

ES&BG

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council News

The monthly Parish Council meeting took place on Wednesday 9th April 2014 at the Ecchinswell Village Hall where we welcomed a number of public participants. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuous support, comments and initiatives which are important to us.

The recurring topic of speeding through our village was once again discussed. The commended campaigners for reducing vehicle speeds in the Brocks Green area shared examples where verbal abuse, threatening and intimidating behaviour was experienced from certain motorists. If you have been affected by these, please report the registration numbers of the vehicles concerned to the Police and/or the Parish Council if possible. There are speed restrictions in force within the Parish and drivers are asked to respect these. Our roads are used by pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and dog walkers, and so care should be taken at all times. We continue to investigate cost effective and practical solutions to reducing speed in the Brocks Green area.

The Council recognises that there is an issue regarding litter within our Parish, in particular around Sydmonton Common and the surrounding footpaths of Bishops Green. Although littering might be caused by people passing through the Parish, nevertheless local residents are urged to follow the country code and take their litter home. We are currently liaising with Hampshire Constabulary as to methods of policing and improving this situation, but meanwhile we thank the efforts of our litter picker wardens and volunteers.

The Council has approved, once again, a donation of £150 towards the cost of holding the Ecchinswell May Fair on May 4th. This is an event for the Parish, so please come along and have some fun, whilst supporting fund raising for various charities.

As your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator within the Parish Council, I received and shared further, a message sent on behalf of Thames Valley Police / Safer Communities Partnership:

'West Berkshire Police and partners are aware of information in circulation which suggests that hand drawn signs are appearing close to homes; this may indicate that property is vulnerable to crime. There have been no reports of any such signs in the West Berkshire area, but if anyone does see a sign and has concerns, please contact the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101 and give details of the location and description of the sign'.

PCSO Abbey Carpenter advised that similar markings have been sighted in Hampshire before, most recently in Andover and shortly after in Wiltshire. There are no indications that these markings are linked to crime; however, the meaning of these it is not certain. I can only add my pledge too, please remain vigilant, be safe, remove the markings and report them immediately to the Police, PC and share this information with your Neighbourhood Watch.

Dates for your diaries:

- ✚ The **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will take place on **Wednesday, 4th June 2014**.
- ✚ The **Annual Parish Assembly** has been postponed until **Wednesday, 9th July 2014**; please note that it will not take place on Wednesday, 14th May 2014, as previously advertised.

These changes are happening as a direct consequence of a Government ruling on the dates of AGMs and Annual Assemblies in an election year. Details about these two events will be publicised near the time.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the next Parish Council meeting, which will be held at the Ecchinswell Village Hall on **Wednesday 14th May 2014 at 7.30pm**.

If you have any issues you would like to raise, please e-mail them to clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk or attend in person.

Kindest regards,

Daniela Court, Parish Councillor