

January 2021 newsletter

The Parish Councillors met by Zoom on Wednesday 13th January, joined by our Borough and County Councillors.

Borough and County Councillor Reports

Our Borough Councillor reported that Basingstoke Fire Station will open shortly to complement the vaccination programme provided at the Hampshire Court Hotel at Chineham. Newbury Racecourse is also operational and access to this Centre will depend on arrangements by your GP practice. Please don't travel to a Centre until you receive notification from your GP practice or the national programme and an appointment is made. Help with transport can be provided.

The County Councillor reported that with nearly 50 centres opening throughout the County, the Council is on track to meet the target of the first 4 cohorts being initially vaccinated by 15th February. The Councillor also reported an increase in expenditure to tackle floods and contractors have been out to ensure drains are cleared. We know that the drains in the Parish have been recently maintained but if you do notice any problems with flooding in the roads then contact the Clerk (contact details below).

The County Councillor brought two consultations to our attention and invited responses from Parishioners.

Bishops Green Youth Club Reopens

After a three year hiatus, the youth club officially reopened on 12th January and even on the first night a good number of local young people came along to meet the experienced youth leaders. Run by RMD Adventure Learning, the club will run every Tuesday and Thursday evening, including school holidays. Because of the current Covid-19 restrictions, activities are taking place on the green outside the BG village hall. The response already has been very positive and we hope that more young people will join as word spreads and Covid-19 restrictions are able to be eased. The funding for the youth club has been raised from The Good Exchange which is part of Greenham Trust.

Update on Proposed Housing Developments at Bishops Green

In December the Parish Council invited views on the proposed housing developments at Bishops Green. A significant majority of those who responded opposed the developments. You can read a report on our website about the results of the questionnaire and a summary of the online Parish meeting held on 14th December.

Keeping our Parish Safe

We heard last month that the local policing team has expanded, and we expect to see patrols increasing. But they still need our help to remain vigilant and take note of suspicious vehicles or behaviours. You can report via the Hampshire Police [website](#) or call 101 for a non-emergency, but if you would prefer to email the Clerk about an issue then please do so.

Keep in touch

Parishioners are encouraged to contact us with comments or questions, and you are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings, The next will be online using Zoom on Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm. Contact the Clerk (clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk) for instructions.

And good news that we now have a new postal address should you wish to contact us by letter. Send items to the Clerk c/o Ecchinswell Village Hall, Ecchinswell, Hampshire, RG20 4UB.