



CROSS *talk*



A message from the Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council

Cllr Matthew Walsh

On behalf of everyone here at the Town Council I hope you had an enjoyable Summer and are looking forward to the final few months of 2019. It was a great honour to be re-elected as your Mayor and Chairman for the last year of this Council. This edition of CrossTalk reviews some very exciting plans for the future and looks back on some recent highlights.

Our plans to extend the Community Centre with a new function room and café are outlined on page 3 and we really would like to hear your views, please do complete the questionnaire. To support our consultation, we are hosting six drop in sessions throughout October. Please come along and hear first-hand the plans for the Centre and see visuals of the planned extension.

I am so proud to confirm that Princes Risborough Town Council has been awarded Gold Status. We are the first Council in the Wycombe District to receive this accolade, meaning that we operate at the highest level. Further details relating to the award can be found on page 2.

Sadly for the Council, last month we said goodbye to Kevin Locke our Maintenance Team Leader. After eight years' service Kevin has accepted a new role with a Council closer to home. Kevin will be assisting a Parish Council taking over devolved services from Milton Keynes Council. We wish him well and thank him for his commitment to the Princes Risborough Town Council. Robert Powell, our previous Deputy, has been appointed as the new team leader. We wish Rob well in his new role, I know he will be a great leader to our maintenance team. I would also like to thank Pam Summerbell for her service to the Town Council. Pam recently resigned after 16 years' of service as Town Councillor for Princes Risborough, a town which she has lived in for over sixty years. I am sure you will join me in wishing Pam a very restful retirement.

As always, please do contact me if you have questions relating to our Town.

Best wishes

Cllr Matthew Walsh



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**Risborough Community Centre expansion plans
Have your say**

COUNCIL STRIKES GOLD IN NATIONAL SCHEME!

Princes Risborough Town Council has been received a prestigious Gold award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme.

As only one of three Town Councils in Buckinghamshire to reach this pinnacle level, this achievement recognises that the council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership, and council development.

The Local Council Award Scheme, which is a 3 level programme, has been designed to provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach their full potential.

Cllr Matthew Walsh, Princes Risborough Town Councils' Mayor & Chairman was quoted as being delighted *"Getting this award recognises the hard work and effort put in by all of those involved with the Council. This would not have been possible without the determination, commitment & drive from our Town Clerk and her team, and every single member of the Council has reason to be proud"*.

The Council will be presented with their Gold status award certificate by the SLCC at the Town Council meeting at The Princes Centre on 26th November at 7pm which members of the public are welcome to attend.



Meet Cllr Tapashya Murali

My husband and I have always loved living in Buckinghamshire because of its green leafy neighbourhoods with a family-friendly atmosphere.

We picked Princes Risborough almost immediately for its ideal location as the historic gateway to the Chilterns AONB and its quick links to the city of London. Since moving here, we have discovered that we are very lucky not only to be surrounded by natural beauty but also to live in a town with a rich history and a friendly community.

As a first-time mum who moved to Princes Risborough about two years ago, I was welcomed and supported by various local groups and events centred around young families. Hence, when I had the opportunity to be part of the Town Council, I felt it was both an opportunity to give something back to the community and also to bring a fresh perspective to the decision-making process in the local government.

I am a huge advocate for local economic regeneration, preserving biodiversity and engagement with the community at all levels of government. So I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors and community groups to ensure Risborough continues to be attractive to all lucky enough to call it home.



Cllr Tapashya (Taps) Murali

Natwest News!



During the course of 2018 the Town Council agreed to investigate purchasing a retail unit on the High Street. There has been concern about the mix of shops and services on the High Street. With the Town Council owning a property we could have an influence on the future of the High Street. We had discussions about purchasing the Alternative Tools shop but unfortunately, we were not successful.

The NatWest Bank building at 39 High Street then became available and we agreed to place an offer for the purchase of the freehold. We completed the purchase of the building at the end of 2018.

Following the Christmas holiday we instructed a local commercial property agent to let the property and begun the planning process to change the allowed use from being a bank to retail. As you know the environment in High Streets across the country is challenging.

However we had a considerable amount of interest from different organisations and an outright offer to purchase the freehold.

At nearly 1500 square feet it is one of the largest buildings on the High Street, so we considered splitting the building into two. In anticipation of securing a tenant we have made some improvements to the building.

There has been a new security system installed, relocation of the fire alarm and air conditioning and a general tidy up completed. We have also replaced the frontage which has made a massive difference to the exterior.

I am very pleased to report that we have agreed terms with a new operator to take a ten year lease on the property. This will be an excellent addition to our High Street and once the legal terms are completed we look forward to announcing this exciting new venture which should open in December. **Cllr Matt Walsh**

PRINCES RISBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSULTATION Investing in our Community



As part of the continued investment in the future of the town, Princes Risborough Town Council is considering the following facilities as part of an extension plan for the Community Centre, Stratton Road.

To help us understand what is important to our residents, please tick below what facilities you feel would enhance the Centre.

Question 1. Cafe facility to seat up to 60 people

Yes No

Question 2. A new 193 sq.mt/2077 sq.ft Function Room & Bar

Yes No

Question 3. External seating area facing the park

Yes No

Question 4. Improved and increased Toilet Facilities

Yes No

Question 5. Would you support an annual increase of £1.04 (equivalent to 2p per week) to support the cost of the refurbishment as part of the 2020/2021 precept (council tax)?

Yes No

Other Comments:

Princes Risborough Town Council will be holding a number of drop-in sessions at the Community Centre to support this consultation: **8th & 14th October 6pm -9pm, 19th October 10am -2pm and 24th October 11am - 3pm & 6pm - 9pm. (Consultation period runs from 1st October – 31st October 2019)**

Please return your completed form to the following address: **FREEPOST PRTC** ([no stamp required!](#))

Complete Online! Alternatively you can complete this survey online by visiting the Town Council website www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk



Proposed Function Room and Bar



Proposed Internal View of the Cafe



FESTIVAL WEEK

The sun shone for Festival Week which commenced this year on a Saturday with our [Movies in the Park](#) event at Wades Park. Local families and visitors sought out the shade to watch our daytime movies [Monsters Inc](#) and [Mary Poppins Returns](#), with the Ice cream van making a very welcome appearance!

Around 300 people turned out to watch (& sing along!) to the amazing [Bohemian Rhapsody](#), and we were treated to a spectacular sunset as the movie ended. We couldn't have asked for a better start to the coming week.

"Green" was the theme for our High street retailers and it was lovely to see so many shops taking part in the Window Display competition.

The green theme was interpreted in many guises, as the colour green, the green fields that surround us, and also being Green with recycling and the environment.

Another highlight of the week and a new introduction to the programme was our [Seniors Tea Dance](#) with locals residents enjoying an afternoon of dancing, live music and a delicious afternoon tea served by the student council from PRS.

Once again the "Meet your Councillor" clinics were held which was a lovely opportunity for our Councillors to meet residents and answer questions.

[School choirs](#) performed daily at St Marys Church and were a resounding success as always and the [Heritage walk](#) and [Market House talk](#) once again proved to be very popular too.

Of course, the culmination of the week was the [Street fair](#) on the final Saturday, where Councillors and volunteers gathered very early with a the rain threatening to fall to set-up a fantastic day of stalls and attractions for all ages to enjoy.

Amongst the fair rides and tombola's, a vast array of food and drink to enjoy, there was some brilliant live music, our man-made [Beach](#), [BMX displays](#), [cookery demos](#), a [silent disco](#) and an [inflatable assault course](#) running nearly the whole length of Duke Street which proved very popular with the younger generation.

All in all a fantastic day and week was had by all and our thanks go to all of those involved over the course of the week.

CLlr Jan Roberts
Chairman Events & PR Committee



FOODIES TURN OUT IN FORCE!



Since our last issue of Crosstalk we have held two Farmers Markets in the Town Centre. The first event in May was a great success with our High street Butchers K&B taking part in a sausage making demo and with all of the traders & both hot food vendors requesting pitches at future events!

Our Farmers Markets are designed to showcase the variety and diversity of local producers who are all based within 40 miles of Princes Risborough and at the same time encourage footfall into our Town Centre. Whilst we would like to keep the Farmers Market limited to locally made food, drink and produce, we know this isn't always possible and will occasionally have visiting producers from further afield.

Our most recent Farmers Market on 7th September saw a couple of new producers join us, and a greater number of residents and



visitors turn out to meet our producers, enjoy some delicious hot food, watch live cookery demos by expert Game Chef, Author & Lecturer Jose Souto, and generally soak up the atmosphere. It was a busy day with a couple of our vendors selling out completely!

Lastly do wrap up warm and join us for the next Farmers Market which takes place on **14th December from 9-2pm**. We'll have new and existing vendors as well as demos in our outdoor kitchen with a festive twist!

Annabelle Denbury, Project & Communications Assistant

NB: If you're a local producer, chef, restaurant or hot food vendor and would like to be part of this exciting and vibrant event in the future, either as a stallholder or to demo in our outdoor kitchen, then please do get in touch with us by emailing towncentre@princesrisboroughtowncentre.gov.uk

ECO UPDATE

Building on our successful 'green' theme from festival week, Princes Risborough Town Council (PRTC) is pleased to announce that we've made a commitment to promote and care for trees across the parish by signing up to the **Charter for Trees, Woods and People**. This is a national initiative started by the Woodland Trust to encourage us all to take note and take care of trees in our community and PRTC is proud to have joined many other organisations across the country to make this pledge. **More information can be found on the following webpage: <https://treecharter.uk/>**

Many of you will have also noticed that the installation of LED street lights across the town is now complete. Not only will this save the Town Council a significant amount of money on our energy bills, but we have also reduced our carbon footprint from lighting by 85% as a consequence.

As our town continues to evolve and grow, PRTC is also keen to ensure that we protect biodiversity across the town and that sustainable transport options are viable for local residents to reduce congestion on our roads and improve our air quality. The new bike pump that many of you will have noticed on the high street has been well used and the first of four Bucks County Council-funded electric vehicle charging points being installed across the town is now up and running on Southfield Road.

Finally, funding has also been secured for a community garden to be created in the Stratton Memorial Garden, for which green fingered volunteers are invited to get involved to help with preparation, sowing and occasional cutting back of flowers.

If you would be interested in assisting with this scheme, please e-mail: towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk and we will be in touch with further details.



Charter
for Trees, Woods
and People



SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Awareness of the use and disposal of plastics is changing in the public domain. In today's connected world, we are all conscious of the harmful impact of plastics on the natural environment, the oceans, and further down the food chain, on people. Consumers can drive businesses to remove 'single-use plastics' in their products, packaging & supply chain by not accepting its use.

Princes Risborough Town Council has decided to play its part to tackle this issue. It has recently adopted an ambitious policy to phase out the use of single-use plastics from its supply chain and events as soon as possible. Furthermore, it has pledged to investigate projects like the installation of a water fountain at Wades Park.

It has resolved to incentivise local businesses and community groups that encourage reuse, recycling and plastic alternatives where possible. By being proactive, the town council has determined to make the changes needed to tackle the problem head-on.

Cllr Tapashya Murali



SAY NO
SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Unitary Authority update

In April 2020 the new "Buckinghamshire Council" will come into being – a unitary authority which will replace the current County and District Councils. In the meantime the existing Councils are continuing to provide their normal services whilst making good progress towards the transition into a unitary authority.

There is a huge amount of work across all departments to be completed in a short space of time and the primary aim is to meet all legal and statutory obligations by April, with a more gradual merging of services falling into place over the next few years as existing contracts come up for renewal.

There are numerous work streams in progress looking to enable a smooth transition of all combined services including transport, education, localism, housing, economic growth, finance, scrutiny, children's and adult services, estates, environment and planning, to name just a few. Councillors from across the County/Districts have been attending a variety of informative seminars and workshops detailing services with which previously they might not have had any involvement, many having been allocated to working groups in which to participate in order to create "best practice" service structures throughout the new Authority. It really is a busy and exciting time for all those involved.

Cllr Alan Turner

Delivering the new
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL



CIVIC AWARDS

Back in April our residents were invited to attend our Annual Town Meeting & Civic Award Ceremony. It was a hugely successful evening, led by the PR & Events Committee who reformed the event to provide a more informal atmosphere.

The evening also allowed the Town Council to honour both individuals and organisations who the Council felt have made a significant contribution to our town and community.

For the first time ever, residents were also invited to send us their nominations.

Huge congratulations to the following:

- **Young Citizen of the year – Chloe Keeping**
- **Citizen of the year – Eunice Clifford**
- **Business of the year – Sally's Sewing**
- **Community Group of the year – Risborough Youth Club**



Sally's Sewing



Chloe Keeping



Risborough Youth Club



Eunice Clifford

Date for your diary! Christmas Lights Switch On Saturday 30th November from 3pm to 6pm

Do join us for a festive & fun afternoon for all the family! This year we have a special Christmas Market, perfect for present shopping, local music and dance acts, performances from The Blend Choir & Ellesborough Silver band, as well as the dulcet tones of pupils from local Primary schools.

The Ice Rink will be back, plus a Christmas themed photo-booth, Father Christmas will of course be in his Grotto. Be entertained by walkabout acts, see some very sweet Christmas ponies, grab some food & drink from our carefully selected vendors, & then join our local Panto

Stars & Mayor at the main stage around 5pm for the official light switch-on.

But that's not all... Father Christmas has arranged for an extremely special guest to join us who will be travelling all the way from the North Pole and who, if not too shy, will make several appearances throughout the afternoon!

Annabelle Denbury, Project & Communications Assistant



For more information or to participate in any of our Council organised Events please contact annabelle@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01844 275912

SHARING THE NEWS IN WHITELEAF & CADSDEN

Whiteleaf and Cadsden Residents Association is non-profit and voluntary Community Interest Organisation and is a proactive voice for the residents who live in these 2 hamlets. Their aims include maintaining the character of the hamlets, providing a friendly medium for discussion and solution of issues affecting the community, to provide community help and assistance to those in need and to promote interaction and cohesion (via organisation and/or support) of community social events, to benefit improved community relations.

During 2018/19 WCRA raised £250.00 from community donations to provide the new notice-board, now situated on the wall by the post box, in Whiteleaf. Princes Risborough Town Council (PRTC) match funded with a donation of £250.00 towards the overall cost. The noticeboard complements WCRA's communication toolkit which comprises a community website at www.whiteleafcadsden.org a facebook page and a GDPR compliant email database.

The noticeboard is a part of the jigsaw of kit that ensures good community liaison. It has been designed primarily to provide helpful and essential information to residents without internet access and to visitors. All of the names of the homes in the hamlets are listed sequentially on the board, for all to view (no house numbers in the hamlets) which helps everyone with location enquiries, especially the increasing number of home delivery couriers.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Behind the doors?

The Literary Institute in Princes Risborough High Street opposite Wainwright's Shoe Shop is a somewhat imposing Victorian building, but appearances can be misleading. As you enter the building, you seem to step back in time.

The adults and children, for example, who attend art classes in the elegant upstairs high-ceilinged main hall with its dark timber beams, find the building's old-time charm inspiring. Similarly, the snooker room has a wonderfully unique atmosphere, its full-size snooker table installed around 1905. This and a 6-foot pool table are used by most of the membership, ladies as well as gentlemen, the youngest 11-years old, the oldest in their 80s.

The Institute, a not-for-profit organisation, was presented to the town in 1891 by the 1st Baron Rothschild for local use, the premises leased for 1,000 years, nominally at a peppercorn rent which has never been demanded.

The Institute Committee consists of elected members who volunteer their time and energy to manage the building and its membership. Typical of buildings of its age, the Institute requires regular maintenance.

Revenue to pay the bills, insurance and maintenance comes mostly from membership subscriptions, use of the snooker table by members and visitors, and the hiring out of rooms to various groups for a variety of sociable events. The main upstairs hall accommodates up to 60 people.

For more information please visit www.prsnookerclub.co.uk



Princes Risborough Town Council

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

T: 01844 275912 **E:** towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

W: www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

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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/PR Cttee: Cllr Jan Roberts

Chairman of Town Cttee: Cllr John Coombs

Chairman of Planning Cttee: Cllr. Nathan Davis

Chairman of Economic Regeneration Cttee: Cllr Ian Pearce

Chairman of Commercial Services Cttee: Cllr Andy Ball

Councillors

Cllr. Lee Byrne

Cllr. Gary Hall

Cllr. Tapashya Murali

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. Susanne Griffiths

Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Kirsty Pope

Clerical Assistant: Jayne Mylchreest

Projects & Communications Assistant: Mrs Annabelle Denbury

Town Centre Co-Ordinator: Mrs Annabelle Denbury

Bookings Officer: Cate Holloway

Maintenance Team Leader: Robert Powell

Maintenance Team Operative: Barney Hefferman, John Prince

Office Hours - Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm

The full Town Council meets at 7.00pm on the last Tuesday of every other 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 26th November 2019** **Tuesday 28th January 2020** **Tuesday 31st March 2020**

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.