



## COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 2017

**In this issue:** Riparian Responsibilities – Autumn: Making Sure We Are Ready for Winter Storms; Keeping our Roads in Good Shape; Update on Local Rights of Way – Inspections Undertaken by the Parish Council and Community Speed Watch

### *The Parish Council Newsletter*

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

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### *Autumn: Making Sure We Are Ready For Winter Storms – Riparian Responsibilities*

As many of our parishioners will know, Copythorne Parish has a number of areas subject to flood risk. Within the Parish significant flooding has occurred, damaging property and land, caused, in some cases, by poorly maintained watercourses. Autumn is the time of year when we need to check on the state of the drainage network in our Parish.

The Parish Council is, therefore, urging all riparian owners, (those who have responsibility for watercourses on or bordering their properties), in the Parish, to check all watercourses for which they have a responsibility and where they are clogged or blocked, undertake any necessary clearance works. Any areas of concern should be reported to HCC and copied to the Parish Clerk.

Official Met Office long term weather forecasts suggest that in the UK there is a likelihood that we will experience up to 6 major storms in the period leading up to Christmas. All the more reason to ensure that locally, we have our watercourses in as good a condition as possible as at least one of them is bound to come our way.

If you are unsure of your riparian responsibilities, a copy of the Hampshire County Council leaflet "Flood Risk Management Guidance for Landowners" and the poster "Do you own land that has a watercourse or drainage ditch on or adjacent to it?" is available from the Clerk to the Council or can be viewed on the Parish Council or HCC's website in the 'Planning and Environment – Flooding' section - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding>

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### *Keeping Our Roads in Good Shape – Reporting Issues*

As with the Riparian responsibilities item above, autumn also begins the 'pothole season' as many of you will know. As soon as frosts begin and more water flows down our roads, damage occurring earlier in the year can cause the road surface to break up once the weather turns.

Hampshire County Council, HCC, has a well-established system for reporting issues with roads, operated via the Hampshire County Council web site. This site can be used to report not only potholes, but also other roadway issues such as street lighting problems, abandoned cars, salt bins missing or damaged, fly tipping and much more, using the 'Report a Problem' page, the link for which is:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>

The Parish Council is keen to encourage Parishioners to use this site to report any issues that they have identified. We are assured by HCC that anything going through the problem reporting system is logged and notified for action to the appropriate team.

So, if you identify an issue, do, please, fill out the on line form. You'll then get a reference number which you then share with as many people (including the Parish Council) as possible. Those people can then visit the website and using that number, 'click' on the reference to raise the problem's profile and get it fixed quicker!

Finally, we have been advised by HCC that those people who have used the 'Fix My Street' smartphone App to report problems, have found that the HCC response is slower than anticipated. HCC advises that this is because the App (which was designed for large city councils rather than rural County Councils) does not 'talk' directly to the County web site and therefore requires manual input by the administration teams to transfer it, whereas once something is logged on the HCC web site using the reporting system it automatically comes up on the HCC Highways Operatives portable tablets, so if they are in the area they can investigate straight away.

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

The Parish Council will shortly complete its annual survey of the paths and rights of way in the Parish and will then submit its report to the relevant officers at Hampshire County Council and the New Forest National Park. As a generalisation, most paths were in reasonable condition, but some were overgrown and/or partially blocked. However, several had lost their signage or the signs were broken. All this is included in the report and we hope that relevant action will be taken soon to remedy the problems.

Once complete and finalised, the report will be available on the Parish Council website for reference, along with, as mentioned in the August Parish Council Newsletter, maps of all the Rights of Way, numbered for ease of reference. The Parish Council urges Parishioners to make good use of our local Rights of Way. These are important local amenities accessible for all members of the community and greater use of our local Rights of Way helps maintain their function and also helps to keep undergrowth in check.

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### **Community Speed Watch**

A very brief note to ask again if there are any members of our community who would be willing to become one of the Copythorne area, 'Community Speed Watch' volunteers. The Parish Council is still looking into getting a scheme under way. It's not a huge commitment but a worthwhile cause, helping to make our community roads safer. Full training and support is provided.

If you are interested, the Parish Council Clerk (contact details below), would be pleased to hear from you!

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

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 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, Lymington, 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.