

REPORT FROM ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Your parish council held another virtual meeting on the 10th June, and we are pleased that all the parish councillors and our borough and county councillors were able to attend.

We are very pleased to welcome Rachael Coward as our latest co-opted ESBG parish councillor. Rachael has lived in Bishops Green since 2011 and before that was in Basingstoke for two years. Rachael, who works as a care worker, has a large family and is keen to learn and very eager to make a difference to the local area and parish as a whole. Welcome Rachael - thank you for joining us and we look forward to you representing the Bishops Green area on the Parish Council.

As you will all no doubt be aware, we have an ongoing issue in the Ecchinswell pond with azolla filiculoides (Red Water Fern) which is causing severe problems for the health of the pond and local habitat. The parish council have ordered some weevils that are a natural predator of this weed and will undoubtedly clean up the pond, but unfortunately, with the current Covid situation, the weevils are on back order and will not get to us anytime soon. In the meantime, we are looking for any volunteers to help us manually remove the weed and keep its spread under control. If you would like to become part of this volunteering team then please contact the clerk on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk or call 07884 432964, as we have equipment and waders waiting.

Hampshire County Council (HCC) have been running their regular summer minor road resurfacing program and some roads around us have been repaired. We are told that HCC is managing to keep on top of their road repairs, but please can you continue to report new holes as they are spotted so they can be recorded onto the system for future attention.

The parish council will commemorate VJ Day on Saturday 15 August by placing a wreath at the war memorial in Ecchinswell. It will represent the whole parish and recognise both the VE and VJ day commemorations. Please take a quiet minute or two at the war memorial when you pass to honour those who gave their lives for their country.

During the Covid-19 crisis, black bin collections have been reduced to once a fortnight and the Borough Council are now considering what to do about this going forward. Your parish council would like to gather your thoughts and feedback about how the current fortnightly schedule has or has not affected you, so that we can contribute to the Borough Council discussions and future plans. If you have time then please let us know whether the fortnightly bin collection has caused issues for you during this period. Please contact the clerk on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk or call 07884 964, with your feedback.

And finally, we would also like to thank our village volunteers who have come together to help those of our community who were self-isolating or needing support with things like food shopping and fetching medicine etc. If you have any good news stories that you would like to send us, then we will report on these next month. We'd love to hear from you about all the amazing work that's been done over the weeks since the lockdown started. Please send any stories to the clerk on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk or call 07884 432964.

Please contact us if you have questions concerning the work of the Parish Council, if you have any concerns that you feel the Council should be aware of or where it can help or support you. Our next meeting will be on 8th July and will be conducted on Zoom. Links will be provided nearer the time and everyone is welcome.

Cllr Mark Stamp