



News Release

A step closer for Bishopstoke's Neighbourhood Plan

Bishopstoke's draft Neighbourhood Plan received the go-ahead to be sent to Eastleigh Borough Council to get their opinion as to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. This is the next step forward for the Plan which comes after several year's work by a working group comprising Parish Councillors and others.

When finally approved, the Plan will then go out to Public Consultation by Bishopstoke residents.

The Plan will have important implications for developers and those wishing to extend or change their properties in the village. The plan will have to be taken into consideration alongside other legal requirements when the Borough Council is deciding planning applications in Bishopstoke.

Parish Council finalises budget for 2023-24

In common with Bishopstoke residents and businesses, the Parish Council is suffering from high inflation. This means that the costs associated with nearly all the Council's activities – notably those associated with the maintenance of open spaces, playgrounds, the cemetery and allotments - have risen sharply.

So that residents do not have to bear the brunt of these increases, the Council has decided to reduce significantly the amount spent on overtime, grants, newsletters, allotment clearance and the money set aside for various long term projects.

As a result, the originally recommended increase of 35% in the Bishopstoke part of the Council Tax has been limited to 20% following lengthy discussions at the Council's last meeting. The effect of this increase is that a Band D house in Bishopstoke will pay an extra £1.31 per month towards the running of the Bishopstoke Parish Council. This will help support play areas, allotments, cemetery, Bishopstoke Carnival, the travel token scheme and grants to local community groups and charities, as well as keeping grass mown and hedges trimmed and still setting some money aside for the new Memorial Hall and the Glebe Meadow project.

As One* – modern street associations

Bishopstoke Parish Council has agreed to support local events under the As One* banner. The aim is to create Street Associations that will help bring back the sense of community often missing from modern life.

Parish Clerk David Wheal said, "Keep an eye out for the banners across Bishopstoke and look out for more information about upcoming events at St Mary's church where you will be able to find out more about how to organise a Street Association."

* <https://as-one.uk/>

New Parish Councillor

The Parish Council welcomed Mark Kirby to its ranks at the latest meeting following his election as a Bishopstoke Parish Councillor for the Itchen Ward. Mark is in charge of the Eastleigh branch of the MHA scheme (formerly Methodist Homes for the Aged) which aims to give older people access to friends, fitness and fun and will be bringing that awareness to his role as a Councillor.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14th March at 7.30pm. For details of where the meeting will take place and any other information please visit the Parish website.

For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk: David Wheal

by email: clerk@bishopstokepc.org

or visit the Parish website at: www.bishopstokepc.org