**Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council News.**

**September 2021.**

The Parish Council met in Bishops Green Village Hall on September 8th. This was an unusual meeting as the general parish business was reduced to a minimum so that residents could hear and debate the latest developments with the proposal to build 400 homes on Bishops Green Farm. The meeting was well attended by local residents and Cllr John Izett was there to represent Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

There was a report from the Traffic/Speeding Group explaining that the PC has commissioned work to provide extra marking on the roads which will hopefully improve safety. Look out for “dragon’s teeth” around the parish soon!

The Neighbourhood Planning Group reported that a specialist consultant has now been appointed and government funding for this has been approved. We have appointed *oneill* *homer* who worked with Burghclere to produce their excellent plan last year. We are confident, that with their professional help, our plan will move forward quickly and help us to influence the future of our parish.

The main part of the meeting was given over to discussion of the current consultation being undertaken by Catesby Estates about their proposal for 400 homes on Bishops Green Farm.

The PC reviewed the information on the Catesby Estates website and pointed out the deficiencies with the information and survey questions. Residents were urged to respond to the consultation using the “Have your Say” option or to write an email, using their own words to say what they wished to say.

Cllr Izett explained the current Basingstoke & Deane planning policies and the issues facing the council with a lack of a 5-year land supply. He expressed his determination to support local residents and the PC in their strong rejection of the Catesby Estates plan and to speak on our behalf at council meetings.

The rest of the meeting was an open discussion. Residents aired their concerns and shared ideas of how best to object to the proposals. During the course of the discussion information was shared about a newly formed group, “Bishops Green Residents Against The 400” and residents can find out more by emailing BGResidentsX400@outlook.com if they wish to become more involved.

This is an interesting time for ES&BG PC with a neighbourhood plan and a predatory land promoter in play. We currently have 2 seats vacant on the council, so if you wish to contribute actively to your community, please email the clerk at clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk to find out more about becoming a councillor.

Our next parish council meeting will be at Ecchinswell Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th October 2021. Everyone is welcome.

*Cllr Marian Dain*