

ES&BG News – February 2019

For the first time in many years, the Parish Council used the Bishops Green Village Hall for our February meeting on Wednesday the 13th. It was a pleasure to be back in the hall and thanks to the members of the newly re-formed BG Community Association for taking the steps to get the hall open and working effectively again. It's a great facility with lots of flexible space for events/meetings and is crying out to be utilised more. If you know of people/groups/clubs who are looking for a daytime or evening venue, please contact the bookings secretary on 07340 429751 or by email at secretary@bishopsgreen.org.uk

The heavy snow at the beginning of Feb caught a lot of people out – not least the Hampshire County Council road gritters, and we had a number of comments about the obvious lack of gritting on the Ecchinswell to Kingsclere road. This is a route that is on the list of priority gritting routes but, as we heard from County Councillor Derek Mellor the system was completely overloaded and therefore some routes were missed. We have requested that this is not dropped from the gritting schedule. We have also noticed that we need some additional salt bins in the parish – particularly on the inclines between Ecchinswell and Kingsclere. If you feel there is a need for more salt bins in any specific area, please email Sarah, our clerk – clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk

The joy of heading into spring - with the daffodils out and hedges starting to turn green - has made us think of how we could improve the look and feel of the parish with additional bulb and flower planting to add colour throughout the year. At the meeting we agreed that we would spend some of our funds to augment the monies kindly donated by the May Fayre committee for this. The area round the old phone box opposite the school has started to be cleared and we will be smartening up that area. If you'd like to suggest areas where we can invest in plants/bulbs/bushes to improve our parish, please let us know. Whilst we may not win the next "Parish in Bloom" annual award, we can at least start the process!

Good news on the long running parking issues in Oakfields Close. Basingstoke and Deane Council have released some funds to work on providing additional parking spaces. The surveyors have provided drawings and the work starts shortly to create fifteen extra spaces by re-modelling the pavements and removing some of the grassed areas – which were often damaged by vehicles being parked on them. The contractors will use permeable blocks so that there won't be additional problems caused by surface water run-off.

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm in Ecchinswell Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there if you'd like to raise any matters with us.

Cllr Tim Hall
Chairman