The latest meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday December 9th at Ecchinswell Village Hall. With the council now up to 6 members, the table in the Kingsmill Room is looking better filled. If you are thinking about joining us, there is still a place for one more.

The meeting got off to a good start with a number of local residents coming to give their views on some planning applications which were discussed later in the meeting. The council is pleased to hear local views on planning applications, so do come along to a meeting to tell us your view. Do remember you can also make your views heard via the Basingstoke and Deane website <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning> From mid-December you can not only post your view, but also read what others have posted about an application.

Our County Councillor (Tom Thacker) came to speak to us about the effect the Local Government Boundary Commission’s draft recommendations could have on our community. At the level of running the parish there would be little change but there would be a change in where our votes are counted in elections. The north of the parish would vote in the Tadley and Baughurst Division and the south of the parish would vote in the Whitchurch and Clere Division. As a Parish council we would have two County Councillors working with us. More information is available at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) where you can read the consultation details and make comments. The consultation period closes on 11 January 2016.

At the time of writing, the weather this winter has been reasonably kind to us and our roads have not suffered too much with pot holes and road heave. If you do notice anything in the parish do let us know, or use the Hampshire website to report a problem directly on <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems> Our vigilance will help to keep our roads safer.

Have you made any New Year’s Resolutions? If you are thinking of improving your fitness, walking in our parish could be just the thing! We are lucky enough to live surrounded by beautiful countryside with lots of rights of way. Hampshire County Council has recently won an award for the quality of maintenance of rights of way and access to the countryside so do go out and explore them if you are able. There is lots of information to get you started at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/row/row-maps.htm> or you could pick up an Explore Ecchinswell leaflet at the Bishops Green shop or The Royal Oak.

Happy New Year!

Cllr Marian Dain