

# Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan (2021– 2039) Progress Update – August 2022



Dear Resident,

The Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan team would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on the development of our Neighbourhood Plan. Many residents joined one of the three consultation sessions we held in late May where we presented the main building blocks for the plan and asked your opinion on the overall direction and also on a number of more detailed elements including potential sites for extra houses.

As we hope you have heard, the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive on the vision and objectives and attendees also gave strong support for all the core strategies and policies and a lot of useful input on the detailed points covered by the questionnaire.

During June and July, we have used all this feedback to draft the detailed plan documents and also to finalise the selection of sites for the limited amount of extra housing seen by the community as needed to meet local needs and growth over the plan period.

The basic direction for the plan remains as was fully endorsed in May.

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

We have now agreed a single settlement boundary for each of Bishops Green and Ecchinswell. We will move forward with policies that deliver “some but not a lot” of extra housing to meet local growth. Specifically the plan includes ~ 15 homes on the site BGI (land south of Rooksfield) in Bishops Green and ~ 5 homes on the site EX (part of Clere Livery Stables) in Ecchinswell. These sites were offered by the landowners in response to the “call for sites” process run by the Parish Council and the final selection was the result of a comprehensive process designed to get the best outcome for the community.

This drafting work is now nearing completion and we expect to be sharing the full plan documentation with residents from late August through September. This step is a “pre-submission consultation” and is intended to give residents the chance to make comments. In late August, we will send out details on how to access the plan – look out for a leaflet coming through your door. We hope many of you will find it convenient to read the documents on-line but we will also provide detail of some “drop-in” opportunities to read a paper copy. We look forward to your comments and support. If you have any questions, please email us at [n.plan.esbg@gmail.com](mailto:n.plan.esbg@gmail.com).

Marian Dain, Chair ES&BG Parish Council.