

ES&BG News – January 2020

The first meeting of the Parish Council in 2020 took place at Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday 8th January. There were 3 members of the public present.

We are delighted to announce that one of the attendees came forward as a potential new Councillor. Paul Debenham is a resident in Bishops Green. Councillors were unanimous in their agreement that Paul would be a welcome addition to the council, and that it is very positive to have a representative from the north of the parish. Paul was warmly welcomed onto the council. There remains one vacancy so if anyone is interested in joining the council, they should email clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk.

The other two residents attending the meeting were there to highlight an issue which they have, sadly, seen consistently throughout the parish, and that is speeding. Residents have witnessed speeds in excess of 50mph within the 30mph zones which is clearly extremely dangerous and very antisocial. It is a menace for other road users, cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians alike. It is hoped a body of evidence can be gathered to identify any recurring culprits, which can be handed to the authorities. Residents are asked to try to note down numbers plates and makes/models of cars if they witness excessive speeding, and advise the Parish Council via the clerk on the email address above.

County Councillor Derek Mellor was present and advised a meeting about recycling would be taking place on 14th January. West Berkshire is also considering the on-going use of the Newtown Road recycling centre by Hampshire residents and it is likely a charge will be applied when the current system of permits expires in April. Hampshire recycling centres are accessed by an automatic vehicle recognition system, so residents should register their vehicles with Hampshire via the website www.hants.gov.uk.

Cllr Mellor also advised a consultation is taking place relating to libraries. It is designed to establish what people want from their libraries and how to make the systems more digital. Residents' input would be appreciated and the survey can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/090120librariesconsultation>.

Finally, it's early days yet but the pond clearance day has been set for Sunday 18th October. The Basingstoke Volunteers will be attending as usual with their invaluable help. Please put a note of the date in your diaries as volunteers are always greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting is at Bishops Green Village Hall on 12th February at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Sarah Jones - Clerk