



Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council News

On 10th December we held our last monthly meeting of 2014 in Ecchinswell Village Hall. A big *thank you* to all, for your interest, support and involvement within Parish's issues throughout the year.

Reports Basingstoke & Deane Borough Councillors, John Izett and Graham Falconer and Hampshire County Councillor Tom Thacker reported that:

- Basingstoke & Deane DC confirmed **no rise in council tax** for the fifth year running.
- From next year a **new social housing policy** will be in place. It provides a simpler, clearer and fairer way for the Council to allocate homes for local people in need.
- Melbourne Barrett has been appointed the **new Chief Executive** of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.
- **Ecchinswell taxi collection service** – a provision is proposed for a taxi service to cover the shortfall left by cuts in the bus service due to the loss of government grants. The route proposed is from the Royal Oak in Ecchinswell to Newbury. The cost is likely to be £4:50 one-way or £6 return, with free concession for elderly residents.
- Hampshire's Adult Services and the Children with Disabilities Service have entered into partnership with the user-led organisation, "Independent Lives", to run the new County's **Direct Payments and Personal Planning service**. Eligible people will be offered expert advice and guidance to take control of their care through this new service.
- **Have Your Say grant** - The purpose is to allow local people to claim a grant for projects which help improve their local environment, support local groups or strengthen their community. Detail can be found at: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/have-your-say-grant>.

Vacancies – there is still a vacancy as a **Parish Councillor**. If you are interested please e-mail our clerk for further details. Furthermore, the *green fingers* enthusiasts will be pleased to hear we currently have one **allotment** available from January 2015.

All our **footpaths and stiles** are inspected regularly, reported and subsequently maintained.

If any **potholes** are causing hazards, please report it to highways and let us know too.

Also, we are exploring whether a **Horse & Rider sign** could be placed at the far end of Hide Lane, as speeding and discourteous motorists are still one of the greater risks to vulnerable riders, as well as to cyclists and pedestrians.

Community Speed Watch scheme needs you to volunteer, as little or as much time you can give; currently we still haven't reached the minimum number to get the scheme up and running; if interested please contact our PCSO Abbey.Carpenter@hampshire.pnn.police.uk for more details.

Last, but not at least - the Parish Council welcomes the local residents' views regarding a proposal to hold a **security seminar** for your safety and security, possibly by March 2015. The intention is to have CCTV & burglar systems demonstrations from security systems installers and DIY suppliers, together with guest speakers and information from the police. Please let us by the end of January if you would like to attend this event. Based on your responses, a programme will be put together.

Please check out our Parish Council website for the latest local news and updates at: www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk. In addition, if you wish to be included in the Parish's emailing list & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, please send your e-mail address to our clerk, your contact details will not be shared with anyone outside the Parish Council.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Parish Council meeting, which will be held at **Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 7.30 p.m.** If you have any new items for the agenda, please e-mail them to clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk.

Daniela Court, Parish Councillor