



## COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER; JANUARY 2016

### **First.....**

The Parish Council hopes that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a good New Year break and welcome to 2016!

### **The Parish Council**

Welcome to the **January 2016** Copythorne Parish Council News.

December was a busy month for the Parish Council with **several** significant items forming a large part of our work. In this issue we **report on**:

- **Planning** matters
- New style **Beat Report** from the Neighbourhood Policing Team;
- The Local Government Boundary **Changes** for our area, and
- Copythorne **Affordable Housing** Proposals.

### **Planning Matters**

The Council generally meets twice a month:

- A Full Council meeting, where the agenda is shaped by a variety of issues, and
- A Planning meeting, which deals generally with Planning and Tree Works Applications.

The Parish Council, as part of the planning consultation process considers planning applications that have either been submitted to New Forest National Park Planning Authority or New Forest District Council. Interested parties, if they wish, during the public participation session, may make statements or representations. The Parish Councillors will normally have a briefing statement prepared by the Planning Authority's Case Officer to identify key planning issues.

The Parish Council does not make final planning decisions, it is only a consultee. It reviews applications and then makes recommendations to the planning authority which makes the final decision.

### **New Style Beat Report**

The Neighbourhood Policing Team for Ashurst, Copythorne and Netley Marsh have now created a 'new look' format which is presented using new design and sections. The aim is to make for a more lively, readable and informative report.

The Beat Report is a vital way of communicating on matters relevant to our community in respect of crime, alerts to suspicious or criminal activity and up-coming issues such as speed restrictions. It also has an information section on helpful seasonal or circumstantial advice – in the current issue, for example, particular concerns at Christmas in respect of property and safety.

Beat Reports are available on the Copythorne Parish Council Website and also reported in Stanley's Own.

Our local Beat Officer, **PC Rachel Gallimore**, organises local **Beat Surgeries** and the next ones take place at:

- ❖ **Bartley Post Office - Monday 4th January 2016 at 10.30 a.m.** and
- ❖ **Mace Stores, Bartley Cross Roads - Thursday 28th January 2016 at 7.00 p.m.**

## Local Government Boundary Changes

The body responsible for the way in which local government electoral boundaries are drawn, The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), undertook a review of the divisions that make up Hampshire County Council earlier in the year.

Some previous options and proposals were circulated earlier in 2015 by the LGBCE for initial consultation and the Parish Council had also responded with some expressed concerns.

The stated aim of the electoral review is:

*“to recommend electoral division boundaries that mean each county councillor represents approximately the same number of voters and to ensure that the pattern of divisions reflects the interests and identities of local communities as well as promoting effective local government. In order to achieve these aims, it has been necessary to re-draw division boundaries across the county.”*

On 17th November 2015 the commission published its draft recommendations for the Further Electoral Review (FER) of Hampshire County Council. In summary, the recommendations are, that:

- ❖ **Copythorne North would transfer to Totton North and**
- ❖ **Copythorne South would become part of the enlarged Lyndhurst and Fordingbridge division.**

These are final draft recommendations to feed into the Further Electoral Review proposals for Hampshire. The final stage of the consultation ends on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and final recommendations will be made on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

We believe this to be a significant issue for the future identity of the Parish community in terms of its place within the responsibilities of the County Council Members. Therefore, we are concerned for the outcome and will be making further representations. We are also keen for members of the community to make individual representations to help reinforce the case for our community to remain ‘whole’ for the purposes of the electoral boundaries.

Copies of all the review reports as well as the feedback form for your representations can be accessed at:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/5188>

Or you can go to the feedback area via a Hampshire County Council link at:

[www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/hampshire/hampshire-county-council](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/hampshire/hampshire-county-council)

***Remember, the final stage of consultation ends on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016.  
Please have your say.***

## Copythorne Affordable Housing Proposals

A matter of considerable interest to many in our community is the potential proposal for the development of Affordable Housing within the Parish. It is important to note that this is still at a very preliminary stage centred on options appraisal and refinement, with a variety of groups involved, including the National Park Authority (NFNPA), The New Forest District Council (NFDC), Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH), Hyde Housing and of course, Copythorne Parish Council (CPC) itself.

The process of the identification of locations and development for potential proposals has been on the agenda since as far back as 2012, but with more recent work since 2014 and has included a number of different activities concerning potential sites, and backed up with feedback questionnaires / reports and meetings, sponsored by the Parish Council.

### **Copythorne Affordable Housing Proposals – continued**

At the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 meeting of the Parish Council, quite a number of community members attended to hear the debate the Council had planned about progress on the issue and also to present some of their views in the open public section of the meeting. The discussion and representations reinforced the significance with which the community views this issue.

Some of those representations made by attendees at the meeting included significant perceived concerns that both the process of investigation and the evaluation of potential sites has not been as transparent as it could have been and that communications on the progress of developments have been limited. Given how significant this particular issue continues to be for the community, and also to ensure that everyone is able to be as informed as possible, the Parish Council has stated it is committed to ensuring that the process will, as far as is possible and practicable, be subject to a very clear and well communicated forward plan of events and consultation opportunities.

To that end, specific items / activities have been proposed in the process for as wide as possible information flow and community interaction:

1. A full chronology of the activity in respect of the Parish Council and work with the various agencies will be created to ensure a complete audit trail of events to date. This will be published as a detailed item on the Parish website in the beginning of the new year and also made available at any future meetings / events, and
2. A full programme for the next stage of proposed events and activities will be published at the start of the new year and is summarised below:-
  - ❖ That a drop in exhibition event will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Copythorne Parish Hall. Officers from the various authorities will be present to answer questions but no feedback will be sought at this stage.
  - ❖ 6 to 8 weeks after the exhibition event, the Parish Council will host a Community Forum Meeting in the main Parish Hall. Officers representing the various authorities and the Parish Council will be present. Residents will be able to ask questions and discuss matters. 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.
  - ❖ 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 the best way to proceed, taking into account the feedback, comments and representations made. *(The date of the Parish Council meeting at which the discussion will take place will be established once this timeline is formalised, early in the new year, and copies of the feedback report will be made available on the Parish website as well as being available in selected locations as a hard copy).*

It should be noted that the above plan was set out in a verbal resolution to the Parish Council at the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015. It is now being written up as a final draft of a formal resolution for discussion and decision at the next meeting of the Council on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**The drop in event at the Parish Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 is scheduled to start at 3.30 p.m. and finish at 9.00 p.m. so, please make a note in your diary!**

## **Parish Council meetings**

The Council meets on the second and 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:

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|--|----------|
| ❖ Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2016  | Planning |
| ❖ Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2016  | Council  |
| ❖ Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2016  | Planning |
| ❖ Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2016 | Council  |

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

**Riverside House, Riverside Gardens, Romsey, SO51 8HN.**

Telephone and fax: **01794 511379;**

E-mail: [copythornepc@btinternet.com](mailto:copythornepc@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.copythorne.org.uk](http://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 at:

[http://www.copythorne.org.uk/your\\_council/content/Members\\_of\\_the\\_Council.html](http://www.copythorne.org.uk/your_council/content/Members_of_the_Council.html)  
and on community notice boards.