**ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

For differing reasons the Parish Council had not met since July so there was plenty to discuss when our latest meeting took place on Wednesday 14th October at Ecchinswell Village Hall.

September had been a busy month in the Parish with three major events having taken place. The first was the Pimms and Swing evening at The Royal Oak to raise money for Help The Heroes. A great night was had by all with many coming in 1940's costume. This was followed by the Fun Day to celebrate the opening of the refurbished play park adjacent to the  Ecchinswell Village Hall. This was a great family afternoon out and great fun for all who sampled the attractions. Finally, The Masquerade Ball took place towards the end of the month giving those who attended a chance to wear their finery, sample the cocktails and try their luck at the casino. It is events like these that bring our Parish together and our thanks go to everyone who worked so hard to make them such a success.

There is good news for all of us awaiting Superfast Broadband. Wave two of the installation will commence in July 2016 and is scheduled to be completed in September 2018. After this time it is estimated that 96% of users in Hampshire will have access to the improved service

There are currently no reported problems or obstructions with footpaths and bridleways in the area but if there is anything that needs attention please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk.

The Lengthsman scheme continues to provide a valuable service to the community and this month the attention will be focused on the allotments with the removal or some hazardous tree stumps, lopping of over hanging branches and the removal of unsightly debris. There are still some vacant plots so come on all you would be gardeners stake your claim ready for next Spring!! If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk at the above address.

Following the article in last month's magazine the Council is delighted to welcome our newest member Paul Johnson who has recently moved to the area and is keen to support the Community. If anyone else is interested please come forward and join our happy team. It really is very rewarding providing an opportunity  to make things happen and meet fellow villagers. Our Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors will be very happy to provide further information.

Work is scheduled to commence on Monday 19th October to resurface the entrance to the Ecchinswell Village Hall. This repair is long overdue and all work will be covered by a Grant from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. The work is estimated to take approximately two weeks and any inconvenience to users is expected to be minimal. The half term holiday will lessen demand for parking in the second week and an excellent result is anticipated. A  full report will be given in the next edition.

During the Autumn local children will be taking part in a project to plant wild native bulbs around the War Memorial and the front of the School. Any surplus will  be some planted around the pond area. Next Spring the village will benefit from the colour of the daffodils which will compliment the snowdrops that are already established along the roadside.

By the time this article appears in the magazine the annual Pond Clearance will have already been undertaken and a full report will be made in the December edition.

Finally, the service of Remembrance will take place at St Laurence's Church on Sunday 8th November and a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Parish by our Chairman, Fabrice Vaisset.

Jackie Bayliss