

## **ES&BG Parish Council June 2021 newsletter**

The Parish Councillors met at the Bishops Green Village Hall, the first in-person meeting since March 2020. We were joined by our Borough Councillor John Izett and County Councillor Derek Mellor.

Councillor Izett announced that eight Community Safety Patrol Officers now operated in the Borough. Their role is to focus on anti-social behaviour to help people feel safer in their communities. The Parish Council will meet with our allocated Officer soon, but you can read more and contact the team via <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/cs-po-team>.

Local residents have asked how we could create more wildflower verges. We are reading up on other neighbourhood schemes to find out more, but if you like to collect and scatter seeds then make a start and in no time we'll have colourful and insect friendly roadsides.

You may have spotted notices about the children's logo competition to support our Neighbourhood Plan activities. We're looking forward to a show of the logos at our village halls on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June. The winning logo will be seen on all our neighbourhood planning material.

Next up is a photograph competition for residents of all ages. We need pictures of the area to show off our people and environment. Details on how to participate are available on parish noticeboards and via our website and Facebook page. The photos will be displayed at events in September - ages can be kept secret!

Thank you to those who completed the broadband survey on the parish website (<http://www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk/>) to let us know how you're faring. We will use anonymised data to understand the problems and inform a Hampshire initiative to improve speeds and resilience in rural areas.

Our new Speeding and Traffic Working Group has made great progress in gathering data and identifying ways to reduce problems on our roads. We have received recommendations from the team of residents and parish councillors and are exploring options to obtain a Speeding Indicator Device (SID) and request road markings. The Group was also of the opinion that road narrowing measures would be most effective, so that will be considered later if still necessary.

Are you a young person interested in politics or social science? Thinking of studying PPE at university? How about joining the Parish Council for a real experience of the first level in government? Whether you want to observe or take part or just let us know how we could do more for young people in the area, contact Rachael Coward, [cllrcoward.esbg@outlook.com](mailto:cllrcoward.esbg@outlook.com).

And great news that the popular Ecchinswell Village Hall coffee mornings should come back in July. Dates are yet to be confirmed but we're sure many are looking forward to a catch up over cake. We'll see you there!

Our next meeting is at Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm (which is one week earlier than our usual second week of the month meeting date). We look forward to seeing some of you there.

Cllr Elaine Kearney