

In this issue: COVID-19 Update Message from the Parish Council; 'Flu Jabs; Riparian Responsibilities; NFDC Draft Waste Strategy Consultation & Reporting Local Environment Issues

The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the December 2020 edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. This two page version of the Newsletter is available on the Council's website. **Printed copies** will be available from our usual outlets at Forest Pharmacy; Fourways Stores; Budgen and Woodington Feeds. We will be making regular Newsletter updates to be found on our **web site** and our **Facebook** pages – type in **Copythorne Parish Council** on Facebook to get to our pages.

An Update Message from the Parish Council to All Our Parishioners – COVID-19 SECOND LOCKDOWN AND FUTURE 'TIER' ARRANGEMENTS

Following the Prime Minister's recent announcement, the **second Lockdown** will, at the time of publication, be finished, but all of England will move to COVID-19 restrictions based on '**Local Tiers**'. For **Hampshire** (including Southampton and Portsmouth) the new **Tier Two (High Alert)** regulations will apply. What this means for residents of the Parish can be found by clicking on this link: www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know.

Until **December 2nd 2020** we must continue to follow the revised Lockdown rules in respect of all aspects of our daily lives. So, please continue to remain extra vigilant and don't forget to **keep an eye out for neighbours** who may be more vulnerable or need help – especially as winter draws in!

But, as we all have heard, **vaccines are almost ready**, which is a fantastic achievement by our scientific communities! Maybe we can now see **light at the end of the long tunnel** we've been in!

The Parish Council continues to provide status **updates on our website and Facebook pages**.

The next Parish Council meeting on **8th December** will again be held **virtually via videoconferencing**. If you have an issue you'd like raised under the '**Public Session**' agenda item, please contact the Clerk; details below.

The Parish Council continues to express our **sincerest wishes** to you all, that you can:

Be Careful! - Be Safe! - Be Well!



...and in addition, while the Christmas holiday period looks like it will be challenging for all of us in terms of family and friend gatherings

The Parish Council genuinely hopes that you can have an enjoyable Christmas break, despite all the limits and pressures the restrictions bring! **Let's hope that 2021 brings better fortunes for us all**



'Flu Jabs – Reminder and More Opportunities



A reminder and an update about free 'flu jabs.

Up to now, these were available **free to the over 65s**. However, as a result of a **recent Government decision, anyone over 50**, irrespective of health status, can now get a free 'flu jab!

'Flu Jabs can be obtained through local **GP surgeries** or **local pharmacies** including the Forest Pharmacy. All are by appointment. Some GP surgeries are doing 'flu jabs in off-site facilities, so check first!

Riparian Responsibilities – a Reminder

Following our article in last month's Newsletter, a brief reminder to everyone about **Riparian Responsibilities**. At this time of year, it's really important that we keep any ditches and culverts on or bordering our land as clear as possible. Leaf fall and other organic debris can cause real flooding issues if left. The Parish Council Flooding Advisory Committee has done a lot of work on this and more information can be found at <https://www.copythorne.org.uk/flooding/>. Flooding is a significant issue for the Parish.



Together we can work to mitigate the issues!

New Forest District Council Draft Waste Strategy – Development and Consultation

NFDC is embarking on the development of a **new waste strategy** which will set the systems in place for the future changes necessary to improve waste recycling and separation in our area.

The Government's new waste strategy **published in 2018** set the parameters for the better management of household waste and development of far more recycling and reduction in landfill. NFDC, along with all local authorities, is working on measures to improve local rates of recycling and waste management – **some local authorities are already well down the track in developing their new systems.**

NFDC approved a **Draft Waste Strategy** at the Council Cabinet meeting on 4th November and the draft strategy is now the subject of a local consultation.

The headline preferred option for future waste collection currently identified by NFDC includes

- **a separate weekly food waste collection**
- **alternate weekly collections of general waste and recycling**
- **the use of wheeled bins**

The Parish Council considered a report about the Draft Waste Strategy at its meeting on 10th November where a number of issues were discussed, including that there were many unanswered questions in the current document. As a result, the Parish Council approved a motion to **submit a number of questions to NFDC about the Strategy** and also **passed a motion stating that:**

'We welcome the chance to be consulted on the NFDC proposals and accept the need to improve recycling rates but reject the notion that wheelie bins enhance our community. We would wish to continue recycling using bags.'

(The Parish Council report can be seen on our website in the **'Meetings'** section and includes a full list of the questions asked of NFDC.)

Clearly, this is an important consultation and we would urge members of the community to respond individually if they wish – **the more responses the better the data** NFDC have on which to base their final strategy! The consultation with supporting documents and an on-line response form can be found at: www.newforest.gov.uk/article/1636/Waste-and-recycling-strategy-

The consultation is open now and closes on 10th December 2020. Have your say!

Reporting Problems in our Parish – Self-Help Works!

The Parish Council often gets calls and emails from members of our community about problems to do with **roads, footways, trees and hedges, drainage and other similar issues.** When we receive reports, the mechanism we have to report them to Hampshire County Council (HCC) is **exactly the same** as the one which members of the community have access to. Indeed, reporting to the Parish Council can often cause a delay in bringing the issue to the attention of HCC!

The Parish Council encourages members of the community to make their own report to the relevant HCC website section (see below), where you will be given a report number and can track the progress of your report. **It's the official system and is our main means of reporting!** If, after time has passed, no action has occurred, then by all means let the Council know via the Clerk, providing the report number, and we can follow up with our local County Councillor on your behalf.

Go to: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems to report your issue.

Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting: The next two Parish Council meetings will take place on **Tuesday 8th December 2020 and Tuesday 14th January 2021, both at 7.00 p.m.** and at the time of writing, are both planned to take place via video conferencing. Contact the Clerk for more information on access to the meeting.

The **Clerk to the Council, David Rigby**, can be contacted by post at: **9, The Cleeves, 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.

