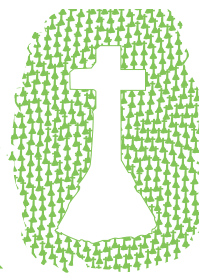




# CROSStalk



Princes Risborough Town Council Newsletter

Issue No. 57

March 2015

## Local Plan Update!

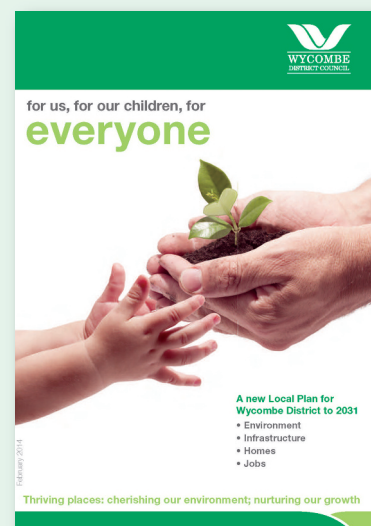
As it stands we are waiting for Wycombe District Council to confirm the exact number of new homes they will propose for Princes Risborough within the new Local Plan framework. It is expected that draft proposals will be forthcoming this summer. It seems a long time since consultations on housing growth for the Town first began, hopefully it won't be much longer before we see what challenges await us! Whatever the number there will be many critical issues to be addressed and with this in mind a Steering Group will be established, made up of representatives from the Town Council, local community groups and planning officers, to assess the proposals.



A public meeting will be held once we have a clearer picture of what lies ahead!

**Cllr Alan Turner**

*Mayor and Chairman of The Council*



## Devolved Services Update

When I last updated you our thoughts of summer were becoming a distant memory and I assured you we at the Town Council would be working hard on a grass cutting / devolved services plan. As Christmas has been and gone and many of our New Year resolutions have been long forgotten we have made great strides in our plan.

We have completed our negotiations with both the County Council and our Parish Partners of Bradenham, Bledlow cum Saunderton, Lacey Green and Longwick cum Ilmer. We now have in place the parameters that will see Princes Risborough Town Council assume responsibility for Grass Cutting, Area Maintenance, Charity Advertising Signage, Weeding, Footpath Vegetation and Hedge Cutting. Princes Risborough will be leading one of the largest Clusters in the County.



You may have already noticed our new Van and trailer out and about in the Town. We have purchased a new ride on mower for the parks and verge cutting. The cost of the new mower roughly equates to the cost of hiring last year's mower for the season, so we are aiming to achieve maximum efficiency and use of public money.

People have asked why we should go ahead with Devolved Services. You may not realise that the Council has been providing some services on behalf of the County Council for the past five years. Local government finances face continued pressure and there is a belief that by providing services at a local level more work can be achieved for the money. If the Council did not proceed with devolved services we could have had another Town Council cutting our grass. By bringing the work in house we maintain control and have flexibility.

You may ask why people will see our maintenance team outside the Parish performing work for other councils. Quite simply **they are earning the Town Council money**. If devolved services is deemed to be a success and with Wycombe District Council offering us work from 2016 these projects have the potential to bring in £100,000 in income for Princes Risborough. This enables us to continue to have our own Maintenance team and control over our services. That being said we are receiving limited funds from the County Council with regards to grass cutting. The budget equates to six cuts for the year, reducing to three in 2016. We are hopeful that we can achieve more but please bear with us as we begin to undertake this challenging but exciting development

**Cllr Matthew Walsh**

*Chair – Devolved Services Working Group*



**Annual Town Meeting**  
**Thursday 23rd April 2015 • 7.00pm • The Princes Centre**

## No Increase In Princes Risborough Town Council Precept!

For the sixth year running Princes Risborough Town Council will not be increasing the precept, its share of the Council Tax.

Last November the Town Council met to discuss and set the budgets for 2015/6. It has been another difficult year with a number of challenges needing to be met.

In common with everyone, all of our costs are increasing. We are having to find more ways to ensure we do not have to increase the burden on you the Council Tax payer without having to reduce the services provided to you. We are constantly having to try to find efficiency savings across the whole council. One way we are looking to reduce our costs is with

the installation of LED street lights which could potentially reduce our energy cost by up to 80%. Combined with these increases once again the grant that Wycombe District Council receives from Central Government has been cut so in turn the grant we receive from them has been cut. This is a situation that we have been preparing for.

Further tough times are coming within local government over the coming years and the Town Council will need careful financial management to face these problems.

**Cllr Iain McLauchlan**  
Chairman of Finance



## PARKING REVIEW FOR PRINCES RISBOROUGH

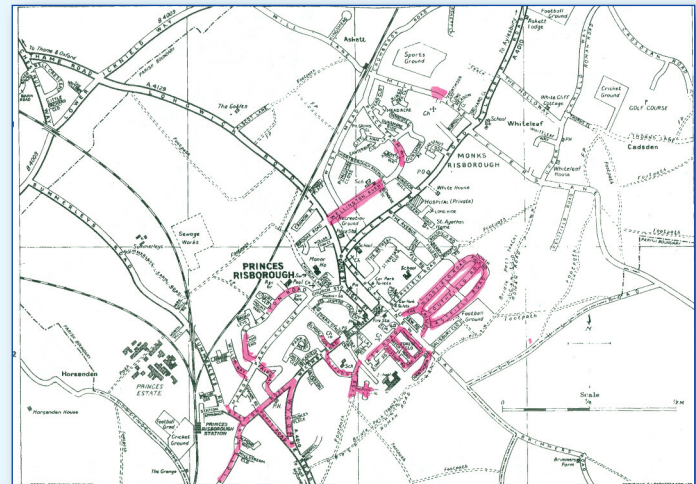
The Town Council is very pleased that, after a couple of false starts, Bucks County Council has just begun a comprehensive on-street parking review for the town.

The Town Council has been hoping for this for many years as on-street parking in various areas of the town has been of concern to many, and is of growing concern year on year.

Solving on-street parking is not straightforward as restrictions in one area will always push the problem elsewhere. This is why a town wide review has been needed.

Along with Town Councillors, BCC officials and consultants have identified 4 main areas of the town to initially concentrate on. These are: roads around the station (Picts Lane, Station Rd, Poppy Rd, Fairway, Willow Way and Stratton Rd), roads south of the Town Centre (Clifford Rd, Elmdale Gdns, Jasmine Crescent, Stratton Rd, Ash Rd, Beech Rd etc.), roads north of the Town centre (Wellington Ave and Place Farm Way), and the 'fields' roads (Crossfield, Northfield, Southfield, Eastfield etc.).

The consultation will initially involve street surveys to assess the issues in these areas, which will generate recommendations for solutions. These could range from time limited restrictions, double yellow lines, parking meters or even residents'



permits. Each area has slightly different issues so recommendations will be tailored specifically. Any recommendations then go to further consultation with residents and with BCC transport. Any approved schemes for tackling on-street parking then have to go through a complicated legal process before schemes are implemented.

This whole process can take up to one year, so please be patient but take the opportunity to be involved when you can. We will of course keep you updated on progress in Crosstalk and through the Town Council website.

**Cllr Will Streule**  
Chairman of Planning Committee



## Princes Risborough Town Council

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

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.