

ESBG News – September 2018

Hello everyone. This is my first ESBG report in 2018 and I hope that some or all of its content will be of interest to you.

Firstly, we would like to thank all those villagers who generously donated to the cost of cleaning the War Memorial especially the anonymous donation of £1000. We will be making further improvements to the site in preparation of the Armistice centenary in November.

On behalf of the Parish Council I'd like to say a big thank you to our band of village volunteers whose tremendous help is always forthcoming to assist with projects in and around the parish. Well done to all – your work is hugely appreciated

Highways and Byways are under close scrutiny in regard to potholes and stile problems. You will note that several potholes have been patched, but others remain untreated – we've asked the Highways dept for an update on when these other areas will be sorted out. We work closely with the authorities & local estate owners to ensure that footpaths are kept in good condition for the many residents and visitors that enjoy our environment. In addition to councillors having set responsibilities for this, my Labradoodle Arthur is using his canine cunning to point out anything that threatens to disrupt his daily walk.

The Parish Council remains committed to helping Bishops Green Community Association revitalise the governance, usage and success of the BG Village Hall. A number of local residents have stepped forward to offer their time on a joint committee and, with help from BDBC we are confident that we will see positive steps forward. They are hoping to have a new booking system available quite soon which will be followed by a dedicated website in due course, followed by a Community Newsletter which will be made widely available across the area. Currently all of the statutory policies and procedures are being revised and updated in readiness for the implementation of the above services.

We have been informed by BDBC that from October 1st our refuse and recycling service will be provided by a new organisation - Serco - who have promised new vehicles, improved services and better customer relationships. We welcome your feedback!

Finally, our annual pond clearance is upon us - **Sunday 14th October**. As ever we are asking for as many volunteers as can make it. The clearance will start at 10.30am and please bring wellies, gardening gloves and a fork + wheel barrow if possible. We will provide hotdogs and refreshments from 12.30pm. Please come and get involved – we really appreciate your help!

Cllr Mike Sparrow