

REPORT FROM ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Our latest meeting took place on 8th November, and I can report a few bits of good news:

The pond weed Azolla has reappeared and we unfortunately had to cancel pond clearance day. The good news is that currently the weevils are doing their job and eating the Azolla; if this continues it will eliminate the need for other treatments. The wonders of nature and fingers crossed the weevils carry on doing their work!

The tree surgeon is due to start work on 18th December. This is the initial review, and any urgent works will then be carried out. Great news that we can hopefully alleviate any worries about unsafe trees on parish council land.

The allotments in Ecchinswell are being reinvigorated with a community spirit. The owners are coming up with fresh ideas to manage the area and for your information there are several allotments available for rent. Contact the clerk on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk if you are interested in taking on an allotment. Gardening is well known for improving our mental and physical health and there is something deeply satisfactory about enjoying vegetables and flowers nurtured by one's own fair hands.

On a different note, as mentioned in November's newsletter we are still short of parish councillors. It is perhaps an opportune moment to point out that the average age of our councillors is reaching the time of receiving pensions, so it would be marvellous to include some younger blood in the team. Not only do we have a website that needs updating but we also need an IT savvy person to run our very necessary social media account. VOLUNTEERS would be gratefully received.

The Parish Council will next meet on 13th December. The meeting will start at 6.30pm, because as you may be aware, at 7.30pm the new Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Harvey, and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, Councillor Andy Konieczko, are presenting to explain the Local Plan Update (LPU) for Basingstoke & Deane. You may have submitted questions already; if not, come along and listen to the presentation if you want to find out more. It should be an interesting and informative evening. There will be refreshments and a chance to chat after the meeting.

Finally, your parish councillors would like to wish you all a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr. Caroline Parkes