

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Christmas 2020

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Christmas is a time that we all enjoy getting together with our families. This year will be different though as our celebrations will be curtailed somewhat by restrictions as to how many people we are allowed to invite into our homes. Other favourite activities may be cancelled – that visit to the pantomime, or taking the children to see Father Christmas.

Bearing this mind, the Council has decided to hold a Christmas lights competition, whereby we invite you to decorate your houses and be in with the chance to win a cash prize! Hopefully this will go some way to raising your festive spirits. See article below for full details.

On behalf of my fellow councillors, and Council staff, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and I hope that 2021 is a better year than 2020!

Elaine Anscomb, Chairman

WORTH PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council continues to meet virtually. You are very welcome to attend any of our meetings; contact the Clerk who will give you joining instructions. All agendas and minutes are on our website worth-pc.gov.uk.

The Parish Council Office itself remains closed to the public for the foreseeable future. Please contact the Clerk to make an appointment should you have to meet in person with a member of staff.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION

Now is your chance to decorate your house and light up your street to bring to some festive cheer to your friends and neighbours! Enter into our competition - the best house in the village will receive a cash prize of £50, with a runner up receiving £25. There is no entry fee, but you do have to fill in an entry form, so that the judges know where to go!

RIPERIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

Did you know that you are responsible for any water course that runs on or under your land? If adjacent to your land, you own up to the middle. A water course can be a stream or a river, or it might just be a ditch or culvert. You need to ensure that the water is free flowing and not blocked by any debris, and you should be careful that any chemicals that you use in your garden do not wash into and pollute the water.

The Parish Council has been working with WSCC, MSDC and the Environment Agency to provide flood modelling of the stream as it runs through the

COPTHORNE INSIGHT WORKING GROUP - YOUR VOICE IN THE VILLAGE

Welcome to this, our inaugural newsletter article. The Copthorne Insight Working Group (CIWG) is currently made up of five elected

Copthorne members of Worth Parish Council (WPC). We do invite residents to join the group, but as yet we do not have any non-Council

members. The group discusses the aims and aspirations for improving Copthorne village (there is a separate group looking at Crawley Down), reporting any findings and recommendations back to WPC. Our aim, together with local residents, is to improve the overall village experience and make Copthorne a safer and better place for us all to live and enjoy.

Over the coming months we will be working to tackle some of the issues residents find frustrating (even annoying!) and also look at Some residents have highlighted that the current state of streetlight repairs falls short of the expected standard, particularly where streetlights have fallen into disrepair or are inoperative. CIWG have agreed to investigate this and report back to the Parish Council.

Some background to this topic. The streetlights in Copthorne are currently managed by two separate entities. The older "inner" village residential areas are the responsibility of WPC whereas those on the outer (more recently developed) perimeter are the responsibility of West Sussex County Council. No matter who is ultimately responsible, the respective councils have a duty to ensure that street lighting is in full working order and meets the need for which they are intended.

If you wish to see an overview of who looks after which lights, go to the following web site and enter your postcode:

<http://www.lightsoninwestsussex.co.uk/Public/ReportFault.aspx>

Over the coming weeks each of the Parish Council streetlights around the village will be fitted with a label comprising a QR code and a unique Location ID. Using a smartphone to scan the QR code, residents will automatically be directed to a website where the location ID can be entered and faults reported. We rely on residents to provide this feedback as, by nature of the fact that streetlights only come on outside normal working hours, Parish Council staff cannot monitor their operation.

Parish Councillor Contact Details

To assist compliance with data protection, any email contact regarding Council matters, should be made via the email addresses listed below:

Crawley Down Ward

how we might best invest monies to improve the facilities and infrastructure that the village currently lacks or in some cases, desperately needs.

In each Newsletter we will report on a specific matter that has come to our attention and map out a plan we believe will best address that issue.

In this edition we will be outlining plans we have made and steps we are taking to address the matter of STREETLIGHTING.

We expect all the labels to be in place prior to Christmas and thereafter we will be monitoring the response to ensure the necessary maintenance is carried out to our satisfaction. Please take the time to check and report any defective streetlights in your own part of the village.

If you have any other comments or questions relating to our street lighting, please email one of the group members below with details.

In future newsletters we intend to tackle other issues frequently raised by residents. Anti-social behaviour, Security, Traffic, Parking and Speeding will all be topics for discussion and action in the coming months. Some projects can be implemented quickly by CIWG, others will require collaboration with outside agencies such as MSDC, WSCC etc and possibly require the approval of funding. Consequently, these will take a little longer to implement, so please bear with us.

If you have comments or suggestions you think worthy of discussion then we encourage all residents to contact any of the below WPC members. Also, once the COVID situation has subsided, we welcome villagers to volunteer and work alongside us on CIWG to help us develop and implement a common vision for a safer and more enjoyable place for us all to live.

Current CWIG members : Graham Casella, Tony Dorey, Andrew Dymond, Trevor Hodsdon and Bob King – contact details below

Elaine Anscomb	Elaine.anscomb@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 715213
Phillip Coote	Phillip.coote@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 713443
Alex Cruickshank	Alex.cruickshank@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 714328
Les Flanagan	Les.flanagan@worth-pc.gov.uk	07763 121124
Ian Gibson	Ian.gibson@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 716790
John Hitchcock	John.hitchcock@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 716831
Chris Mayor	Chris.mayor@worth-pc.gov.uk	07710 039277
Kerry Scott	Kerry.scott@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 712213
Roger Webb	Roger.webb@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 719029

Copthorne & Worth Ward

Graham Casella	Graham.casella@worth-pc.gov.uk	07710 019516
Tony Dorey	Tony.dorey@worth-pc.gov.uk	07802 359123
Andrew Dymond	Andrew.dymond@worth-pc.gov.uk	07834 486098
Trevor Hodsdon	Trevor.hodsdon@worth-pc.gov.uk	07771 810220
Bob King	Bob.king@worth-pc.gov.uk	07851 332918
Chris Larkin	Chris.larkin@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 714350
Eddie Lord	Eddie.lord@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 714905
Chris Phillips	Chris.phillips@worth-pc.gov.uk	01342 712668

Mid Sussex District Councillor Contact Details

Crawley Down & Turners Hill Ward

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Ian Gibson	Ian.gibson@midsussex.gov.uk	01342 716790
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Copthorne & Worth Ward

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Vacancy		

West Sussex County Councillor Contact Details

Imberdown Ward

Heidi Brunsdon	Heidi.brunsdon@westsussex.gov.uk	01342 327200
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Worth Forest Ward

Bill Acraman	Bill.acraman@westsussex.gov.uk	01444 400079
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Parish Council Officers

Clerk	Jennifer Nagy	clerk@worth-pc.gov.uk
Finance Officer	Ellen Smith	rfo@worth-pc.gov.uk
Assistant Clerk	Tracy Cruickshank	astclerk@worth-pc.gov.uk

Parish Offices

The Council Offices are currently CLOSED to the public.

**Worth Parish Council, First Floor, The Parish Hub, Borers Arms Rd, Copthorne, West Sussex, RH10 3ZQ
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