

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council.

Parish Council meeting report for September 11th, 2024

Full complement!

For the first time in years the Parish Council (PC) has its full membership of 7 volunteers! Long may it last. If you are interested to join the PC then do approach the Clerk, details below, as we are always keen to know who might step in the next time a member steps down.

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) status in the new Government's drive for housing.

This is a position that could change, but we understand our NP will still retain its 5-year status within the new Government's latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework. If correct then we still have several years of protection from opportunistic developers, and we will have time to update our policies to renew its status in the years to come. However, Basingstoke and Deane need to find in the order of 300 more houses this year across the borough to meet new Government requirements. So we will watch developments closely!

Pot hole survey.

The reporting of potholes to Hampshire Highways, so that they can undertake their repair is something everyone can do, and inevitably is uncoordinated across the parish. ESBG PC has decided to undertake a survey of all our roads in the near future so that we can document the situation across the parish to establish a full picture of the situation. Please note if you identify a pothole near you then do please record this with Hampshire Highways at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem>

Bus service for Ecchinswell?

Rather curiously, recent planning applications in the area now record that such a service exists. Well, it doesn't for the most of us in the village, however there is a 'Dial-a-Ride' limited service available. You need to register to use it, and need to fulfil certain criteria to be eligible. If you wish to learn more then please go to:

[Basingstoke Dial A Ride \(rural\) | Community Transport | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem)

Pond Clearance postponed because of weevils!

This is actually a good thing. As you may be aware the Ecchinswell pond has suffered from an invasion of the Azolla weed in the last couple of years. The particular variety of weevils that eat the Azolla were investigated last year, acquired and added to the pond and were quite effective at reducing the infestation. However, the Azolla are back and so for a second year we will try this weevil treatment. So as to not disturb this 'remedy' in action, the PC has decided to postpone the annual pond clearance, which usually takes place in October, and monitor the progress of the treatment.

New web site for the Parish Council, local pictures welcome.

For those of you who visit our current web site (http://www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk/Parish_Council_2083.aspx), you will probably know it has a rather dated layout and it is rather clunky to navigate to a detail of interest. Additionally, we are aware that the Ecchinswell address would appear to not be inclusive of Bishops Green and Sydmonton. The PC has agreed to improve and update the website. More details are to come, but if you have any local pictures of the parish suitable to be displayed on the new website then do please contact the Clerk to the PC (See contact detail below).

Next Meeting

The Parish Council will next meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th October in the Ecchinswell Village Hall.

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

*Paul Debenham
ESBG Parish Councillor.*