



CROSS talk



Princes Risborough Town Council Newsletter



Photos courtesy of Nathan Davis & Iain McLaughlin

Annual Report - Year Ending March 31 2018

A message from the Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council Cllr Matthew Walsh

The past financial year has seen many successes and my thanks foremost must go to all the Staff and Councillors of Princes Risborough Town Council who regularly go above and beyond their roles and duties expected of them.

The responsibilities of the Town Council within our Parish are vast and range from Maintenance of our open spaces to running of our weekly Thursday market, to advising Wycombe District Council on Planning Applications.

This Annual Report for year Ending March 31st 2018 will provide you with an update on works undertaken for each of our Committees.

I do hope that you will find this Annual Report both useful and informative.

If you should have questions, comments or concerns relating to this report, then please do email refer to the contact information on the last page of this report.

Cllr Matthew Walsh - Town Mayor & Chairman



Finance Information

Our Committees Annual budget for 2017/2018 was £388,365.

Principle Source of Income – Precept £345,702

Supplemented by:

Market Rents

Devolved Services

Services to other Councils

Festival Sponsorship/Grants

CIL (spend within 5 years)



Precept for 2018/2019 - £354,151

Council Tax Support Grant £12,761.66 reduction of 13.5%

BAND D TAX RATE £99.87 increase of 1% on 2017/2018 (£98.88)

Breakdown of the precept for 2018 - 2019

Estimated Expenditure 18/19

Admin & Human Resources	£117,927
Civic & Democratic	£4,050
Town	£236,126
Market House	£2,020
Market	£3,060
Public Relations	£12,861
Events	£27,520
Grants & Subs	£10,530
Market House Refurbs	£6,732
Legal Costs	£2,000
Local Plan	£1,000
Town Regeneration	£10,000
Town Heritage Trail	£5,000
LED Lights	£150,000
Storage/Welfare Facilities	£5,000
Office Furniture	£1,000

TOTAL £594,826

Estimated Income 18/19

General £52,449

TOTAL £52,449

Admin & HR

The Administration of Princes Risborough Town Council continues to be carried out by our qualified Town Clerk, Mrs Susanne Griffiths who is appointed by the Town Council.

Our Town Clerk ensures that the Town Council operates legally, is responsible for advising the Council so that they make informed decisions, and ensures that these are carried out appropriately.

Additionally, responsibilities of the Town Clerk include advising the Council on all new developments in procedures, law and local council work. The Clerk's role also covers all areas such as the Employment, Health & Safety, Legal and all matters relating to employment of the permanent staff members within the Town Council offices.

Susanne is supported by the Deputy Clerk, Mrs Kirsty Pope as well as our Administration Officer, and the Maintenance team.

Our Town

There are many aspects of Princes Risborough that fall under our responsibility, including the Maintenance of our buildings and Open Spaces, lighting, bus shelters, seats, flowerbeds, the Market, House and War Memorials. All of these are managed by our Clerk, her staff, and our Maintenance team who work tirelessly and diligently all year round to maintain the integrity of our town.

Many ongoing projects have come to fruition in 2017/2018 including the extensive refurbishment of our Grade 2 listed Market House which is now a building the town can be rightly proud of and is available to hire by the community and local businesses.

With the determination of our Lighting Project working group, we successfully ran two LED lighting pilot schemes, so we can reduce not only our energy consumption within the Parish, but also the costs associated with traditional lighting methods and are delighted to say that we will shortly be replacing all street lighting across the town.

Working with the Community is always rewarding, and we were thrilled to be able to help Risborough Rangers in providing them with a purpose-built storage facility at Wades Park to safely store their equipment. Additionally, we have undertaken organisation of the Thursday Street Market and along with our Public Relations committee have looked at ways to enhance and promote both the Market and our Town Centre. We have advertising on the Community Bus as well as in local guides and magazines.

Along with the Town, the promotion our Market will be carried forward for the next financial year and will form part of our regeneration plans going to increase footfall, as well as visitor experiences to Princes Risborough.



Public Relations

As part of our communications strategy to keep local residents and businesses up-to-date, we have issued regular editions of our Council written newsletter "Crosstalk" with content that is both relevant and informative. Over the last financial year we have covered the Local Plan, new lighting schemes, information pertaining to our Parks and open spaces and details about our own Council organised community events as well as those arranged by local groups. We have also relaunched our Town Council website, to make it more user-friendly to both residents and visitors alike, who often use this resource as a first port-of-call to find out information about our Town.

We have looked at ways of our improving our town and make it a more attractive place to live and repeated our successful "Art in the Park" scheme which highlights the vast talent of our local artists, sculptors and craftspeople. The competition saw winners Artwork displayed on boards around Wades Park and was greatly appreciated by our community.

We will continue to look at ways in which our Town can be promoted and will carry on working on our Regeneration plans for the forthcoming year.



Citizen Awards



We are thrilled to award our Citizens Awards during this period to two individuals who have shown outstanding commitment to our Community. The recipients were Mr. Trevor Lynch who set-up and continues to run the hugely successful Risborough Run in the Park in 2014, a weekly 5k run aimed at families and opportunities in Wades Park, as well as Mr John Biggs for his unstinting efforts in the organisation of "Kop Hill Climb" as well as his support of the Town Festival.

A Community Group Recognition award is also presented to the Kop Hill Climb, ran by dedicated volunteers has brought much kudos to the town and is a great example of the whole community working together through its various organisations.



Events in our Town

The introduction of our first Easter Egg display on the trees in Easter 2017 by Horns Lane car park, was a spectacular visual feast and a wonderful community project involving our local primary school children.

Our Summer Festival in 2017 was hugely successful, with both residents and visitors soaking up the Sun and enjoying the man-made beach, attractions and entertainment and our Christmas light switch with the addition of Ice-Rink, live music and finale of fireworks was the perfect way to end 2017.

All of the above events during this period would not of been possible without the help of our dedicated staff, Volunteers and Sponsors and our thanks go to everyone involved.



Thames Valley Police

Whilst we know that no town is without its problems, Sgt James Benfield from Thames Valley police reported that during 2017/18 Princes Risborough was a low crime area. The Team have spent time problem solving to look at the root causes to reduce the crimes being committed.

The Princes Risborough team often visits Schools and the High Street and encourages residents to speak to the team if they have any concerns or need information.

He reported that the focus is the increase in cyber crime and the advice for all, is to install firewall security and regularly change passwords. A lot of Police time is also spent safeguarding vulnerable people within the community and they work with social services and mental health services to make them aware of these people.

Our thanks also to the The Neighbourhood Watch scheme who were invaluable at sharing information during this period.



Who is responsible for what?

Princes Risborough Town Council
Tel: 01844 275912

Bus Shelters
Christmas Lights Switch on
Crosstalk Newsletter
Dovecote Building
Open Spaces & Play Areas
Stratton Memorial Garden
Street Lighting (excluding A4010)
Office of the Mayor & Engagements
Thursday Market
Town Flowerbeds & Baskets
Town Summer Festival
Verge Cutting
War Memorials

Wycombe District Council
Tel: 01494 461000

Benefits
Building Control
Business Rates
Community Safety
Council Tax
Dogs & Fouling
Electoral Services
Environmental Health
Housing
Licensing
Noise
Pest Control
Planning
Street Cleaning
Waste Management & Recycling

Bucks County Council
Tel: 01296 395000

Roads & Pavements
Education
Main Libraries
Social Care Services
Trading Standards
Registrar
Waste Disposal
Grass Cutting (rural)

Princes Risborough Town Council

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Please visit our website: www.princesrisborough.com **🐦:** @Princesris

Mayor & Chairman:	Cllr. Matthew Walsh	Deputy Chairman:	Cllr. Andy Ball
Chairman of Finance Cttee:	Cllr. Alan Turner	Chairman of Admin & HR:	Cllr. Iain McLauchlan
Chairman of Events Cttee:	Cllr. Andy Ball	Chairman of Town Cttee:	Cllr. John Coombs
Chairman of Planning Cttee:	Cllr. Ian Pearce	Chairman of Public Relations Cttee:	Cllr. David Knights

Councillors

Cllr. Gary Hall

Cllr. Nathan Davis

Cllr. Adrian Rolfe

Cllr. Pam Summerbell

Cllr. Janet Roberts

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. Susanne Griffiths

Deputy Clerk:

Mrs. Kirsty Pope

Clerical Assistant:

Jayne Mylchreest

Maintenance Team Leader:

Kevin Locke

Maintenance Team Operatives:

Robert Powell, Brian Dickinson and Jake Lloyd

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm

The full Town Council meets at 7.00pm, bi-monthly on the last Tuesday of the month 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 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.



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