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) - these sites are the former Maslin site and the Orchard Way site (H4 and H5 in the NP document). Your Implementation Group is liaising with the developers of the two sites (who are working together) to encourage them to stick as closely to the detail of the NP as possible. They hope to start building during the first half of 2024. Please see the PC website for the full minutes of the Implementation Group meetings. We aim to have a public meeting once plans are finalised so you can see what the developers have in mind.

We hope to repeat the "Winter Warmer" scheme for 2023 (due to a £500 grant from MKCC) whereby anyone is eligible for a few free cans of food from the village shop, especially if budgets are a bit tight as so many people are finding. Simply mention the Winter Warmer scheme and you'll be welcome to enjoy up to 4 cans of soup, rice pudding or similar each week - enough for something warm if you're feeling chilly. Please think about others in the Parish who may not be aware of the scheme and may benefit from it - maybe even take a few cans to them? Just a thought. The scheme will run from 1st December until the end of March (or earlier if the budget runs out).

It's budget time again for the PC - we have a number of projects we are hoping to achieve this year and next and we will be finalising the details during November and December. We hope to end up with little or no increase in the Precept compared to last year even though many costs have increased of course. Naturally we will keep you informed of our plans as soon as they have been debated and agreed.

We are disappointed that the surface of the kiddy play park (near the Institute) is not wearing well despite being less than 2 years old. You may have noticed this too. Some areas are uneven and even allowing mud to squelch through. Some areas have gaps between one type of surface and another. We have had a meeting with the supplier and explained our concerns and are awaiting their response.

Don't forget the Christmas Carols at the park - 5.30pm on Friday 15th December. We will gather at the back of the Institute and have a good old sing song to get us in the festive spirit. Bring a lantern or a torch - song sheets will be provided - and free mulled wine and mince pies will follow generously donated (and served) by Chris and Trevor Stapelton (thank you!). We should be finished by 6.30 in time for you to go up to the Church for "Lights for a Loved One" which is becoming a really popular event (there is even talk of a brass band playing in the background!).

Well, it wouldn't be the bulletin if I didn't ask again for volunteers to come forward and join the PC. We know we will have a vacancy shortly and would be most grateful if someone could spare us just a couple of hours a month to help keep our Parish a great place to live. Give me a buzz for a chat if you want to know more. That's all for now folks!