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The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the April 2019 edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. This two page version of the Newsletter is available on the Council's website. Paper copies of this version are also available from the Bartley Post Office, Woodington Feeds and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.

Annual Parish Meeting – Another Successful Event

A large number of community members attended the Annual Parish Meeting (APM), on the 26th March at the Parish Hall. This year's theme was **'Celebrating success in Our Community During the Past Year'** and introduced a consultation process on a potential **'5 Year Local Plan'** for the Parish to help guide the work of the **Parish Council** in developments for our community. We were joined by District Cllr's Diane Andrews and Derek Tipp who gave us very interesting reports on the work of the **District Council**. The meeting is hosted by the Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr. Simon Lucas, who gave a report on the work of the **Parish Council** over the past year, and a brief update on the **local flooding report** was also given by Cllr. John Goodwin. The main focus was, of course, on **celebration of local activity**.

The **Annual Parish Award** was, this year, given to **Holly Green and Laurie Gibbs** for their perseverance in starting the process to raise funds for the development of our wonderful new **children's playground** at the Parish Hall, now in place for 9 months. **Well done and huge thanks to Holly and Laurie for all the hard work!**

There were many presentations from a wide variety of groups and organisations which demonstrated the work that **so many people undertake on a voluntary basis for our community** – some of whom we know little about! These are all successful activities which collectively help to keep our community safe, secure and with good services.



We heard about:

Copythorne First Responders from **Mr. Geoff Thomas**. First Responders are local teams of fully trained volunteers (5 people in Copythorne) overseen by the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). With an individual requirement to assist for just 20 hours a month, their primary role is to attend people who are having a medical emergency, such as an heart attack, where an ambulance has been called. The team can get to the location ahead of the ambulance to provide initial care and help to both the patient and their family. Volunteers are always needed and age is no barrier! Interested in becoming a First Responder? Contact Geoff on: geoff.thomas360@googlemail.com



Methodist Church Hall - 'Soup and Chat' from **Ms. Francois Barrett**. Soup and Chat is run by Cadnam Methodist Church. Formed two years ago, its aim is to reach out to people who might be lonely, alone or who just like to come along and enjoy some good soup and company. Open from 12.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month, visitors are only asked for a donation as there is no 'fee'. Any surplus collected goes to charity. Françoise extended a warm invitation to all to come along to sample good soup and chat. If you'd like to know more or offer to help, she can be reached on françoiseybarrett@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch from **Mr. Mike Hutton**. Copythorne Parish is home to several neighbourhood watch teams. They are all volunteers and although not sponsored in any way by the police they do have a very good relationship with them. Being a member of a neighbourhood watch scheme is beneficial for providing a great service to the local community, but as a bonus, receiving discounts on household insurance and security features. Key issues at the moment are **shed and outbuilding burglaries of tools and bicycles**. Mike asked that anyone wishing to become a member of a local scheme, contact the national website for details. <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/> or email: michael.f.hutton@gmail.com



PCSO Richard Williams could not attend the APM, but Mike Hutton passed on his report to the meeting. Key issues in his report were: **burglaries** (30 have occurred in the last year, mostly sheds and other buildings), **theft** (from cars on driveways, in car parks or on the side of the road are targeted so keep all valuable items hidden) and **bicycles** (an increasing

cont. overleaf

issue, so keep them inside if possible). **Fraud** – there are particular concerns about the increase in victims of fraud/scams, particularly those targeted at lone, vulnerable elderly people. Richard would like the public to inform him of anyone they think might be a potential victim. Any questions can be emailed to Richard at: richard.williams@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Copythorne Playground from **Martin Lander, Holly Green and Laurie Gibbs on behalf of the Friends of Copythorne Playground (FOCP)**. In just 2 years FOCP was responsible for driving the process to raise the funds to deliver our wonderful children's playground at the Parish Hall. The playground, now under the responsibility of the Parish Council, is **9 months old** and it is providing a welcome meeting place for children and parents to meet, relax, have fun and chat to each other. A testament to how well regarded the playground is in the Parish is that there has been **no vandalism or graffiti** to date and it is enjoyed by a wide age range of children. Evidence suggests that usage of the playground has **significantly exceeded** original expectations. **Thanks from all of us to FOCP!**



Community Speed Watch – The Chairman presented the CSW report. The team continue to regularly monitor traffic speed throughout the Parish on 30 mph roads. In 2018 they monitored a total of **18,000** vehicles and **2,280** police letters were sent out to owners of speeding vehicles (above 34 mph). The highest recorded speed this year was **77 mph!** So far in 2019, they have monitored **5,300** vehicles, with **565** police letters sent. Speedwatch can now monitor 40 mph roads and more volunteers are needed. This is a great service to our community. If you'd like to help make our Parish roads safer, contact: cke8163@gmail.com

Parish Hall Developments from **Mr. Mike Lashmar, Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee**. The Parish Hall Committee is working on improvement development of the Parish Hall, which is now 50 years old and is recognised as requiring some upgrades to facilities. It began as a wish to create an extension to the front of the building. But after a community open event last year, **attended by over 150 people and with 70 responses to consultation**, the current plans were not supported. Although upgrades to facilities (toilets / kitchen) would be welcome, a re think of what might be the best way forward is under way. A lot of ideas were expressed about the future for the Hall, including community facilities, such as a community café and hub, but with a focus also on what is already happening and works well. A sub-committee has been formed to undertake the investigation of how to proceed and it is currently doing a lot of research and developing a Business Plan for discussion by the main Committee. **It is hoped to have any new plans in place for consultation at the 50 Year celebrations for the Parish Hall in 2020-2021.**



The evening closed with a presentation by the **Parish Council Chairman** on a proposed **5 Year Local Plan for Copythorne**. The Chairman explained why a 5 Year Local Plan was needed and how it might work to enable far better medium to long term planning by the Parish Council in developing **community Assets, Activities and Services** and the prudent use of public funds raised through the Precept. He stressed that this was a 'Copythorne Plan' and depended on feedback of ideas from the community. This was the start of a community engagement exercise to raise awareness and seek ideas from the community on what should be the Plan's priorities. This is a **perfect time to create a Plan** as a newly elected Parish Council will be in place in May. This is a step forward for Copythorne, enabling a focus on prioritising developments by the Parish Council itself and working with other groups. The consultation will run until August 2019 and you can make your comments via the **web site: www.copythorne.org.uk** where a set of documents will be posted shortly, including a feedback form. You can also respond via email to parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk. **Have Your Say – All ideas and suggestions are welcomed!**

Our thanks to all our presenters and community attendees. A very interesting evening!!

Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting: The next two Parish Council meetings will take place on **Tuesday 9th April 2019** and **Tuesday 14th May** (the Parish Council Annual Meeting and start of the newly elected Parish Council) **both at 7.00 p.m. Parish Hall Annexe.**

*The Locum Clerk to the Council, Christine Lowe, can be contacted by post at: **Ketchingtons, Hyde, Hampshire, SP6 2QB** or by telephone: **01425 656010** or by email at: parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk; website: www.copythorne.org.uk. Details of individual Parish Councillors and information on District and County Councillors, can be found on the Parish Council Website and on community notice boards.*