

REPORT FROM ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Your parish council held another meeting on the 8th March at Ecchinswell Village Hall. Unfortunately both the borough and county councillors were unable to attend in person.

The Neighbourhood plan is now going to referendum on 4th May and we will keep everyone updated on its progress.

Following the DCC meeting, which took place early evening on 08.03.23 about the outline planning approval for 42 houses to the west of Bishops Green, all Councillors agreed unanimously that Cllr Dain can write and send a call-in letter to Michael Gove, Secretary of State Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The letter was sent on 09.03.23 and clarified our position and asked that the decision is overturned.

Aircraft noise reported by residents in the area has been reported to Popham, White Waltham and Blackbushe airfields. All have responded quickly and are concerned about the noise and any nuisance this causes. The times and dates of the planes have been shared with the airfields. The clerk has continued her efforts but will contact the residents who may need to contact the airfields directly with their gathered evidence, and she will report back on further progress at the next meeting.

Hampshire Highways have informed us that in January, a decision was secured to utilise external funding to ensure that the County Council's parish lengthsman service can be maintained for the coming financial year (2023/24). The term 'lengthsman' dates back to the 1800s, referring to workers who were responsible for keeping a particular length of road neat and tidy. The modern role of Parish Lengthsman was reintroduced in Hampshire in 2010, in order to give communities more say in how their local area is maintained. First trialled in 2010, with just 10 parish councils, the scheme funds a local 'lengthsman' to carry out straightforward and low risk maintenance activities on footways, highways, and rights of way. The work mainly involves jobs that can have a big impact, such as ditch clearing, hedge cutting and sign cleaning. The scheme has since been successful in giving 186 local parish and town councils an opportunity to prioritise and deliver their own small scale highway maintenance works that will be of high value locally.

HCC have asked that all local residents and businesses report all road issues using the online reporting tools wherever possible:

hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding.

We only have two allotments left that are free, so if anyone is interested then please contact us as quickly as possible.

We also still have a vacancy on the parish council, if anyone is interested in joining us please contact the clerk on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk.

Our next meeting will take place on 12th April 2023 at Bishops Green Village hall at 7.30p and everyone is welcome.

Cllr Stamp