



## **COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL** **NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2017**

**In this issue:** Community Speed Watch – Plans for Starting up the Scheme; Countryside Alliance Awards 2017 Nominations, Local Public Rights of Way and The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project.

### ***The Parish Council Newsletter***

Welcome to the November 2017 edition Parish Council Newsletter. An enlarged version of the Newsletter will also be available on the Council's website early in November. In addition, paper copies will be available from the Bartley Post Office and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.

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### ***Community Speed Watch – Plans for Starting Up the Scheme***

As regular readers of the Newsletter will know, the Parish Council has been seeking volunteers to help staff a Community Speed Watch (CSW) scheme in the Parish for some time. The Parish Council already has a third share in the equipment with two other Parish Councils, so, once we have a team in place we can proceed swiftly.

Local Police have advised that curbing excessive vehicle speed has now become a significant priority in the New Forest area as a whole. Recent data from schemes elsewhere in the Forest indicate that this is a major issue, with many vehicles being logged as speeding in very short spaces of time on several local roads.

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that we now have a total of 5 volunteers which is sufficient to get the scheme under way plus our local Police Community Support Officer, (PCSO), Richard Williams, will be supporting us logistically as well as being an additional member of the team. However, we would still welcome offers from more volunteers to enable us to spread the workload and cover more locations. To that end, we would be pleased to hear from you and now the CSW Coordinators have established a dedicated email address: [cke8163@gmail.com](mailto:cke8163@gmail.com) or you can contact them via the Parish Council telephone number: **01590 681228**. The scheme goes 'live' on **4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**.

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### ***Countryside Alliance Awards 2017 – Nominations***

The Countryside Alliance has announced its Awards programme for 2017. The Countryside Alliance is a member organisation dedicated to the promotion and protection of the rural economy, environment and services, with many campaigns operating ranging across wildlife and management, food and farming, local services and new issues such as improvement to broadband and mobile telecommunications. The Alliance also operates as a lobby to central government on rural issues. You can find out more by visiting their web site – see web address later in this article. The Awards are in various categories: Local Food and Drink, Village Shop or Post Office, Butcher, Rural Enterprise and last but not least, Pub.

At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October, the Parish Council voted to support a nomination for Four Ways Bartley Post Office in the Post Office category, but the more nominations across categories we have locally, the better! If you'd like to nominate, you don't have long to do so as the nominations close on **13<sup>th</sup> November 2017**. Full details can be found on the Alliance web site at: [www.countryside-alliance.org](http://www.countryside-alliance.org).

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### ***Local Public Rights of Way – A Further Update***

As readers will know from the October Newsletter, we stated that the Parish Council would shortly be completing its annual survey of the paths and rights of way in the Parish. The last few reports have now been received and the Parish Council will now be submitting its report to the relevant officers at Hampshire County Council and the New Forest National Park.

### **Local Public Rights of Way – A Further Update (cont.)**

The complete report will shortly be available on the Parish Council website for reference, along with, as mentioned in the August and October Parish Council Newsletters, maps of all the Rights of Way, numbered for ease of reference. Please do use our rights of way – they are a great leisure resource and we keep them clear through regular usage!

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### **The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project**

The *New Forest Non-Native Plants Project*, set up in 2009, helps landowners meet their responsibilities to stop the spread of invasive non-native plants, particularly along watercourses and in wetland habitats. The Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), through the New Forest 'Our Past, Our Future' Landscape Partnership Scheme, is hosted by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) and supported by a number of partner organisations.

The project is helping landowners in the Copythorne area stop the spread of two invasive non-native plants along the banks of the Cadnam River. These are **Himalayan Balsam** and **Japanese Knotweed** which are so invasive, they are included in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, making it is unlawful to plant them in the wild or otherwise cause them to grow in the wild.

**Himalayan Balsam:** Introduced in the early nineteenth century as an ornamental garden plant, it thrives in damp areas and has attractive pink flowers. However, when its seed pods ripen they 'explode', shooting the seeds up to a distance of 7 metres so it has 'jumped the garden fence' and spread into the wild where it can form dense colonies, out-competing our native wildflowers. Luckily it has short roots and is easy to pull up. Catherine Chatters of HIWWT has expressed her thanks to the many volunteers who help her work along the Cadnam River during the summer to pull up the Balsam before its seed pods ripen. Good progress is being made and she will soon be planning next summer's work groups.

**Japanese Knotweed:** Introduced as a garden plant during the Victorian era, it can become highly invasive due to its extensive rhizome system and is notorious for causing structural damage and being a major problem in the countryside. With HLF funding, HIWWT has commissioned professional contractors to control the Japanese knotweed growing on seventeen properties along the banks of the Cadnam River, using a herbicide which is approved for use near water. Further herbicide treatment along the Cadnam River will continue during 2018 and 2019.

If you would like to find out more about invasive non-native plants, please see the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat's website [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org) where you can download factsheets and photographs to help identify Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and many other invasive non-native species.

If anyone would like to volunteer to pull Himalayan Balsam next summer, please contact Catherine Chatters at [Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk) or call her on **07770 923315**.

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### **Date of Next Meeting:**

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall annexe.

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The **Clerk to the Council, Susan Brayley**, can be contacted by email at [clerk@copythorne.org.uk](mailto:clerk@copythorne.org.uk) or by post at: Spinaway, Wootton Road, Tiptoe, Lyminster, SO41 6FU, Please also note we now have a new telephone number - **01590 681228**. Website: [www.copythorne.org.uk](http://www.copythorne.org.uk). Details of individual Parish Councillors, and information on District and County Councillors, can also be found on the Parish Website and on community notice boards.