

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council News

The monthly Parish Council meeting took place on Wednesday 11th March 2015 and we were pleased to welcome members of the public.

Good news. Hampshire County Council continues to achieve efficiencies which will enable them to maintain their element of the Council Tax at the current level for the 6th year running. This will result in minimal changes in the Council Tax for 2015.

One of the subjects the Parish Council has been working on for several years now, is the guaranteed gritting during icy conditions, of the main route to Kingsclere. We thank all the residents who answered our call to arms and e-mailed Highways in support of our quest for safety. People power and our collective determination has won the day. Hampshire County Council has now changed the gritting protocol for the road from Hydes Platt (Royal Oak) to Kingsclere, returning it to the Priority 1 route it was accorded in 2008. This means that the road will be gritted when frost is forecast; excepting when the gritter is fitted with a snow plough, as in this condition it is unable to negotiate the bridge at Hydes Platt.

We are in the process of re-issuing our local footpath map. If you would like a copy we will make sure some are available at the next Parish Council meeting. Footpaths and stiles are regularly monitored. Stiles which require repair are reported to the responsible landowner and any fingerposts which require attention are reported to the County Council.

Cllr Mike Sparrow continues to report potholes and is currently aiming to gain a commitment from Highways for some road re-surfacing by St Lawrence’s church and the repair of a huge hole in Cow House Lane.

Ditches were originally installed to prevent flooding and are the responsibility of the landowner. Regrettably many land owners ignore this obligation. As a consequence, the Parish Council has had to take action in two areas where neglected ditches were flooding the road and causing a dangerous situation for all road users. You will have seen extensive ditch clearing by the church and south of Brocks Green also. Both these activities have been successful in removing excess surface water.

Superfast broadband continues to elude our villages, despite fatuous claims that it is coming soon. The Parish Council is fully engaged in seeking answers to this problem.

You will have received a letter from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council regarding waste & re-cycling. Please read the second paragraph carefully. It says quite clearly that if your grey bin contains that which it should not hold, then it (the bin) will receive a warning from the council. Please prepare your grey bin for this possible admonishment! We do not want any grey bins being unnecessarily upset…

We have one allotment plot available. If the green-fingered among you would like to take advantage of this rare opportunity, please contact our Clerk.

An important date for your diary. The AGM & Annual Assembly for your Council is on 13th May starting at 19:30 and held at Ecchinswell Village Hall. Please do come and meet the people who help to spend your council tax.

If you have any questions or queries you would like to raise with the Council, please e-mail clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk or come to our next meeting on Wednesday 8th April at Ecchinswell Village Hall at 19:30.

Cllr Fabrice Vaisset