

## **Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Parish Council**

The last parish council meeting was held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February in Bishops Green Village Hall.

### **Neighbourhood Plan takes major step forward.**

The Parish Council formally accepted the revisions proposed by the External Examiner, which will now be incorporated into the text. This text will then be submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) for approval. It will be subject to a public referendum within the Parish; hopefully this will happen in the next few months. Importantly the revisions are few, and related to alignment of its policies with the law, such that the communities interests remain very much to the fore.

### **Government consultation on a revision to planning law.**

The Government is consulting on proposed changes to planning law which will strengthen the role of Neighbourhood Plans, limit the past advantages given to speculative developers, and emphasise the need to address local housing needs. The ESBG Parish Council discussed the detail of the proposals and will submit a timely response.

### **Rural Cost of Living Survey.**

This survey run by the Rural Services Network was brought to the attention of the Parish Council which in turn strongly recommends as many as possible in the Parish take about 5 minutes to fill in the detail; the survey does not require you to give your name or where you live. The closing date is 31st March 2023. [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural\\_Households\\_Cost-of-Living](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_Households_Cost-of-Living)

### **HGV limitation notices for the Ecchinswell Road.**

This is a long ongoing saga, but the Parish Council has been asking the Hampshire County Council, which is responsible for roads in our Parish, to get the length limit warning moved to the A339 road entrance, where such vehicles can turn around if necessary. This needs agreement by West Berkshire Council. Recently the small bridge in Ecchinswell was once again damaged by the movement of too long a vehicle.

### **Ecchinswell Litter - please can you help?**

The village's litter warden is unwell at this time and unable to work for a couple of months. It would be most helpful if all residents can keep an eye out for litter and pick up and bin any you see. Many thanks.

### **'The big help out' - Local communities encouraged to join in this Coronation event.**

Local residents are being encouraged to use the public holiday of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May to take the opportunity to undertake one or more projects to help support the community in some way. If you have any ideas do contact our Parish Council clerk ([clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk)).

### **Annual General Meeting.**

This will be on May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ecchinswell Village Hall. For now please put this date in your diary. More detail to come in the next month or so.

The next parish council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March in Ecchinswell Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

*Paul Debenham, Parish Councillor.*