

Copythorne Parish Council Meeting – October 12th 2021

Item No 17 – Chairman’s report

Update on our Parish Phone Boxes

At the risk of repeating myself, as most people will now know by now, the Parish Council 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.

I have replaced pretty much all of the large panes in the Newbridge and New Inn Road kiosks. I’ve just started the process of replacing all the large panes in the Pound Lane and Winsor Road boxes with polycarbonate ones. These polycarbonate windows are very tough and much less likely to be broken than the original toughened glass.

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

I’ve been approached by several residents asking about the colour of the new 5G mast. It’s currently painted a light grey but when viewed from the road, it looks more like off white.

I recently asked the New Forest National Park Authority (“NFNPA”) about the colour, and they said that they had had a number of representations from members of the community about this. They have suggested to the “Applicant” that they might wish to contact Netley Marsh PC directly about the colour (Netley Marsh because the mast is in their Parish not ours). The NFNPA also confirmed to me that they would have no objection if it were to be re-painted green.

At the time of writing, I’m waiting to hear back from Netley Marsh PC about whether or not they have heard anything from the mast owner.

Parish Design Statement

I make no apology for repeating what I said last month about where we are with regard to the PDS.

One of the items that will be covered at the General 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 led 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 PC). We will be calling for volunteers at the General Parish Meeting. In the meantime, more information can be found on the PC website.

Cllr. Graham Chillcott
October 1st 2021