

North Crawley Parish Bulletin - December 2021

Hi Folks, Steve here again with a monthly update of Parish Council (PC) activity. Well, the developers from MK East simply didn't turn up to the meeting despite promising they would attend. To be fair, after a fairly pointed note to them they have apologised for their oversight and promise to attend our February meeting - I guess we will wait and see! We mainly want their input into the management of traffic issues likely to be caused by their development. Let's hope it is a constructive meeting when we eventually do meet up with them!

On the subject of traffic, I'm delighted to say that we have had the inaugural meeting of the Traffic Working Group where 4 enthusiastic residents, supported by the PC, have volunteered to help investigate options to manage the volume, speed and weight of vehicles passing through the village. Their first proper meeting is in January and we will make sure the minutes are published on the PC website.

The Play Park Committee have finalised their recommendations for netting to protect users of the new Kiddies Play Park when it is installed in January. This is higher, wider and specifically designed for cricket balls compared to the previous netting. It will be erected at the beginning of the cricket season and removed at the end. Naturally the only way to be 100% safe is to enclose the entire area with netting which would be unsightly, intrusive and expensive. So, even with the new netting in place, we will still have signs warning that, when cricket is being played, you use the Kiddies Play Park at your own risk.

The new Kiddies Play Park installation will begin in January and should be completed by mid-February, including the new cricket netting poles. The existing benches will be sited elsewhere as they will not fit in the new design and the PC has agreed to fund two new backless benches which will be installed at the same time.

We are told the conservation area review results should be with us soon and that they have listened to us and **not** decreased the current conservation area. We will await the report with interest!

Of course the topic of the moment is the activity on the site at Brook End. Our Ward Councillor's have taken responsibility for the management of MK Council enforcement regarding any breach of planning regulations that has taken place there. As I explained in my note on Facebook (also now on the PC website) the PC has no power or authority to intervene - we can only report on apparent issues - which we have done since summer this year when unusual activity was first noted. We now need to await feedback from MK Council, via our Ward Councillors, on what the next stages are. I know this is frustrating for residents who would like swift and decisive action but we are advised that careful attention to the detail of the process is vital to achieve a long term resolution of the issue. We have been told the Ward Councillor's will be communicating with all residents soon with an update.

On to more uplifting topics - there is a clear winner of the 2021 Village Champions award - indeed, 3 winners - the Play Park Committee (namely Claire Odell, Anna Shotton and Emily Tompkins) were the clear winners based on votes from our residents (thank you to everyone who took the time to vote). They have certainly done a fabulous job in raising so much money for amazing facilities that will benefit the village for many years to come. We will make the award to them before Christmas. Well done guys and thank you!!

Our Footpath specialist, Terry Smith, has, at long last, managed to badger MK Council into providing new kissing gates for the Church End Slipe and the Little Crawley footpath. It's taken a while but they should be available in January. Thanks Terry!

We have put a draft budget together for next year which will be voted on in January. We hope to repeat the Fun Day, have celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and maybe have a village talent show during 2022 - so lots to look forward to.

On behalf of your Parish Council may I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.