

# North Crawley Parish Council

## Bulletin - January 2024

Hi Folks, Steve again with an update of Parish Council activity -

Before we say goodbye to 2023, I must just say we have 2 new Village Champions for 2023 following the vote during December - Malcolm and Oli Rose. Both Malcolm and his son Oli are very well-known figures around our Parish and help in so many ways to ensure our village is such a great place to live. During 2023 they initiated and ran the "Ring for the King" project which resulted in 10 fully trained bell ringers who, not only performed on the Coronation weekend, but also now regularly ring the bells at St. Firmin. Two very deserving winners I'm sure you agree. Keep looking around during 2024 to decide who you are going to vote for the 2024 award. Every resident of the Parish has a vote. The winners received a £50 voucher and a specially commissioned medal and, of course, the thanks of our whole community.

We have finalised the PC budget for the coming financial year and, as expected, we need no increase in the level of funding needed to run the PC. Despite that we hope to achieve a number of initiatives during the year including putting solar panels on most of the poles where the Speed Indicator Device (SID) is mounted. This will mean we will no longer have to ask volunteers to keep charging the batteries, which only last 2 days before needing changing again. The SID acts as a deterrent to speeding traffic, especially as it captures data and informs speeding drivers of the fact.

We are starting to get a bit of traction in our campaign to get better communication from MKCC as the MK East development gets underway. I hope to have a meeting during January with the leader of the Strategic Development Team at the Council where I can explain how improved two-way communication is essential for those Parishes affected by development such as MK East. Our Ward Councillors have been helpful in getting this meeting set up.

Our own North Crawley development based on the Neighbourhood Plan is still awaiting feedback from the developers. As soon as we know something we will let you know.

We have seen a planning application for a large caravan storage business at Brook End (the old Poultry Barn). Given its location on a busy narrow road, the volume of traffic it would generate and its substantial impact on the rural environment, we have lodged an objection to it.

One of our Councillors, Gary Baxter, has now left the village to live in Lavendon. Although he could, in principle, continue as a Councillor, he has decided not to so we have a vacancy right now which we would love to see filled! Just remember, we have a category of Councillor who need take on no additional duties apart from attending the meetings for a couple of hours a month. Even if you're still working, we would hope you could squeeze in just 2 hours a month to help keep our community initiatives functioning. Just give me a buzz if you want to know more (no obligation of course!).

We have been told that NC School might get funding for a School Crossing Patroller (Lollypop Lady/Man) during February. The PC will offer help to try to recruit someone as soon as the school receives the funding. Full training is given by MKCC as well as all PPE required for the job. If you're interested in the role please pop an email to our clerk ([clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk)) and we'll put your name forward.

We have organised a tidy up of the Garden of Rest including preparing the 3rd of 3 sections of the Garden as the first two are full. Please remember to remove any plastic items you may have placed there over the festive season as they end up getting blown around the whole Cemetery. (Thank you).

We are very aware of the flooding on the Cranfield Rd out of the village which is primarily caused by water run off from the adjacent field. It would seem that the drainage pipe which would ordinarily mitigate this has been blocked or even broken. The landowner has been served notice that, as soon as the weather is more suitable, the repair work (which will involve heavy equipment) must be undertaken. Meanwhile one of our Councillors (Derek Harpur) has voluntarily been working to clear other drainage routes which has made a big improvement already. Thanks Derek!

We have been informed that it is quite likely that there should be sufficient places at Ousedale this year for our students moving to Secondary School this September, although probably at the Olney Campus. Although we have no influence on these issues, we really hope all the anxiety many parents and students had last year can be avoided. Again, thank you to our Ward Councillors for their help with this.

Don't forget the Parish Council subsidy scheme for hiring out the Institute - any resident of our Parish can hire the Institute for zero cost (up to a limit) and no deposit providing it is a function to which the whole Parish is invited. We have helped loads of such functions during 2023 including wreath making, yoga, dance classes, fund raising events, the Historical Society and even the Winter Ball. Ask Teresa when you're booking and she can check if your function is eligible.

Well, that's about it for now and may I, on behalf of the PC, wish all residents a very happy and healthy new year.

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**Young Fun Draw:** This free-to-enter monthly draw is now in its third month. If you know of any children who live in North Crawley between the ages of 5 and 16 who are not already entered, please send their details to [clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northcrawley-pc.gov.uk) . Their name, date of birth and address is all that's needed along with their prize choice of either a £30 book token or a £30 Cineworld voucher.