

At this month's Parish Council Meeting, on Thursday 14th September, we were joined by a few parishioners and Tom Thacker, County Councillor. The key discussion points, raised by our Parishioners, plus a few others of relevance are outlined in this article.

The PC, whilst not responsible for Digweeds, continue to work with the relevant parties to arrange for an insured tree surgeon to remove the trees that have fallen as well as those that have potential safety implications.

The stream beside the Royal Oak is getting overgrown and silted. Did you know there is something called Riparian Ownership? If you own land or property next to a river, stream or ditch, you may be a "riparian landowner" and, as a result, have certain responsibilities. Follow this link to find out more <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/riverside-ownership-rights-and-responsibilities>

The poor state of the road outside the school has previously been reported, but the PC has agreed that we will report this once again. You are also able to report any potholes directly to Hampshire County Council at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roads/roadproblems/report-pothole.htm>. As our County Councillor pointed out, if your vehicle has incurred damage as a result of a pothole or poor road surface, you are entitled to make a claim at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roads/apply-potholeclaim.htm>

There was a concern raised that moving the Kingsclere Post Office to Swan Street stores would make access and parking very difficult. If you have concerns, please contact the Kingsclere Parish Council. We will also write to them to let them know that concerns have been raised.

There are still plans for West Berks Council to stop Hampshire residents from using Newtown Road Recycling Centre. This would be incredibly inconvenient to all of us that use the Recycling Centre, resulting in a round trip of 24 miles for us to use Wade Road centre in Basingstoke. Tom Thacker assured us that they are continuing to fight our case and look for options, including an exception or payment scheme for non-West Berks residents. The enforcement is due to take place on **Monday 26th September**, with permits being issued to West Berks residents for visible display in vehicles. We do not believe that the permits will be in place on this date, but please be aware that this may be the case and you could be turned away from this date onwards. This is an incredibly frustrating issue as we anticipate an increase in fly-tipping as well as the subsequent increase of traffic on our already congested roads. We will keep you posted as we hear further news.

Now, by way of an advertisement, we have a vacancy on the Parish Council. Please let us know if you are interested – you can talk to any of the councillors or go to our website to email us directly www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk

The annual Pond Clearance will take place on **Sunday 30th October** from 1030am to mid afternoon. Volunteers are always welcome and you will be rewarded with some lovely barbecued sausages! Please remember to wear old clothes. Waders will be provided but wheelbarrows would be very helpful!

Finally, we extend our thanks to Paul Johnson who has recently resigned from the PC. During his time as a councillor, Paul was instrumental in launching our PC website as well as ensuring that our footpaths and rights of way were clear, passable and maintained.

Cllr Samantha Keyse