



## Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council

The latest meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at the Ecchinswell Village Hall.

The annual village pond clearance was on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and apart from one shower the weather kept fine throughout. There was a good turnout of helpers and much was achieved - it really was a case of many hands making light work. A big thank you goes out once again to the members of the Basingstoke Conservation Volunteers who gave up their time to supervise the event and to everyone who came along, worked hard and had a fun morning. Locally sourced, barbecued sausages and warming soup were enjoyed by all. Due to everyone's efforts the vast majority of the weed growth was removed. The results are stunning and the best news is that the ducks returned to the pond within hours of the work being completed. This beautiful part of the village is an asset for us all to enjoy and a wonderful habitat for many forms of wildlife.

The annual Remembrance Service was held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November and was well attended. Our thanks go to former Councillor Malcolm Jones who as a member of the Royal British Legion laid a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of everyone in the Parish.

The traffic calming measures have been completed at both ends of Brocks Green, with gates at the side of the road and more 30mph signage. Traffic surveys will be undertaken to assess whether these measures are having an impact in this area. Speeding remains an emotive issue and whilst other Parishes are operating a successful Community Speed programme this Parish has not been able to do so due to a shortage of volunteers. At present we have four people who are willing to undertake this project but a minimum of six is required to be able to implement it. If anyone is interested in taking part please contact [abbey.carpenter@hampshirepnn.police.uk](mailto:abbey.carpenter@hampshirepnn.police.uk)

Following a lobby by the Parish Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are considering imposing a 30mph speed limit in Bishops Green. This is still very much in the early planning stage and further updates will be provided nearer the time.

The Parish Council reminds all drivers to take extra care during the wet weather and remember that braking distances need to be adjusted to take winter conditions into account. The safety of everyone, whether they are motorists, cyclists, walkers or horse riders is paramount and we all want to enjoy our lanes without fear of injury.

At present Burghclere are running a successful Village Agent Scheme in conjunction with Age Concern and Hampshire County Council. This service offers help to elderly and vulnerable people who need assistance with financial matters etc and cannot visit the Citizens Advice Bureau or access the Internet. Full training will be provided and if anyone is interested in joining this very worthwhile scheme please contact the Clerk at [clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk).

Finally, there is a vacancy for an allotment. Although this is often hard work it is also very rewarding. If you have some spare time and want to take up a new hobby, details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk at the above e-mail address.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 and as always members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Cllr Jackie Bayliss