



COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2017

In this issue: Community Speed Watch ; Affordable Housing – discussions and resolutions at the Parish Council meeting on 24th January 2017 and the Copythorne Play Area

The Parish Council Newsletter

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

Community Speed Watch – A Further Update

Following our article in the January Newsletter, we have now received volunteer offers from members of our community to get a scheme under way. This is great news and we hope to begin planning with them for training and induction to the equipment and process for undertaking the Speed Watch, in the near future. The number of volunteers is sufficient to establish one 'team' and we hope they'll be operational soon.

Ideally, we hope to have two teams in place, so as to spread the workload. Therefore, we have included this subject, again, in this Newsletter to encourage some more people to offer help.

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 which is 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, who, after analysis, can send letters out to "offenders". Continual repeat offenders are prosecuted by the Police.

If you are interested, then please could you make contact with the Clerk to the Council, Margaret Weston (details at the end of the Newsletter), to register your interest.

Affordable Housing – Update and Notice of Re-Run of the Public Consultation Event

Parish Councillors received a report from the Council's Affordable Housing Working Group (AHWG), together with Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH), and English Rural Housing Association (ERHA), concerning the re-start of the public consultation on whether or not to develop Affordable Housing in the Parish. It should be noted that any development of Affordable Housing would need to be in accord with the principles agreed by the Parish Council back in October 2014. These principles can be found on the Affordable Housing section of the Parish Council web site (www.copythorne.org.uk).

Parishioners will recall that a public event was held in January 2016 to show the sites under consideration and explain how criteria were applied to whittle down sites to 'possibles'. A Total of 9 sites were identified. However, the consultation stopped as a result of potential Government legislative change.

We are now re-starting the process. As a result of further investigation, there are now three possible sites remaining and the report to the Parish Council requested approval for the consultation process to take place. Agreement was secured and a new Public Event will take place at the:

Parish Hall, on Thursday 30th March between 16.00 and 20.00

At the event, forms will be available for community feedback – we hope that as many people as possible attending can complete a form at the time. However, forms will also be available for a further 5 weeks on the Parish Council web site, which can be submitted on line or in hard copy. A specific set of pages have been set up on the web site where all information regarding this project can be found, via the index on the home page - www.copythorne.org.uk

A report will then be submitted to the Parish Council in June, summarising feedback and as a result, recommending whether or not to proceed with more detailed work on any possible scheme.

Copythorne Play Area – Your Support Needed

Work by the Friends of Copythorne Playground (FOCP), now progresses apace following the approval of the Parish Council to manage the scheme once it is in place and the agreement of the Parish Hall Committee to the allocation of a location on the Parish Hall site. The FOCP is now fully focussed on getting the Charity set up and all the usual banking arrangements in place, to receive what we hope will be many donations. The target for the equipment manufacture, purchase and installation, is £50,000.00.

The Friends Group is looking for help in a variety of ways – you may wish to make a donation or a regular contribution; or, you might want to undertake a fund raising activity yourself or organise a fund raising event.

Whatever you offer, we are sure that the Friends Group would be very pleased to hear from you

On behalf of the Group, The Parish Council is urging Parishioners to help in any way they can with fund raising – £50,000.00 is a large target to reach! Some early contributions are already coming in, including some very helpful grants from District and County Councillors, but there's a long way to go! So, please help if you can. For details, see the FOCP web site at www.focp.uk.

Parish Council Meetings

The Council meets on the fourth Tuesday 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 28 th February 2017	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 28 th March 2017	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 14 th March 2017	Annual Parish Meeting – <i>note time at 7.30 p.m.</i>
Tuesday 25 th April 2017	Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 23 rd May 2017	Full Council Annual General 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.