

ES&BG Parish Council newsletter - Jan 2018

Our first meeting of 2018 got the year off to a good start. We welcomed two new councillors to the group, Mike Sparrow and Kathy Wander. The council is now back to full strength and ready for the challenges of the year. We look forward to the input from the new councillors with their fresh ideas.

Our County Councillor, Derek Mellor, gave us an update on council finances. Hampshire is looking to maintain education spending and increase social care spending however all budgets are under stress. The county is also working with neighbouring counties on reciprocation agreements in a number of areas, including recycling centres. This could be good news for us, since the current agreement with West Berkshire is only temporary – despite being renewed for another year to the end of 2018.

On the subject of waste management, fly tipping seems to be on the increase in the parish. Hyde Lane appears to be quite a black spot. If you do see any fly tipping, please let the borough council know by logging it at <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping> where you will be able to add a photo and mark a map with the exact location. If you do not have access to a computer, you can contact the Parish Clerk. (details below)

November 2018 sees the centenary of the end of World War One and the council is looking at ways of marking this anniversary. Plans are in the early stages and may well involve joint initiatives with other associations in the parish and Kingsclere. We will keep you informed over the year of ways you can take part.

Leaving the best news to last, the council were very pleased that a resident came to our meeting to volunteer to help around the village and also to help coordinate the work of others who have shown an interest in volunteering. This started a lively discussion and from it the **ESBG Parish Volunteer Group** was born.

We are looking for ideas for volunteer tasks – litter picking, grass cutting, hedge trimming, pond clearance, footpath clearance, waste ground clearance, neighbourhood watch what else could we do? More importantly we are looking for **volunteers** – we have some names, but we need more! We would like to build a register of people who are willing to give a little of their time to improve our parish. You may not be able to do something every month but may be able to take part in a one-off project.

Please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk or 07884 432964 if you are able to help.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 7th February** at Ecchinswell Village Hall. Do come and join us.

Cllr Marian Dain