

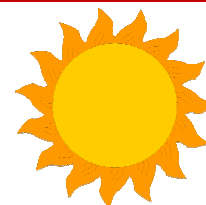
In this issue: What's been happening over the summer – Telephone Boxes, Benches, Bins, Paths and 'Parish Pickers' A Celebration!!

The Parish Council Newsletter

Welcome to the September 2019 edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. This two page version of the Newsletter is available on the Council's website. Paper copies of this version are also available from Bartley Post Office, Woodington Feeds and the Courtesy Filling Station shop, Romsey Road.

It's summertime, and the living is easy

(although, from experience earlier in August, the weather seems to take some time to catch up!



What's been happening over the summer?

As Parishioners will know, the Parish Council doesn't meet formally in August. However, this isn't to say that the work of the Parish Council stops in this period – **it's business as usual!!**

A number of activities have taken place which relate to both our statutory role in the community (Planning Applications still have to be reviewed), plus some work programmes are progressing:



Telephone Boxes: We are now starting the process for refurbishing the three telephone boxes we own around the Parish, as well as looking into the future of the box in New Inn Lane, presently operated by BT.

We are planning to turn the now vacant telephone boxes into sources of information for the community and visitors to the area by installing maps of the Parish which show local amenities and plans of our (significant) local pathways and public walks. We are also planning to refresh the paintwork and generally tidy the boxes up. We hope that the revitalised telephone boxes will become a very useful resource to the community and visitors alike.

We expect work on the boxes to take place over the next few months.

Benches and Bins: As many of you will have seen, several of our **benches** around the Parish are in need of some urgent TLC. Several of them are rotting and we have, unfortunately, had to take two of them out of use already.



As for the **Litter Bins**, over the summer we have been working with NFDC to



establish where all the bins are; what condition they are in; whether or not they are in the right places and do we need some more! We do suffer from discarded litter in specific places in the around the Parish and we want to try to limit the potential for that. A meeting with the **Streetscene Team at NFDC** and local District Councillor, Diane Andrews, took place in August to consider the issues and formulate any necessary plans to deal with them.

This work links to the marvellous efforts of the volunteer **Parish Pickers** who undertake a regular and intensive work programme to clear litter around the Parish.

See overleaf for a more in-depth article on the work of the 'Parish Pickers'!

Footpaths: Every year the Parish Council undertakes a survey of our local designated paths throughout the Parish. We have a total of **23 designated paths** in the Parish and keeping them clear and unobstructed for walkers to enjoy is quite a task.

The Parish Council's role is to monitor the paths and report issues (overgrown, missing finger posts, blocked etc.) to the team at Hampshire County Council for any (hoped for) remedial action. We have also, on occasion, asked the Lengthsman to assist in clearing paths where this is possible.



Cont. overleaf

Each Parish Councillor takes on the monitoring of a set number of paths and records where there are issues. The Parish Council Clerk then collates this information and it is passed to Hampshire County Council.

If you spot an issue with any of our paths, please report this on the **Hampshire County Council website 'Report a Problem'** section (www.hants.gov.uk) and also let the Parish Clerk know you have done so, so we can keep our records up to date.

Clearly, the best way to keep paths clear is to use them, so, why not explore the paths on offer. A pathway map is available on the Parish Council website!

The Parish Council is very keen to develop achievable projects to help improve our environment and the services, activities and assets for our community and these are current projects designed to do just that! To that end, and as you will know, we are creating a **5 Year Plan for the Parish**, which will include an identification of possible projects.



Watch this space for more information on all these activities!!

Parish Pickers – A Celebration!

Following a meeting at the Parish Hall, called in 2018 to discuss the potential for a '**Parish Picking Team**' to be formed as a result of the clear issue of litter around the Parish, a great response was received and the '**Parish Pickers**' formed in February 2019.

All volunteers, their aims are simple:

- Establish a local group to clean up our parish;
- To assist in development of other groups in other parishes;
- To engage with other groups to periodically Litter Pick The New Forest within and outside of our parish;
- To encourage all local residents and visitors to take more responsibility for our environment;
- To encourage more public understanding and responsibility for our rubbish and its responsible disposal



Sponsorship of £500.00 was obtained to help purchase the necessary kit, safety equipment and signage (nearer to £600.00 now!). Pickers are covered by Public and Employee Liability Insurance.

The group comprises 15+ regular volunteers and they operate on most weekends – you'll have seen them hard at work around the Parish. One or two volunteers who cannot operate at the weekends, litter-pick on weekdays. The group is assembling a website - **Parishpickers.co.uk** – to act as a hub for information, volunteer recruitment and contact.

To date, the Pickers have collected **146 large black bin bags**, just from our road sides (and a wide assortment of dumped paraphernalia including a cooker, fridge, wheels, tyres etc.) They work with NFDC and advise of discovered "fly tipping" (**8 serious tips** so far, including a number of full plastic 20 litre fuel containers and 20 litre paint drums in a running ditch!!) .

Litter is a first and direct indication of neglect and lack of civic pride and care and we all recognise that litter breeds litter. Evidence suggests that what automatically follows is graffiti, vandalism, dissociation, disaffection, etc.

We can all do our bit to help and build on the fantastic work of the 'Parish Pickers' by keeping our environment clean.

Well done to the 'Parish Pickers' and thanks for all their amazing efforts on our behalf!

Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting: The next two Parish Council meetings will take place on **Tuesday 10th September 2019** and **Tuesday 8th October**, both at 7.00 p.m. **Parish Hall Annexe.**

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.