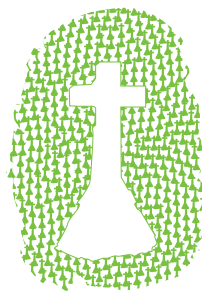




CROSS *talk*

Princes Risborough Town Council Newsletter



Photos courtesy of Peter Klein

A Message from the Mayor



Cllr Alan Turner
Chairman and Town Mayor

By the time you read this report Summer will be in full swing and hopefully the sun will be shining as brightly as when this was written. It seems that the Town Council just keeps getting busier and this summer has proved to be particularly hectic. We have taken on the County Council grass cutting in the Town (under devolved services), entered the "Britain in Bloom" competition (for the first time), held talks with Network Rail about the impact of the East West Rail Project on our Town, continuing our preparation to appear before the Select Committee at Westminster this September to oppose HS2 construction traffic coming through Princes Risborough, fighting off unsustainable speculative planning applications and progressing the work of the steering group with the creation of a Town Plan, which will become part of the District Council's "Local Plan". All this on top of the day-to-day running of the Council.

In our meetings with Network Rail we have stressed the importance of retaining pedestrian crossing points along the Risborough/Aylesbury line, whilst accepting that, for safety reasons (trains on the upgraded track will travel at up to 100mph), this would necessitate installing footbridges and a subway.

In preparation for presenting our petition against HS2 construction traffic we have been working closely with the parish councils of Bradenham and West Wycombe, along with Wycombe District Council (WDC), all of whom will be affected by the 100's of HGV vehicles thundering through our communities every day. A huge thank you has to go to James Stevens who is acting as our Roll B agent and will be presenting our case to the Select Committee; he has taken on a massive amount of work and we are very grateful to him.

Regarding the "Local Plan" and how it will affect Risborough, as mentioned above, the Steering Group are working with WDC planning officers to find the most sustainable way to accommodate housing growth in the Town. The Steering Group is made up of Town, District and County Councillors, planning consultants, representatives of various resident groups, business, school and where required independent professionals to assist with specific issues. Public meetings and drop-in sessions will be held later in the year to provide opportunities to discuss progress.

One good piece of news is that the Post Office has been retained within the Town Centre and is now situated in the old information centre opposite Marks & Spencer.

"This edition of Crosstalk also contains an important questionnaire and I would ask everyone to please respond"

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There are two main issues:

1. The County Council have informed us that they are no longer financially able to continue funding six grass cuts a year (already reduced from 10 cuts previously) in the Town. Under a devolved services agreement the County Council has paid the Town Council to cut certain areas for this year, from the feedback the standard of work has been generally well received. However, next year the County Council will only fund a part of the cost and thereafter funding may be removed entirely, leaving the Town Council to either absorb the cost or leave the grass to grow. *We need to know whether you would or would not accept us making a small increase to the Precept to cover these costs.*
2. We have received a request to provide allotments for residents in the Town. Under Government regulations we are obliged to investigate purchasing a suitable site (if one is available within the Parish) when we receive such a request. Whilst there are available allotments in an adjoining parish, we have none inside our own boundary. However, the cost of purchasing land (if anyone was prepared to sell) within our Parish will be very high, even if a compulsory purchase order was pursued through WDC as the landowner would most likely claim "hope value". *Therefore we need to know whether you would or would not support us raising the precept to cover such a land purchase. Please refer to page 7 for full details relating to both issues.*

Planning Matters



The Planning Committee meets once a month and you are able to find meeting dates on our website. Out of all the committees within the Town Council, Planning has a low attendance from the public. We like all the committees have the first ten minutes dedicated to a public forum. If you have any planning matters please pop along to a meeting, although applications are determined by Wycombe District Council Planning Committee the Town Council is consulted due to our local knowledge.

It's good to see a fresh and attractive building standing on the former Post Office site. This will house a Morrisons store with flats above; all of which have now been sold. We wait eagerly for the shop fitters to move in and finish the interior. It is also great to see the Swifts flying around the building, which is a pleasant sight for all after the worry during the demolition of the former building.

A press release from Wycombe District Council was published at the beginning of July in reference to the Monks Risborough Housing Development. Gladman Homes application for 192 homes at Mill Lane was unanimously turned down. The full article can be found on our website.

Apart from the above we have been fairly quiet dealing with the usual applications for home improvements and tree works. For tree works we rely on the expertise of Wycombe District Council's arboriculturalist.

Cllr Mags West

Chairman of Planning Committee

New website for *Stratton Memorial Garden*

We are pleased to confirm that the Town Council has set up a dedicated website for our beautiful memorial garden.

As a Town Council, we are very proud of Stratton Memorial Garden. It is maintained by our own Maintenance Team and managed by Town Council officers. The website is easy to navigate and provides full information relating to fees, regulations and rules.

We would urge anyone that has not visited the garden to find the time to have a look. It really is a beautiful asset to our wonderful Town.

For further information please visit www.strattonmemorialgarden.co.uk



Photo courtesy of Iain McLauchlan

New Faces on the Town Council



Many of you may recognise me from delivering your post as I have worked for Royal Mail for exactly 36 years, for the last 10 years in my home town of Princes Risborough. Unfortunately 3 years ago the local delivery office was closed and we now work out of Aylesbury Vale delivery office on the Triangle Park industrial estate just up from the Worlds End garden centre in Wendover.

I was also a local retained fire-fighter based at Princes Risborough from 2004 until the beginning of this year 2015, I achieved the rank of a crew commander which entitled me to be in charge of the fire appliance as well as running incidents.

I live in Eastfield Road with my wife Shelly, son Matthew and our 6-year old King Charles spaniel Alfie. Being a family man with 2 grown up children and a younger 12-year old son keeps me quite fit and active.

Being a local Town Councillor has certainly opened my eyes to just how much time and effort Town Councillors do actually put into their roles, on a voluntary basis I might add, so my admiration for the vast majority of those Town Councillors that have served this town for a great number of years is well earned.

Sitting on the local town plan steering group is a great honour for someone who has only been a Town Councillor for 3 months and I will promise to always have your best interests in mind during any future meetings. Obviously the amount of new houses that the town has been tasked to provide by the government will not please everybody; all I would say is that do please attend any future public meetings and have your say and please remember this is your home town as well as mine.

I am always approachable so please do stop and speak to me.

Cllr Andy Ball



As a Risborough resident who cares a great deal about the town, it was a great honour to become a Princes Risborough Town Councillor earlier this year. Having lived here for 30 years, I have grown up and been schooled in the town, seen how it has developed over time, played football for the local side at all age levels, made many friends here and, very occasionally, enjoyed the odd pint in the local public houses.

I applied to join the council as I wanted to give something back to the community in which I live (and love!). As a new member of the council, and one of the youngest councillors, I see it as a great opportunity to bring new ideas to the table, and perhaps offer a different perspective on things. I believe everyone in Risborough has their right to voice an opinion on the town and the surrounding issues that arise regarding it, no matter how young or old. We all share the town, so the voice of all generations should have the opportunity to be heard and make a positive contribution.

I am looking forward to working with the Town Council and the community in helping to make the future Risborough the best it can be. From my short period as a councillor so far, I can see there are various challenges as well as potential changes ahead; but I believe the Town Council will always do what is best for the town. I am always open for a chat, so please do say hello or get in touch if you need to.

Cllr Kyle Wilkins



Firstly, it's a real honour and privilege to represent the people of Princes Risborough. I didn't grow up in Risborough, but it's where my young family and I have happily called home for the past four years.

The local community spirit is infectious, and I've found it impossible not to get involved. I'm a governor at Princes Risborough Primary School on Wellington Avenue, chairman of the Risborough Area Residents Association, a trustee of the Princes Centre and a founding member of the Monks Risborough Society.

The next four years will be particularly challenging for our small market town, and significant decisions about our future will be made. I believe that everyone should have a genuine and meaningful opportunity to help shape that future, and I will do everything I can to ensure that the views of local residents are heard loud and clear.

Don't forget, Princes Risborough Town Council is your town council. We are your representatives. Speak to us and let us know what you think. Hold us to account. I want to do the best I can for Risborough, but I need your help to do it.

Cllr Ian Churchill

TOWN REPORT

Devolved Services

Since the last issue of Crosstalk a lot has been happening across the town, which has involved the Maintenance Team having a lot of extra work to do, due to the Town Council taking on services previously undertaken by Bucks County Council. The bulk of this work is in the maintenance of the grass verges both in and around the town and in a number of outlying parishes.

I am happy to report that a majority of the comments received at the office have been positive, with many expressing satisfaction with the standard that we are able to achieve, compared to that of the last BCC contractors.



As well as grass cutting the team also ensure that road signs remain legible and clear of growth of bushes and trees, along with a number of additional responsibilities that are not always obvious to the general public.

You will see that the issue of Devolved Services is one of the questions in the Residents Survey that is a part of this issue of Crosstalk. It is essential that you give some thought to the question posed as your answers will form a major part of the Council's way forward during its four year tenure.

Wades Park Storage Facility

The Town Council has received planning permission to go ahead with the storage facility on Wades Park. This unit will be in place of the rather run down garage that is presently on site and so will not encroach on the recreational area.

The establishment of this facility is required to provide the Council with a safe and secure area where we can store all the equipment that is necessary to keep the town looking good.

The facility should be in place by the autumn and will also provide some space for the storage of equipment owned by the Town Festival committee and the Market Group.

The Market House and the Dovecot

Quotes are now being sought for the proposed restoration work on the Market House. We have a schedule of works needed and once we are in possession of quotations then we will have a much better idea as to how much outside funding we will need to obtain to bring the building back into use.

The unique and historic Dovecot in St Dunstan's Recreation Ground has undergone some restoration work to ensure its continued survival, and it is due in the next few weeks to be lime washed to greatly improve its appearance.



Britain in Bloom

Let's make Risborough Blooming Great!



Photo courtesy of Anita Ross

For the first time this year the Town Council has entered the regional Britain in Bloom competition. We were influenced by a retired Britain in Bloom judge who regularly passes through the town and encouraged us to enter.

The judges visited the town on the 15th July and every effort was made to present the town as the vibrant and inclusive area that we know it is and we are pleased that from comments on our website most contributors see this as a positive move.

We will know the results in September at a presentation in Oxford.

Summer Planting



The summer planting of the flower beds has now taken place and the beds, saddle bag planters and hanging baskets are now in full bloom.

The warm weather, has meant that the Maintenance Team have been out every day to water the beds to ensure that they reach their full potential and the beds need constant maintenance to keep them weed and litter free.

The plants this year have been especially chosen to be 'bee friendly' and we hope that they will encourage bees and other flower loving insects.

Parks and Recreation Grounds:

All the parks are regularly inspected for damage to equipment, graffiti, etc. and a litter pick is carried out every day, and most especially during the summer period when the parks are used a lot more.

We still have that perennial problem with dog fouling but we are not able to fully control what goes on in the parks due to a lack of available staff, although we have the will to do so.



We have been very pleased with the reaction to the Art in the Park event last year and so we will be repeating it this year. If you or anyone you know who is a local artist,

in any medium, and would like to display this year please get in touch with the office as we still have some space available on the fence. It is hoped that the display will be up by mid-August and will remain in place until early September, if conditions allow.

Allotments

Another question on the residents' survey is in relation to the establishment of allotments in the town. We have received eight requests for allotments but have no additional land available for this purpose and so land would have to be purchased or leased. We have approached local landowners to seek a view



as to whether they would be willing to sell/lease the Council some land but so far

to no avail.

The cost of obtaining land is as you might imagine very high and along with making the land secure and maintaining it to our required standard the cost could outweigh the benefit.

This is an on going project and for those of you who would like to partake of an allotment in the near future should be aware that a number of allotments are available through two local charities and the Clerk and her staff can put you in touch with the charities, so just contact our office in the usual way, either by telephone or through the website.

As mentioned earlier in this publication, please refer to page 7 for a more comprehensive report relating to the question of allotments within the Town and for your chance to tell us your views on this.

CLlr John Coombs

Chairman of Town Committee



Recognising Local Residents

Congratulations to local residents Tom Winkworth and Chris Dennis who were both awarded Citizen Awards at this years Annual Town Meeting.

Both have shown outstanding commitment to the community with their selfless voluntary efforts. Thanks again for your amazing efforts.



Photos courtesy of Iain McLauchlan



THE PRINCES CENTRE

“community working together”

News from the Princes Centre

We are delighted to inform you that the replacement of the large windows in the Peter Robinson room took place recently and the new ones are looking wonderful. It is very satisfying to see some end result from the

fundraising efforts. Plans continue to replace the boiler and heating system, install a wheelchair lift (which will entail reordering the internal area of the building and relocating the kiln), relaying the paving in the patio area, upgrading the electrical system and providing RCD protection throughout the building, redoing some of the roof and replacing the rest of the external doors and windows. We are hoping to acquire some grant funding towards the costs.

The polo kindly sponsored by the Lacey Green Polo Club was not quite so well attended as we had hoped, due to the cold, damp and windy weather, but it was still very successful in that a further £1,400 was raised towards the refurbishment of the Centre. The trustees would like to thank Mariano Darritchon of La Mariposa Polo Club, Jairo Rojas and Elizabeth Humphreys for their support for this event.

We have recently received generous donations from St Dunstan’s Church and Universal Care Ltd who organised a fundraising event at Bisley Shooting Ground, and these are greatly appreciated. We also thank our other donors, who continue to give their support, and to other people who have generously given donations this month. With the amount of refurbishment required to upgrade everything, we hope that local people will continue to support the Centre.

If you wish to donate online, please visit www.princescentre.org.uk or if you prefer, please send a cheque, made out to The Princes Risborough Centre Ltd, and address it to The Princes Centre Appeal, Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough HP27 0DP. You can also download a Gift Aid form and Standing Order Form, should you wish to make a donation. If you would like to offer support in any other way Kim Challinor, Centre Manager would welcome a phone call from you on 01844 345105.

Risborough Youth Club

Cllr Kyle Wilkins and I felt that being the younger members of the Town Council we would be able to relate to the Risborough Youth Club therefore we both chose to be the Town Council’s representatives. We were kindly invited to this year’s AGM, and being part of the community for so many years it was a pleasure to see the time and commitment that the committee and volunteers put into keeping the youth club alive. Although during the evening it became obvious that the committee and volunteers are stretched very thin and would welcome extra support. The Rt Hon John Bercow MP was invited to present awards and to unveil a plaque to honour the years of voluntary work and dedication that Peter Robinson had done for the youth club.

If you have spare time and feel you could help get in contact with the youth club. Alternatively if you are between the ages of 11 and 17 in Risborough and the surrounding villages the youth club is open to you. The club meets every Monday night from 7pm and can be found on Hawthorn Road in Princes Risborough. It’s on the Princes Risborough School site but access can only be gained via Hawthorn Road. Why not check out their website for further information www.risboroughyouth.club



**Cllr Mags West &
Cllr Kyle Wilkins**



Residents Survey

Dear Resident,

We would appreciate you taking the time to read and respond to this important survey as the results could potentially mean an increase to the amount you pay as part of your precept (Council Tax) to the Town Council.

Grass Cutting

Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) is no longer financially able to continue funding six grass cuts a year in the Town. Under a Devolved Services agreement they paid the Town Council to cut certain areas for this year but next year BCC will only fund a part of the cost.

Please indicate below if you would be prepared to pay an additional **£5.87** per household per year to enable the Town Council to continue cutting the grass in the town up to ten times a year. This figure will be reviewed in three years.

Allotments

Eight residents have requested that the Town Council provide allotments in the town by compulsory purchase via Wycombe District Council, if land cannot be bought or leased within or close to the parish boundaries. Despite contacting local land owners, the Town Council has been unsuccessful in identifying land within the parish. The only agricultural land for sale at the moment is 1.7miles outside of the parish at a cost of £250,000. To purchase and convert the land for use as allotments would increase your precept (Council Tax) by **£100** per household for the year. Please indicate below your preference.

In addition, the Town Council would like to remind our residents that there are currently allotments available through the Princes Risborough and Monks Risborough Parochial Charities in Longwick and Cadsden Road. If you are interested please contact Chris Reynolds by e-mail monks.reynolds@btinternet.com

Also, you may be aware that there are many locally run schemes that are helping growers connect with nearby garden owners. It's not just the growers who stand to benefit from the arrangement. Many garden owners who join are either too elderly or too busy to manage their own plots, and by sharing their garden they don't have to watch it turn into a jungle of weeds.

While no money changes hands in garden sharing, those involved often have an agreement to divide up the fruit and veg produced.

- Do you have a garden that is too big to manage?
- Would you consider someone growing vegetables and fruit on your land for a share of the crop?
- Would you be interested in growing your vegetables and fruit in another resident's garden?

If you are interested in joining a garden sharing scheme, please contact the Town Council who will be happy to facilitate a scheme in Princes Risborough.

REPLY SLIP (PLEASE USE FREEPOST ENVELOPE ENCLOSED)

Allotments:

- I agree that the Town Council should purchase and convert agricultural land for the use of allotments at a cost in excess of **£100** for the year (£8.33 per month) added to the precept (council tax)
- I do not agree that the Town Council should purchase and convert agricultural land for the use of allotments at a cost in excess of **£100** for the year (£8.33 per month) added to the precept (council tax).

Grass Cutting:

- I agree for the Town Council to continue with Devolved Services at a cost of an additional **£5.87** per year (0.49p per month) added to the precept (council tax).
- I do not agree for the Town Council to continue with Devolved Services at a cost of an additional **£5.87** per year (0.49p per month) added to the precept (council Tax).

Parking and Roads in Risborough

There has been some confusion over who deals with roads maintenance in the Town. Well the easy answer is Bucks County Council and more specifically Bucks Highways. During this financial year the County Council has detailed work to be done in the Town as follows:

New Road (A4010) from Bell St to Aylesbury Road –start date will be between August and October 2015 to coincide with other work planned to take place along the A4010 New Road and Aylesbury Road.

Eastfield Road including Middle Road –start date will be 17 & 18 September 2015 with patching works to be carried out in advance from 1 September 2015 completed in approximately 3 weeks

Mill Lane –large patching scheme with a small amount of edge reconstruction - start date will be between January and March 2016 depending on the weather.

The following schemes have been put out to competitive tender and are currently being reviewed:

New Road - Bell St to Ash Road –start between August and October 2015.

A4010 Aylesbury Road – The Holloway, Whiteleaf –start date between August and October 2015.

For more information please call: 0845 2302882 or 01296 382416 or email tfb@buckscc.gov.uk

Some residents may have noticed some weeks ago the details of parked cars in their street being noted at various times of the day and night. This was the survey part of the comprehensive parking review by BCC, of many residential areas in the town resulting in a number of proposals to address capacity and suggest improvements.

Two informal public exhibitions are planned for the 1st September (10am-4pm) and 4th September (4pm-7pm) at Church Hall, Church Street where BCC and Tfb officers together with their consultants will be on hand to answer any questions and discuss these options in greater detail with you. Your input will be important to help the current 'project group' and others to tweak the proposals.

Princes Risborough Town Council

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

T: 01844 275912 **E:** towncouncil@princesrisborough.com

Please visit our website: www.princesrisborough.com  [@Princesris](https://twitter.com/Princesris)

Mayor & Chairman of the Council:	Cllr. Alan Turner
Vice Chairman:	Cllr. Wally Woolf
Chairman of Finance Cttee:	Cllr. Iain McLauchlan
Chairman of Admin & HR:	Cllr. Andy Ball
Chairman of Town Cttee:	Cllr. John Coombs
Chairman of Planning Cttee:	Cllr. Mags West
Chairman of Public Relations Cttee:	Cllr. John Coombs

Councillors

Cllr Ian Churchill	Cllr. Gary Hall	Cllr. Adrian Rolfe	Cllr. Pam Summerbell
Cllr Dawn Roper	Cllr Matthew Walsh		Cllr Kyle Wilkins
Clerk to the Council:	Mrs. Susanne Griffiths		
Deputy Clerk:	Mrs. Kirsty Pope		
Clerical Assistants:	Mrs. Caroline Page and Mrs Jayne Mylchreest		
Maintenance Team Operatives	Mr Lee Fortnam, Mr Kevin Locke & Mr Reece Harwood		

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm

The full Town Council meets at 7.00pm bi-monthly at The Princes Centre, Clifford Road. 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 time and venue. The next meetings are:

Tuesday 29th September 2015

Tuesday 24th November 2015

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 here in 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.