

## **ES&BG News – May 2018**

Thank you to everyone who came to support us on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at our annual assembly. I think we had something like 45 people in the audience and I hope that you all found the presentations interesting and informative. Thank you to John Izett, Tom Thacker, Tim Davis and Adrian Wander and for our local police officers, John Dullingham and Seb Pearce for their excellent presentations.

During his address our BDBC Councillor, John Izett, told us about the Horizon 2050 initiative which is focused on how the borough council manages transport, housing, services, jobs, health and lifestyle choices as our population grows from 185,000 people today to an estimated total of 250,000 over the next 25 to 30 years. See how their plans are developing on the BDBC website: [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/horizon2050](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/horizon2050)

Our Police officers explained some of the challenges they face with an extremely ‘thin blue line’ that they operate under owing to the scale of the area they cover (250 sq miles) with very limited resources. Three residents raised concerns about the drug dealing that’s evident in the parish and the police urged us to keep an eye on suspicious vehicles and their registration numbers. Please report incidents to Hampshire Constabulary on 101 or anonymously at Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Basingstoke’s Housing Manager, Tim Davis, presented the results of the affordable housing survey we commissioned in March. A total of 493 postcards were sent out to households in the parish and, from the good level of responses, they showed a clear requirement for some more affordable housing for local residents in the parish. This was very much a first step in assessing the need – there’s a lot more to discuss and do over the coming months to see if this is something we can bring to fruition.

Finally, we had a fascinating talk from local resident, Professor Adrian Wander, who’s done extensive research on the backgrounds of the “heroes of Ecchinswell” who are commemorated on our war memorial. He’s even discovered that we are missing one of the soldier’s names who should be on the memorial. We will be putting that right before the centenary of the 1918 Armistice in November this year. More news to follow.

Thanks again to our presenters – and of course to those who came to be part of the audience. Your presence and input was much appreciated.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 on Ecchinswell Village Hall.

**Cllr Tim Hall**