

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 8th JANUARY 2019

ITEM NO: 11 – PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS

This report addresses the issue of the long term management of the Parish Council Noticeboards

Introduction

The Parish Council owns 7 noticeboards: Newbridge Road, Ower opposite Vine Inn, outside St Mary's Church, Cadnam Old Post Office, opposite 4 Ways Store and Post Office, Copythorne Parish Hall and Winsor Road layby. At present, the noticeboards have a public accessible side and a Parish Council locked side. It has become apparent that they are not well-managed and this report sets out a way forward for the short to medium term in respect of their management. The report also requests an options paper for future consideration in respect of maintenance, repair and / or replacement, in the light of the policy if agreed.

Condition and Use of the Noticeboards

The Chairman (Cllr. Simon Lucas), has been making regular trips around the noticeboards to monitor their use and where appropriate tidy them up, remove old notices and remove the vast number of pins and staples which are evident.

The boards are often in a very untidy state, (the neatest is the one at Newbridge and the worst are at the 4 Ways crossroads and the Parish Hall) – posters and flyers are placed on them often without reference to what is there already and items are often left on the boards well after the event has passed. Items have been stapled to the legs of the boards and in one case, nailed. Also, on some boards, there is a large amount of business advertising being placed on what is essentially a resource for community advertising, which also detracts from the overall appearance.

What is clear, is that as a 'presentation' of a Parish Council provided service, it does not give the impression of a cared for environment.

What is also clear is that the community focus of the noticeboards is being impeded by commercial / business advertising and causing some of the untidiness / disarray. (It should be noted that there are facilities in both the Co-op and Post Office for commercial and other non-community notices as well as the separate community noticeboard along Winsor Road by the Parish Hall.)

Proposed Action

For the Short to Medium Term: It is proposed that, as of March 2019 the following policy applies

1. Only community notices are to be posted in the public section of the noticeboards.
2. No commercial or for-profit business notices / advertising will be permitted.
3. Posters must be a maximum of A5 size (14.8 x 21 centimetres) as space is limited.
4. Posters must be fixed using drawing pins only (no staples).
5. Posters must be placed for up to 4 weeks only.
6. Posters will be managed by the Parish Council on a weekly basis to check the above policy requirements are being followed. Noticeboards will be assigned to individual Councillors to look after, (the Chairman will continue to maintain the Parish Council side of the noticeboards). This

will include removal of any items which are not in line with the policy and tidying up, where appropriate redundant / time-expired notices exist and the removal of old fastenings.

Note: If approved at the meeting, the change to this policy will be promoted in the next Parish Council Newsletter and in Stanley's Own as well as via a notice to be placed on top of each noticeboard.

Long-Term: It is clear that some of our noticeboards are becoming time-expired / requiring some major maintenance and / or repairs. It is also clear that while the above policy, if approved, can be managed on a weekly basis by the Parish Council in the short to medium-term, this is probably not sustainable in the long term. Any repair / improvement / replacement of a noticeboard should be undertaken in such a way to allow for the long term sustainability of the policy with minimal intervention, i.e. more secure areas for community notices which are both protected from the elements. At present, the boards do not fully protect the items displayed on them in the 'open' side. Posters and flyers are often quickly badly damaged by rain. In addition, there is significant condensation build up in the Parish Council side, affecting the preservation of the notices contained within it.

To that end, in the light of the policy, if agreed, it is clear that we need a full Options Appraisal to be undertaken on the future maintenance, repair or replacement of the noticeboards to a) ensure the policy can be made to work with minimal intervention, b) ensure the sustainability of the noticeboards into the future with minimal maintenance, and c) secure a good environmental appearance of the noticeboards.

Recommendations

That the Parish Council endorses the Short to Medium Term Policy outlined above for introduction from January 2019, including the monitoring of noticeboards by Parish Councillors on a weekly basis.

That the Parish Council requests a full Options Appraisal Report on the future maintenance, repair or replacement of the noticeboards, setting out costs and sustainability as identified in the report and future ability of the Parish Council to manage the noticeboards with minimal intervention. This report to be brought to the February 2019 meeting of the Parish Council.

Simon Lucas

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