

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH 2020

Item 4. County and District Councillors Reports

County Cllr. Edwards Heron

No written report received

District Cllr. Diane Andrews

Councillors grants increased to £1,000 for this year only.

COVID-19 Recovery Task & Finish Groups covered many subjects from Finance to Community. The success of the collaboration between all our charities and volunteer groups was so impressive that it has been decided to continue for the foreseeable future.

Three of the NFDC's Customer Services offices (Appletree Court, Lymington and New Milton) have been opened for visitors who are unable to use computer access. Each reception has been set up with COVID-19 safety in mind. There are also Skype enabled computers available for those wishing to have one to one discussion with NFDC Officers. Five other desks have been opened by Towns and Parishes. Ringwood, Fordingbridge, Totton and Fawley.

All five NFDC Health and Leisure Centres are open including for swimming.

It seems that we are as busy as ever with the NFDC Cabinet meeting on September 2nd; NFDC Council on September 7th; Safer New Forest on Monday and Community and Leisure Panel on Tuesday. The Domestic Abuse Forum this morning confirmed that there had been a rise of 55 offences compared with the same time last year

District Cllr. Derek Tipp

The NFDC's Consultee response to the NFDC Ward Boundary Review was due to be considered and hopefully approved by the NFDC Cabinet at its meeting on September 2nd. The new ward for this area is to be called Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne and Netley Marsh and will be represented by two councillors who will be elected at the next elections in 2023. The number of NFDC councillors will be 48, a drop of 12 on the existing numbers.

With both the NFDC and NPA have recently adopted their 20 year Local Plans, residents might think that we would now be able to relax thinking that we would have certainty regarding such things as housing sites and numbers. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Planning policy is constantly changing and our 20 year plans are subject to review at least every five years. It looks increasingly likely that our housing numbers will be increased as the revised method of assessing housing need would result in a 40% increase in this area. A paper due to be presented to the NFDC Cabinet at its meeting on September 2nd suggests that building sites which have been rejected could need to be reconsidered.

District Cllr. Joe Reilly

No written report received.