



Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting held in Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday 10th September we were pleased co-opt Marian Dain to the committee. We welcome her and the considerable experience she brings to the Council, as a teacher & treasurer to various charities. We still one vacancy so if you are interested in becoming involved in Parish affairs please contact: clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk

This article is very much a 'call to arms' because without your help, the work of the Council is less effective. We really need volunteers to help keep your village looking as you would wish.

The annual **Pond Clearance** will take place on **Sunday the 2nd November** starting at 09:30. Support from the Basingstoke Conservation Volunteers, will help us remove some areas of the pink flowering rush (*Butomus Umbellatus*) which has had prolific growth this year, but we still need all the enthusiastic help we can muster. Our aim, as always is to maintain this community facility and preserve the pond as a natural habitat for plant and animal life.

If there are any keen fly fishers among you, who could donate a pair of chest waders for the day that would be wonderful (preferably with your own legs inside)! Hot soup & freshly barbecued hotdogs from Long Court Farm will be available for volunteers and helpers, so please come along and join in this communal event.

The response to **Community Speedwatch** initiative has been disappointing as the Council has put much time and effort into this ongoing problem & considering there is so much concern over vehicles travelling at injudicious speed through the village. However this is an effective method of controlling excess speed with the support of our local police. Anybody interested in joining one of the local groups should contact PCSO Abbey Carpenter at: abbey.carpenter@hampshire.pnn.police.uk Our plans for a speed reduction scheme at Brocks Green have been approved and work will start in October. Full details are on our website. As you are probably aware a large majority of speeding offenders are locals, so please make sure one of them is not YOU.

Potholes and Highways. The situation re potholes has improved slightly over the summer period thanks to the good weather and the relatively quick responses from Hampshire County Council, although we are still rattling their cages over sunken trenches near the school and the road by the Ecchinswell church. Pot holes & other road defects can be reported direct to: www3.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems

The Parish Council is supporting Ecchinswell Village Hall to acquire funds from the Local Infrastructure Levy (money from developments) to enable the renewal and improvements to the play park at the hall.

Neighbourhood Watch - As usual the crime figures for the Parish have decreased slightly in the summer but the Police still have as their priority: thefts from sheds and outbuildings Anti-Social Behaviour & Speeding. Please be aware of anything suspicious and report it and above all be sure to lock and secure your property and vehicles at all times.

Thank you for reading this short summary of Parish Council activities. We welcome any comments, suggestions or queries that you may have.

The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday 8th October at Ecchinswell Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. The first 15 minutes are available for public participation

Michael Sparrow - Parish Councillor