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

Parish Council meeting report for September 13, 2023

Both Derek Mellor our County Councillor and John Izett our Borough County Councillor attended the meeting.

Cllr Mellor reported that there was a massive increase in Highways maintenance over the first 3 months of the financial year. Some 19000 potholes have been filled. The July weather did not help some of the temporary repairs but generally the problem has been reduced. Outstanding are some of the rural, unclassified roads where dimension restricts the machinery. The other issue is the erosion where the verge meets the road of some of these single-track roads and Highways are starting to see what can be done long term.

Cllr Mellor drew attention to the HCC website as the current topic for consultation is Adult Social Care; HCC is planning to spend £173M on building new and upgrading other care homes.

Cllr Izett reported that the Local Plan Update needs to be in place by 2025. BDBC have kick-started the Local Plan Update process and would like to update parish and town councils on the current position, and how they intend to proceed. A Local Plan sets the planning policy framework for an area, guiding future growth and change. BDBC Cllrs will be attending the parish council meeting on 13th December. This is in advance of a borough-wide consultation on the draft Plan which will get underway in January 2024. The consultation will give residents, organisations, landowners, developers and interested groups the opportunity to have their say on the draft plan but we would like to involve you in the process first. The meeting on the 13th December will start at 19:30 hours. We encourage everyone to attend. There will be an opportunity to send in questions beforehand, full details will follow on the website and email in due course.

Currently our Neighbourhood Plan has a shelf life of 2 years and therefore a new working party needs to be drawn together in order to start the update process. We are looking for volunteers to help us with this important piece of work, so if you are interested then please either contact Marian Dain the Chair (cllrdain.esbg@outlook.com) or Sarah Jones the Clerk (clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk)

Unfortunately, the Speed Indicator Device is broken again, and we are sending it back to the manufacturers for repair. More news will follow once we have an update on what the issue is and how soon it will be back in place.

There has been no further information and no planning application received regarding the proposed solar farm at Strattons Farm. We will keep you informed once any information has been received.

Pond clearance day will be taking place from 10am on the 15th of October. All volunteers are very welcome. There will be refreshments. We hope to see you there!

We currently have 2 vacancies on the Parish Council – if you would like further information on what is involved, come along to a meeting or email the clerk. You will be very welcome to join our team and become more involved in your community.

The Parish Council will next meet on 11th October 2023 at Ecchinswell Village Hall.

Cllr Mark Stamp