

ES & BG Parish Council

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council News

The latest meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 13th July at the Ecchinswell Village Hall. We were joined by a few members of the parish, which is a reminder to readers that the meeting is open to all to attend. We were pleased to welcome another new councillor, Nick Owen, who was co-opted onto the PC. Nick has lived in the village for a number of years and is keen to see how he can support parish matters and help our community and environment.

Towards the end of May, our Borough Council, Basingstoke and Deane, adopted a new Local Plan. This is a significant document as the Local Plan makes provision for future planning needs in the borough up to 2029 and sets out the basis for decisions on planning applications. Worth a read: www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planningpolicy

We were sadly informed about an incident of an uncontrolled dog worrying sheep and goats in the Bishops Green area. The PC want to remind all dog owners to please keep their dogs under control at all times as we are a parish rich in both wild and farm life that need our support.

Another tree recently came down in Digweeds, colliding with local property. Although the PC does not own the land, it is investigating ways in which the area could be made safer for all. We are also aware that many footpaths in the parish are becoming excessively overgrown. Sadly, Borough Council spending cuts have reduced environmental maintenance work, but we will continue to campaign on your behalf to keep our paths fully useable.

We have heard that West Berks Council may introduce a permit system at the Newtown Road Recycling Centre which would restrict access to local residents only, ie we may no longer be able to freely use the site. Nothing is finalised, but we realise this could make it more difficult for us just across the border to recycle our unwanted goods, as well as well as potentially increase the incidence of local fly-tipping. Our County and Borough Councillors are fighting our case, trying to find a sensible resolution.

The Lengthsman Scheme continues to be supported for the coming year with the PC prioritising actions with the most impact in the parish. For example, the stretch of water at the back of the Royal Oak between the road bridge and recently-repaired footbridge will be tidied and branches cut-back.

At last - our new parish website will be live soon! As well as having lots of new content and being easy to navigate, we have designed it to display on most devices including smart phones and tablets. Keep checking www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk for the new launch.

If you have any questions about the activities of your PC, please contact the Clerk at clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk. As usual there is no meeting in August so our next PC meeting is on Wednesday 14th September at the Ecchinswell Village Hall at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Cllr Paul Johnson