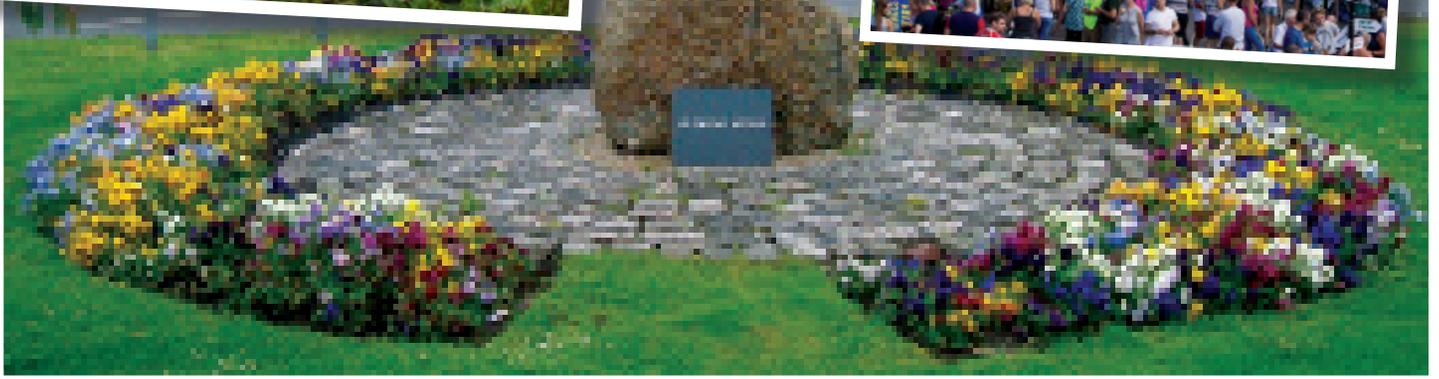




CROSStalk

Princes Risborough Town Council Newsletter



Photos courtesy of Nathan Davis & Iain McLaughlan

Spring is on the Way

With the Christmas season long behind us and the last few flakes of snow on the ground, Spring is returning to the Town once again. From the clear waters of the trickling stream at Wades Park, to the snowdrops appearing in St Dunstan's churchyard, Spring is showing its colours.

As we move into the Lent season and start to get close to Easter we are excited to once again be working with local schools to produce decorated Easter eggs for the trees at the end of the High Street. Last year these trees were awash with decorated eggs that children across the town had spent time painting and crafting. SO many of you said how much you enjoyed this initiative.

Soon you'll begin to see the bulbs and springtime flowers appear in the tubs and beds around the town and once again we are expecting a flood of sunshine colour to welcome in the warmer weather. The grass cutting season will soon be here and the Maintenance team will be hard at work cutting the grass verges and parks.

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And before we know it we will be celebrating the Festival. We have already started planning and are hoping to build on last year's excellent week. As well as Festival day on Saturday 7th July, we are looking for ways to build up Festival week and make it even more memorable. If you have any ideas, or have something to offer, please get in touch as we begin to put the programme together. It's going to be another busy year!

A Busy Year

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



Last year was a busy year for the Town Council, which brought new challenges and opportunities. Construction developments have been underway with new homes and employment sites. As a result of this construction, the Town Council has been able to start to spend our share of the development income on making community improvements – you can read about our support of Risborough Rangers in this edition. If you are a new resident to the Town may I take this opportunity to welcome you and hope that you will soon feel part of this great community.

I would like to thank all of you who came to our Christmas lights switch on. Moving the event to a Saturday was a risk, but one that certainly paid off judging by the huge crowds that lined the High Street. The Ice Rink proved extremely popular and the community came together to contribute to a great event. We have already begun the planning and preparation for the Summer Festival and the Christmas Light Switch on for this year.

National and Local Government faces many challenges in 2018; you have probably seen in the media recent reports of the huge challenges that some places are having in balancing their budgets. We continue to work hard to ensure we do all that we can to reduce the need for large increases to the Town Council's precept (the part of the Council Tax that comes to the town). This year we have managed to keep any increase as low as possible.

The increasing financial pressures are a significant driver in the discussions taking place as to whether to create a Unitary Council in Buckinghamshire which would merge the County and District Councils. The Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, has indicated he will decide on this soon and we continue to monitor the situation closely.



Following the opening of the refurbished Market House, I would like to thank Sandy MacFarlane who very kindly provided a tour to the Risborough 1st Beavers. His fascinating talk about the history of the Market House captured their attention. If you would like to come and take a look at the Market House please contact the office and we will organise a visit.



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

17th April Princes Centre, Clifford Road 7pm

All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend!

The Town Council 2018/19 Precept

by Cllr Alan Turner



The Town Council has now set its precept for the forthcoming financial year. This is the amount of the Council Tax which is collected by Wycombe District Council on behalf of the Town Council and provided to the Council to pay for our work in the Town. Councillors have had to take



into account a backdrop of inflationary pressures and

a further cut of 13.5% in the Government's Council Tax Support Grant. We want to be able to maintain the high level of services the Council provides to our residents, as well as completing a number of quality projects valued by the community. Through prudent financial management and efficient forward planning of our resources we have been able to keep this year's increase to the Precept at 1% - or viewed in a different way, an increase of 99p a year on a Band D property. We believe that the Town Council offers good value for money, but rest assured we will continue to look at ways to stretch every pound raised and keep future rises to a minimum.

Market House for Hire

Following on from the extensive restoration of the beloved Market House, we are delighted to be able to offer this facility in the town centre for hire to groups and organisations.

This historic building, dating back to the mid-17th century, occupies a prominent position in the town. The upper room has now been fitted out to accommodate groups of up to twenty who want to use it as a facility to meet. It is fully equipped with conference room tables and

chairs, wifi access, and a TV and datahub to use for presentations. In addition, there are hot and cold water facilities to make teas and coffees and a toilet. Not forgetting that it is surrounded by a vibrant High Street where you can purchase anything else you need!

This unique building is an exciting and unusual place to hold your next meeting. If you are interested in finding out more about the opportunities and costs for hire, or would like to take a look around before deciding, please contact the Town Council and we will be only too happy to show you around.

Unfortunately, due to the historic nature of the building, access to the upper room is only possible via an iron staircase. This means that access is not possible for those who require additional accessibility support.



Join our Maintenance Team!

We are currently recruiting a member of staff to join our Maintenance Team from 3rd April - 31st Aug 2018. You will be responsible for all the maintenance requirements of the Council, along with gardening and grass cutting responsibilities.

A full job description is available at www.princesrisborough.com or alternatively call the Town Council on 01844 275912 for an application form. **Closing Date: 15th March 2018**

We are also looking to recruit an apprentice from September 2018, please contact us today for more information.



Princes Risborough Parking Review 2

by Cllr Andy Ball



Last March new parking restrictions were introduced in many parts of the Town. These new parking restrictions have, in the main, provided some respite for residents and made the parking situation better for many.

However, they have highlighted some new problems, and also pushed some of the parking problems to new areas. Residents from other roads have asked if new parking restrictions could be introduced in their roads where they consider inconsiderate parking now occurs.

The parking committee, led by our County Councillor Bill Bendyshe-Brown, includes road representatives and representatives from the Town Council and the Community Bus. It has drawn up draft proposals for informal consultation with Town residents to gauge their views. There are some financial constraints which may significantly limit what we are able to achieve, but the following areas are being considered at this time:

- a. **The Retreat/Highfield Road/Berryfield Road/St Teresas Close/The Avenue/Crossfield Road/Little Park.** Either a single yellow line with restricted times (10-11 and 14-15) no parking or a residential parking area.
- b. **Shortborough Avenue/Westmead/Berndene Rise/Windsor Hill.** Single yellow line with no parking
- c. **Longwick Road** from Tesco roundabout to Railway Bridge/Brooke Road/Cannon Place/Pursell Place. Single yellow line with no parking between 10-11 and 14-15.
- d. **A4010 Wycombe Road.** Double yellow lines from Park Street to Station Road
- e. **Clifford Road/Merton Road/Culverton Hill/Parkfield Rise.** Single yellow line with restricted parking 10-11 and 14-15 or residential parking. Also, junction protection around these roads.
- f. **Fields and Trees Estates.** Cllr Ball and Cllr Coombs will undertake doorstep consultation with the affected residents to better understand residents' views.
- g. **Wellington Avenue.** Double yellow lines outside Windsor Lodge in Wellington Avenue.
- h. **Mill Lane/St Dunstan's Close.** To extend the junction protection markings on Mill Lane coming from St Dunstan's Close.



The times and days of the week for all the above restrictions would be in line with the current times and days of the week from the first parking review.

The Committee is holding an informal consultation for residents, to find out what you think of these proposals, on Wednesday 7th March in St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street, between 3pm and 8pm. You can also email risborough.parking.review2018@gmail.com or complete an online survey via the Town Council website.



Become a Town Councillor and have a say in where you live!

Would you like to become a Princes Risborough Town Councillor? Are you interested in town matters and would you like to find out more? Would you like to be part of the decision making committees, comment on local planning applications, and help with community projects or generally make Princes Risborough an even better place to live, work and visit?

Why don't you make a difference by becoming a Town Councillor?

**If you are interested in finding out more,
please contact the Town Clerk, Susanne Griffiths 01844 275912.**

Switching on the Lights

by Cllr Andy Ball

Saturday 25th of November 2017 will certainly stick in my mind as the day that residents and visitors attended the Christmas lights event in their thousands, and made the Town Council's 12 months of planning worthwhile.

Among the many attractions were a purpose-built Ice Rink, Puppet show, live music, Reindeers and Father Christmas in his grotto and a diverse range of stalls from many of the local organisations in the Town. The Christmas lights were turned on by Su Pollard and Jon Moses who were appearing in Snow White at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. They did an amazing job and we are so grateful for them taking the time to appear in the Town. A grand finale of fireworks brought the event to an end.

A big thank you must go to our event organisers, headed up by the Town Council events staff, our very generous local sponsors, and the local volunteers that gave up their valuable time for free to put on such a splendid event.

Princes Risborough Town Council are always looking for local residents that would like to join our events working group. Hopefully after such a successful event you may have some great ideas that you could bring to the events group? To find out more, speak to Kirsty in the office.



Projects & Communications Assistant

An exciting part-time opportunity has arisen for a Projects & Communications Assistant.

This role will suit a confident, creative, organised individual, with excellent communication and admin skills, a high level of IT competence, social media experience and self-motivation.

You will play a pivotal role in the organisation of all Town events, including the Summer Festival and the Christmas Lights Switch On. You will assist with the preparation of town communications, provide administration assistance and general office support.



The role is 2-3 days per week 9.30am - 3.30pm.

A full job description is available at www.princesrisborough.com
or alternatively call the Town Council on 01844 275912 for an application form.

Closing Date: 15th March 2018

A Great Thursday Market

by Cllr David Knights



Every Thursday without fail something amazing happens in the Town. The High Street becomes transformed into an exciting market, full of interesting stalls selling great produce and useful household items.

The origins of Princes Risborough Market go back hundreds of years, but the current market is seeing a resurgence with new stalls joining and bringing quality goods for the people of the town and beyond.

Up and down the High Street the market stalls complement the great offering from our Town's permanent retailers, whether it is fresh vibrant fruit and veg from Pete & his wife or naughty but nice pastries and artisan breads from Brown Bread. If you are looking for the catch of the day, there is fresh fish from Paul and quality British cheeses from Owen or James – who will be only too happy to let you try before you buy. Under the Market House, you can visit the popular Country Market where you will be spoilt by the selection of homemade cakes, jams, preserves and honey.

As well as great food offerings, you can buy useful household goods. Everything from a scouring pad to a AA battery can be bought from Danny, and you can order new blinds or curtains from Richard. If you are interested in getting fitter and adopting a healthier lifestyle, why not visit the unique ambulance so that Julie can tell you how to go about it.

Since taking over the market, the Town Council has sought to strengthen what we already have and is looking at how to promote the market in order to make it more and more successful, as well as attracting new stalls for its customers. If you haven't been to the market for some time, make sure you take a look next Thursday and support our shop local campaign.

If you are interested in taking a regular stall, or have seen a great stall at another market, please let us know. Rates are very competitive and we are keen to broaden the range on offer. Contact Jayne at the Town Council to find out more.



Celebrate Commonwealth Day

by Cllr Nathan Davis



The United Kingdom is a member of many different international organisations; NATO, the European Union, United Nations and indeed the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is an organisation of 52 independent sovereign states with a combined population of around 2.4 billion people. Membership is diverse and member states range from the world's largest and richest states to some of the world's smallest and poorest. Most member states (but not all) were at some point part of the British Empire, and 16 states have Queen Elizabeth as Head of State.

This year Commonwealth Day will be marked on 12th March, a day during which the Commonwealth will commemorate our shared history and values. In April the United Kingdom will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in London. This is a meeting that will be chaired by Her Majesty the Queen and will involve the leaders of all 52 member states coming together to discuss important international issues and if that isn't enough the Commonwealth will come together for a sporting extravaganza that is the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia.



To mark these events the Town Council is planning to fly the Commonwealth Flag in the town centre on Commonwealth Day and throughout the week of the Commonwealth Summit in London. We are also hoping to organise a 'Commonwealth Big Lunch' to coincide with the week of the Commonwealth Heads of Government visit. Everyone is encouraged to celebrate this great organisation by holding their own 'Big Lunch'. More information is available on the Town Council website.

It's buzzing at Princes Risborough School

As a school, we are blessed to be situated in some of the most picturesque and stunning landscapes in Britain. The transition from winter into spring is a great time to get active and get amongst the Chilterns landscape. We certainly make full use of our local environment and embrace these opportunities, like the local bees for example. Not many schools can say that their students have the opportunity to manage their own apiary, produce candles from the wax and sell the honey to our local shops. There is far more to Princes Risborough School than meets the eye.

If you would like to get involved with the school or would like information on the Community Sports Hall, please contact the Business Development Officer (Paul O'Connell) poconnell@princesrisborough.bucks.sch.uk for further information.



The Town Council is proud to support many community organisations in the town with financial support. This edition, we focus on organisations that support young people in the town.

Storing up goodwill – Risborough Rangers



**RISBOROUGH RANGERS
JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**



by Cllr David Knights



Risborough Rangers Junior Football Club was started in 1971 and today is one of the largest clubs in the area for boys and girls aged 5-16. With FA Charter Status, Risborough Rangers fully support the FA Respect campaign to encourage good behaviour and



sportsmanship and aim to strike the right balance between improving technical skills and having fun.

On Saturday 13th January Princes Risborough Town Mayor and Chairman Cllr Matthew Walsh handed over the keys to the long-awaited purpose-built storage facility in Wades Park, allowing Risborough Rangers a safe and secure place from which to operate each weekend.

Speaking on behalf of the Town Council, the Mayor paid tribute to the work carried out by Risborough Rangers FC: "We are delighted that we are able to make this facility available. This is the first project that has been paid for by funds raised by Wycombe District Council through a levy on building new houses, allowing us to provide a greater level of support to our community groups such as Risborough Rangers. With over 70 volunteers who turn out in all weathers to support football training for local boys and girls, we are excited that they are able to benefit from this new facility."

Accepting the keys for the new purpose-built store, Andrew Quigley, Risborough Rangers Chairman, said: "Without the support of Princes Risborough Town Council, our club would struggle to provide the space required for so many teams – currently 25. The new storage facility that is being provided by PRTC will help with equipment storage and allow us to be up and running much more quickly and ready to work with some of the 450 boys and girls who play with us regularly. We are incredibly grateful that it has been possible to provide this vital facility."

The new storage facility provided on the edge of Wades Park cost £9,200 to provide and is being supplied to Risborough Rangers on a long-term lease with a peppercorn rent.

You can find out about volunteering or playing with Risborough Rangers at www.risboroughrangersjfc.co.uk

From strength to strength – Risborough Youth Club



by Cllr David Knights

Risborough Youth Club has been working in the town for many years, but recently the club has gone from strength to strength. The building has been completely refurbished, the club has achieved charity status and now has a new smart brand. Following on from this success, the club is experiencing an upsurge in attendance by young people, regularly exceeding forty 11-17 year olds each week.

We are hugely grateful to the Town Council for its ongoing financial support of the club's activities. Town Council support has meant that we have been able to broaden the services we offer to young people. These have included trips out for kayaking, trampolining and Thorpe Park, as well as setting up a mobile skate park at the club, all of which were well received by the young people.

At the Youth Club, we believe that by providing quality youth work, we can help create the next generation of well-rounded and community minded townspeople. In order to provide a great service, the Youth Club relies on a team of dedicated volunteers to ensure that the club is a fun and safe place for everyone.

If you would like to consider volunteering at the club, the level of commitment is low (just two hours on a Monday night) and the level of reward is high! At the club, you get to know and help the many different young people that make up the teenage community of the town. Any youth work training needed will be offered and all checks and support are provided. No experience is required, just the desire to make a difference.

The club is always accepting new members too, so any young people aged 11-17 are welcome to visit the club on Hawthorn Road on Monday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. Please email info@risboroughyouth.club for more information.

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 : @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
Projects & Communications Assistant: Mrs. Nicola Mackinnon
Maintenance Team Leader: Kevin Locke
Maintenance Team Operatives: Robert Powell, Brian Dickinson and Jake Lloyd

Office Hours

Monday 9.30am – 3.00pm Tuesday – 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 next meetings are: **Tuesday 27th March** **Tuesday 29th May**

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.