

## **COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

### **Item 11 - To receive and approve a report on funding support for the CPRE Hampshire Hedge Project**

#### **BACKGROUND**

For the last few years, the Council has watched with interest the Hampshire Hedge Project being run by the Hampshire branch of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England). Ellie Banks, the Hampshire CPRE Hedgerow Officer has presented to both the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Hampshire Hedge is an ambitious initiative to connect the two National Parks in Hampshire, the South Downs National Park and the New Forest National Park, with a nature recovery corridor of hedgerow. It will wind its way through the central heart of Hampshire parishes and link woodlands, meadows, local nature reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Hedgerows play an enormously important role in boosting biodiversity, capturing carbon, improving food production and enhancing our rural economy.

The Parish of Copythorne, sitting in the North East Corner of the New Forest National Park, was chosen as the entry point of the “hedgerow corridor” and several locations within the Parish have had new hedgerows planted by a volunteer army of planters including myself and others connected to the Council.

#### **CURRENT POSITION**

The project is coming towards its end with some 50,000 hedgerow whips (small hedgerow trees, circa 0.5m tall) expected to have been planted by the time it ends.

The cost of planting 100metres of hedge (whips; stays; and bio-degradable sleeves) is around £1,000 which CPRE has been covering from donations to their Community Hedgerow Fund.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

To help CPRE stretch the hedgerow fund a bit further and in recognition of the significance of the Hampshire Hedge to Copythorne I would like to ask the Council to allocate the £250 for “Environmental Projects” that is held in the 2025/26 budget to the CPRE Hampshire Hedge Project.

**Cllr. Jackie Rhodes**

**Vice Chair, Copythorne Parish Council**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026**