



From the Parish Council

It is now over six months since the initial lockdown due to Covid 19 started. Local groups were formed then and have developed in various ways since. A big thank you to all those who formed and joined these groups. That includes those who are on our formal lists and all those who did not necessarily join one of the formal groups but none the less have kept an eye on and helped their vulnerable

neighbours. Having seen restrictions slowly ease we opened our playgrounds, albeit with a profusion of notices, and at last put the goal posts back in place. It now looks likely that we may see the return of tighter restrictions again. If that happens our neighbourhood groups will need to be active once more and it is worth thinking how we might improve their working and build on our past experience.



The annual litter pick was a casualty of the lock down in March, but we manage to hold it at the end of September. Turnout as expected was reduced from our “Spring Cleans” of recent years but Martyr Worthy defied the trend with over twenty people taking part. A big thank you to

all who helped including those who may not have come on the day but none-the-less litter picked on their regular walks. Another achievement was the one hundred percent return of litter picking sticks and high viz vests; a first for several years. The quantity of litter collected was less than previous years but sadly it was also clear that there has been a marked increase in fly tipping. Bridgetts Lane was especially bad with more than could be fitted into an SUV with the back seats down. It is also clear that autumn is not the best time of year to hold this event; long grass makes the task much more difficult.

We are therefore planning to hold the next litter pick in spring 2021 if circumstances allow. A good bit of news

is that the water leak in Northington Road has finally been fixed. Thanks to all those who reported it - it would be interesting to know to which report they responded. There were certainly enough of them. As to the precise cause, or why it took so long to repair, is still unknown - it is just a relief that the work has at last been done.

As mentioned last month, there is a threat to remove the telephone from the box in Easton and potentially to remove all three boxes from Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy. Following our discussion at October's Full Council Meeting it was agreed to send an objection to removal of the telephone. With regard to keeping and looking after the boxes if the telephones are taken out, only one person has responded with a request to keep them and the Parish Council does not feel that it can justify the cost of taking them on and funding their upkeep.

Walkers at Cow Down or readers of the Hampshire Chronicle may have seen the notices announcing impending work on the trees, the river and SSSI in this area (see page 15). The details of what is going to be done when and how long it will take have not yet been made available. The Parish Council has requested the various parties involved to meet with us to provide more details. Once they are available we will put them on our website. It is hoped that in the long term and in keeping with both the aims of the South Downs

National Park and of Natural England that this beautiful part of the Valley will be enhanced and preserved for all to enjoy.

Patrick Appleby