

In this issue: Some brief update notes on the Parish Council's activities over the past few months; Community Speedwatch – some information regarding the scheme and an invitation for possible volunteers to re-start the scheme in the Parish; a note on Grit Bins and finally as reminder about the inconvenience of pavement parking.

The Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council wishes all members of our community a very happy and prosperous 2017.

A warm welcome to the January 2017 edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. A copy of the Newsletter will also be available on the Council's website early in January. In addition, some paper copies will be available from Bartley Post Office, Mace Store at Cadnam and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.

The Parish Council – Brief Update Note

It has been a busy few months for the Parish Council, for example:

- we said goodbye to our previous Clerk, Mike Mortimer and welcomed our new Clerk, Margaret Weston, in September;
- we endorsed and formally supported the establishment of a new Playground at the Parish Hall and the work of the Friends of Copythorne Playground to raise the funds to make this exciting project a reality;
- we considered and made recommendations to the Planning Authorities on a large number of Planning Applications and tree work applications, and
- discussed a wide range of issues impacting our community.

This Newsletter has a particularly 'road' focus to it, as a direct result of some of those discussions....

Community Speedwatch – Potentially Re-starting Our Scheme: Call for Volunteers

Readers will be aware that, over the past year and with the Parish Councils fullest endorsement, there have been several reductions in the speed limits allowed on certain roads through and side roads and lanes within the parish from 40 to 30 mph.

However, reducing speed limits does not necessarily result in all drivers observing them. Enforcement can be a problem and the Police can only address this on an occasional basis. The Parish Council is keen to support and help enforce these changes in the interests of all our community, in promoting safe conditions for all road users – general traffic, farm traffic, horse riders, pedestrians etc.

Copythorne Parish Council have a part share in Community Speedwatch equipment with Bramshaw and Minstead Parish Councils and in the past, the scheme has been run with considerable success in our Parish, in raising awareness of the speed limits and informing those who do speed of the fact that they have done so.

Following the speed limit changes, Minstead now have their Speedwatch team back in operation again using the equipment in which Copythorne has a part share. Many other Parishes within the Forest are also operating schemes with close cooperation between the Police, a local co-ordinator and a really enthusiastic band of volunteers, not forgetting of course input from their Parish Councils.

Copythorne Parish Council is very keen to consider the feasibility of the re-establishment of the scheme within our area. We are, therefore, canvassing for volunteers to express an interest in helping establish a scheme and make a regular contribution to promoting road safety in the Parish. If you have a concern about speeding in the area who would welcome the chance to get involved, then we'd really like to hear from you.

It doesn't take a great deal of time, especially if enough volunteers can be found. Perhaps you have a few hours a month you could spare for this worthy cause that has the added bonus of getting you out into the fresh air and meeting other people.

Full training is given with co-operation from the local Police Force who are also very keen to see

the scheme revived in our area. Results are confidential and fed into equipment at the Police Station in Lyndhurst by trained officers.

There is some leeway with the results depending on the speed limit in force on any particular road, but letters are sent out to “offenders” and continual repeat offenders are prosecuted by the Police.

At this stage, we are seeking to establish the interest prior to discussing this further with the police, so, if you are interested in taking part or would just like some more information please contact:

Margaret Weston, Parish Council Clerk - email: clerk@copythorne.org.uk or telephone: 023 8081 1573).

She will be very pleased to hear from you.

Grit Bins

Still on the subject of our roads, Hampshire County Council have informed us that there are around 3,500 roadside salt bins located across the highway network. These have been checked and replenished in recent weeks.

The bins are filled with a 50:50 mix of salt and grit and this can be freely used by members of the community for de-icing pavements and smaller access roads and particularly those areas of public highway that are not covered by one of their main salting routes.

Please be aware that it only takes a tablespoon of salt/grit (roughly around 20 grams) to treat one square metre of road or pavement so a full bin can treat a substantial area.

If your local grit bin is less than $\frac{3}{4}$ full and needs refilling through the winter season the quickest way to let Hampshire County Council know is via the specific link on their website at www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/seweweather/salting.

Pavement Parking

Finally, and still with our roads theme, the Parish Council is aware of a rise in the level of pavement parking within the Parish. Many of our roads are very narrow and often only have a single path on one side, for pedestrians.

Pavement parking where vehicles are positioned well onto the pavement area causes many pedestrians such as parents with children buggies to have to go into the road to avoid the blockage. In narrow lanes, this can put their safety at considerable risk – especially in the winter when it’s dark in the mornings and very early in the evenings.

The Parish Council would like to ask all residents to take extra care when parking on our roads – especially those off the main road network - and avoid the need to pavement park and the resultant negative impact on pavement users.

Copythorne Parish Council wishes to apologise for any upset that may have been caused by the error in some copies of our Newsletter last month whereby an incorrect name was given for well-known and respected local man Mr Bob Higman who has done so much for the community. We hope Mr Higman and his family will understand that this was a purely unintentional error on our part, was obtained in good faith from another source and we very much appreciate and value all the work he has done over the years.

Parish Council Meetings

The Council meets on the fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7.00 pm in the Copythorne Parish Hall (rear extension). Members of the public are very welcome to attend the meetings and speak on any matter of concern at the start. The dates of the next few meetings are:

Tuesday 24 th January 2017	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 28 th February 2017	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 28 th March 2017	Full Council Meeting

*The Clerk to the Council, Margaret Weston, can be contacted by email at clerk@copythorne.org.uk by ‘phone on: **023 8081 1573**, or by post at: **Woodlands, Fritham, Hampshire SO43 7HJ**. Website: www.copythorne.org.uk. Details of individual Parish Councillors, as well as information on District and County Councillors, can also be found on the Parish Website and on community notice boards.