



COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2021

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The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the April 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 Message from the Parish Council to all our Community

As ever, the Parish Council continues to send good wishes to all members of our community and express our sincerest wishes that all of you **stay safe and well** while we remain under restrictions.

However, the new **'road map' for England from central Government** continues to progress towards the (much hoped for) unwinding of restrictions as the infection and death rates continue to fall and our fantastically effective vaccination programme continues to roll forward with stunning progress – **thanks very much to the continued hard work of the NHS!**



The Government is still requiring extreme caution and full adherence to the lockdown rules and in the light of potential new variants is clear there should be no relaxation of the 4 steps in the **road map** unless **4 criteria** are met:

- **continually successful vaccination programme; on target**
- **continual reduction in hospitalisations and death rates**
- **no risk of a surge in infections, and**
- **any new variant does not affect the risks**

The prize is there, but it's all to play for! So please take extra care, everyone and remember to continue 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 **13th April 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.

It's hopefully not long to go now, just this final stretch so let's all play our part and ...

Everyone: Please Continue to Be Careful! - Be Safe! - Be Well!

Local Elections 2021 – They are Definitely Happening!

Local Elections postponed from 2020 are confirmed to take place this year. The elections in our area are for:

- **Hampshire County Councillors and**
- **Police and Crime Commissioners**

The elections will take place on **Thursday 6th May 2021**

The election authorities have confirmed that the polling stations themselves and all the materials used within them will be made **fully Covid Secure**. If you vote in person, you'll have to **bring your own pencil** to mark the ballot; booths will be **socially distanced**; full **people management** will be in place to prevent close contact; **compulsory mask wearing** for voters and staff will be required and **regular cleaning of polling booths** will take place.



Poll cards are being issued now and will **state clearly where your polling station will be** and it might be different to the one you usually access, although we can confirm that for the electors in Copythorne Parish, the use of the Parish Hall will not change.

If you're not already registered to vote, the deadline to do so is midnight on the **19th April** – see the NFDC website – details below

Local Elections 2021 – They are Definitely Happening! (cont.)

Should you feel uncomfortable about attending in person to vote or can't due to illness or the need to self-isolate, then you can register for a **postal vote** or some of you may have an '**absent voting arrangement**' (a proxy vote). The deadline for applying for a postal vote or changing your absent vote arrangements is: **5 p.m. on Tuesday 20th April**. The form for a postal vote and information about proxy voting registration and changes as well as all necessary information about when votes should be returned and processed can also be found there:

www.newforest.gov.uk/votepost#postal

The Poll is open from **7 a.m. until 10 p.m. Thursday 6th May**.

Annual Parish Award 2021- the Winner is Announced!

It's the time of the year to announce the **2021 recipient of the Annual Parish Award**. This would normally take place at the **Annual Parish Meeting (APM)**, held in March. However, as with last year, the pandemic restrictions mean that the meeting cannot take place as planned – (but see the next item regarding what might happen....).

There were 4 nominees shortlisted for the 2021 Award:

- **Natasha Beatty** for her outstanding efforts to create and run COVID food supply support
- **Sunny and Daisy Saini** for their hard work for our community in the local pharmacy, and
- **Eve and Dave Warren** for their work as Parish Pickers
- **Stuart Bullen-Jarvis** for his leadership of the Parish Pickers



Unfortunately, there can only be one winner and after a comprehensive vote at the Parish Council meeting on 9th March **we are extremely pleased** to announce the winner as..... **Natasha Beatty** for her work on COVID food supply support – **Congratulations to Natasha**. But also congratulations to all on our shortlist! **Well done to everyone!**

More information about the presentation ceremony will follow in a later edition.

Copythorne Annual Parish Meeting (APM) 2021

The Parish Council is currently looking at what options might exist **for an APM or similar meeting to take place in 2021**. The APM was cancelled last year, and we are conscious that there are many items including the potential development of a **Parish Design Statement (PDS)** – see previous Newsletters for information about this – and the **Parish Hall Development** plans, to name but two, which were due on the last agenda. We will be discussing the options at the next meeting of the Parish Council and will update the community via our web site, Newsletter and noticeboards as soon as we have a proposed way forward. **So, watch this space!**

Parish Path Clearing Heroes!

Many of you will have already seen the **stunning transformation of the pathway on Southampton Road** from St. Brelade (east of the Bartley Crossroads) down as far as Nursery Cottage. This is all down to the sterling efforts of **Eve and Dave Warren** who have spent ages undertaking this mammoth task - a shining example of local residents, by their own actions, making a real difference to our community.

Well done Eve and Dave – the community salutes you for the effort you have made!!



The next Parish Council Meetings are on **13th April and 14th May 2021** (Note that 4th May is a week earlier than usual in the month and is the 'Annual Parish Council Meeting' and there are no public items on the agenda) and unless notified differently, will be held by **Zoom video conferencing**. Members of the public are very welcome to attend. Public participation sessions are Item 3 on the agenda. Please let the Clerk know if you wish to attend.

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.