

North Crawley Parish Council

Bulletin April 2025

Hi Folks, Steve here with feedback on the Parish Council issues and activities.

At last we have 3 of the SID's up and running - you've no doubt seen them at the entrance to the village from Cranfield, halfway along Brook End and in the High St near Nixey's Walk. As they are powered by solar panels now, they no longer need the constant battery change we faced before. And more good news! We have been successful with our grant application which allows us to now order two more solar powered SID's for Chicheley Rd and Folly Lane. Our Clerk and two of our Councillors are being trained to program the SID's, retrieve and interpret the data as well as how to forward it to Highways and the Police to ensure we receive the support we need if speeding is prevalent.

We are still on the lookout for a new Village Warden to help around the village (any handy person who fancies a few paid hours a week keeping the village safe and tidy please contact Sheila, our Clerk). Meanwhile Sheila and I are keeping the 8 village waste bins clear for the time being but in due course we will need to employ a contractor if we have no applicants for the Warden's role.

We are going to put a new sign up at the Waste Ground that more clearly explains the basis on which parking is allowed. This follows a recent planning application that incorrectly describes the area in front of the Church as a public car park. In fact it is land owned by the PC which is registered as the Village Green. Parking is only allowed on a concessionary basis which can (and occasionally is) withdrawn if, for example, there is a major function at the Church or War Memorial.

We have an immediate vacancy for a Parish Councillor and would be most grateful if you could give some serious thought to joining us. There are many small but important roles the PC carries out which help our Parish to remain the clean, safe and well managed environment we enjoy living in. Without volunteers doing this work, the responsibility would defer back to MKCC who would be extremely unlikely to apply the same diligence and sense of priority that your PC does. Indeed much would simply not get done. Being a Councillor doesn't need to be a time-consuming role - just attending the meetings is a great help which allows us to form opinions and decisions on important matters for the Parish. Please consider giving a few hours a month to this vital role if you can.

The developers for the Orchard Way and Chicheley Rd sites are still wading their way through the planning process with MKCC and are making slow but sure progress. The Implementation Group are continuing to monitor progress and stand by each month to meet if there are any issues to discuss or deal with.

A small group of Councillors met with Chris Curtis MP and had a wide-ranging discussion on local issues. He seemed to recognise most of the concerns we raised such as the swamping of local GP and Pharmacy resources, the rapid Eastward expansion of MK and the pressure on school places for children in rural areas. Whilst there was little concrete resolution he could offer (especially for MK expansion) he did agree to support improvements in local services and resources. It is worth mentioning Chris is the only MP any of us could recall who had requested a 1:1 meeting with the PC to listen to issues that are important to us. And for this we thank him for his time.

Our next meeting is on 6th May and is preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm where members of the public are welcome to raise any issues of concern with the PC which we can add to the agenda of future meetings. We'd love to see you there!