

**Item 17 – Clerk’s Report**

**1. NFNPA and NFDC “Local Plan” Reviews**

There have been no further developments for either of these reviews. In both cases the Local Planning Authorities are reviewing the comments made in response to the public consultations on the scope of the reviews. More information and links to the relevant sections of the LPA websites can be found on the Parish Council’s website (<https://www.copythorne.org.uk/planning/>).

**2. Advisory Committees**

At the time of writing this report there have been no Advisory Committee meetings since my last report to Council on June 10th

I am aware of the following meetings scheduled (or likely to take place) in the next few months.

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Flooding AC               | July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2025       |
| Personnel & Governance AC | September 4 <sup>th</sup> 2025  |
| Finance AC                | September 11 <sup>th</sup> 2025 |
| Five Year Plan AC         | September 11 <sup>th</sup> 2025 |

Agenda, meeting notes & papers for all Advisory Committee meetings can be found on the following page of our website (<https://www.copythorne.org.uk/committees/>) in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee.

**3. August Planning Matters**

During August when the Parish Council doesn’t meet Planning Matters will be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 15 xvi, which reads as follows-

Any planning applications received after the publication of the July Council meeting agenda for which a Parish Response is required before the day after the holding of the September Council meeting shall be dealt with as follows:-

i). The Clerk will prepare and forward to all Councillors, by e-mail, details of any planning applications that meet the criteria detailed described in the above paragraph and request that Councillors provide, by e-mail a minimum of five working days later (“the required date”), comments as per Parish Briefing Note response guidelines.

ii). The Clerk will summarise those responses received by the required date & send that summary, by e-mail, to all councillors to obtain, subject to a quorum being obtained (three replies in total), agreement for a majority response (i.e. a 2-1 vote for a particular response would be sufficient) to the planning applications listed.

iii). The Clerk will then notify the Development Control Team at the NFNPA or NFDC (as appropriate) of the Parish Response(s) to the planning application(s) listed. *(Note:- The NFNPA or NFDC will then add these responses to the planning portals on their own publicly accessible websites)*

iv). The Clerk will ensure that the Council’s responses in iii) above are reported to the September Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

#### **4. Local Government Re-Organisation**

Hampshire County Council has issued details of its four suggested groupings for the New Unitary Authorities that will replace the existing Unitary, District and Borough Council in Hampshire. These unitary authorities will also take on some of the existing functions performed by Hampshire County Council and the three existing unitary authorities (these being Southampton; Portsmouth; and the Isle of Wight. Details from HCC can be found at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/governmentinhampshire/future-hampshire-solent/local-government-reorganisation>

New Forest District Council has itself issued details of three suggested groupings involving NFDC and has started a public consultation on them. Details can be found at:- <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/lgr>

Other groupings of existing second tier authorities are likely to do the same over coming weeks

#### **5. Councillor Drop In Sessions**

There was a good turnout for the last Drop In session on June 12<sup>th</sup> with a number of residents talking to representatives of Southern Water and Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks who have signed them up to their Priority Service Registers as well as providing helpful hints and tips. If you were unable to attend but would like details regarding the PSRs then please contact the Clerk via the usual methods.

Sessions has been arranged on Tuesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup>. All between 2-3pm at Copythorne Community Café.

#### **6. Flooding Matters Update**

HCC Highways Contractors have completed works in Shepherds Road and Chinham Road to lay new drains. We await with interest to see if they have resulted in improvements.

Investigations in Romsey Road have established the cause of surface water flooding and letters are being sent by HCC Highways to a number of properties regarding work that their owners need to undertake under their riparian responsibilities.

#### **7. Dog litter at and near to Forest Car Parks**

Concerns regarding the above have been raised with the Pariah Council in recent months. As a result, an article was included within the July Parish Council newsletter reminding people of the importance of picking up after their dog(s).

On June 25<sup>th</sup> 2025, as part of a multi-agency approach, Cllr. Wiggins and myself met (in the Forestry England car park next to Cadnam Cricket Club) with representatives of Forestry England; the NFNPA; Hampshire Police; New Forest Dog Owners Group; and Cadnam Cricket Club to talk about the growing problem of dog litter being left in (and near) to Forest car parks.

It was good to hear from a number of responsible dog owners out and about that they were aware of the Forestry England guidance (included within the New Forest Code) that dog waste should be taken home and not left in car parks or on the open forest.

Judging from a short walk around the forest near to the car park it was very clear that not all dog walkers follow the guidance which is important for human health and also for the health of the wildlife that lives on the forest.

Please do (or continue to do) your bit and clear up after your dog when walking it in the forest ("Bag it and Bin it").

#### **8. The return of the Splitwind Pond Bench**

I am delighted to report that on Wednesday of last week the refurbished bench was installed at Splitwind Pond. The wildlife carving by Bartley resident Peter Trodd (which forms the back of the bench) looks amazing.

In addition to Peter, thanks go to the following:-

Cllr. Sherri Johnstone (and her husband Adrian) for helping me with the final measurements.

Le Chateau for allowing us to park vehicles in their car park.

The Management of Paultons Park for allowing two members of their Maintenance Team to help with the fixing of the bench to the concrete plinth.



#### **9. Matters reported to HCC/NFDC**

Attached (as Appendix A) is a list of matters reported by the Clerk to HCC that remain outstanding. Also included are matters reported by councillors or residents who have then supplied the reference number to me.

**David Rigby**  
**Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council**  
**June 30th 2025**

**ISSUES REPORTED TO HCC/NFDC FAULT REPORTING WEBPAGE - ONGOING ENQUIRIES ONLY - (updated 30/6/25)**

| DATE REPORTED | REF. NUMBER | BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE RAISED                      | REPORTED BY | FIRST CHECK DUE | LAST CHECKED | LATEST COMMENTS                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/04/20      | 7061319     | Query condition of New Inn Rd (direct to Highways)     | David Rigby | 27/04/20        | 30/06/25     | 26/6 - E-mail sent to County Cllr. Lulu Bowerman, HCC Executive Member for Highways seeking her comments on the condition of the road surface and when resurfacing might take place. |
| 23/11/22      | 21631147    | Drain blocked near The Wilderness, Winsor Rd           | David Rigby | 30/11/22        | 30/06/25     | Works were undertaken in mid Jan 2025, results which won't be known until heavy rain happens are awaited with interest.                                                              |
| 20/03/25      | 21794661    | Blocked culvert issue in Pollards Moor Road            | David Rigby | 27/03/25        | 30/06/25     | 16/06/25 - Additional information provided to HCC Highways and enquiry re-opened.                                                                                                    |
| 28/05/25      | 21805354    | Vegetation over hanging road and ditch in Chinham Road | David Rigby | 02/06/25        | 30/06/25     | 25/6 – HCC Highways not responsible, passed to 3 <sup>rd</sup> party                                                                                                                 |

Number only = HCC

CS and Number = NFDC