

# ES & BG

## Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council News

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 7.15 p.m. Following the AGM, an ordinary Parish Council Meeting took place at 7.30 p.m. There were five members of public attending and one member of the press.

We welcomed Mrs Jackie Bayliss and Mr Fabrice Vaisset as newly elected members of our Parish Council. Cllr Broxis was re-elected as the Chairman, with Cllr Vaisset elected as Vice-Chairman. All Cllrs accepted the office and their responsibilities were discussed and agreed, (e.g. Cllr Broxis – planning, Cllr Sparrow – roads, Cllr Court – Police liaison, Cllr Vaisset – section 106, Cllr Bayliss – pond maintenance).

There were two expressions of interest in the current vacancies on the Parish Council and a decision will be most likely to be made at our meeting in September.

County Cllr Thacker, sent his report regarding Children's Services, respite care and highways. Ofsted has rated services for vulnerable children delivered in HCC as 'good' overall and in some aspects 'outstanding'. Building has started on a new £2.4 million respite facility in North Hampshire, to provide short-term break for adults with physical and learning disabilities. HCC has submitted a bid for a share of Government's extra funding for roads repairs, following the wettest winter on record.

The Parish Council applied to the Community Infrastructure Fund, for money to clear our ditches. Our hopes are that half of ditches within the Parish will be cleared and subsequently manageable to maintain. Before work commences, landowners will be consulted on the matter, via emails, posters, etc.

Residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to remove overhanging vegetation, as it causes hazards for motorists, riders and pedestrians.

We have been informed that Southern Water will be installing water meters in our area, starting in July, as part of five years Southern Water's metering programme. The new, 'intelligent' meters are equipped with leak alarms to detect leaks on supply pipes, inside properties and mains network. You can find out more about Southern Water plans at [www.southernwater.co.uk/metering](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/metering).

During May there was an increase in burglaries happening across the rural area, centred around the local villages, including a series of thefts from cars in Bishops Green. The Police are keen to gather more information that will help with their enquiries. Dial 101 for non-emergencies, if you believe a crime may be in progress or someone is in danger, please dial 999. High burglary rates from sheds indicate that they are not only easy to break into but there is a large market for the stolen contents.

Please, follow **PCSO Abbey Carpenter's** advice bellow, to ensure that your property is secured, (more info on our website [www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk/news](http://www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk/news)):

\*Mark all items with postcode and record serial numbers, e.g. UV pens or forensic marking kits ('Smart Water'). Register the details for free on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com);

\*Fit a shed alarm - ensure padlocks are bolt cropper-proof; alarmed padlocks are available on the market; garages can be made extra secure by using additional locks, such as garage defenders or bulldog locks;

\*Consider CCTV - some motion sensitive cameras are available on the market at a reasonable price; these can double as a security light and will only record when sensing movement;

\*Take photographs of items for easy identification at a later date; keep the structure in good repair; consider external lighting; ensure the garden fences are in good repair between neighbours to prevent unlawful access; ensure side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear of the property.

The Annual Parish Assembly is to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Ecchinswell Village Hall at 7.30pm. An ordinary Parish Council meeting will take place beforehand at 7.00 p.m. The Parish Assembly is an opportunity for residents to learn about the work of their Parish Council, to hear news from their Borough and County councillors and how we are working with the Police to keep you safe. All members of the public and press are welcome, so please come along.

If you have any issues you'd like to raise, please e-mail them to [clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk) or attend in person.

**Daniela Court, Parish Councillor**