

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Neighbourhood Plan

Community Facilities, Buildings and Local Businesses Report



July 2022

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This report gives a general view of the facilities and buildings used by the community

In the ES&BG NP, the following are designated Community Facilities in Policy ESBG11:

- Bishops Green Village Hall
- Bishops Green Convenience Shop (Ashlands Store)
- St Lawrence Church
- Ecchinswell Village Hall and Parking area
- Ecchinswell and Sydmonton C of E Primary School
- Royal Oak Public House

In the ES&BG NP, some of the open areas listed in this report are categorised as Green Spaces in policy ESBG 14. The complete list of these Green Spaces is:

Bishops Green

Eagle Road Recreation Area
Beech Road Recreation area
Harrier Road open space

Ecchinswell

Ecchinswell Pond
Methodist Church Yard
St Lawrence's Church Yard
Village Hall Play Park & Recreation Ground
War Memorial area
Old Church Yard
Digweeds

1. Bishops Green

Village Hall and Car Park



A multi-use building owned by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and leased to Bishops Green Community Association (Charity No. 1070873) in 2006.

It comprises a large hall (capacity 100), a small meeting room (capacity 15) and a youth wing (capacity 30).

Currently the hall is used for daytime and evening activities with functions at weekends. The youth wing runs throughout the year.

The carpark is shared with the village shop and has 5 bays plus 2 disabled parking bays.

Ashland Stores village shop



Small privately run village shop connected to the village hall. General grocery and convenience store.

Beech Road Play Park



Owned and maintained by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, this park is mainly designed for young children. The park has a variety of swings and climbing equipment.

Beech Road Green and Playing Field



Owned and maintained by Basingstoke and Deane borough council, this park is mainly designed for older children and young people to play team games and socialise. There is a large open green space with football goals, a basketball hoop, and a shelter with seats.

Eagle Road Play Park



Owned and maintained by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, this park is mainly designed for young children. The park has a variety of swings and climbing equipment.

2. Ecchinswell

Ecchinswell Village Hall, Playing Fields, Play Park and Car Park

The Hall



The entire site was donated to Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council in the late 1960s and was leased to Ecchinswell Village Hall & Recreation Centre (Charity No. 301814) in 1967.

The new hall was built in 1996 and comprises a large hall (capacity 120) and a small meeting room (capacity 25).

Currently the hall is used for daytime and evening activities with functions at weekends.

The hall has a large car park which is used by the hall and the general public. It has space for at least 30 cars plus 2 disabled parking bays.

The Playing Fields



There are 2 football pitches and changing rooms which are used regularly by local teams. Village events are also held on this field.

Mandy's Play Park



Mandy's Play Park was the inspiration of a local resident who wanted somewhere safe for young children to play. She raised the money to build the play park in the late 1990s and the play park is currently maintained by the Ecchinswell Village Hall & Recreation Centre. A zip wire has been added to the area in recent years.

The Allotments



There are 13 Allotments on land owned by The Sydmonton Court Estate and leased to Ecchinswell, Sydmonton & Bishops Green Parish Council. The Parish council runs and maintains the site.

Oakfield Close Play Park.



Owned and maintained by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, this park is mainly designed for young children. The park has a variety of swings and play equipment.

Church of St. Lawrence



Consecrated in 1856, this church is a Grade II listed building. The original village church was moved to this site because of repeated flooding at its location by the stream. The church is in regular use for religious services.

Ecchinswell and Sydmonton C of E Primary School.



Originally built in the 1800s, the school was extended in two phases over the 20th Century. It serves the villages in the parish and takes a few children from further afield. Children from Bishops Green, which is 2.5 miles away, are bussed to school. There are parking spaces opposite the school for staff and the school is situated near the village hall with ample parking spaces for drop off and collection. The school achieved a Good rating from Ofsted at its last inspection in 2017.

Many families take advantage of the play park by the village hall after school.

The Royal Oak Public House



The pub is located at the centre of the main village of Echinswell. It has a front bar, three dining areas and a garden which runs down to the stream. The pub is a focus for village events, notably the May Fayre which has been held in the pub garden numerous times in the past.

Green Areas with Seating

The Pond



This located near Malthouse Farm and Echinswell House

Digweeds



This is the original site of the village church alongside the stream.

The War Memorial



This is a grade II listed structure close by the village school and recreation area.

3. Local Businesses

The parish has no industrial parks or business parks. Most of the parish is agricultural land owned and managed by a few large landowners. There are various small businesses operating from houses and farm buildings.

Known businesses are listed below.

Large Local Landowners

- Sydmonton Court Estate
 - The Watership Down Partnership
 - Andrew Lloyd-Webber Foundation
 - Watership Down Stud and Polo Club
- Adbury Estate - some arable/pasture land in north-western part of the parish
- Litchfield Farms – some land/fields in the south of Parish
- Stratton Farm - small overlap into east of parish

Equine

- Springbourne Stud
- Withey Copse Farm

Landscaping/Gardening

- Baikie Landscape
- JF Fairbrass Gardener
- Gardens by James Dean

Caravan Sites

- Bishops Green Farm Caravan Site
- Darling Buds of May Caravan Site

Retail

- Ashland Store
- Darling Buds of May Café
- Darling Buds of May Garden Centre
- Royal Oak Public House

Miscellaneous

- Barkshire Dog Walking
- Chris Kemp Photography
- Darling Dogs of May

- G&T Executive (airport limousines)
- Honesty Cookery School
- Indigo Warrior Yoga
- Keystone Coaching
- LuluBelle Childminding
- MK Valeting
- Willowfield Cattery