

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council Newsletter April 2022

The parish council met again on the 13th of April in Bishops Green Village Hall. Cllr John Izett was present and informed us, regarding the Ukraine crisis, that there have been 58 sponsor applications in the borough. If you would like information on being a sponsor visit <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/Ukraine> to find out more.

Elections are forthcoming on the 5th May but, as we had fewer candidates than vacancies on the Parish Council, we were all duly elected beforehand with one vacancy. On this note if you have been wondering how you can make a difference to your community this is the perfect opportunity to join our friendly team. Contact clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk if interested.

There is lots going on in the parish in the next month. First up is the quiz night at Ecchinswell Village Hall on 7th May at 7.30 pm. Tickets available from Gill at gill.lock@btinternet.com or Clive on 07706 798294. It's sure to be a fun night and hopefully we will see a lot of you there.

The neighbourhood plan is coming on at a pace and you will soon receive a leaflet inviting you to take part in our next consultation. This will be taking place on the 26th, 27th and 28th May. You will be able to see our policy ideas drawn from your original input and consider potential development sites. We would love to see you there and hear your views on the future of our community.

The Queen has requested a green canopy to be planted in honour of her Diamond Jubilee. The parish council has already planted five saplings, kindly provided by Greenham Common Trust, and Ecchinswell Village Hall committee are hoping to plant a more mature tree as part of their jubilee celebrations in Ecchinswell. We would value residents' thoughts on whether the council should plant another tree and purchase a commemorative plaque for it. The plaques are being made by war veterans for this purpose. If a tree is planted, where do residents think it should be positioned? Please let the clerk know your views or you can comment on our Facebook page.

It has been brought to our attention that non allotment holders are using the gates servicing the allotments as a walk through and there is also some dumping of garden waste there. This is a polite reminder that access to the allotments is for allotment holder only. We do have a couple of plots available if you are interested in growing your own produce. Please contact the clerk.

Our next meeting is the AGM at 7pm on 11th May at Ecchinswell Village Hall followed by the Annual Assembly at 7.30pm. As well as the annual reports we will have a talk on our neighbourhood plan and a talk based on interviews with some long-time residents showing what the parish was like in the past. Refreshments will be served, providing an informal opportunity for you to meet your councillors and our speakers. It should be a very interesting evening and we hope to see many of you there.

Rachael Coward ESBG Parish Councillor