

**In this issue:** Your Parish Council Needs You! – Co-Option of a New Parish Councillor; Community Speed Watch Update, and a Parish Council Discussion Forum on Affordable Housing

### **The Parish Council Newsletter**

Welcome to the August 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 Bartley Post Office, Woodington Feeds and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.

### **Your Parish Council Needs You!**



Following the elections in May, Copythorne Parish Council has **an empty seat at our Council table!** We really want to make sure that we have full representation for our whole community and to do that we need a full complement of Councillors!

The first stage in the process to achieve full representation was a call for any petition by members of the community to request a by-election, which closed in July 2019 and for which, no petitions were made.

Therefore, we are now moving to a **Parish Councillor Co-Option.**

The Parish Council is requesting any interested members of our community to give their names to the Parish Clerk for consideration by the Parish Council at its next meeting on September 10th.

### **But why would you want to be a Parish Councillor?**

There are many reasons, for example:

- making a real contribution to the community in which you live and helping the community to respond to change;
- helping the community deal with issues such as Planning Applications;
- advising / developing on new developments for the community to enjoy and from which all will benefit – for example the development of a Local 5 Year Plan for the Parish to set out areas where improvements need to be made to the local environment, services and assets;
- ensuring the local community voice is heard at District and County Council levels on any of their proposals, and
- dealing with local issues or acting as a bridge with the relevant bodies to get jobs done.

and many more areas of activity.....

It's **enjoyable and fulfilling.** The Parish Council meets once a month with the extra Annual Parish Meeting as an additional event. We also have a number of advisory committees on which members serve covering a range of topics – all designed to aid the smooth running of the Parish Council and helping to really make a difference to our community.

If you'd like to know more or are interested in applying, please contact the Parish Clerk on:

**02381 120150** or by email at

**parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk**

**Applications close on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019.**

If you would like to help us to help our community in Copythorne, **we'd really love to hear from you!!**

### **Community Speed Watch Update**

Every quarter we publish an update report from our dedicated and hard working **Community Speed Watch Team** (CSW) volunteers who go out in all weathers to monitor traffic speed around our local roads.

Readers will know that up until the Spring of this year, the SCW team could only monitor traffic speeds on 30 mph limit roads. However, they can now also monitor traffic on **40mph roads** which mean that they can have an even higher presence in our community, as so many of our roads are 40 mph zones.

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### **Community Speed Watch Update (cont.)**

Their current report covers the period from the beginning of the year to the end of June.

In this period they have:

- monitored a total of **9553 vehicles**;
- recorded the highest speed in a 30 mph limit at **61mph!**

Anyone driving at 50 mph or more in a 30mph speed limit can expect a visit from the Police. Other 'offenders' get a Police letter to educate them about their driving. A total of **944 letters** were sent out to those drivers. **60.4% of drivers were travelling at 31 mph or more** in the 30mph zone.

In 40mph zone monitoring, by St Mary's Church on the A31 they had a total of **425 vehicles** pass their location in the space of **1.5 hours** during rush hour - **only 17 vehicles were speeding** with the worst offender travelling at 53mph. **So good news there!**

If you have concerns about speeding traffic and wish to have a discussion about your area, please do visit one of the Police Beat Surgeries that PCSO Richard Williams and his colleagues run. All information is contained in **The Beat Report** available on the Parish Council website. You can email Richard at [richard.williams@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:richard.williams@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) or phone him on **07554 775469**.

The CSW Team are looking for more volunteers to help with this enormously significant contribution to road safety in our community – so if you can spare at least 1½ hours a month, they'd like to hear from you via **Richard Williams**.

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### **Affordable Housing – A Parish Council Discussion Forum**

As a result of some possible recent **Affordable Housing proposals** which could affect our community in Copythorne, the Parish Council will need to be clear on its view of any possible development which may be proposed.

Many Parishioners will know that **Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH)**, along with **English Rural Housing Association (ERHA)**, made a presentation to the Parish Council in February about a possible development in the Parish. However, they have stated that they need the Parish Council endorsement to move onto the next stage of any scheme development. The Parish Council is very aware that:

- its **criteria for any possible Affordable Housing development** in the Parish were developed in 2013/14 and now need to be reviewed as they may be out of date and
- it is a **newly formed Parish Council** since the May elections and should revisit its views.

Therefore, to ensure that the Parish Council is as contemporarily effective as possible in any decision regarding any scheme, it has decided to undertake a **Forum Discussion**, which will be **open to the public to attend**, to examine the criteria and any issues which it feels need to be discussed before **formal consideration** of the Parish Council's position at its full meeting on **8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**.

**The Forum Discussion will take place at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August in the Annexe Meeting Room at the Parish Hall.**

It's important to note that this Forum Discussion will **not be a formally constituted meeting of the Parish Council** and will **not be a discussion about any scheme or proposal**. The issues addressed will centre on the review of the criteria the Parish Council set for any Affordable Housing development in the Parish and the current position the Parish Council might wish to adopt in respect of agreeing to feasibility work on any possible scheme in the Parish in the near future.

**If you'd like to attend we'd be very happy to see you.**

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**Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting:** The next two Parish Council meetings will take place on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019** and **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October**, both at **7.00 p.m. Parish Hall Annexe**.

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*The Clerk to the Council, David Rigby, can be contacted by post at: **9, The Cleaves, West Totton, Southampton, SO40 8WL** or by telephone: **02381120150** or by email at: [parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk); 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 Council Website and on community notice boards.*