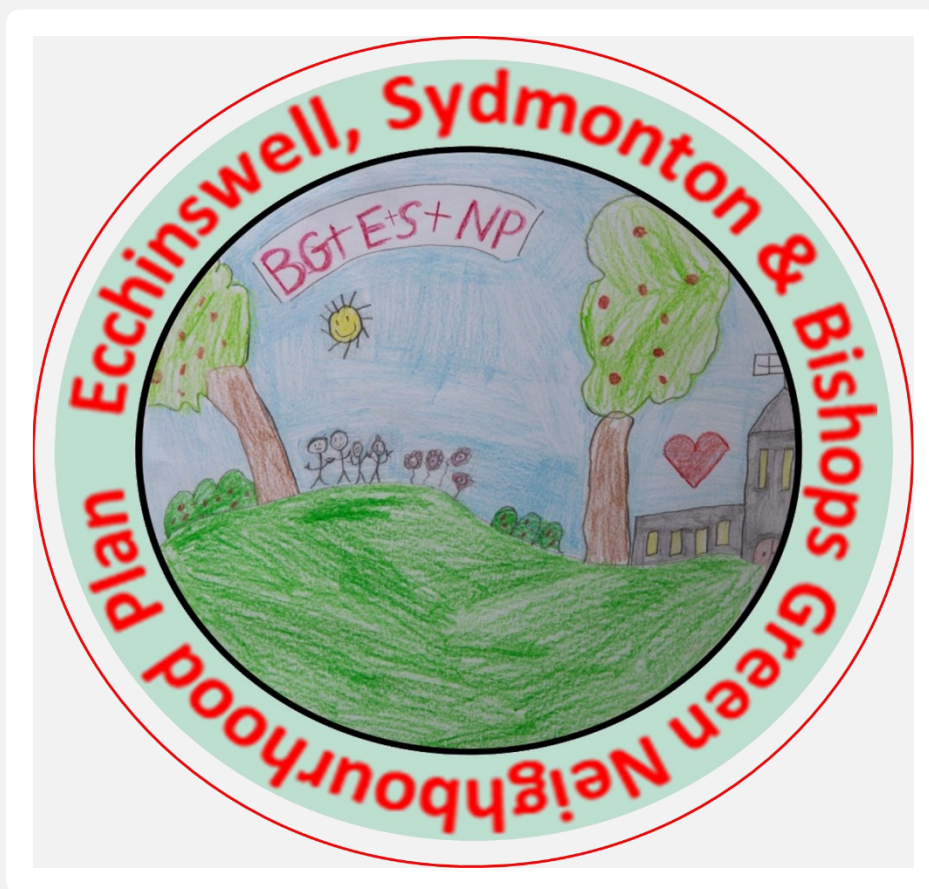


Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan (2021– 2039)

Your Plan is going to Referendum on
4th May 2023.

Your Vote Matters.

**N.B. You will need Photo ID for both the Local
Elections and the Referendum**



The purpose of this leaflet is to:

- inform you that the referendum is taking place,

This is the FINAL STEP that makes our plan go live

- remind you of the key elements of the plan,

What is the Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a formal record of how the local community sees the future of the parish of Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green up to 2039 in the context of National/Borough plans and policies. It is the result of extensive community consultation and has been developed for the Parish Council by a team of volunteers with support from statutory bodies and specialist advisors.

How have we got to this stage?

The ES&BG plan has been built on the basis of community consultations held in September 2021 and May 2022 followed by a “Pre-Submission” review of the draft plan that took place from late-Aug to early-Oct 2022.

Based on these consultation steps, the plan was finalised and submitted to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (B&D BC) last October. After a formal consultation with various official bodies, it has been reviewed by an independent examiner.

The examiner’s report issued in February says that: the plan gives a clear vision and a strong practical framework for development in the parish; it meets all the policy and legal requirements for a Neighbourhood Plan; and recommended that it should go to referendum. Basingstoke and Deane agreed the examiner’s recommendation on 7th March 2023 and decided that the referendum will take place alongside Local Elections on **4th May 2023**

Final Step

This referendum is the final step – if a majority of residents participating in the poll vote in favour then B&D BC will “adopt” the plan as “**the development plan**” for the parish and use it in all development decisions for the parish.

We hope that our various communication and consultation activities have made you familiar with the plan. As a reminder, this leaflet contains an overview of the key components. There is also a link to all the documents to enable review of all the detail.

The question will be “*Do you want Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?*”. You can answer Yes...or...No.

Don’t forget – you need Photo-ID for both the Local Elections AND the Referendum

Please note: the Parish Council is **not allowed** to ask you to vote one way or the other.

Overview of the ES&BG Neighbourhood Plan

This is the **essence of our plan**:

What we value:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Our rural setting,</i>➤ <i>Access to green spaces,</i>➤ <i>Our heritage assets.</i>
What we want to do:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Protect our rural environment & heritage assets,</i>➤ <i>Improve sustainability,</i>➤ <i>Improve biodiversity.</i>
Any more homes should be:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>In limited numbers based on modest local growth,</i>➤ <i>Affordable to buy,</i>➤ <i>In keeping with rural setting,</i>➤ <i>Providing more options for young families, the elderly & less mobile.</i>

The plan comprises:

- a **Vision** for the parish that puts flesh on the above
- a set of **Objectives** that will deliver the vision
- **17 “land-use policies”** that provide a framework for Planning decisions that ensure delivery of the vision and objectives alongside National and Borough policies
- A set of **policy maps** that illustrate geographically where the policies apply
- a number of projects and programmes that lie outside the scope of Planning decisions but are required to complete the vision.

All the plan documentation can be viewed on a dedicated B&D BC webpage here:
<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/esbgnp>.

The bulk of the plan is made up of the **17 land-use policies** and supporting evidence; these are summarised as follows:

1. **Settlement Boundaries** – a single core “built area” is defined for each of Bishops Green and Ecchinswell; the rest of the parish is “countryside” – different planning rules apply inside and outside the boundaries.
2. **Overall Housing Supply To Meet Local Needs** – this is the basic strategy – **“some but not a lot”** of extra housing to meet local growth – specifically:
3. **Housing in Bishops Green** – a plan for ~ 15 homes on a designated site in Bishops Green – and;
4. **Housing in Ecchinswell** – a plan for ~ 5 homes on a designated site in Ecchinswell.
5. **Design Quality in the Parish of Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green** – a set of “rules” for appearance and materials to preserve the rural feel of the parish.
6. **Design Quality in the Ecchinswell Conservation Area** – to reinforce our heritage.

7. **Community Engagement in Planning** – to encourage greater involvement in planning applications.
8. **Support For Rural Businesses & Workspace** – an enabler for new businesses provided they are suited and scaled to our rural parish.
9. **Support For Home Working** – facilitates change to homes as home working grows.
10. **Broadband & Mobile Communications** – stimulates/mandates improvement.
11. **Community Facilities** – supports existing and encourages new.
12. **Green Infrastructure Network & Nature Recovery** – sets direction for improvement with green corridors etc to protect/improve habitats etc.
13. **Valued Landscapes & Key Views** – secures and protects our highly valued rural environment.
14. **Local Green Spaces** – protects and enhances these important assets
15. **Dark Skies** – retains what we have – seeks improvement
16. **Zero Carbon Buildings** – encourages construction standards fit for the future
17. **Encouraging Active & Sustainable Travel** – seeks improvement to traffic management/parking/alternative modes etc – linked projects vital in this area

These Policies provide **guidrails and defences**. If the plan passes referendum the policies will be apply to all future planning decisions – the Parish Council and the community will need to promote the policies in response to all planning matters.

The plan also creates a comprehensive agenda for Local Infrastructure improvement that the Parish Council and residents will need to champion with relevant stakeholders.

A number of projects needed to deliver the overall vision and objectives are defined. These fall outside formal planning processes – but provide a clear agenda for the PC to champion with the community and relevant stakeholders.

For full detail, you can access all the plan documents here:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/esbgnp>.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Neighbourhood Plan Team at

n.plan.esba@gmail.com