

In this issue: A Message from the Parish Council and a welcome to 2021; Census 2021 – initial information; Vaccinations – COVID-19 and Flu; 2021 Copythorne Parish Council – full list of meeting dates.

The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the January 2021 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.



A Warm Welcome to 2021!

It's been a very tough 2020 for everyone. Let's hope that 2021 is full of good news regarding our way out of the Covid-19 crisis!

In keeping with previous recent issues, the Parish Council would like to express our sincerest wishes that all of you **stay safe and well** as the country continues to experience the threats posed by the Coronavirus (**COVID-19**). The ever-changing situation with the **Tier System** and the ever-changing guidance governing the way we lead our lives continues to emphasise that while we are looking at the possibility of **mass-vaccination programmes being rolled out soon**, we are still highly constrained in what we can do.

But, even with all this, the **Parish Council would like to wish everyone a happy and 'good' 2021**. It really has to be better than 2020 and hopefully we will see more vaccines coming into approval for general use and the programmes being expanded to take in more and more of us so we can **get back to some sense of 'normal'!**

But we're not there yet. So please take extra care, everyone and remember to keep an eye out for those **neighbours** who are **vulnerable and / or alone** who still need our help and care!

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

The next Parish Council meeting on **12th January 2021** 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.

So everyone: Please Continue to Be Careful! - Be Safe! - Be Well!

2021 is the year we all get counted again!.....

Yes, it really doesn't seem that long ago that we did the last one, but 2021 is the year of the next national census! And there are quite a few changes happening in the Census process this time.



What is the Census? The National Census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives the **Office for National Statistics (ONS)** the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in **England and Wales** (Scotland and N. Ireland have a separate Census process). The census asks questions about you, your household and your home to help the government build a detailed snapshot of our society and the information gathered helps the government and local authorities to plan and fund local services, such as education, transport, healthcare, roads and much more!

All Census **information is anonymised** and the actual records are kept secure for 100 years!



So what is different this year? The Census 2021 will be the first one to be conducted digitally. It will be easy to do and can be done on any device. All information on how this will work will be published by the Office for National Statistics.

Continued overleaf

2021 is the year we all get counted again!..... (cont.)

What if I can't access the on-line census? Of course, the ONS recognises that not everyone will be able to access the on-line systems, but help will be available. Census Support Centres will be established throughout England and Wales providing access systems, advice and help. Obviously, we don't know where they'll be at the moment, but New Forest District Council (NFDC) will be maintaining updated information on its web site and the Parish Council will also keep the community updated via the web site and this Newsletter.

What happens if I don't want to be 'counted'? Participation in the census is, in fact, **compulsory** and it is an offence not to complete a form. However, many questions within the census are voluntary and there is no penalty if you don't want to respond to those.

So, when does this happen? The census takes place on **Sunday 21st March 2021**, but there will be a lot of census related activity throughout March and April.

How do I find out more? There is a growing amount of information on: www.onc.gov.uk/census and NFDC now has a dedicated web page for the census on its website at: www.newforest.gov.uk/article/1724/

Vaccinations – COVID-19 and 'Flu



At the time of writing, we are still awaiting information about the **roll out of COVID-19 vaccinations** in our local area once the main programme gets under way. Local GP surgeries and pharmacies, including The Forest Pharmacy expect to be organising venues for the programme to take place.

We will update information on this as soon as we know. However, just to remind everyone that **Flu' vaccinations** are still taking place and that **anyone over 50** can now get free flu' jabs either via their GP surgery or local Pharmacy.

Copythorne Parish Council – 2021 meeting dates

The following are the provisional dates for **Parish Council meetings in 2021**:

Tuesday 12th January	-	Next Full Council Meeting
Tuesday 9 th February	-	Full Council
Tuesday 9 th March	-	Full Council
Tuesday 23 rd March	-	<i>PROVISIONAL DATE Annual parish Meeting</i>
Tuesday 13 th April	-	Full Council
Tuesday 11 th May	-	Annual Meeting (First Meeting of the Council Year)
Tuesday 8 th June	-	Full Council
Tuesday 13 th July	-	Full Council
August	-	<i>No meeting</i>
Tuesday 14 th September	-	Full Council
Tuesday 12 th October	-	Full Council
Tuesday 9 th November	-	Full Council
Tuesday 14 th December	-	Full Council

The dates will also be on the Parish Council web site. Meetings are normally held in the **Rear Extension of Copythorne Parish Hall**, commencing promptly at **7pm**. However, currently, due to COVID-19, they are being held by **Zoom video conferencing**.

Members of the public are very welcome to attend. Public participation sessions are Item 3 on the agenda.

Agendas for the meetings will be posted on the Parish website (www.copythorne.org.uk) and local notice boards at least three working days prior to the meeting.

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.