

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green News – February 2017

Thank you once more to the residents who attended the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 8th February.

Borough councillor John Izett advised us that Basingstoke and Dean Council have invited companies to bid for the bin collection service within the district as the current contract is coming to an end. The council is duty bound to find ways to reduce costs and in this case, it means looking options for changing from a weekly to a bi-weekly collection (called “Alternate Weekly Collections” or AWC). The companies bidding for the service need to demonstrate that real cost savings can be made while still providing a viable service. We shall be keeping a watch on this and report back as we learn more. It was stressed that no decision has been made and any change wouldn’t come in until late in 2018.

In last month’s letter, we mentioned that have received an invite to participate in a commemoration and remembrance event for 100 years since the end of the first World War. There was much discussion on how our Parish could participate as there is no conveniently sited “high point” within the Parish. Places do exist but concerns about access and safety make them unrealistic. It was decided that the Parish Council will explore options to join up with a neighbouring parish. Alternatively, we could consider a having a more symbolic event. The council would love to hear from residents who may have new ideas or who would like to get involved.

The problem of litter around the Parish was raised as there are some particularly bad area for rubbish, especially in the verges and hedges. The Parish Council do undertake to have litter cleared but it is an endless battle. If you see areas of bad littering – or people disposing of litter from their vehicles - please let us know.

There is good news to report about Digweeds: The fallen trees have finally been removed so residents and visitors can enjoy the area once more. Our thanks to all who contributed to make this happen.

If anyone is interested in taking up an allotment in Ecchinswell now is the time to apply as a couple have become available.

Finally, we are pleased to report that the Memorial oak tree has now been planted and can be seen in the hedge-side in the car park of Ecchinswell Village Hall – we are very grateful to a resident who has donated money to have this tree planted.



Cllr Nick Owen