



CROSS *talk*

The latest news and reports from Princes Risborough Town Council | Issue 80 | March 2024



A message from the Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council

I will start my article by saying how deeply saddened I was to attend the 2nd anniversary of the senseless invasion of Ukraine. The vigil was held on the 24th of February at St Mary's Church and was extremely well attended.



On a more positive note, I am pleased to confirm the Phase II development at the Wades Centre is now completed. Further details on this can be found on page 4.

As your Town Mayor and Chairman, I continue to keep myself busy and attend as many formal and informal functions as possible, this varies from civic events, Rotary Club events, lunch club at St Mary's Church and visits to our local brownies and scout groups.

It is also that time of the year when I would like to take the opportunity to invite you to attend our Annual Town meeting on Tuesday 16th April. This is being held at the Brushwood Suite, Wades Centre, from 7.15 pm. This is your opportunity to come and listen and ask questions about what your Town Council has achieved over the past 12 months. As elected councillors, we are accountable to you and will answer any questions that you may have regarding our town.

As I come to the end of my 3rd term as your Town Mayor and Chairman, I feel that now is the right time to hand over the chain to another councillor. The council members will elect a new Mayor/Chairman at our full town meeting at the end of May. I would like to say that it has been an absolute honour to serve you for the past 3 years as your Mayor and Chairman and wish our new incoming Mayor every success for the next 12 months.

Cllr Andy Ball - Chairman

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Wades Centre Phase II

Annual Town Meeting

Events

Dogs in Parks



Cllr Andy Ball - Chairman

2024/2025 Precept

Setting the Precept is a very important part of the Town Council's duty and responsibility which affects us all.

The precept is the amount of money collected through your council tax for the Town Council to maintain the services they are responsible for. It will be collected by Buckinghamshire Council on behalf of the Town Council.

Given the current financial situation, after hours of discussion, it has been necessary to leave some of the important projects which councillors would have liked to have undertaken this year for another year. The council felt it would be inappropriate at this time to raise the precept by an excessive amount. Therefore, the precept for 24/25 has increased by just over 7%, with several projects being put to one side for the time being.

The Town Council needs to balance its books just like any sustainable business. Whilst every effort is made to minimise any rise in the precept by constantly striving to find efficiency savings and generating alternative revenue streams, some of the increases in spending are unavoidable.

The Town Council agreed to make reductions in certain areas including the planting of the town flowers and will



look to work with the contractor to see how we can best utilise the budget, to ensure our town looks its very best.

Sadly, we have needed to remove several play equipment items due to them being at the end of their serviceable life. Please be assured that we are attempting to obtain grants to replace them if we can.

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

Exciting News: Public Consultation Ahead!

The Town Council is preparing for a public consultation, inviting your invaluable input on crucial community matters. We're eager to hear your thoughts on our updated Town Council business plan, designed to shape the future of our vibrant town.

But that's not all – we're also seeking your opinions on new play equipment and a request for a pétanque terrain, ensuring our recreational spaces align with your preferences and needs.

And for nature enthusiasts, there's a special focus on the Earle Mitchell playing field – share your ideas on a proposed bio-diversity area. Your insights will be pivotal in fostering a greener, more sustainable community.

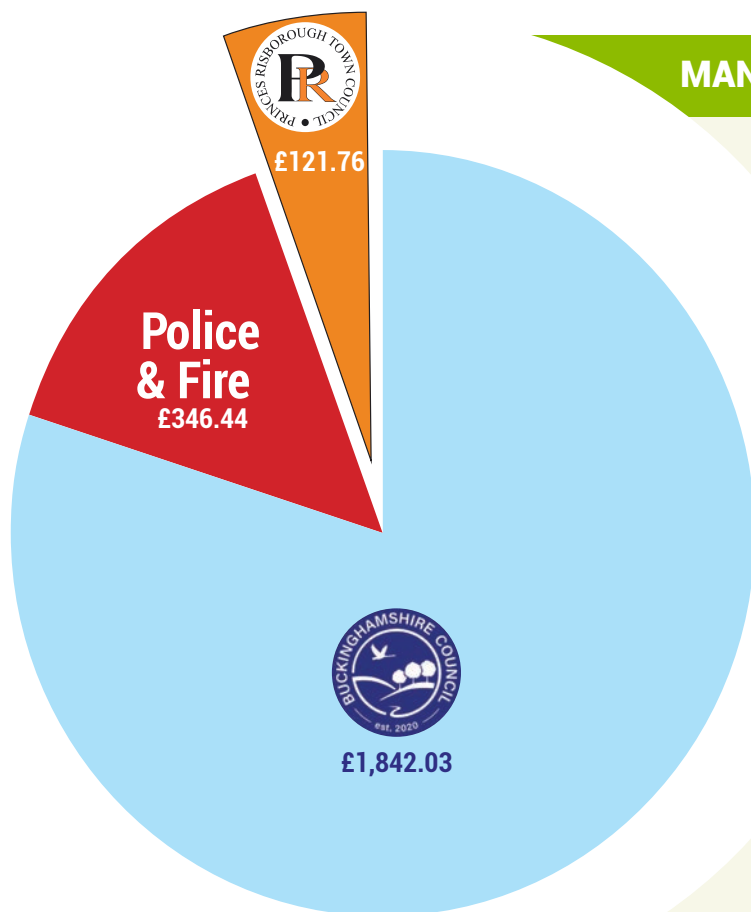
Don't miss this chance to make your voice heard and contribute to the thriving future of our town. Stay tuned for consultation details and make sure to participate – together we can make a difference.





In 2024 your £10.15 each month brings all this

Band D Property



MANAGING PARKS & OPEN SPACES

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

MAINTAINING OUR TOWN

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

MAINTAINING BUILDINGS

- Wades Centre, including Town Council office, Brushwood Suite & Cafe
- 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 | Thursday Market | Website |
| Summer Festival | Farmers Market | Grants to Schools, Churches & Local Organisations |
| Christmas Lights Switch On | Crosstalk Newsletter | Support for Retailers |
| Annual Town Meeting | Social Media Promotions | |

Development of Stratton Memorial Garden

During the 1990's the Town Council was made aware that the Town's cemeteries were almost full and so began a search for a new burial ground site. Over some 10 years 100 sites in and around Risborough were viewed, but for one reason or another none were suitable nor sustainable. The situation came to a head when the existing cemeteries were indeed full and residents needed to seek burial plots in High Wycombe and Aylesbury. It was at this point the late Anne Stratton made the very generous donation of land off Long Hide to the Town Council to create a new burial ground for the Town. Tests were completed and the site proved acceptable. A public Works Loan was obtained, planning permission was gained and work began on Phase 1 which created the attractive memorial garden, inaugurated in 2009, that has enabled so many residents to bury their loved ones in a place of peace and tranquillity overlooked by the Chiltern Escarpment. A mixture of spaces for both burial plots and interment of ashes is available.

Fifteen years later it is now time for the Town Council to start work on Phase 2 of the Memorial Garden, as while we still have plenty of space for the interment of ashes there are limited burial plots available in the current layout. The much larger area of Phase 2 will be focused primarily on burials and it's expected that it should provide a sufficient number of plots for around 30 years or so. Works have already begun and different sections will be completed over the next two to three years.

Our eternal thanks go to the late Ann Stratton for her generosity and community spirit.

Cllr Alan Turner



Wades Centre Phase II Completed

I am happy to announce the completion of the second phase of the development of the community centre, and thank all the people whose work and time unseen in the background made this possible. We have been able to upgrade the Wades Centre toilets, something that has been wanted for the last decade, so it is pleasing to see this long-term aim completed. We also now have a permanent home for our Town council, so ending our semi-nomadic existence and saving the council the rental costs of an office. There is still a third stage to be completed in the future which will further enhance the experience of using the centre.

At the same time, we installed solar panels on the roof of the centre, this has been done with the help of a grant from the North West Chiltern Community Board, a process which was made smoother by our Buckinghamshire Unitary councillors. This should lead to future savings on our electricity bills for the current and future generations. It allows future projects to be implemented which will generate further gains and is a small practical contribution to help reduce carbon emissions and maybe save the planet.

A more regrettable issue is the continuing misuse of the disabled parking places at the Wade Centre. Getting out of a car with a wheelchair needs space, a short walk from the Car Park is something we able-bodied people take for granted, but others could find difficult. It is why these places are reserved for disabled drivers; they are a necessity, not a luxury. Therefore, to ensure that these spaces are used for the purpose intended, we have now employed an agency to fine people who abuse it. You might feel lucky and think you can get away with it, that is your choice, responsibility and fault if you get caught.

Cllr Ian Parkinson

Photography credited: Hayley Watkins



Meet your Newly Co-opted Town Councillors

A message from Cllr Neil Rawsthorne

Hi there, my name is Neil Rawsthorne, having been co-opted onto the Town Council late last year I intend to do my best to make Princes Risborough a fantastic place to live and work. Having lived in the local area for over twenty years, initially in Halton, Watlington, and Medmenham, before moving to Princes Risborough in 2010 I very much wanted to try and give something back to the Town where I and my family have been made so welcome over the years.

Originally from Liverpool, I moved south initially to go to Reading University and subsequently joined the Royal Air Force, moving and deploying around the world. Married with three grown-up children, we have spent over 20 years now living in Buckinghamshire, settling in Princes Risborough in Berryfield Road in 2010 with our Labradoodle called Bailey, such that this is the only place that we consider home. Although I now work

within the technology sector, after over 30 years of public service in Defence and the Civil Service, I still remain an active reservist with links to the nearby military communities at Halton and Walters Ash which I hope we can develop further. Wherever we have lived, we have tried to be active within the community, and I serve currently as a Trustee for a local regional charity supporting adults with autism and specialist needs in Oxfordshire. In all of these roles I have sought to provide something back to the community, and I am extremely happy that I now have a similar opportunity to contribute further to the town as a Councillor. I feel honoured to have been selected to serve the community here in Princes Risborough, and the number of applicants I think demonstrates the interest that people have in what goes on in the Town, and a willingness to be involved which I would very much like to encourage. I very much look forward to meeting and serving you all.



A message from Cllr Cheryl Morgan

I moved from Richmond, Surrey to Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire in 1999. Over the past twenty-four years here in Risborough, I have helped to set up and coach an Under 13 girls football team and volunteered on the Town Festival Committee for ten years helping to arrange community events in the Town including Summer Festival and fancy dress competitions for adults and children. More recently, I became a trustee for the Princes Risborough Charity in 2021. I work as a Health Care Assistant for Cross Keys Practice on the High Street, a job I thoroughly enjoy which allows me to meet so many lovely people.

I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve on the Town Council and I look forward to working with the community of Princes Risborough.



WHO DOES WHAT &



FLY TIPPING



COMMUNITY
BOARDS



STREET LIGHTING ON
HIGH STREET AND A4010



PAID CAR PARKS
AND PARKING



SOCIAL CARE
SERVICES



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
AND PEST CONTROL



HOUSING



WASTE MANAGEMENT
AND RECYCLING



DISABLED PARKING
(BLUE BADGES)



ROADS AND
PAVEMENTS



CCTV



THE OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR



FOOTBALL
PITCHES



CROSTALK
NEWSLETTER



WAR MEMORIALS AND
LISTED BUILDINGS



FLOODI



BUILDING CONTROL



WEEKLY MARKET
AND FARMERS
MARKETS



ANTISOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR



PLANNING



BUS SHELTERS

CRIME



BUS PASSES



WADES CENTRE
AND FACILITY HIRE



FREE ADVICE AND IN
FINANCIAL, LEGAL
PROBLE

Buckinghamshire Council - 0300 131 6000 - www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Environmental Agency - 24 hour Flood Line 0345 988 1188

Citizens Advice - Advice Line 0800 144 8848 - www.citizensadvice.org.uk/

KEEP ME

WHO TO CONTACT



DOGS AND FOULING

STREET CLEANING

WASTE DISPOSAL AND HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE

CULTURE AND PUBLIC ART

PUBLIC TOILETS



COMMUNITY SAFETY



COUNCIL TAX AND BENEFITS



REGISTRARS FOR BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND CEREMONIES



LOCAL GRANTS



TOWN EVENTS



STRATTON MEMORIAL GARDEN



TRADING STANDARDS



NOISE AND NUISANCE COMPLAINTS



LICENSING



NG



BLOCKED SEWERS

BURST WATER MAINS



OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS



TOWN FLOWERBEDS AND BASKETS



VERGE CUTTING



ELECTORAL SERVICES



GRASS CUTTING OF RURAL HIGHWAYS AND GRASS VERGES



INFORMATION ON & CONSUMER EMS



STREET LIGHTING (EXCLUDING THE A4010 & HIGH STREET)



EDUCATION AND MAIN LIBRARIES

Dogs in Parks

One of the most common complaints councils receive concerns dogs in parks. Recently, there's been a rise in such complaints for several reasons. The UK has long been a nation of dog lovers, but dog ownership surged during the pandemic, with many first-time owners unfamiliar with the associated responsibilities. At the same time, lockdown led to people spending more time outdoors, increasing pressure on our public parks and green spaces.

To investigate this issue for ourselves, Cllr. Shipley and I took our dogs for a walk around the town's parks. While the dogs we encountered were all well-behaved and controlled, we noticed that many were off their leads in areas where local byelaws prohibit it. However, we also found that much of the signage regarding these restrictions was inadequate, illegible due to age, or outdated. Although we observed some uncollected dog waste, all the bins were functional, and none were overflowing.

The Dog Control byelaws currently in force were established in 1992 and can be accessed on our website. Here's a convenient summary of what they cover.

Table 1: Dog Control Byelaws in Princes Risborough Parks

	Dogs Prohibited	Canine Faeces Removal Areas	Dogs Must be on Leads
King George V Recreation Ground		Yes	Yes
St Dunstan's Park		Yes	Yes
Crescent Recreation Ground (Woodfield Rd.)		Yes	Yes
Wades Park		Yes	Yes
Wades Park - Junior Play Area	Yes	N/A	
Earle Mitchell Recreation Ground		Yes	Yes

While partially addressed by other regulations and guidelines, Stratton Memorial Ground, Duke Street Gardens, and Kite Meadows Playground (in Laidler Crescent) are not covered by the existing local byelaws.

In 2014, Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced to help Local Authorities tackle anti-social behaviour by preventing specific acts which would not otherwise be criminal offences. However, PSPOs have been criticised for handing too much power to councils. And, whereas Byelaws are enforced via Magistrates' Courts, PSPO violations can result in on-the-spot fines being issued by police officers and authorized council officers.

While most dog owners in our area are responsible, it's evident that both our dog walking facilities and our dog control measures are perhaps overdue for review. Dog owners require safe places to exercise their pets, yet the closest commercial Dog Parks are in Stoke Mandeville and Postcombe.

Moreover, with approximately 2,000 new homes in the planning stage, our town is poised for substantial population growth. So, with social, regulatory, and demographic changes, it's important to consider the needs of those using our parks and recreational areas, both now and in the future. And, given that 32 years have passed since the implementation of our byelaws, now is an opportune moment to reassess them through targeted consultation or perhaps through Neighbourhood Planning.

Neighbourhood Planning is a resident-led process that empowers local communities to directly influence the development and growth of their area. This approach ensures that community-wide needs, such as for parks and recreation, are effectively addressed and incorporated into local planning decisions. A group of councillors and I have been advocating a Neighbourhood Plan for Princes Risborough, and we will continue to do so.

Please 'watch this space' for information about a public consultation on these matters. In the meantime, if you're new to dog ownership or need a refresher on the law, here are the key points to remember.



Photo: Cllr Andy Shipley & Dodger

- Respect local byelaws – check park signage and report any issues to the council.
- Always clean up after your dog and use public bins. If none are available, take waste with you to avoid littering.
- Keep your dog on a short lead near roads, shared paths, and around horse riders or cyclists.
- Ensure your dog is never dangerously out of control in public spaces.
- On 'Open Access' land, always leash your dog around livestock, and from March 1st to July 31st, dogs must be on leads even if there are no livestock present.

For more information on responsible dog ownership, the websites of The Kennel Club and the Blue Cross animal charity have excellent guides. For more information on the Countryside Code, please see nationaltrails.co.uk and for more information on Neighbourhood Planning, visit neighbourhoodplanning.org

Cllr Andrew Cross

Community Speedwatch update

The Speedwatch campaign managed to continue through the winter months with only two events being cancelled due to poor weather conditions. However, we will be struggling to manage forthcoming events due to having a very small but perfectly formed team of volunteers and taking people's holidays into account.

Once again I send out a plea for new members to join us, just two times a month would be fine.

Speeding is not restricted to the obvious candidates, here are the Top 10 offending vehicles by make:

FORD	209
VOLKSWAGEN	155
VAUXHALL	114
BMW	102
AUDI	84
NISSAN	59
TOYOTA	57
LAND ROVER	55
MERCEDES	47
PEUGEOT	41

We are only allowed to perform Speedwatch sessions during daylight hours which doesn't identify the majority of vehicles speeding into and out of Princes Risborough, we are actively looking at a couple of activities to assist with this.

1. Archer strip data (these are the strips that are placed on the road which collect vehicle type/date/time/speed, this data can then be used to prompt TVP to instigate changes such as speed cameras.
2. 24x7 low-cost cameras that capture speed/date/time/vehicle reg and report the results to a phone app. We have only recently been made aware of these.

So, please think about volunteering so we can ramp up the number of sessions we can run.

Should you wish to become a member of the group then please e-mail me at a.frost@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk or via the Contact Us page on the Princes Risborough Town Council www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk Cllr Alan Frost



EVENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY



20 24

30 MAR	EASTER TRAIL	TWO WEEK EVENT
SATURDAY	COLLECT MAPS FROM PRINCES RISBOROUGH LIBRARY, BELL STREET, HP27 0AA	
16 APR	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	
TUESDAY	BRUSHWOOD SUITE, WADES PARK, STRATTON ROAD, HP27 9AX	
20 APR	FARMERS MARKET	
SATURDAY	KING GEORGE V PARK, WELLINGTON AVENUE , HP27 9EE	
06 JUN	D-DAY BEACON LIGHTING	
THURSDAY	STRATTON MEMORIAL GARDEN, LONG HIDE OFF QUEENS ROAD, AYLESBURY ROAD, HP27 0JX	
22 JUN	FARMERS MARKET	
SATURDAY	KING GEORGE V PARK, WELLINGTON AVENUE , HP27 9EE	
06 JUL	FESTIVAL WEEK	WEEK-LONG EVENT
SATURDAY	VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT PRINCES RISBOROUGH	
13 JUL	SUMMER FESTIVAL	
SATURDAY	HIGH STREET, PRINCES RISBOROUGH, HP27 0AX	
21 AUG	PLAY DAY	
WEDNESDAY	WADES PARK, STRATTON ROAD, HP27 9AX	
21 SEPT	FARMERS MARKET	
SATURDAY	KING GEORGE V PARK, WELLINGTON AVENUE , HP27 9EE	
26 OCT	HALLOWEEN TRAIL	
SATURDAY	HIGH STREET, PRINCES RISBOROUGH, HP27 0AX	
10 NOV	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
SATURDAY	MARKET SQUARE, HP27 0AN & ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHURCH STREET, HP27 9AA	
30 NOV	CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON	
SATURDAY	HIGH STREET, PRINCES RISBOROUGH, HP27 0AX	

MORE INFO:

WWW.PRINCESRISBOROUGHTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

Please note, all events are subject to change. Please see visit our website and social media channels for the latest event information.



Annual Town Meeting & The Mayor's Civic Awards

**TUESDAY 16TH APRIL FROM 7:15PM
BRUSHWOOD SUITE, WADES CENTRE,
STRATTON ROAD**

ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND

www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

Risborough Festival Week Returns!

Risborough Festival Week will be back from Saturday 6th July to Saturday 13th July! The week will once again see a wide range of community events held throughout the town by Risborough-based businesses, charities, and organisations for residents of Princes Risborough.

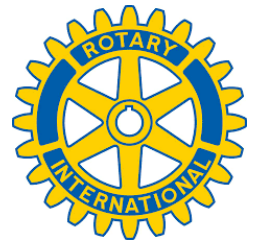
We're now accepting submissions for the 2024 Festival Week Programme. Hosting an event or activity during Festival Week is a great way to give back to the community and an opportunity to interact and build relationships with residents in a fun way. This may also help to build awareness for your community offering or business as the programme will be delivered to residents throughout Risborough and surrounding villages.

Interested in submitting a listing into the Festival Week Programme? Please get in touch with Stephanie at stephanie@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk or download the form from our website at www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk. The deadline for submitting a listing is Wednesday 24th April 2024.



Risborough Ramble 7th July

This comprises 3 legs around the Chilterns, each of around 7 miles - Wades Park to Longwick, from there to Lacey Green and then back to Wades Park. Participants can choose to walk all 3, 2 or just 1 stage. There is also an alternative, shorter route of around 5 miles, again starting/finishing in Wades Park. Refreshments will be available at the end of each stage. The walk is primarily in aid of SCANNAPPEAL*, plus local Charities. It's hoped that while the Ramble is in aid of charity it will also be fun. There is a registration fee of £10 per adult which will go to Charity, and perhaps you could also get some individual sponsorship. More information on registering can be found on various posters and magazine articles locally. Details of our campaign will become increasingly prominent as we approach the date.



For contact details go to: rcpr.org.uk or call Graeme Card on 078272 98411, or email: gpcard@gmail.com

*to provide state-of-the-art medical equipment for hospitals in Bucks, (scannappeal.org.uk).

Contact Us!

Mayor & Chairman: Cllr Andy Ball

Deputy Chairman: Cllr Josephine Biss

Chairman of Finance Cttee: Cllr Sue Coombs

Cllr Alan Frost

Cllr Andrew Shipley

Cllr Alan Turner

Cllr Gary Hall

Cllr Ian Parkinson

Cllr Jane Rampin

Cllr Surinder Marshall

Cllr Andrew Cross

Cllr Neil Rawsthorne

Cllr Cheryl Morgan

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. Susanne Barter

Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Kirsty Pope

Clerical Assistant: Jayne Mylchreest

Bookings Officer: Tania Campbell

Events & Communications Assistant: Stephanie Boyle

Admin Support Officer: Cate Holloway

Estates Manager: Mark Roberts

Maintenance Team Operatives: Peter Quigley,
Steve Moulder, Trevor Goldsmith

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm

Princes Risborough Town Council, Wades Centre, Stratton Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 9AX
(01844) 275912

E: towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

W: www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

Twitter: @Princesris **Instagram:** [princesrisboroughtowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/princesrisboroughtowncouncil)

Facebook: [risboroughtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/risboroughtowncouncil)

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. The next meetings are:

March 26th 2024 | April 30th 2024

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.