

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council.

Parish Council meeting report for 12th November 2024

The Parish Council unusually held their November meeting on Tuesday 12th November (instead of the usual Wednesdays – in the case, the 13th) at Bishops Green Village Hall. The meeting changed date as we were luckily enough to have a visit and talk from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Leader Cllr Paul Harvey, and Cllr Andy Konieczko.

The talk opened with discussion on the Local Plan and that BDBC may be required to restart the whole BDBC plan due to the new government's requirements. Because of this there may also be an increase in the housing allocation across the BDBC - this would require going back to initial stages and looking for more sites. Cllrs are obviously keen that this should not be the case as it will be costly and time consuming, but will not know the outcome until nearer Christmas. Note: The current Local Plan from 2016, which is still in place in lieu of the new plan, is not effective enough, so it was hoped that the new plan would be in place by now - any delays or re-writings could be detrimental to the required housing supply throughout the borough.

BDBC's capital and revenue investments are keeping their finances robust and with the proposed opening of a new university and the possible continuation of the project for the new hospital, they are offering investment opportunities and that Basingstoke continues to be a place to invest and bring new business.

Hampshire County Council's financial situation is not looking very healthy and there is a very large deficit (in excess of £170M). There is likely to be some serious issues relating to this in the form of service cuts and reduced expenditure on issues like the roads going forward. The Cllrs left the meeting at 7.30pm.

At this stage the ordinary parish council meeting started. Borough Cllr Izett attended and advised the Manydown development is going ahead and work should start in 2026.

Most parish council's will have some impact from the change in the National Insurance levels and this will need to be addressed within budgets.

Various services and grants have been extended. The community skips idea has been scrapped.

Council tax for BDBC will increase by £5 per annum per household.

Cllr Izett left the meeting, and ESBG PC carried on their discussions. There are various projects which are being worked on and it is hoped will be available to members of the public soon. Firstly the website upgrade is in progress, and we should shortly have a new Speed Indicator Device in the parish. There will also be new email addresses for all Cllrs and these will be sent out as soon as they are in operation.

The pothole audit is moving forward and the results will be sent to HCC so they have an overview of the current situation within the parish.

The weevils are working well on the pond and clearing the azolla. A group of volunteers are thanked for their maintenance work in the pond on 12th November and it is hoped the pond will be back to full health soon.

ESBG PC will next meet at Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday 11th December.

Any enquiries about the above or other local Parish Council Matters please contact Sarah Jones our Clerk (clerk@eccinswell-pc.gov.uk).

Sarah Jones

Clerk - ESBG Parish Council