

# CROSS *talk*



## A message from the Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council.

At the time of writing my Crosstalk article, it is hard to believe that the war in Ukraine has now passed its first anniversary. I had the great honour to be invited by the Ukraine to Chilterns charity to attend a peace vigil in our town, held in Duke Street gardens on Friday the 24th of February. The vigil was attended by almost 200 residents holding lighted candles in a very fitting sombre atmosphere. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking my fellow councillors for their agreement to allow the Ukrainian national flag to be flown in our town to mark the anniversary.

Let us all pray that peace will hopefully soon be restored to the Ukrainian residents, and they can return to their homeland, if this is their wish, and be reunited with their loved ones.

Unfortunately, it was that time of year again when as a Town Council we had no option but to agree to a 5% increase in the council tax, mainly due to the spiralling cost of energy that I know has hit every resident very hard. A breakdown and further details of how your council tax is spent can be found on page 2.

Some good news is that as a Town Council, we are all working extremely hard to plan His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation street party for Sunday the 7th May, as well as our super-popular summer festival. More on the summer festival and other events happening this year can be found on our events calendar on the back page of this issue. Please cut out & keep this for future reference.

Please note that our Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Brushwood Suite, Wades Centre on Tuesday April 18th, starting at 7.15 pm. This is your chance to ask your elected town councillors any questions that affect you as a resident and make us accountable to our electorate. During the meeting, I will have the pleasure of presenting, on behalf of the Town Council, the 2023 Annual Citizen's Awards. These awards are

presented to individuals, a community group and a business who have, in our opinion, gone above and beyond to help us all during the past 12 months.

Hopefully, you will be able to attend, although if not, I am always around the Town so please feel free to approach me and have a chat.

Finally, I would like to say what an absolute honour and pleasure it has been to be your Town Mayor and Chairman of the council for these past 2 years.

*Cllr Andy Ball  
Mayor and Chairman*



Princes Risborough stands with Ukraine



Cllr Andy Ball addressing the vigil



Vigil held by Ukraine to Chilterns Charity

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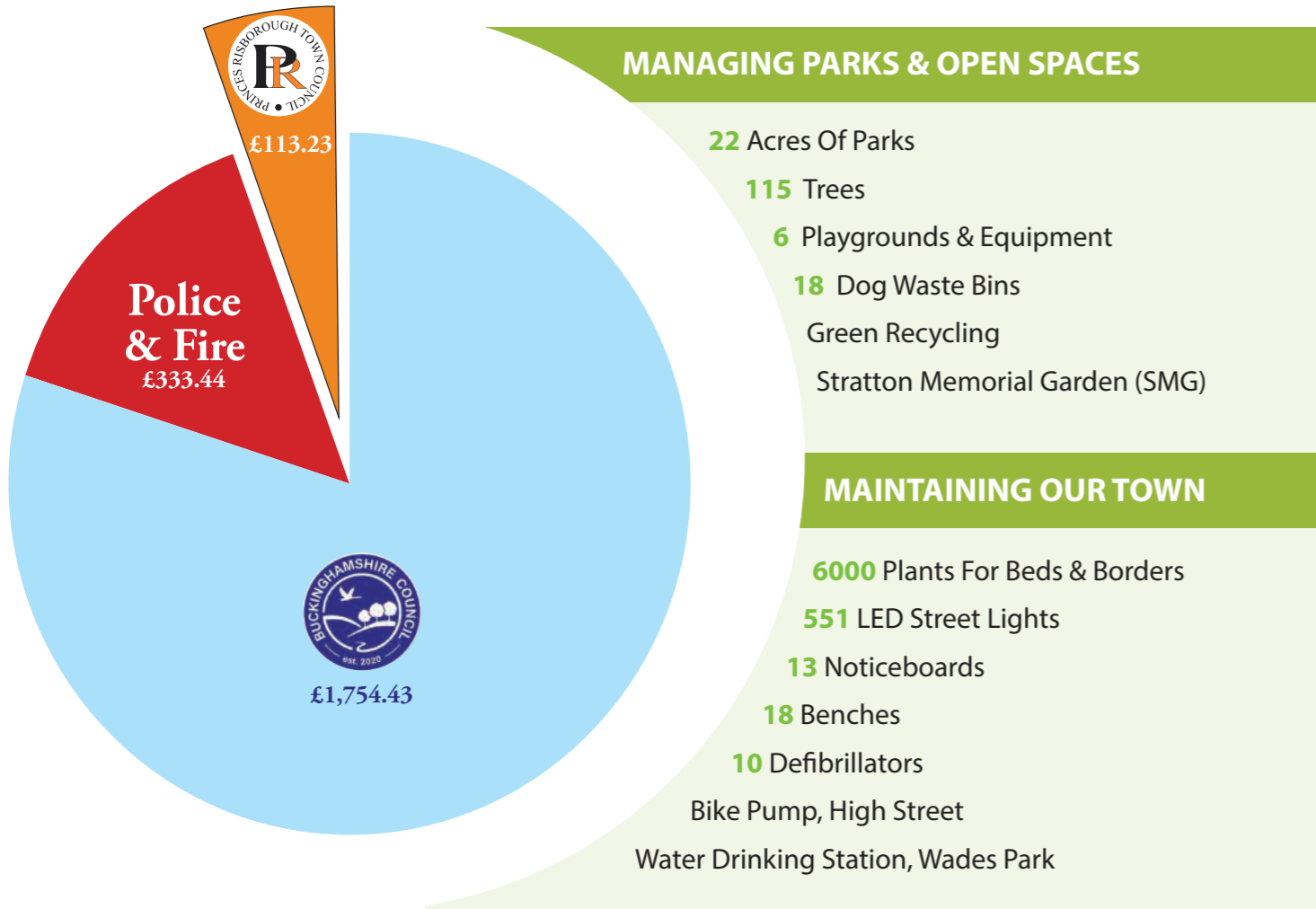
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**Hurrah for Bees**



# In 2023 your £9.44 each month brings all this

Band D Property



## MANAGING PARKS & OPEN SPACES

- 22 Acres Of Parks
- 115 Trees
- 6 Playgrounds & Equipment
- 18 Dog Waste Bins
- Green Recycling
- Stratton Memorial Garden (SMG)

## MAINTAINING OUR TOWN

- 6000 Plants For Beds & Borders
- 551 LED Street Lights
- 13 Noticeboards
- 18 Benches
- 10 Defibrillators
- Bike Pump, High Street
- Water Drinking Station, Wades Park

## MAINTAINING BUILDINGS

- Wades Centre & Café
- Dovecote, St. Dunstons Park (Grade II Listed)
- Market House (Grade II Listed)
- War Memorials

## OPERATING COSTS

- Staff
- Training
- Machinery & Equipment

## COMMUNITY

- |                            |                      |   |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| High Street Trail Events   | Annual Town Meeting  | Social Media Promotions                           |
| Summer Festival            | Thursday Market      | Website   |
| Christmas Lights switch on | Farmers Market       | Grants to Schools, Churches & Local Organisations |
| Heritage Trail App         | Crosstalk Newsletter | Support for Retailers                             |

## 2023/2024 Council Tax

Setting the council tax is a very important part of the Town Council's duty and responsibilities which affects us all.

In agreeing on the council tax for the coming financial year members of the Town Council have been mindful of the overall state of matters relating to the whole of the country and especially those relating to residents of Princes Risborough and have limited the rise to 5%.

There are some major projects which as a council we must address.

Due to the success of the Princes Centre, it has become necessary for the Town Council office to relocate. Having investigated numerous options the members have decided, after public consultation, that moving to the Wades Centre is the most appropriate and cost-effective solution.

Another essential project is the development of phase 2 of the Stratton Memorial Garden. This is still being formulated but the council intend to

retain the tranquil atmosphere whilst providing a final resting place for loved ones.

As in previous years, it has not been possible to fund all projects which have been suggested by residents and council members. We will continue to endeavour to secure grant funding where available for these.

The Town Council needs to balance its books just like any sustainable business. Whilst every effort is made to minimise any rise in the council tax by constantly striving to find efficiency savings and generating alternative revenue streams, some of the increases in spending are unavoidable. The large increase in the cost of utilities affects every organisation in the country as do many other day-to-day items of expenditure.

Although finances are tight, we intend to continue to provide the level of service to which you are accustomed.

**Cllr Sue Coombs Chairman Finance Committee**

## Phase 2 Wades Centre refurbishment update

Back in November, we held a consultation relating to the development of Phase 2 of the Wades Centre. A huge thank you to all those who joined us at the drop-in sessions and responded to the consultation, the results of which are shown below.

The results show an overwhelming yes to the planned refurbishment which allows the Town Council to apply for the necessary funds from the Public Works Loan Board.

The Town Council is hoping that the work could start as early as June 2023, following which we hope to be able to install the solar panels by the end of 2023. Further details regarding this project and Phase 3 can be found on our website.



## Community Speedwatch update



The Princes Risborough Community Speedwatch campaign is in good health. We have 13 members who between them have run 35 sessions. The designated sites are located on all the major roads in and out of Princes Risborough and the groups are performing up to 5 sessions per week. In general, results are showing that 10% of drivers are speeding across all these sites.



Cllr Alan Frost

Some current statistics from the Community Speedwatch database show the following:  
(note: "input" means vehicles that were speeding and were accepted by Thames Valley Police who will issue letters to the offenders)

### Results from Princes Risborough PRTC Speedwatch Group

During the last week, **22** vehicle(s) were input.  
During the last month, **35** vehicle(s) were input.  
During the last year, **148** vehicle(s) were input.

### Results from other organised Thames Valley Speedwatch Groups

During the last week, **553** vehicle(s) were input.  
During the last month, **2187** vehicle(s) were input.  
During the last year, **33511** vehicle(s) were input.

If you have a concern about any locations within Princes Risborough and would like them considered as additional sites or if you would like to become a member of the group, please contact Cllr Alan Frost via e-mail [a.frost@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:a.frost@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Have you heard of the North West Chilterns Community Board (NWC CB)?

If you haven't, the NWC CB is a Board which tailors itself to the needs of the local area with the common goal of bringing communities together to make a difference. The Board uses local data and intelligence, and, together with engagement and listening to the people in the community, it prioritises areas of focus and explores the issues that are of the greatest importance in the local area.

These priorities help determine where the NWC CB can engage, take action, and in some cases, allocate funding to improve the local area. The Community Board holds a mixture of core and task-focused actions group meetings which explore local and corporate priorities, set up projects and finds creative ways to meet local challenges. Our current actions focus on economic recovery and improving the environment, community resilience and transport and road issues.

The Community Board have funded a number of successful projects, an example is below but there are so many more. The Board collaborated with a local organisation to develop a project which engaged with young people from a range of schools/ community organisations, to provide a number of conservation activities to enhance habitats and educate individuals. There was a particular

focus on work around the threatened Duke of Burgundy Butterfly.

Funding for Christmas hampers, goodie bags and presents was given over the festive period to older people and vulnerable families.

The Board also linked a local charity and Buckinghamshire Council's Helping Hands team to provide hot meal vouchers to individuals and families.

The NWC CB is chaired by Councillor Matthew Walsh and the vice chair Cllr Carl Etholen, both from Buckinghamshire Council, supported by the board manager Jackie Binning who makes connections and encourages residents, groups and organisations to get involved.

If you would like to hear more, please contact Jackie Binning, Community Board Manager, at [jackie.binning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.binning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or go to [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk) and search "Community Boards"



# Annual Town Meeting & The Mayor's Civic Awards

**TUESDAY 18TH APRIL FROM 7:15PM**  
**BRUSHWOOD SUITE, WADES CENTRE,**  
**STRATTON ROAD**  
**ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND**

[www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

VACANT ROLE

## Wades Centre Caretaker


**Up to 25hrs a week,**  
**Wednesday to Sunday**

Princes Risborough Town Council is currently looking to recruit a Caretaker for the Wades Centre on a flexible working hours basis.

You will be responsible for the set up of meeting rooms, general cleaning of the premises, and security of the Wades Centre.

You will be required to work a flexible shift pattern which will involve evening and weekend working and you are able and willing to respond to occasional out of hours emergencies

**CLOSING DATE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS**  
**24 MARCH 2023**

 For more information and to apply for this role, please visit [www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

VACANT ROLE

## Maintenance Team Member


**Full-Time 37hrs per week, additional**  
**working on rota basis as required.**  
**Seasonal working hours.**

Princes Risborough Town Council is currently looking to recruit a full-time member of staff to our maintenance team.

You will be responsible for the maintenance requirements of the council, with a focus on gardening and grass cutting responsibilities and the maintenance of various buildings under the ownership of the Town Council.

You will be required to work a flexible shift pattern which will involve weekend working and you are able and willing to respond to occasional out of hours emergencies.

**CLOSING DATE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS**  
**24 MARCH 2023**

 For more information and to apply for this role, please visit [www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

KEEP ME

# WHO DOES WHAT & WHO TO CONTACT



Buckinghamshire Council - 0300 131 6000 - [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)  
 Environmental Agency - 24 hour Flood Line 0345 988 1188  
 Citizens Advice - Advice Line 0800 144 8848 - [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/)

Princes Risborough Town Council - 01844 275912 - [www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
 Thames Water - 0800 316 9800 - [www.thameswater.co.uk/contact-us/report-a-problem](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/contact-us/report-a-problem)  
 Thames Valley Police - Emergency 999 - Non-emergency 101 - [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/)

# Summer Festival



Would you like to help shape the content for 2023 Summer Festival?

The theme for the 2023 Summer Festival will be 'International' to celebrate diversity within our community.



If you would like to get involved please contact Stephanie on the address below.

[stephanie@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

[www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Great Big Tree Giveaway Update

We were very pleased with the response to this event at the November Farmers Market and gave away 300 cell-grown native trees and shrubs to eager Risborough residents to plant in their gardens. There were 5 species to choose from **Cherry Plum** (*Prunus Cerasifera*) **Hawthorn** (*Crataegus monogyna*), **Hazel** (*Corylus avellana*), **Wayfaring Tree** (*Viburnum lantana*) and **Guelder Rose** (*Viburnum opulus*).

Thank you for taking part in 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II and her Green Canopy project. Enjoy nurturing your plants - together we can help make Risborough greener and healthier!



## Hurrah for Bees – BEE SQUARED comes to Princes Risborough!

We all know that bees and other pollinator insects are in need of a bit of help. So, here's your chance to lend a hand and make a beautiful native wildflower patch in your garden for the spring and summer, just right for bees and other pollinators.

Princes Risborough Town Council in partnership with the North West Chilterns Community Board and Risborough Environmental Group are giving away seeds this spring so that you can plant your own 1-metre square of native wildflowers in your garden or in pots. We will be distributing seeds between March and May so they can be planted by the end of May. Look out for us at the April 1st Farmers Market, and before that at collection points around the town, including the library, where you see the Bee Squared logo. See updates via the Town Council's social media and website.

After you've planted your seeds, you will be able to plot your very own Bee Square on the interactive map and we can create bee heaven in Risborough. Later on, when your flowers bloom you can share photos on our social media.

Full instructions will be given out with the packets and on the Town Council website.

For further information or to request batches of seed packets for your group contact: [towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)



Community Board  
North West  
Chilterns

## Buckinghamshire's first Tiny Forest

Planting 600 native trees was easy work for the 120 pupils from Princes Risborough's schools, members of the Hypnos Beds team and the Town Council when Buckinghamshire's first Tiny Forest was planted on the 8 February.

Situated on Princes Risborough School's top field, the planting of the Tiny Forest was attended by councillors who got involved in planting the 600 native trees. The project is designed to engage communities to act to reduce biodiversity loss and the damaging impacts of climate change.

The Princes Risborough Tiny Forest has the added status of being part of the Queen's Green Canopy. Representing His Majesty was the Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, The Countess Howe.





## Brushwood Suite Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9AX

The Brushwood Suite is the perfect choice for all your venue hire needs. A spacious and versatile function suite located at the gateway to the Chilterns within the historic market town of Princes Risborough.

A fresh and modern venue, the Brushwood Suite benefits from state-of-the-art facilities including the latest AV equipment, a licensed dedicated bar, commercial kitchen, and dedicated restroom facilities.

Set within the tranquil green space of Wades Park, this venue boasts excellent transport links with Princes Risborough train station a short 10-minute walk away, and the Mount Car Park, just a two-minute walk away, offering public parking for 136 spaces including disabled bays.

Capacity: 250 for functions, 155 for conferences, or 120 seated for dinner.

Contact us today  
bookings@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk • 01844 275912 • www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk



Visit our Facebook page

# PETE WEBB AS ELVIS



31  
MAR

FRIDAY EVE. DOORS @ 7:00 P.M.

GENERAL ADMISSION £10\*

\*PLUS £1 BOOKING FEE



Brushwood Suite  
BRUSHWOOD SUITE, WADES PARK,  
STRATTON ROAD, PRINCES RISBOROUGH

# ABBA SISTERS

FRIDAY EVE. 05 MAY 2023. DOORS @ 7:30PM



GENERAL ADMISSION £20\*

\*PLUS £2 BOOKING FEE

TICKET INCLUDES A GLASS OF FIZZ  
OR SOFT DRINK

LICENSED BAR AVAILABLE

Organised by Princes Risborough Town Council

Tickets must be purchased in advance. A valid ticket must be shown to grant entrance. No tickets available on the door. 18's and over only. Event details subject to change, please see our website the latest information.



## 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

@Risboroughtowncouncil

@Princesris

princesrisboroughtc

### Councillors

Mayor & Chairman: Cllr Andy Ball

Chairman of Finance Cttee: Cllr Sue Coombs

Cllr Alan Turner

Cllr Ian Parkinson

Clerk to the Council: Susanne Barter

Administration Officer: Jayne Mylchreest

Events & Communications Assistant: Stephanie Boyle

Admin Support Officer: Cate Holloway

Brushwood Suite Manager: Kim Davis

Deputy Chairman: Cllr Josephine Biss

Cllr Alan Frost

Cllr John Coombs

Cllr Surinder Marshall

Deputy Clerk: Kirsty Pope

Bookings Officer: Tania Campbell

Maintenance Team Leader: Barney Heffernan

Maintenance Team Operatives: Peter Quigley, Steve Moulder, Matthew Ball

Deputy Brushwood Suite Manager: Stephanie Boyle

Cllr Andrew Shipley

Cllr Gary Hall

Cllr Andrew Cross

Office Hours - Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm

Princes Risborough Town Council, The Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0DP (01844) 275912

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

The next meetings are: **Tuesday March 28th 2023** **Tuesday April 25th 2023**

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 herein 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.

KEEP ME ✂

2023

# Events Calendar

**APRIL  
2023**

**FARMERS  
MARKET  
SAT. 1ST**

**EASTER TRAIL  
SAT. 1ST  
TO SAT. 15TH**

**ANNUAL TOWN  
MEETING  
TUE. 18TH**

**MAY  
2023**

**KING CHARLES III  
CORONATION  
BIG LUNCH  
SUN. 7TH**

**JUNE  
2023**

**FARMERS MARKET  
SAT. 3RD**

**FESTIVAL WEEK  
SAT. 24TH TO SAT. 1ST JUL**



**JULY  
2023**

**SUMMER  
FESTIVAL  
SAT. 1ST**



**SEPT  
2023**

**FARMERS  
MARKET  
SAT. 23RD**

**OCT  
2023**

**HALLOWEEN TRAIL  
SAT. 28TH**

**FARMERS MARKET  
SAT. 28TH**



**NOV  
2023**

**REMEMBRANCE  
SUNDAY  
SUN. 12TH**

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS  
SWITCH ON  
SAT. 25TH**



# **workingforourcommunity**

For more information, please visit  
[www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Please note, events are subject to change. Please check online for the latest information.

*or scan me* →

