

Copythorne Parish Council Meeting – September 14th 2021

Item No 18 – Chairman’s report

Update on our Parish Phone Boxes

As most people will now know the Parish Council now has 4 ex BT telephone boxes which have all been converted into “Information Centres”. The Information Centres can be found in Newbridge Road, Newbridge; Winsor Road, Winsor; Pound Lane, Copythorne and New Inn Road, Bartley.

Inside the kiosk, on the back wall you will find, a brief history of the village the kiosk is in, a brief history of the “Jubilee Telephone” box, a map of Copythorne Parish, a list of useful local phone numbers and addresses. In the magazine rack you will see copies of the latest Copythorne Parish Newsletter and also copies of the most recent NFNPA Park Life magazine.

I was hoping that we had seen the last of the window smashing, but sadly another window was smashed in the Pound Lane kiosk recently!

Your Parish Council has recently bought another batch of the Polycarbonate Plastic windows. The aim being to eventually replace all the glass windows in the boxes with these new polycarbonate ones.

The New Mobile Telephone Mast at the junction of Southampton Road and Bourne Road

People may have noticed that a new mobile telephone mast has recently appeared at the junction of Southampton Road and Bourne Lane. It’s actually sited on the Netley Marsh side of the road, which is why Copythorne Parish Council wasn’t consulted about its erection. As it happens, it was subsequently confirmed that it didn’t need prior planning approval and was thus erected under permitted development rules. The new mast is within the National Park conservation area, but is not in a “Site of Special Scientific Interest”.

It is known that 5G frequencies do not travel as far as those currently in use by 3G/4G. So, in order to deliver a 5G service to this area, it was identified that there was an acute need for a new mast in this location. Apparently, the height of the mast has been kept to the absolute minimum required to provide the new coverage. You may also have noticed that the new mast is completely different from those we have become used to seeing around the area. This is because by its very nature 5G and the network services it provides, mean the equipment and antennas required to deliver it, have to be different to the existing mobile telephone masts.

The recent “Call for Sites” by New Forest District Council

In August 2021 the NFDC launched a “Call for Sites” as part of the second part of their “Local Plan” review. The Call for Sites is an opportunity for landowners, development interests and communities to suggest possible sites that may be suitable for development or for uses such as open space or nature recovery to help to make development sustainable.

For the Parish of Copythorne the “Call for Sites” by NFDC only relates to the small section of the Parish to the north of the A36, that is outside of the New Forest National Park boundary.

The “Call for Sites” will help NFDC to update its evidence base of potentially suitable and available land, both previously developed land and greenfield sites, for a range of possible uses. The National Planning Policy Framework requires Councils to maintain an up-to-date evidence base of potentially available land.

The closing date for site submissions to the “Call for Sites” is Friday 24th September 2021.

Update on the Feasibility Study into the possibility of a new Roundabout at Bartley Crossroads

Copythorne Parish Council is seeking to investigate ways to improve the safety of residents and other users of the Bartley (Haywain) crossroads on the A336 Southampton Road. Having already got support from our District Councillors, the Parish Council voted at its June meeting to approach our HCC County Councillor (Edward Heron) with a view to asking him to find out from HCC Highways, how much the initial road modelling and design of road improvement at Bartley Crossroads will likely cost. And then to use his best endeavours to obtain release of funding from the Local Pinch Point Funding (“LPPF”) allocated to HCC to get the study underway.

In response to the question of likely cost, Edward said *“that the cost of a study to assess a proposed scheme is not a fixed sum and would depend on a detailed specification. However, as an indication, I would expect a study for a large scale junction improvement in this location to cost in the region of £20-£25,000. This would include the cost of surveys, initial junction modelling and the mapping of underground services. Such a study would include an indicative junction layout but would not include any detailed design, which would normally come at a later stage. It would need to explore the range of options, not just a roundabout.”*

With regards to a question on LPPF, Edward said *“that while the Government did invite bids earlier in the year, they subsequently announced that the fund was to be superseded by the Levelling-Up fund. The LPPF is, therefore, no longer a funding option. Levelling-Up funding is directed to more towards deprived areas”.*

So, for the moment at least, because it’s dependant on obtaining the necessary funding, the call for a feasibility study at the Bartley Crossroads is unfortunately on hold.

Annual Parish Meeting Part 2

As most of you will be aware we held a very short Annual Parish Meeting (via Zoom) on May 5th 2021 and we said then, that once Covid 19 restrictions were lifted we would arrange for a Parish Meeting (APM Part 2, if you will) to be held in Copythorne Parish Hall. At the time we thought it probably wouldn't be possible to do it until the autumn.

Full details of what we expect to be able to cover at the meeting and the date will be announced shortly.

Parish Design Statement

One of the items that will be covered at the Parish Meeting (APM Part 2) will be to re-start the process of producing a Parish Design Statement ("PDS"). We've suggested that it's called a Parish Design Statement rather than a Village Design Statement, because our parish is made up of six villages. As some of you will recall, the production of a PDS was effectively stalled last year by Covid-19. Just to be clear the PDS will be a community lead process, rather than a Parish Council one.

The first part of this process will be to set up a "*Task Force*" made up of a representative of each of the 6 villages in the Parish (plus a member of the Parish Council). We will be calling for volunteers at the Parish Meeting.

Cllr. Graham Chillcott
30th August 2021