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The Parish Council: Business and Meetings:

Parish Council agendas are formulated through a variety of routes – some being consultative such as responding to planning applications, others are driven by items affecting the Parish and its residents. The Council's website, <http://www.copythorne.org.uk/>, provides dates and minutes of previous meetings, information about the Council and links to the District and County Council can also be found.

A major focus for the Council at the present time is in respect of the possible provision of Affordable Housing. In our last Newsletter, we outlined the programme of events that had been proposed in a resolution, formulated by the Council at its **8th December 2015** meeting, and which was ratified at the meeting on the **12th January 2016**.

Affordable Housing

By the time of this Newsletter is published, the proposed public exhibition to provide information and a chance to speak with and seek clarifications from officers of the various bodies involved will have taken place on the 28th January. The Parish Council will make an addendum to this Newsletter following the event, outlining some brief information on the numbers attending and information presented prior to this Newsletter being uploaded to the Council web site.

As a reminder, the sequence of events after the exhibition event will be as follows:

- At the exhibition, there will be some forms available for people to record any specific questions that they would like to have addressed in the information pack and clarification which they may feel has not been covered by the exhibition, leading up to the Public Form event. The purpose is to ensure that any questions the community may feel have not been adequately covered in the exhibition or additional clarifications arising are not 'lost' and can be further addressed in the public forum event.
- The Parish Council will host an Open Forum Event on the 16th March at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall. Officers representing the various authorities and the Parish Council will be present. Residents will be able to ask questions, make any specific points and seek further clarifications.

(continued overleaf)

Affordable Housing, (continued)

- At the end of this event, feedback and comments will be sought from those who have attended the forum meeting and from the wider community, using a purpose designed feedback form, available in a hard copy version and also on the Parish Council's website.
- The feedback and comments received will be analysed and a report compiled by an independent individual or organisation.
- The Parish Council will consider the report, discuss and make a decision on which way to proceed, taking into account the feedback, comments and representations made. *(The date for this Parish Council decision making meeting will be established once this timeline is formalised, and the detailing of the entire programme of events has been agreed. Copies of the feedback report will be posted on the Parish Council website and available in selected locations as a hard copy).*

The Parish Council recognises the crucial importance of this issue within our community and also the need for a robust and effective process which is as open and transparent as possible to manage it to any conclusion. Key to this is communications. We have established a specific communications plan for the information on these developments, involving both electronic (website) as well as, wherever possible, printed updates.

As a final note, it should be added that, following this process, even if there was a decision to proceed with any development proposals, they would still be subject to the full Planning process. This would provide further opportunities for community engagement and representation, as well as the need for them to be considered at a Parish Council meeting, as with any other proposal.

We have created a specific section on the Council website which can be reached at:
http://www.copythorne.org.uk/your_council/content/Affordable_Housing.html

where we will be posting information updates and also links to all published documents. Included here, will be a copy of all the information presented at the exhibition, as well as summaries of any key and frequently asked questions which are arising and will be fed into the Public Forum on 16th March.

Obviously, there will be many more Council Meetings during the programme of events and members of the community are welcome to attend to monitor the debate and make any further representations.

As a final reminder, the next main formal event will be the:

Affordable Housing Open Forum meeting At the Parish Hall On 16th March 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

(For a very brief, recent update following the Public Exhibition on Affordable Housing potential for Copythorne Parish, please see the additional section at the end of this Newsletter)

Flooding Update

The recent flooding caused by the heavy rainfall on and prior to Sunday 3rd January caused concern to many residents who are aware and now prepared for such events. If you experienced anything that caused you particular concern please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. Some residents found the flood resilience measures installed following the flooding at Christmas 2013 prevented damage to their properties.

Lengthsman Scheme

The Parish Council is drawing up a list of duties for the Parish Lengthsman to carry out on a regular programme of works and if you have any duties that you consider should be included please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Copythorne War Memorial Update

Copythorne War Memorial, located outside St Mary's Church in Romsey Road, has now been officially Listed. Details of the five additional named persons who it is considered should be added to the memorial will shortly be shown on the Parish Council's website for consideration by the community.

Parish Council Meetings

The Council meets twice a 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 9th February 2016 Planning
- ❖ Tuesday 23rd February 2016 Council
- ❖ Tuesday 22nd March 2016 Council

Please note that the proposed Planning meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday 8th March has been cancelled as the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th March 2016.

*The Clerk to the Council (Michael Mortimer) can be contacted at:

- ❖ Riverside House, Riverside Gardens, Romsey SO51 8HN.
- ❖ Telephone and fax: **01794 511379**
- ❖ Email: copythornepc@btinternet.com
- ❖ 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.

STOP PRESS - Affordable Housing: Exhibition Update

On Thursday 28th January, as planned, the Affordable Housing Exhibition of information and current programme status took place at the Parish Hall in Copythorne.

Our figures suggest that between 450 and 500 people attended the exhibition. This was a tremendous response on what is a major development issue for the community of our Parish and exceeded our original expectations. We are very pleased to have seen so many members of our community there.

Feedback on the day from participants and exhibitors was very good and many commented on how much information was available and the descriptions of the issues and processes involved helped with their understanding.

However, as some of you will know, our estimate of numbers meant that the paper versions of the information pack were exhausted after 250 were issued. The information pack is available on the website:

http://www.copythorne.org.uk/your_council/content/Affordable_Housing.html

along with web versions of the panels used throughout the exhibition, for viewing or download.

As stated in this Newsletter, the next major event will be the:

Affordable Housing Open Forum meeting At the Parish Hall On 16th March 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

We hope to see you there.

