The monthly Parish Council meeting took place on Wednesday, 11th November 2015.

**ES & BG**

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council News

We were pleased to welcome Cllr Tim Hall back, after a period of absence from the council. He was unanimously co-opted to the council by the fellow members. Together with Cllr Johnson, the other new councilor, Cllr Hall will be a valuable asset to the team.

There is still one councilor vacancy - if you are interested in joining the council please contact the Clerk for further information.

**Celebrating success!**

* Work to resurface the Ecchinswell Village Hall’s car park entrance has been completed – everyone seems happy with the results and the council has received compliments. As previously mentioned, the repair was covered by a Grant from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.
* Thank you to all participants, including the Basingstoke volunteers, for making the yearly *Pond Clearance* another great achievement! Lots of fun, hard work and sausages were to be had! Thus we can look forward to seeing the pond restored to its full glory again.
* The Ecchinswell Primary School children were delighted to take part in ‘*Project Wild Daffodils*’ – native bulbs were planted at the front of the school. The next stage of the project will cover the War Memorial.
* Good news – Superfast broadband has come to our parish! The Bishops Green cabinet is now enabled for fiber optic broadband, as is the Headley exchange. Check with your internet provider for further details.

Hampshire County Council has released a Draft Hampshire Walking Strategy Consultation, which visualises that "by 2025, walking will be the travel mode of choice for short trips and the most popular and accessible means of recreation”. However walking throughout our parish will probably remain recreational, rather than a choice of transport to work or to the shops. More information can be found at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/transport-schemes-index/transport-schemes-other/walking-strategy.htm>.

Winter is upon us, and so with the prospect of grey weather to come, please take a look at the Met Office “Get Ready for winter” campaign for some really useful information: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/get-ready-for-winter/communities>.

It is proposed that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will raise council tax by £2 a year, for a band D property, in order to overcome their £100 million shortfall due to recent cuts.

**Safer Neighbourhood**

* Please be aware of the impact that fireworks have on local livestock. A heartfelt message from a nearby farmer described ’two spooked cattle jumping over a fence and a flock of terrorised sheep breaking through the fence’. Luckily no animals were injured. We endorse the farmer’s appeal for all residents to act with consideration and responsibility when it comes to letting off fireworks.
* We would also like to take the opportunity to remind landowners that it is their riparian responsibility to ensure that ditches are well maintained. Thank you to those who accomplished this task without prompting.
* PCSO Abbey Carpenter recommends signing up to [www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk) to receive up to date crime updates for your local area, as well as other community information that may be of interest to you.

We have one allotment plot available, so any keen green-fingered gardeners please contact the Clerk.

If you have any comments please do contact us through our Clerk, [clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk) and/or come to our next meeting on Wednesday, 9th December 2015, 7.30 p.m. at Ecchinswell Village Hall.

*Cllr Daniela Court*

Vice-chairman