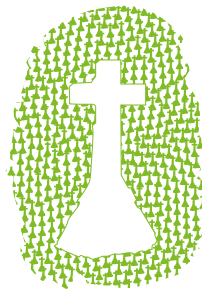




# CROSS *talk*

Princes Risborough Town Council Newsletter



Photos courtesy of Iain McLauchlan

## *A message from the Mayor*

Let's open with a piece of good news.....

In our first year as an entrant in the "Britain in Bloom" competition Princes Risborough won three Silver Awards. A huge thank you to all those within the community who helped us achieve this accolade. Our next aim is to go for Gold!

Perhaps the most frequently asked question I receive is, "What's happening to the old Royal Mail delivery office, is it going to be a Morrisons?" Well it was, but as you probably know, Morrisons have sold off all their convenience stores to another company – hence the development in Risborough is still empty. The latest news we have is that it will most likely now open under the new franchise or as a Co-op, or possibly as a different supermarket brand altogether, so take your pick! As soon as we have some definite information we will list it on the Town Council website.

At the end of this month (November) Network Rail are expected to announce further detail on the East West Rail project and how it will affect the Town. At present it appears the project may be "mothballed" for several years due to lack of funds, which really would be a shame. We shall just have to wait and see. The tortuously drawn out discussions regarding HS2 construction traffic have been grinding on and by the time you read this edition of Crosstalk we will have presented our petition to the Select Committee at Westminster (17th November). We will do our very best to get the traffic re-routed away from the Town, or at least to get assurances for measures to reduce the impact on our roads, but ultimately the decision will rest with the Select Committee. Keep an eye on our website for the outcome.

Work on the Local Plan has been accelerated, due to a Government directive, which means that we need to have draft proposals for Risborough ready to go out for consultation February/March. With the Steering Group doubling its rate of meetings, calling in expert technical advice and trying to make sense of ever changing impacting situations we will have to complete our work as best possible to meet the deadline.

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Cllr Alan Turner  
Chairman & Town Mayor

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# CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Friday 4th December 5.30pm Market Square with former Girls Aloud star Sarah Harding.

Meanwhile planning applications continue to pile in from developers eager to pre-empt the Local Plan, (which, if they were successful, could have serious implications for what infrastructure improvements we might expect), the latest being 500 plus houses on Park Mill Farm and possibly a new application for 140 houses on Molins Sports Ground. We really are under pressure and with our backs to the wall. Public meetings will be held in the New Year for residents to be updated and discuss the options. Whatever the outcome we must do all we can to retain the wonderful community spirit that is Princes Risborough.

*Finally, let me wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!*

## Planning Matters

*It has been pleasing to see a few of our residents popping along to some of our planning meetings since our last Crosstalk was published.*

Please do remember that like all Town Council meetings the first ten minutes are there for you as our residents to have your say and ask questions relating to that evening's agenda.

Park Mill Farm update: at this month's planning meeting an outline application was submitted for this for the construction of up to 500 dwellings. The Town Council reiterates its response to the WDC "Local Plan" consultation which you can find on our website. If you would like to see these plans then you can also find this application as well as all other applications on our website under planning. It has been great to see a few of our shops in the High Street having their signage revamped, all applications for new signage comes through to planning as the Town is within the conservation area.

Whilst walking through the High Street over the last few months it has been great to see that the builders

are in and working on the old Birtchnells site, we are all awaiting the news of what to expect to see within this unit. The new Post Office is now open and offering a new lease of life to the top of the High Street.

Apart from the above and the ever increasing applications for extensions, conversions and tree applications, it has been very quiet few months. Do remember that we meet on the first Tuesday of each month and you can find all meeting dates and planning applications on the Town Council website.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from the Planning Committee.

**Cllr Mags West**  
Chairman of  
Planning Committee



## Do you need help caring for someone?



The award winning Princes Centre has places available for older people who may have memory problems or for those that simply feel isolated and need companionship.

The Centre offers high quality support, where we will engage clients in many activities, in a safe, caring environment. The Centre also offers carers and family members the opportunity to have sometime to themselves.

**We offer a free taster day. Call the Princes Centre 01844 345105**

# Parking Review Update

Following on from the public exhibitions held by Bucks County Council (BCC) at St Mary's Church Hall on the 1st & 4th of September, a large number of local residents attended our Town Committee meeting on the 8th September to express their concerns with the proposed parking changes for a number of roads within the Town.

Many of you will be aware that BCC held a follow up meeting on the 28th of September and from this meeting several concessions were made to the original proposals.

As a Town Council we did not have any elected Town Councillors sitting on this BCC parking review from May 2015. Unfortunately the two Town Councillors that were originally elected to represent the Town Council subsequently decided not to stand for election back in May. However, I am pleased to confirm that we have now resolved this and Cllr Alan Turner and myself are now on this review group and will be making sure that all of your concerns are addressed to the best of our ability.

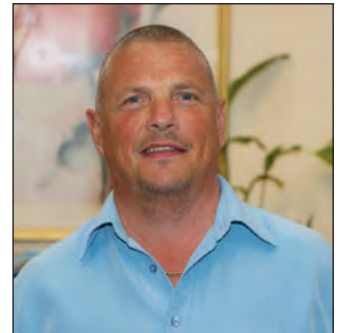
I am delighted to inform you that the ridiculous proposal to blanket the entire Trees and Fields estates with parking permits has now been dropped. In addition the proposal to place double yellow lines outside the Place Farm Way parade of shops has also been dropped and after a lot of pressure from the church and local residents, the threat of yellow lines along Mill Lane has also been dropped.

Obviously there are still a few concerns that Alan and I have and we will make these clear during the formal consultation which begins in the New Year.

Please remember that this parking review was conducted by Bucks County Council and they footed the bill for the surveys that they completed.

If any residents have any issues or questions regarding this parking review then please feel free to contact me.

*Cllr Andy Ball*



## New Face on the Town Council

I consider myself a born and bred "Risborough-ite" having spent 53 years (my entire life) living in this wonderful community based town. My maternal grandparents migrated here from Wales 70 years ago and my paternal family from the dizzy heights of Loosely Row. My siblings and my offspring have all been fortunate enough to reside in Risborough attending its wonderful schools and benefiting from the community activities throughout the last 50 years.

Having spent 20 years working for the ambulance service, which included a mini bus service which many of you would be familiar with, I have spent the last few years becoming a bigger part of my family circle helping raise two wonderful grandchildren (free child care, lucky kids) and now supporting the wider family. The mad house consists of my wonderful partner Derek Todd, six children, one angry cat and the latest addition, a puppy.

I felt an obligation to be part of the Town Council, to sustain a feeling of community when the town is on the cusp of major changes. I would like to support the growth of the town whilst keeping some of the core identity which makes this town great.

I'm invested in this town and its people, hearing your views and opinions is important to me, so we can together make the right decisions for generations to come.

*Cllr Dawn Roper*





# TOWN REPORT

This is the time of year when the committee looks back on the last year and assesses successes and failures, and then sets a budget for the next financial year. As always we aim to keep the estimates as low as possible without lowering our standards.

During the last year our Maintenance Team took on devolved services for Bucks County Council (BCC) to maintain the grass verges as well as the tasks which we have been performing for the last few years.

We are delighted to report that the feedback that we have received during the year has been very favourable and we have had some very nice compliments relating to our staff and their commitment to do a good job, whatever the weather. Over the next year we will, if negotiations prove fruitful, take on some additional devolved services on behalf of Wycombe District Council (WDC) which means that we can maintain their grassed areas to our exacting standards.

Due to this increased work load we have naturally had to provide additional equipment and as such we have need to store it securely. To this end we are establishing a dedicated storage facility within Wades Park which should be in use before the end of November. Also in Wades Park it has come to the notice of the Council that clients of 'The Springs' and other park users are increasingly parking on the emergency access road that leads onto the field. This roadway also acts as the access for our waste recovery contractor to empty the bin placed on the grassed area adjacent which has resulted in some abortive efforts to remove our recycled waste. This problem was somewhat exacerbated by the location of the mobile Breast Screening unit, which was on site for the last 3 months. Clients of The Springs and the Community Centre are reminded that the parking spaces between the swimming pool and the community centre are for the use of blue badge holders and not for those who are capable of walking from the Mount car park to the site. Please leave these spaces free for those who need them!



It was agreed by the committee to allow our flower beds around the town to 'rest' over the winter and then plant again in the spring after the beds have been nourished by a liberal application of 'organic' fertilizer. These actions should help produce a wonderful display during the spring and summer which will help in our participation in the Britain in Bloom competition, which was an unmitigated success this year. I am delighted to confirm that the Council were awarded with 3 awards and in addition the children of Monks Risborough Primary School were also recognised for their efforts. The judges were very pleased with the efforts of the Council and encouraged the members to build on the solid foundations already in place. The Council are therefore looking to create a Risborough in Bloom working group and will be inviting local community groups, schools and residents to join up and get involved. Watch this space for further information. However if you wish to register your interest, please do contact the office (details on the back page).

The plans for the restoration of the Market House are now well underway as we have identified areas that need urgent attention as well as those refinements that will make the building both more attractive and ultimately more accessible for public use and we are now trying to access a sufficient funding stream.

The lighting working group has received a quote to deliver the changeover from our present lighting stock to energy efficient LED heads which could significantly reduce our energy costs.

The committee welcomes comments that you may have on its areas of concern and would ask you to contact us through the regular channels should you have any comment to make.

**Cllr John Coombs**  
**Chairman Town Committee**



# Festival and Town Events

Following many successful years and a great many changes in personnel, the Festival Committee have decided that they can no longer continue. With the 2016 Festival in jeopardy and as the constitution of the Festival observes that all the assets of the committee revert to the Town Council it was decided by the Town Council that we were not prepared to allow this important local event to die and as such have established a Committee to run this and other events for future years. In doing so we would like to thank those persons who have given of their time and effort in the past to create and continue to support the town's major summer and winter events. This new committee will administer the funding for both the summer and winter festivals and facilitate any public meetings or civic events for which the Town Council is responsible. As we are new to this game, we have decided that perhaps a more limited event may be the best way forward for next year and as such we will probably limit the Festival to one weekend and those events that occur during the week preceding.

We aim to retain all those components that in the past have made up a successful Festival and so we will incorporate those elements such as the Street Fayre, which allows many local organisations to raise much needed funds and to encourage people to join, musical entertainment in the Market Square and the chocolate hunt on Whiteleaf Cross. The events during the week will of course include school concerts, factory open days and sporting events.

To enhance the Festival we are once again organising our 'Art in the Park' event, where local artists can display their works in large format along the fence in Wades Park, which has proved very popular over

the past two years. We are trying to make this event bigger and better next year and will be looking at offering prizes for the best entries. More details will follow on this but stay posted to our website for further details!

In the meantime, if you or anyone you know wishes to be involved please contact the Town Office in the usual fashion, either by phone or email. The same applies to any of the many local bands and solo performers who would like to showcase their abilities on stage at the Street Fayre. Get in touch and we will show you off to the Town in the best possible light.



As in the past we would like the Festival to have a theme and so we would like to encourage anyone who has thoughts as to a theme that they would like to see to contact the Town Office with their thoughts and reasons.

Other events that we foresee include Public Meetings to discuss the Local Plan which remains somewhat controversial and Public Consultations around a number of other subjects.

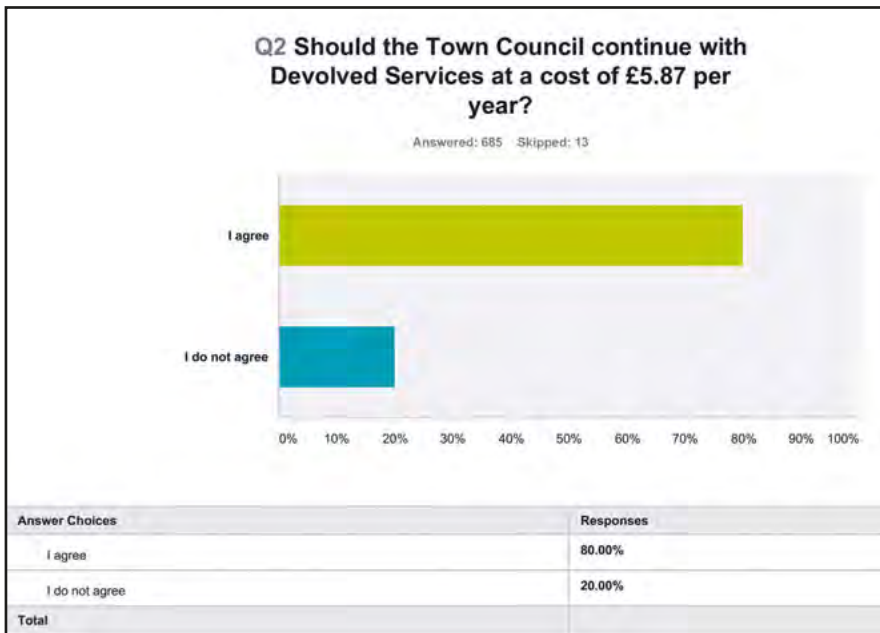
This new Committee will utilise working groups to best facilitate these events and so members of outside organisations and past Festival Committee members will be asked to participate in our deliberations with the Committee responsible to the Council for financial decisions.

Again, many thanks to those that have served in the past and let us all pull together to make these events the best that they can possibly be.

**Cllr John Coombs – Chairman  
Public Relations Committee**



# Residents Survey results....



Sincere thanks are extended to all those residents who took the time to complete the survey that was distributed in the previous issue of Crosstalk (August). The council members were overwhelmed with the response, in fact this was the biggest response to any previous survey. Nearly 700 completed responses were received. The full results can be found online at [www.princesrisborough.com](http://www.princesrisborough.com)

This information will be extremely helpful for the council members when formulating the 2016/2017 precept (council tax).

## Turn and Face the Change?

*Sheryl Crow once famously sang "A Change Would Do You Good", which was all well and good, except Sheryl didn't really have the same concerns as say, residents of a small market town, nestling at the foot of the Chilterns, did she?*

The definition of change is 'to make the form, nature, content or future course of something different from what it is, or from what it would be if left alone; to transform or convert'. When you apply this to the town in which you live, any mention of the word 'change' and it's easy to see why it can cause uncertainty and concerns amongst the people residing there. It's no different for Princes Risborough, and in just over half a year as a Town Councillor, it is definitely the one thing that has struck me as being at the forefront of everyone's minds. What will be changing? When will they be changing? And of course, will a change do me good?

Risborough, like a lot of small towns, is under increasing pressure to change all the time and it's not difficult to get nostalgic and reminisce about the affections of the past; of what Risborough used to be like, longing for the 'good old days'. It's easily done.

I still remember when the 'Spider Park' in Monks Risborough did actually have a huge spider in it. (Well, a climbing frame in arachnid form, hence the nickname). I also remember the days before Risborough had a Tesco, when you could grab a pint and a kebab on the very same site. Even more recently, you could send a parcel

from the local post office and pick up a tube of Savlon and a can of Lynx Africa at the same time (if you so wished). Not anymore. Things are changing around the town all the time, and whether they are for the best are personal opinion. A lot of that will of course be attributed to the individual and whether or not it affects them. Going back to my point above - Will it be good for them? And just like in the past, there will be changes in the future; it's inevitable. It's also inevitable that every proposed change will be met with the same responses as those in time gone by. As a young lad, I was devastated when that spider climbing frame got taken away from the park, but do you know what? I got over it (eventually, admittedly). In time, the change that happened became the norm to me.

We as a town have both embraced and shunned changes before, but personally, I think the town as a whole is as good as it ever has been, if not better. Risborough has, and will always, adapt to change.

I suppose the point I'm trying to make is, and to reference yet another 'classic' song from the 90s - Everything changes but you. The people of the town are what make it. The residents, the community; YOU are what make Risborough great. And that is the one constant that won't change.

**Cllr Kyle Wilkins**



# Festive Fun in Risborough

With Christmas fast approaching, it's time to dust off those old Christmas CDs, stock up on plenty of mince pies and start looking forward to this year's Princes Risborough Christmas Lights event on Friday 4th December.

This year the Princes Risborough Festival Committee, Market Group, Princes Risborough Town Council and Wycombe District Council have been working together to obtain new lights and infrastructure for this year's switch-on. It will make Christmas 2015 in Risborough bigger and better than ever!

This year will see new lights in the Market Square, High Street and Bell Street. To accompany the new lights, the evening will involve a host of music and fun in the Market Square, starting at 5.00pm. Performances from St Mary's Church, local school choirs and Allstars Academy, with an array of stalls, hot food and plenty more. To top this Father Christmas will be stopping by to wish us all a very Merry Christmas and of course our very special guest, **former Girls Aloud singer and local resident, Sarah Harding, will switch on the new lights.**



**The Festival Committee wishes you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you on the 4th!**

**FREE PARKING THIS CHRISTMAS**  
**SATURDAY 5TH, 12TH & 19TH DEC**  
**COUNCIL CAR PARKS ONLY**

## LOCAL SCOOTER CLUB RAISES £1,000 FOR DISABILITY FOOTBALL TEAM

The Double Diamond Scooter Club, based in Princes Risborough, presented a cheque for £1,000 to Risborough Rangers Junior FC Pan-disability team at the recently-held Kop Hill Climb.

The Scooter Club was formed in 2011 around a group of like-minded people with a passionate interest in vintage Lambretta and Vespa scooters. Their annual mini-festival, held in Towersey, is focused on raising money for good causes and provides a great atmosphere with on-site camping, music, food etc. The sum raised is a measure of the generosity of the scooter world. The RRJFC Pan-disability team for boys and girls aged 7-11 trains every Saturday morning from 9.15 - 10.30 am at the Indoor Sports Hall, The Community Centre, Stratton Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks. HP27 9AX.



**COME ALONG FOR A  
FREE 'TASTER' SESSION**



# Princes Risborough Remembers

*The Town commemorated Remembrance Day in a moving ceremony on Sunday 8th November. Crowds packed the pavements as many representatives of the Town's organisations formed up to pay their respects and like Town Councillor Gary Hall, lay a wreath on the War Memorial.*



## Princes Risborough Town Council

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

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**Please visit our website:** [www.princesrisborough.com](http://www.princesrisborough.com) **Twitter:** @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 meeting is **Tuesday 26th January 2016**

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.