

ES& BG News – September 2019

September's PC meeting was held on Wed 11th at Bishops Green Village Hall.

We start with a well done to the younger crowd in Bishops Green. Our Borough Councillor John Izett expressed thanks to the 15 residents aged between 7 and 18 years who came to the BG Village Hall to help Basingstoke and Deane's Manydown project team gather ideas for the proposed new Country Park. Suggestions included a skate park, hotel and a football pitch. Cllr Izett also spoke about the Council's Brexit planning. If residents or rural businesses have concerns then seek advice on the BDBC website, or from the Citizens Advice Bureau and Chambers of Commerce.

The Village Hall at Bishops Green is another great venue for events and clubs. The new Trustees and Committee Members are working tirelessly to boost bookings and turn it into an important local amenity. If you work locally, why not recommend it as a very affordable option for meetings that also offers great facilities? Contact Lisa on 07920 100283 or secretary@bishopsgreen.org.uk.

The Village Volunteer Group are making marvellous improvements to the roadside area near to the school that was overgrown with nettles and weeds. Hard work went into preparing and surfacing the plot and soon you will see planters for herbs and plants. The PC is grateful to everyone involved, especially those providing materials for free.

Please mark your diaries for the annual pond-clearance, this year on Sunday 13th October from 10.30am. There will be plenty of work for all ages and abilities, not everyone will end up in the pond! This year, we particularly welcome families who can help plant lots of new bulbs on the perimeter. Come along and meet more of your neighbours whilst enjoying the catering generously provided by our parishioners.

Our Clerk is chasing for updates on repairs around the Parish, including the road bridge behind the Royal Oak and the footbridge at Digweeds. No dates yet unfortunately. We're pleased to hear though that work on the dangerous culvert on Cow House Lane is now complete.

At each meeting we talk about Rights of Way. We are very keen to hear your suggestions for any improvements to footpaths that would improve access for those with mobility issues. There are Rural Community Fund grants available for work such as boardwalks, steps, resurfacing or replacing stiles with gates.

We're delighted to welcome Mark Stamp as our latest ES&BG Councillor. Mark is new to the Parish but already known to many and we're particularly delighted as he brings IT skills we have been desperately seeking. There are still two vacancies so if you have a skills to offer, get in touch with the Clerk: clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk.

And finally, our heartfelt thanks and warm regards to Mike Sparrow who has retired from the PC after over 2 years of service. Mike has been our expert eyes and ears on rural housing and transport issues and we already miss his humour and candour. Best wishes Mike.

Cllr Elaine Kearney