

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council – Newsletter from March PC meeting.

The March ESGB Parish Council meeting took place on the 13th at Ecchinswell Village Hall. It was only just quorate with 3 councillors present due to others being away on holidays. We would again let you know we have 2 vacancies to fill. If anyone is interested in joining the parish council, you would be most welcome! Please contact the clerk to express your interest or just to find out more information, on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk

A resident joined us at the meeting this month to express his annoyance at the state of the roads. Most of us live on or near roads which are almost unpassable; with the terrible rain this winter causing even more problems. On the advice of Cllr Izett, our Borough Councillor, we are going to investigate the process of starting a petition with Hampshire County Council about the state of our parish roads. This has been done with some success in other parts of Hampshire. We know there are a large number of residents who would like to add their names to such a petition. Please look out for further information on this once we have it up and running. In the meantime, if you spot any new problems, please do report them directly to Hampshire County Council via their website and to the parish clerk on the email below (and above!).

Cllr Izett also advised us that there will be another round of the Cost of Living Assistance Fund grant. This will be the 3rd one and is for another £1m. It is also extended this time to include both carers and young people leaving care. Full details of how to find and apply for this fund will shortly be on our website.

Another Basingstoke project being put into place is the Big Bin initiative. Once a quarter Evingar ward will receive a large skip in the area and residents will be able to dispose of items in it. Further details on when the skips will arrive and where they will be placed will follow.

ESBG PC have recently applied to Hampshire County Council to have extra 30 mph zones created in the parish as detailed in our Neighbourhood Plan. This application has been declined by HCC which is very disappointing, but the parish council will continue their efforts to get these speed limits put into place. As most residents know, there are some hot spots that really do need to be limited and we hope eventually this will be in place. The PC is considering its next steps.

Pond Clearance Day has been set for 20th October, not earlier in October as mentioned in our last newsletter. We were advised that this date was too early in the autumn. Hopefully the azolla will be under control by then and the day will be able to go ahead this year.

ESBG PC discussed the possibility of setting up a regular Repair Café within the parish. This is still in an early stage of planning and might involve a quarterly event to include fixing of household appliances, clothes swaps, a check on children's bikes to ensure they are safe to ride. If you have more suggestions or are interested in volunteering to be involved in something like this do let us know.

If you have any questions or want further information on any of the items above, please either contact Marian Dain the Chair (cllrdain.esbg@outlook.com) or Sarah Jones the Clerk (clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk)

The Parish Council will next meet at 7.30pm on 10th April in Bishops Green Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sarah Jones - Parish Clerk