

## Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green News – January 2017

Thank you to all the residents that attended the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January. We really do value your opinions and would like to see you at future meetings specifically if you have any issues you'd like to bring to our attention or even just come along to find out more about what is going on in our parish.

As mentioned in last month's magazine, parishioners were made aware that permits for the Newtown Road Recycling Centre were due to be sent out before Christmas. Unfortunately these were delayed due to printing issues and Christmas post but you should all have received these by now. If you are still not in receipt of your permit then please contact Hampshire County Council directly on 0300 555 1389 or email [waste@hants.gov.uk](mailto:waste@hants.gov.uk).

Last year we highlighted that we would be looking to increase the precept for 2017 as our income for the parish from BDBC is set to be reduced by 12%. To ensure the good work continues around the village it was agreed that the precept will rise by 9% which for a Band D property equates to approximately £2.50 a year. I'm sure you will agree this is a small price to pay for the ongoing work that is done in the parish.

We have received an invite to participate in a commemoration and remembrance event for 100 years since the end of the First World War. There will be lighting of beacons across the United Kingdom, Chanel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories to symbolise the 'light of hope' and 320 town and parish councils have already registered their interest. The commemoration will not take place until 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 but planning starts in April this year and we will also be registering our interest as the parish wishes to pay our respects to those who sacrificed their all for our today. We will notify all parishioners of the details of this event as soon as we have them confirmed.

At last year's AGM the topic of housing development within the parish was discussed and those who attended were asked if ES & BG should have our own Neighbourhood Plan to assist in managing this. It was also highlighted that this activity would have to be owned and generated by a team of interested residents and not by the parish council – although members of the parish council are welcome to join the team. If anyone wishes to participate in developing a plan for the parish, we would encourage you to attend the next meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Ecchinswell Village Hall at 19:30 hours. We will also have an open forum discussion about this at our annual parish assembly in May. If you would like to find out more about what is involved in drawing up a neighbourhood plan, then please take a look at what our neighbours in Kingsclere have achieved: <http://www.kingsclere-np.org.uk>.

Cllr Lissa Lowrie