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The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the December 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.



Firstly The Parish Council would like extend its very best wishes to all members of our community for a **very happy and enjoyable Christmas** and a **prosperous New Year!**



Review of Our New Forest Electoral Boundaries – A Reminder

The **Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)** will be undertaking the review, as is always the case for this type of activity.

Readers will know from the major item in our November issue, that New Forest District Council (NFDC), have announced a major review of the electoral boundaries in the New Forest District

The **Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)** will be undertaking the review, as is always the case for this type of activity.

This is a very important consultation as it affects how our District Council will look into the future – certainly for the next 20 years at least! More information is available on the Parish Council website at www.copythorne.org.uk including an extract from the last review where it referred to Copythorne. All documents are available on the LGBCE website at: www.lgbce.org.uk



As Parishioners will know, Copythorne Parish is divided into two Wards – North and South. We are one of three 'anomalies' in the NFDC area where the Parish is split (North and South) in ward terms to align with the District Council wards. The recasting of District Council Ward boundaries may generate ward changes within NFDC for Copythorne.

Therefore, while this review is not about Parish Council boundaries, we could easily be affected by it, so it's important we respond. The **LGBCE** has made it clear that it's not so much about the **volume** of responses, but their **quality** in terms of the criteria set out in the consultation documentation, which is clearly set out in the consultation package on the web site.

The consultation is now 'live' and the programme for consultation and reporting is shown overleaf.

The results of the consultation will be used as the basis for the **Local Government Elections in 2023**.

Consultation timetable:

1. Consultation on Warding Patterns (what should the NFDC electoral ward boundaries look like):
26th November 2019 to 3rd February 2020
2. Consultation on draft recommendations (a document published by the LGBCE for review):
31st March 2020 to 8th June 2020
3. Final recommendations (the documents which form the basis of the 'legal change'):
Published August 2020
Order Made Late 2020

To access the consultation pack (from 26th November) and to make a submission, go to: consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Cont. overleaf

Review of Our New Forest Electoral Boundaries – A Reminder – cont.

Or you can email your comments to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Or, if you prefer 'snail-mail', you can write to: **Review Officer (New Forest), 1st Floor, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0TL**

The LGBCE wants your views! The consultation is very important and is designed to ensure that the very best resolution to the review is found. Have your say!!

5 Year Local Parish Council Plan – Projects Under Way!

Projects are now either under way or about to get under way, arising from our 5 Year Local Parish Plan – (as stated in the November edition of the Newsletter, we're still keen to hear from you with any ideas, too!).

Telephone Boxes – The project to refurbish the telephone boxes which have been adopted by the Parish Council, as information hubs is now making excellent progress. Parishioners may well have noticed the freshly painted box in **Winsor Road**. The information boards are now being fitted and new 'Information' signs installed. In addition, we plan to fit new lighting inside the box. There are 2 other boxes to refurbish in **Pound Lane** and **Newbridge Road**, plus, the Parish Council has made BT aware that it could also take on responsibility for the telephone box in Bartley – **New Inn Road** – once BT has made a decision on its status.



Parish Benches - Following Parish Council approval at the last meeting, we plan to start work on the refurbishment / replacement of four benches this year (2019-2020): 2 in the **Parish Hall grounds** (new benches), the bench at the junction of **Pollards Moor Road and Romsey Road**, (refurbishment) and the bench outside the **White Hart**. In addition, at top of **New Inn Road** a special, new, commemorative bench will be placed, of which more in a later issue.

Village Signs – We are still on the case with finalising this project, which was approved at the last Parish Council meeting, and will provide an update in a near future edition of the Newsletter.

Brian Hole

It is with great sadness that we learned, just as we were finalising the Newsletter, that Brian Hole had passed away in hospital. Many of you will know that Brian had been unwell for some time, having been in hospital on a number of occasions over the past few years.

Brian and Jo Hole have been stalwart figures in our community for many, many years, running the local Post Office and Fourways Stores. Many of us will recall, until only relatively recently, seeing Brian out very early in the morning delivering newspapers in his van and also engaging in lively local chats in the Post Office.

Our thoughts, considerable appreciation and sympathies go to Jo and the family at this time of significant sadness.

Thank you Brian, for everything you did for us.



Brian and Jo receiving the Annual Parish Award for their service to the Community in 2018

Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting: The next two Parish Council meetings will take place on **Tuesday 10th December and Tuesday 14th January – 2020, both at 7.00 p.m. Parish Hall Annexe.**

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; website: 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.