

# CROSS *talk*



## A message from the Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council.

May I start this article by expressing my anger and disbelief with the Russian President and the actions his government has taken with their unprovoked attack on the Ukraine. Let us pray that this conflict will soon be over and peace is restored to the Ukrainian people. Please see page 7 to find out how you can help.

The precept for 2022/2023 has been set and further details can be found on page 3. May I take the opportunity to thank my fellow Town Councillors and our Officers for their assistance in finalising this budget.

Unfortunately our Town Councillors and I reluctantly had to agree to scrap our free weekend parking from the 1st April 2022. The cost to continue with this free service would have been around £49,000 as both car parks are owned by Buckinghamshire Council.

This would have cost the average band D precept tax payers an extra £12.98 per year on top of the 3.8% increase agreed just to balance the books. Further details about the decision can be found on our website.

I am delighted to confirm that our officers are currently planning the return of our summer festival. This week-long celebration will start on Saturday 2nd July, culminating with our popular street festival on Saturday 9th July. If you wish to be part of this event, please contact the office or see page 8 for further details.

More on the festival and other events can be found on page 8-9.

We recently held a Thank You event at our new Brushwood Suite. This was a great opportunity for the Town Council to thank our Town supporters and volunteers that help to make Risborough such a wonderful place to live.

Finally I would personally like to invite all of our towns' residents to the Annual Town meeting on the 12th April 2022 at the Brushwood Suite, Wades Centre, from 7.15pm.

This is your chance to ask your elected councillors any questions that affect you as a resident and make us accountable to our electorate.

During this meeting I have the pleasure of presenting, on behalf of the Town Council, the Citizen Awards. These awards are presented to local individuals and businesses who have, in our opinion, gone above and beyond to help us all over the past twelve months.

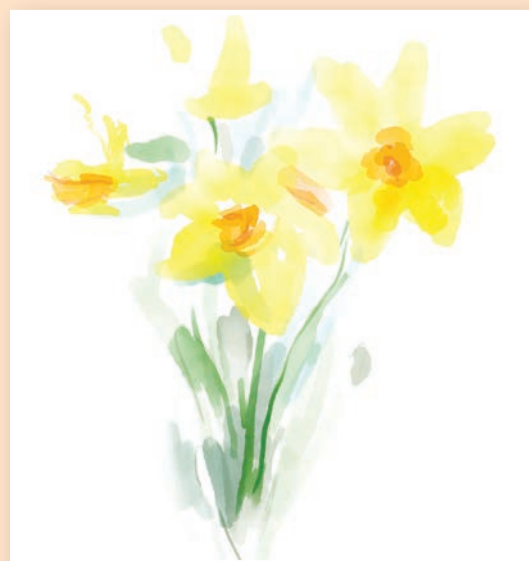
If you are not available to attend, then I look forward to seeing you in our town very soon.



*Cllr Andy Ball - Mayor and Chairman*



See page 7

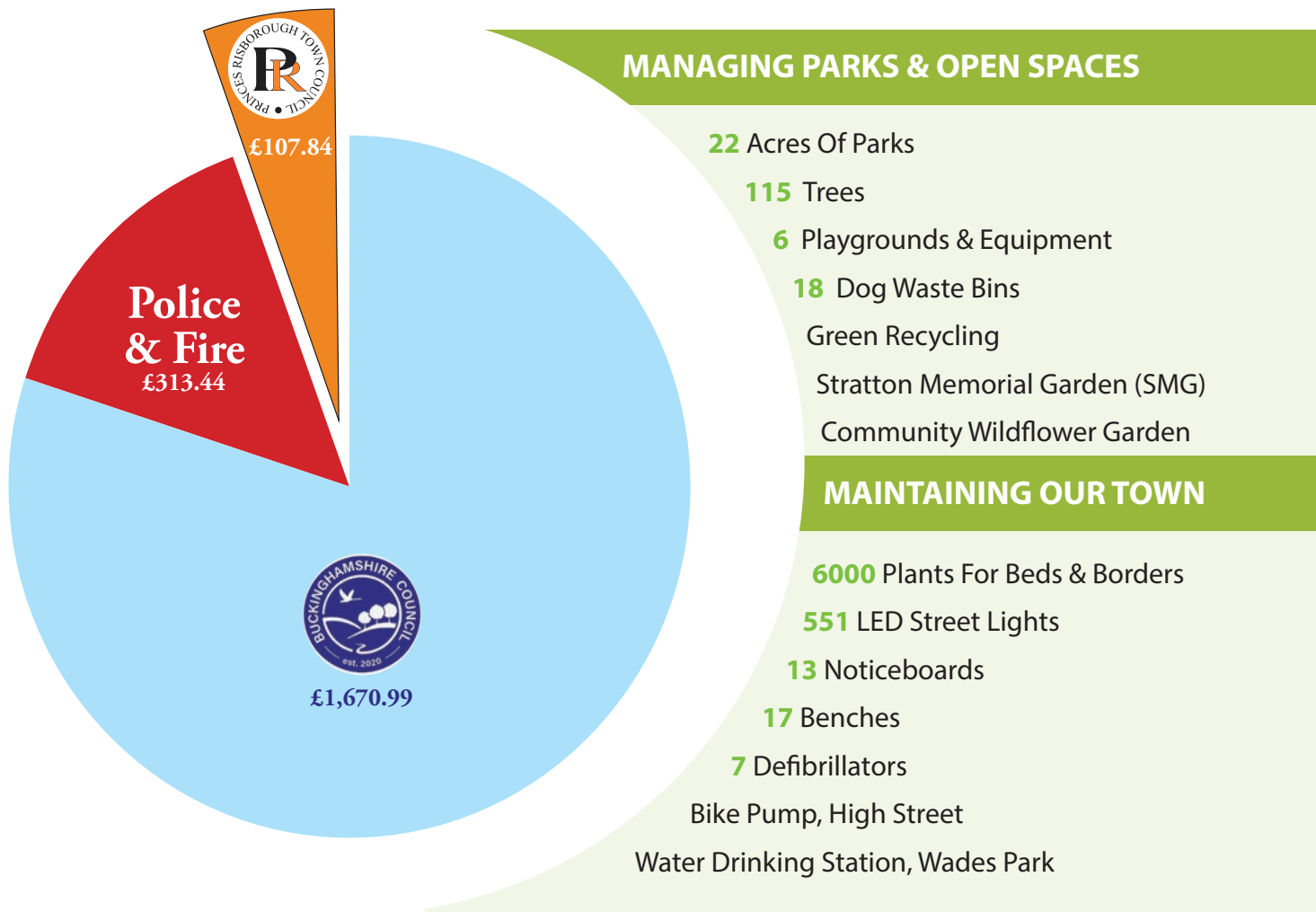


See page 8-9



# In 2022 your £8.99 each month brings all this

Band D Property



## MANAGING PARKS & OPEN SPACES

- 22 Acres Of Parks
- 115 Trees
- 6 Playgrounds & Equipment
- 18 Dog Waste Bins
- Green Recycling
- Stratton Memorial Garden (SMG)
- Community Wildflower Garden

## MAINTAINING OUR TOWN

- 6000 Plants For Beds & Borders
- 551 LED Street Lights
- 13 Noticeboards
- 17 Benches
- 7 Defibrillators
- Bike Pump, High Street
- Water Drinking Station, Wades Park

## MAINTAINING BUILDINGS

- Wades Centre & Café
- Dovecote, St. Dunstons Park (Grade II Listed)
- Market House (Grade II Listed)
- War Memorials

## OPERATING COSTS

- Staff
- Training
- Machinery & Equipment

## COMMUNITY

- |                            |                      |   |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| High Street Trail Events   | Annual Town Meeting  | Social Media Promotions                           |
| Summer Festival            | Thursday Market      | Website   |
| Christmas Lights switch on | Farmers Market       | Grants to Schools, Churches & Local Organisations |
| Heritage Trail App         | Crosstalk Newsletter | Support for Retailers                             |

## 2022/2023 Precept

It is a very important part of the Town Council's duty and responsibilities which affects us all. The precept is the amount of money collected through your council tax for the Town Council to maintain the services they are responsible for. It will be collected by Buckinghamshire Council on behalf of the Town Council.

In view of the current financial situation, after hours of discussion, it has been necessary to leave some of the important projects which councillors would have liked to have undertaken this year for another year. The council felt it would be inappropriate at this time to raise the precept by an excessive amount. We started discussions with a proposed increase of almost 50% over last year.

In order to achieve a final increase under 4%, several projects been put to one side for the time being. The Town Council needs to balance its books just like any sustainable business. Whilst every effort is made to minimise any rise in the precept by constantly striving to find efficiency savings and generating alternative revenue streams, some of the increases in spending are unavoidable. The increase in the cost of utilities and National Insurance affects every employer in the country as does the rent increase for the offices and other day to day expenditure.

We have reduced the amount to run the Annual Town Festival and Christmas lights event, this means extra work for our staff, councillors and reliance on the goodwill of volunteers.

Another of these is the free weekend car parking. In previous years this has been funded by grants which are no longer available to us. The precept would need to be increased by a further £49,000 (an overall increase of 16.3%) to provide free car parking, which we feel we cannot justifiably pass on to our residents.

Although finances are tight, we intend to continue to provide the level of service to which you are accustomed.

**Cllr Sue Coombs Chairman Finance Committee**

## New Heritage Trail

Last year and with the help of town regeneration expert Sally Williams, residents were asked to share and celebrate the history of Princes Risborough. This information has allowed us to design a Risborough Heritage Trail app to help promote the town to tourists and help people of all ages interpret our local history. The trail is currently available to download for free from both iOS and Android app stores on your mobile phone. **Just search for Princes Risborough Heritage.**

The app currently has two trails, a children's treasure trail and a flat walking Town trail, with a third trail currently in development. It's hoped that over the course of the next few months, the trail will be available in hard copy as well.

**Princes Risborough Heritage**

## Download Our App

Princes Risborough Town Council are pleased to introduce their new **FREE heritage app complete with two walking trails.**

Search "Princes Risborough Heritage" to locate in app stores

Available on all major app stores

[princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)



## Risborough Youth Club

### “Kids these days....”

Have you ever found yourself making a slightly clichéd observation about the behaviour of teenagers and how it was different when you were younger? Have you ever admitted that when you were younger you misbehaved, but followed up with a caveat that you were never that disrespectful though? I'd like to offer you the

chance to have a positive impact on young peoples' behaviour and possibly change your mind about “kids these days”!

Risborough Youth Club has been helping the young people of Princes Risborough and surrounding areas for almost 50 years. Managed and run by volunteers, we are open to all young people aged 11 to 17. On a typical club session we see between 20 and 40 young people, with the majority coming from Princes or Monks Risborough.

For those young people who attend every week, the most important thing we can do



is provide a positive and fun environment which they choose to spend their time in. This is achieved by having a great team of adults who have the right attitude; don't judge, stay positive and want to help people reach their full potential.

Research has shown that one of the most beneficial things for young people's development is for adults to take an active interest in their hobbies and passions.

The club is supported by donations, including from Princes Risborough Town Council and Buckinghamshire Council, but does not receive any allocated funding from public money. For that reason, our management committee has the difficult job of keeping the club financially viable while ensuring the services are accessible to everyone; this means keeping costs at a minimum and

subsidising trips where possible. Volunteering at the youth club is flexible; we are open every Monday night from 7 to 8.30pm, but volunteers do not need to commit to every week. All we ask is that you let us know a few days in advance if you can attend the session.

For committee members, there is also a flexible approach to commitment. The core role is to attend 3 or 4 evening meetings a year where we discuss any operational issues and provide oversight into how the club is run. After that, there are optional tasks to take on, such as updating policies, liaising

with other community groups or promoting the club (and the occasional call to arms to help with maintenance!).

If you are interested in volunteering either directly with the young people or as a member of our management team, please contact [volunteer@risboroughyouth.club](mailto:volunteer@risboroughyouth.club)



## Zipp E-Scooters

On May 16th 2021, Buckinghamshire Council selected Princes Risborough to be part of an Electric Scooter rental trial to help support a “green” alternative to local travel. The scheme was initially for a 12 month period but has now been extended to Nov 2022, following which a decision will be made as to making the E-Scooters permanent. Latest figures from the supplier (Zipp Mobility) on usage and carbon saving, these can be viewed below.

E-Scooter Usage figures. (From the period 14/02/2022 – 20/02/2022, cumulative figure is since the commencement of the trial).

	This week	Last week	Cumulative
Total number of rides	42	51	3,960
Total distance travelled	29 miles	40 miles	4,798 miles
Average trip length	0.7 miles	0.79 miles	1.28 miles
Average trip duration	0:07:33	0:08:52	0:10:35
Average speed	5.55 mph	5.37 mph	7.27 mph
Total time spent on scooters	5 hours	7 hours	698 hours

This is based on estimates using historical studies that show that 34% of e-scooter rides replace car journeys, with 4,798 miles travelled on Zipp Scooters in Princes Risborough and hence replacing 404g<sup>2</sup> of Carbon per mile travelled.

On a slightly more negative note, it has become apparent that scooters have not been maintained in the correct manner. There have been reports of obstructed footpaths where scooters have not been returned to their designated bays which in turn has resulted in said scooters being out of service when rentals were attempted. The quietness of the scooters has also been raised as a concern for our residents who have visual and hearing impairments and for guide dogs who have not been trained to react to them.

Going forward, should you have any comments regarding the extended trial scheme, please contact your Buckinghamshire Council councillors via the Town Council Website.

Since the start of the trial a total of .7 Tonnes of CO2 has been saved.

## Calling all litter heroes!

It's that time of year, The Great British Spring Clean is here once again running from the 25th March to 10th April 2022. This initiative was started 7 years ago by Keep Britain Tidy which in turn was initiated by the Women's Institute. It would be great if everyone played a part to keep Risborough streets, green spaces and beautiful surrounding countryside cleaner, healthier and more attractive for all.

Risborough Environmental Group have been organising community litter picks every few months for the past 6 years so you may have seen the Risborough Wombles out and about on Sunday mornings with their hi vis vests and litter pickers filling bin bags.



Since October 2017 a total of 171 REG wobble volunteers have picked up a mind boggling 1,357 bin bags full of rubbish from around Risborough.



If you wish to join one of their volunteer teams on **Sunday 10th April** or on future community litter picks please contact Cath Campbell via [regbucks@gmail.com](mailto:regbucks@gmail.com)

If you would like to organise your own group event for the Great British Spring Clean (or beyond, rather than through REG) you can arrange to borrow equipment and organise collection of rubbish through Buckinghamshire Council. Please go to <https://www.chiltern.gov.uk/litter>

Thank you for your support and Happy Wombling!

**Cllr Catherine Campbell**



## Queen's Green Canopy Update

Firstly, a big thank you all who responded to the request in November's Crosstalk to suggest sites where trees could perhaps be planted in the public realm.

We are working on researching these sites to establish their suitability and will be progressing with them through the year with a view to planting trees in the autumn or winter.

If anyone has a spot near them that they think might be suitable it's not too late to email us at the council, if you have discussed your proposals and ideas with your neighbours already so much the better as we would like to engage with as much of the community as possible.

To launch the Queen's Green Canopy Project we are delighted to have planted four trees in the King George V Park with the help of volunteers from Risborough Environmental Group, Risborough Evening WI and Monks Risborough Primary School.

We had a great morning digging and planting 3 whitebeams and a cherry at the top of the park by the Aylesbury Road.

The Whitebeam has silver foliage to reflect platinum jubilee, and are a mirror of trees in the lower part of the park. It is also thought that Whiteleaf got its name from the Whitebeam trees that grew here, so it is a local tree.

The cherry is a Prunus Pandora which has blossom that turns from pink to white and will be a beautiful addition to the park. Both are good for pollinators and the Whitebeam has berries for the birds in the autumn, do go along and see them.

We are gathering together a group of Tree Keeper volunteers to look after the trees and progress the Queens Green Canopy Project through the year. If you would like to join us please email, ring or write to the council.

Don't forget that you can plant a tree in your own garden if you want and register it with the Queen's Green Canopy map on the Queen's Green Canopy Website.

We will be registering ours.

**Cllr Surinder Marshall**



## Expansion of Risborough

As the planned expansion of Risborough over the next fifteen years occurs, we as a council will try to keep you informed of each development. The first one of these is phase 1 of the relief road link. We have invited Buckinghamshire County officials to meet the residents to answer any questions you might have about this, hopefully we will have a date for this in the near future.

This is the relief road between the ex-Sumitomo offices along Summerleys Road to the station entrance, then through the old Hypnos site to Picts Lane only, and will occur over the next three years. It will include replacing the Aylesbury railway line bridge and lowering the road underneath it, which will unfortunately require the road being closed to both pedestrians and vehicles, for some time, we apologise for this inconvenience in advance.

This work will allow access to the proposed housing development on Park Mill to then proceed, in theory this will be the only new traffic on this

road or Shootacre Lane, and should not materially increase traffic, till the whole relief road is completed in 2035, and will not affect town centre traffic levels.

Some issues have been resolved but there are others that still need further work and the solutions have unearthed further questions e.g. safe access to the station and avoid this road acting as a barrier to the rest of the town when completed. Environmentally sound disposal of floodwater from under the bridge and paying the running costs of the required pumping station.

Further information on this can be found on the Buckinghamshire council website using PRSRL as a link: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/road-projects-and-improvement-schemes/princes-risborough-southern-road-links-prsrl/>

**Cllr Ian Parkinson**

## Helping the people of Ukraine

Following a meeting of the Events & PR committee, members of the council discussed how as a town we could help the terrible situation that is unfolding in Ukraine.

The councillors decided that the most effective action to take is for those that wish to help, to make a financial donation to the appeal that has been launched by the UK's Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

Any amount you can give will go a long way to helping those in need.

To find out how the DEC is helping and to make a donation, please visit [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)



**DISASTERS  
EMERGENCY  
COMMITTEE**

*we stand with Ukraine*



## Summer Festival 2022



The Events and PR Committee is pleased to update that planning of the annual Summer Town Festival is officially underway. The well-known festival week will kick off on **Saturday 2nd July** with the beloved

Street Festival falling on the final day, **Saturday 9th July**.

This popular week long event, relies heavily on the participation of local residents and organisations to contribute an event or activity. A perfect way to share knowledge and skills with your community, if you would like to hold an activity or event as part of festival week, please contact the Town Council's Events and Communication Assistant at [Stephanie@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Stephanie@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk) for more information. Please note, we ask that activities or events are predominately free of charge to ensure inclusivity for all.

If you would like to put yourself forward to volunteer for this event, please contact Stephanie on the above email address.

## Farmers Market

We are pleased to announce that our Farmers Market is returning in April 2022!

Featuring 25+ stalls at each event, our Farmers Markets are a foodie's delight that showcase a wonderful selection of local producers.

Princes Risborough  
**FARMERS MARKET**  
Dates for your diary in 2022...

Saturday 2nd April  
Saturday 17th June  
Saturday 10th September  
Saturday 12th November

King George V Park, Wellington Avenue,  
Princes Risborough

## The Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II

The Jubilee celebrations of Her Majesty the Queen have a national framework for events with two specific dates for celebration, these are Thursday 2nd June 2022 and Sunday 5th June 2022, and the Town Council will celebrate both events.

**Beacon Celebration - Thursday 2nd June 2022** which has been designated as the date for the lighting of national beacons and this will be celebrated by the town with a beacon on Whiteleaf Cross. The event will include a lamplight parade, at the Stratton Memorial Garden, by representatives of local schools and youth organisations, to take place at dusk which will be around 9pm.

A dedicated flame will be lighted at the Stratton Memorial Garden will then be transported to the

beacon site on Whiteleaf Hill and the beacon to be lit, in line with the national event.

Attendance to this event will be limited, by invitation, to ensure the solemnity of the Garden, and the council will provide refreshments.

**Big Jubilee Lunch - Sunday 5th June 2022** there will be the Big Jubilee Lunch in the Town Centre to which everyone is welcome to attend with their own picnic lunch in and around the Market House, High Street and Duke Street (road closure will be in place).

The Market House will be 'dressed overall' with union flags and bunting, as the centrepiece of the event, with flags and bunting in the High Street and there will be a mixture of both live and 'canned' music during the event.

We look forward to helping Risborough celebrate this milestone event.

## PRINCES RISBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE EASTER WINDOW ART TRAIL

**Saturday 9th April to Saturday 16th April**

Accompanied Children are invited to participate in a High Street window art trail. Retailers windows will be decorated with Easter eggs and children will have to match up the shop to the correct number of eggs on its window. Collect a trail map from Princes Risborough Library\* and return completed to claim a prize. Complete the extra prize draw question for a chance to win a children's afternoon tea at Crumbs Too Princes Risborough.



Organised by Princes Risborough Town Council  
[www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

\*Please check the Princes Risborough Library opening hours before making a journey to avoid disappointment.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Princes Risborough Town Council host a wide array of events each year for which we are always in need of volunteers. If you would like to lend a helping hand to support events like Summer Festival or Christmas Light, or other projects, please get in touch with us via email at

[towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)



## Thank you Risborough Rotarians

Over the last 12 months the Risborough Rotary Club has continued to provide essential support to local people and organisations. They have battled with the challenges that the pandemic has brought and achieved wonderful results for our community.

Members have been supporting the Vaccinations Centres at Wades Park and the Hughenden Valley Surgery for over 6 months, they have provided a team of support for the Town Council's 7 Farmers' Markets, raised over £7000 for a refurbished Princes Risborough Primary School Sensory Garden and provided over 30 individuals to support the very successful Kop Hill Climb held in September 2021, all profits of which will go to local charities.

More recently, the club donated £2,800 towards the cost of a hearing-loop for the recently opened Brushwood Suite. A hearing loop is a type of sound system which will enable people with hearing aids to hear the audio clearly thus ensuring everyone has an enjoyable experience.

These are only some of the Club's activities throughout the year. Since the beginning of the pandemic, over £39,000 has been raised (distributed, mainly to local charities and organisations) and they will continue to provide support to the community.

The Club will continue to play a major part in



supporting individuals, organisations and groups in need of its help.

If you want to join their team of volunteers, or if there is some way that they can support you, please go to their website

[www.rcpr.org.uk](http://www.rcpr.org.uk) or contact **David White** at [david@dhwhite.co.uk](mailto:david@dhwhite.co.uk)

**ST MARY'S PLAY CAFE**  
**OPENS TUESDAY 15TH MARCH**  
**9:30-11AM**

A free new parent and toddler group, with soft play, toys, dress-up, coffee & snacks, and much more. For more details contact [stmarysprcurate@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysprcurate@gmail.com). Every Tuesday in term time 9:30-11:00 am.

Supported and funded by the North West Chilterns Community Board

# Speed Watch

In the November edition of Crosstalk we announced that the Princes Risborough Community Speedwatch Group had been established and asked for members of the public to join the scheme. I am delighted to report that we now have enough members of the public to allow campaigns to begin.

We plan to start in April and have agreed on the initial 4 locations where we will monitor the traffic.

The locations selected are the main approaches and exits from Princes Risborough towards Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Longwick. Additional locations will be added in future and we ask you to contact us with suggested locations.

The Speedwatch campaigns are run using a platform created by an organisation called CSW (Community Speedwatch UK) their ethos and guiding principles can be found below. Community Speedwatch UK (CSW Ethos)

In 1829, Robert Peel formulated nine policing principles of law enforcement. Today, modern policing rests upon his notion that the police are the public, and the public are the police.

It is therefore not contradictory to suggest that cooperation between civilian volunteers and salaried police officers comes as a natural consequence of shared interests based on his ethical guidelines, especially - as is the case with Speedwatch, the voluntary work is entirely focused on early intervention by means of proactive education before anything else

Police enforcement, on the other hand, should only be focused on areas where it is needed, when it is needed, if it is necessary, and only when other means of preventative intervention are exhausted without success. And, enforcement should ONLY be conducted by police officers, and NEVER in the presence of Speedwatch volunteers.

### Integrity rules

There is no direct enforcement involved with the efforts contributed by Speedwatch volunteers. They do not substitute low prioritised enforcement issues with 'policing-on-cheap' solutions. Neither are they "waging war on motorists", nor "retired people with nothing better to do!". Volunteers are recruited from a wide demographic representation of concerned citizens who contribute with their time to make local roads safer for everyone to use. And, by doing just that, they participate selflessly in a noble effort to save lives by raising awareness of the dangers of speeding.

### Checks and balances

Every effort is continuously made to safeguard the interests and safety of ALL road users. The benefit of doubt is always on the side of drivers/riders. Vigilantism amongst Speedwatch volunteers



is not tolerated; code-of-conduct is maintained as a highly prioritised, integral part of what is expected of the volunteers' involvement. The online platform automatically manages both groups, offence records, and the supervisory/supportive involvement of the police. This human error-free methodology safeguards the overruling principle that any measurable or suspected inaccuracy is instantly and continuously reported until addressed.

Speedwatch conducted under the national initiative is synonymous with the highest possible level of integrity, honesty, noble intentions, and quality of observational data.

**Cllr Alan Frost**

• Campaign's to start April 2022 will be announced on Town Council website and social media feeds

• Fancy joining us or have a new suggested location? Please contact the Town Council (contact details can be found on the back page).





# Annual Town Meeting & Civic Awards

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April from 7:15pm**

Brushwood Suite, Wades Centre, Stratton Road, Princes  
Risborough, HP27 9AX

All residents are welcome to attend.

## Princes Risborough Town Council

The Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0DP

**T:** 01844 275912 **E:** [towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

**W:** [www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

**f** @Risboroughtowncouncil

**t**: @Princesris

**i**: princesrisboroughtc

### Councillors

Mayor & Chairman: Cllr Andy Ball

Chairman of Finance Cttee: Cllr Sue Coombs

Cllr Alan Turner

Cllr Cath Campbell

Cllr Ian Parkinson

Cllr Jane Rampin

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. Susanne Barter

Clerical Assistant: Jayne Mylchreest

Events & Communications Assistant: Stephanie Boyle

Admin Support Officer: Cate Holloway

Deputy Chairman: Cllr Surinder Marshall

Cllr Alan Frost

Cllr Andrew Shipley

Cllr John Coombs

Cllr Gary Hall

Cllr Josephine Biss

Cllr Mark Roberts

Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Kirsty Pope

Bookings Officer: Tania Campbell

Maintenance Team Leader: Barney Hefferman

Maintenance Team Operatives: Pete Quigley, Matthew Ball

### Office Hours - Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm

Princes Risborough Town Council, The Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0DP (01844) 275912

The full Town Council meets at 7.00 pm, monthly on the last Tuesday of the month. There is a 10-minute slot at the beginning of each meeting when the public can express a view or concern relating to town matters. Please check the website to confirm.

The next meetings are: **Tuesday 26th April 2022** **Tuesday 31st May 2022**

The Town Council aims to be as accessible as possible, and welcomes the views, comments and concerns of the Princes Risborough electorate. Although the views of the whole Council are given wherever possible, for constitutional and legal reasons we must state that the views expressed herein Crosstalk, and in any personal correspondence received from individual Councillors, are those of the author concerned and do not necessarily express the opinions or policy of PRTC unless explicitly stated.

### Are your details correct?

Is your local organisation listed on our website? If so, please could we ask you to check that all the details are current? Please email any updates to [towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)