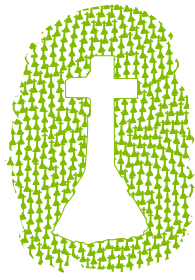




# CROSS *talk*



Princes Risborough Town Council Newsletter



## Message from the Mayor

As we progress into Summer, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the successes that have occurred recently. Summer really does show our beautiful town and villages at their very best and I must take this opportunity to thank every member of our Maintenance Team who are delivering a wonderful service and to welcome Brian and Robert to the team. The Town Councils first apprentice has now left us and moved into his first full time job. It is wonderful to see people progress in their careers and great that the Town Council has played a role in their progression.

Last month we hosted a BBQ to thank some of the many people that volunteer for our Community. Representatives included members of the Community Bus, Churches' Together, Rotary and their youth wing – the interactors. Risborough has wonderful history of helping others and having the opportunity to thank them was a great honour. I sincerely hope that the Council will host another event next year, if you know of someone that should be invited please let us know. A huge thanks to Sue and John Coombs for their efficient and delicious cooking, we could not have done it without you!

In addition to our usual meetings and groups, I met with the Leader of Bucks County Council and Cllr Bendyshe Brown to discuss issues related to Princes Risborough. In September, the Town Council will meet with the Cabinet at Wycombe District Council to have a broad ranging discussion. If you have any questions regarding the services that Wycombe provide please do get in touch.

The Council is very appreciative with the messages we have received regarding Festival Week. So many events during the week were well attended. Many people tried something new, or took the opportunity to explore the heritage of the Town. We had local businesses and organisations showcasing their work and talents. Many people spent their lunch hour listening to the schools and the Jingers from the Princes Centre performing at St Mary's Church. There is an abundance of musical talent in our town and it was great seeing people of all ages enjoying their work.

Festival Day on the Saturday was very well attended, with the High Street completely full with stalls and activities for all. The donkeys, children's entertainers and stilt walkers were very popular. The creation of a beach supplied by Blanchfords was full all day and really was a spectacular addition to the day. I must thank all our sponsors this year without whom none of the above and so much more would have been possible.

**Cllr Matthew Walsh**



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# What's ahead for Princes Risborough?

An update from Cllr Matthew Walsh, Mayor of Princes Risborough and Chairman of the Princes Risborough Steering Group.

Princes Risborough Town Council has been working closely with Wycombe District Council to help shape the plans for the extension of Princes Risborough. As this is a major change that will affect the town over many years, we want to keep you informed, update you about progress and answer some of your questions ahead of the publication of the draft local plan in October.

In the last few weeks we have met hundreds of you face to face to answer your questions and listen to local views. You may have seen information at the recent street festival on 8 July, or come along to one of our public meetings on 13 and 20 July. All the information we have shared at these events is available to see on the district council's website and as a printed booklet.

## The most common questions from local people are:

- Why is major expansion being planned for Princes Risborough?
- What will it look like?
- What is the timescale?
- How can I have my say?

## Local consultation – so far

Last year (February to March 2016), Wycombe District Council asked for your views and feedback about plans for the town. They sent a flier to every household, held a public meeting and exhibition and promoted the consultation to local people through local media. They had around 360 responses and have taken account of the local views which were received as part of the consultation. The town plan has now been incorporated into the local plan for the district.

## What's next and how can I have my say?

Wycombe District Council will agree the local plan in September and will then publish it for a formal six week consultation starting in October. If you still have any concerns about the local plan, this will be your chance to give the Planning Inspector your views.

## What's changed in the draft town plan?

- Changes have been made to the road alignment through the development area – this has been in response to public feedback and technical work that's been done.
- Housing has been taken out from around Park Mill Ponds
- The local centre has been relocated to the junction with Longwick Road to make it better for passing trade
- The Alscot Conservation Area has been enlarged to protect its historic character.

## Why are we getting so many houses?

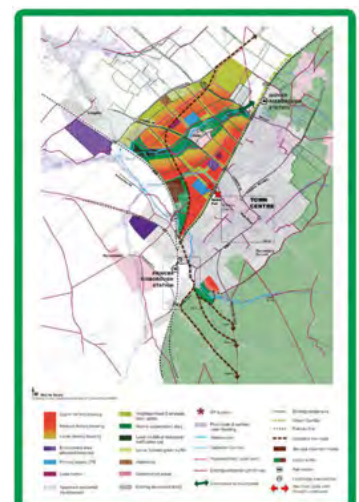
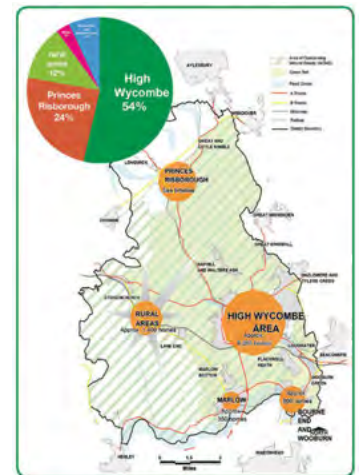
Buckinghamshire needs 45,000 new homes across the whole county by 2033 to meet the local housing shortage. The Wycombe district has to take its share of new homes – so the district council has to find suitable sites for around 13,200 new houses. Due to green belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) constraints, not all of this demand can be met in the Wycombe district - so some of the district's housing need will be met in Aylesbury Vale. Even with our neighbours taking some of that housing, Wycombe District Council still needs to provide 11,000 new homes across the district.

Over half that number will be met in High Wycombe. The plans for Princes Risborough represent about a quarter of what has to be provided in the Wycombe district.

## Where are the homes going to be built?

The growth plan for Princes Risborough is not just about building houses. It is about creating a good place for people to live and enjoy life.

In addition to an aim of 40 per cent of the new homes being affordable homes, Princes Risborough Town Council is looking to create a Community Land Trust to develop and manage homes and other community assets, giving more control to local people.



## Developer funding is being used to help pay for essential new infrastructure for the town including:

- A new relief road
- A new bus service to connect the expansion area with the town centre, shops and the rail station
- Better pedestrian and cycle routes including a new wide underpass at Wades Park
- New sports facilities including football and rugby pitches with changing facilities and a clubhouse
- A new country park almost seven times the size of Wades Park
- Two new two form entry primary schools
- Additional secondary school places at the Upper School and local grammar schools
- New play areas and open spaces close to new homes
- An alternative location for a new GP centre for the town
- A new local centre with space for handy local shops on Longwick Road



### The relief road

Building even a small number of additional homes often creates the need for a new road. Since the public consultation in Princes Risborough last year, your feedback has been used to look at different options to connect the southern end to the A4010. A decision will be made on which option to take forward when the district council publish the Local Plan in September and you will be able to comment at that time.



### Plans for the town centre include:

- a better connected network of streets, including to the expansion area
- better pedestrians and cycle routes
- more car parking spaces
- a more mixed range of shops

**For more information visit [www.wycombe.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/newlocalplan)**

## Molin's Sports Ground - *The decision is in!*

As many residents will recall, it was a sad day indeed some seven years ago when Molins Plc evicted the trustees of the sports ground and closed it down with the aim of cashing in on it for potential housing development. The ground, situated in the Green Belt and AONB, was a magnificent sports and leisure facility boasting an international standard cricket pitch, two full size football pitches, netball court, tennis courts, Bowling Green and a fine clubhouse with changing rooms and office space. Over the years the trustees/management committee had ensured a high level of maintenance and financial sustainability. A facility that was held in high esteem by thousands of people throughout the County. From the moment the closure was announced there was absolute outrage within the local community. The Town Council, working with the trustees, lobbied Molins Plc to think again – to no avail. So we entered into negotiations in an attempt to purchase the site and protect its usage in perpetuity. I met with their officials several times, upping the offer on each occasion, again to no avail, and eventually a planning application for housing development (140 houses) was lodged in 2015. The Town Council, supported by Wycombe District Council, John Bercow MP and the broader local community objected vigorously to the application which would have meant the loss of greenbelt and sports facilities. The refusal was then taken to appeal and a public enquiry was duly held earlier this year, the outcome of which was delayed for it to be “recovered” by the Secretary of State for a final decision. On Friday the 21st July we received the news that we had won the day, and the appeal had been refused. I cannot express just how elated I was on hearing the news. But it is only a partial victory because I am sure that Molins Plc will continue to look for ways to achieve development rights to the site. However, after seven years of fighting, being a born optimist, and call me a dreamer, we will also look for ways to return this ground to the magnificent sports facility it was!



**CLlr Alan Turner**

# WOW - What

A bright sun greeted us as we met at 9am in the High Street. It was going to be a long day, but we had all the butterflies of a new venture. On the back of a great Festival week, Festival Street Fayre day had arrived and we had four hours to transform the High Street into Risborough-on-Sea.

We had raised the special seaside flag earlier in the week and many of the shops had already got into the spirit of the day by decorating their windows to a nautical seaside theme. There was an under-the-sea window in the Iain Rennie shop, a seaside theme complete with large pompom sun in Kado, and Sally's Sewing Box had mounted an exhibition on the history of swimwear – all especially made for the occasion.



Our job was to prepare for the tipping of 12 tonnes of play sand on the street outside Prince's Fish and Chips. Tarpaulin was laid down and sandbags were placed around the edge to stop the sand spreading too far. Would 12 tonnes of sand be enough? – we were suddenly doubtful. As the Blanchford's lorry arrived and skilfully dumped its contents outside the newly restored Market House, our fears were quashed as we were suddenly up to our shins in sand. A dozen or so volunteers made up of Town Councillors and their relations, under the skilful command of the town maintenance staff made this part of Church Street look like an idyllic seaside scene. With the addition of some beautiful old fashioned deckchairs and some plastic buckets and spades, the beach was complete – but would anyone use it?

We turned our attention to the fast arriving stallholders looking for their positions in the High Street – local traders, charities, organisations and voluntary groups all started to set-up their stalls, many with a seaside theme. Moments later, the newly laid beach was a mass of families with small children all making sandcastles and digging their way to Australia.

Alongside the beach the surf simulator was set-up and high wire trampolines. This was complimented by the addition of Rocky, Roby, Taffy & Morris from the Donkey sanctuary, our hard-working beasts of burden, who were prepared to take children up and down Duke Street all afternoon.



It was so exciting to see the range of stallholders, from local churches, to Rotary, from food providers selling a brilliant range of cuisine, to the U3A making sure that everyone knew what they were about. A range of information stalls, tasty food and chances to win on the tombola, raffle and lucky dips. We were delighted to see many of our favourites; the traction engine rides and the steel band as well as new attractions and themed experiences.

And what seaside would be complete without the Punch and Judy man, who kept younger residents entertained throughout the afternoon with Judy, a string of sausages and a cardboard crocodile – who needs an iPad when you have those?

# t a scorcher!

There were winners galore too – Wainwrights were pipped to the post by Sally's Sewing Box in the shop window contest, and Kathy Quantrill won the Art in the Park prize for her *Gorilla Reflecting* picture (on display in Wades Park now). They were joined by winners of the children's colouring competition and our very own Risborough Bake Off – who knew we had so much talent in the Town?

The whole afternoon went with a swing through the fantastic music of Black and Gold, Aunt Sally's Delight, Allstars Academy and Dave McClenaghan. And throughout we were kept fed and watered with beer from The George stage side bar and special seaside platters from Princes beachside Fish and Chips.



photos courtesy of Cllr Nathan Davis

The sun shone brightly throughout and the people of Risborough and the surrounding villages came out in their thousands to experience Risborough-on-Sea. Some say it was the best festival in recent years; some say the Baywatch stilt walkers were wearing fake tan; some say the cheese scone bake off category was fixed – all I know was that the Festival was a Grand Day at the Seaside which gave nearly 4,500 people the chance to lay back, enjoy the ride and soak up the sun; it can't be bad!

Main Sponsor

**MICHAEL  
GRAHAM**

See you all again at Christmas!

**Cllr David Knights**



## Life Saving Phone Box

Many of you will have noticed the new (old) red telephone kiosk outside the Co-Op building. In conjunction with WE Black who own the building we wanted to mark the particular heritage of that site as the former GPO building which at one time housed the Post Office, Royal Mail and telephone exchange. Traditionally there was a red kiosk there until BT took it away in the 1980's; we thought it would be a great idea to put one back near the original spot to add some character to the entrance to our heritage-rich historic town conservation area.

Since public telephones aren't serviceable anymore it has made a perfect home for a new defibrillator which will serve the southern end of the town, and our thanks to Rural Community Defibrillator Group who provided this invaluable potentially life-saving kit for our community.

We have already had much positive feedback on the red kiosk, people like the bit of nostalgic modern history making a welcome return to Risborough as we haven't had one in the area for many years, we hope that you and future generations will enjoy the gleaming new phone box in passing and the pleasant sight of it sitting there in all its past glory.

**Cllr Gary Hall**



# Maintaining OUR Town

Following on from the success of the Town Council's introduction of providing Devolved Services to other Local Authorities, the Maintenance Team has provided with new equipment that will enable them to keep the town in good shape throughout the year.

The team now consists of both full time and summer operatives which enables them to operate as two distinct teams, one of which is permanently tasked with work around the town and the other completing the Devolved Services work.

The team is managed by our Town Clerk to the Council, Susanne Griffiths, and is led by Kevin Locke the Team Leader.

Each week the team is tasked with its operations for that week based on the requirements that have been previously identified through reports to the office by members of the public and also there are regular tasks that need to be carried out on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. This pre-programming is essential to maintain the high standards that the public expect from their council.

The regular weekly tasks are such as litter picking and grass cutting in the parks and open spaces, watering and feeding the colourful flower beds and baskets in and around the town and the maintenance of the Stratton Memorial Garden.

Additional routine work includes the maintenance of benches and play equipment, removal of graffiti and the clearing of streams to name but a few.

The Devolved Services work is in the main, grass maintenance to verges and other authorities' play areas, along with the cleaning of signs and some hedge cutting.

To enable the team to perform at the highest level they have a well-equipped arsenal of machinery and tools which include such items as mowers, both self-propelled and push types, brush cutters and hedge trimmers, and blowers and strimmers.

This equipment is both owned and maintained by the Council, through the team, and has led to a more cost effective use of finite resources.

Recently our vehicle leasing contracts had to be renewed and so the team have been provided with the vehicles best suited to the work. The new 4x4 vehicle will be invaluable during the winter months to provide a go anywhere service whatever the weather and the new tipper truck means a reduction in time for offloading large quantities of waste material.

Some years ago the council started an apprenticeship scheme within the Maintenance Team and this is proving successful with the first apprentice finishing his course and being offered a more permanent position on the team. The Council will hope to continue with this scheme in future years.

The team are constantly being faced with new tasks and ways of working and have been very successful in learning new skills, which improves performance of the team overall.



The Council regularly reviews its actions relating to the maintenance of the town but also relies on the vigilance of the public to report faults and defects which may not have been spotted by the team and will then act accordingly.

The Princes Risborough Town Council is committed to ensuring that the Town and its open spaces are kept in the highest order and that it reflects the high standards that have set by the public over many years

**Cllr John Coombs**  
Chairman of Town Committee

## Thank you

A massive thank you to both Louise & Dan of Dukes Wine Bar for sponsoring the wonderful Donkey Rides on Festival Day.

50% of the proceeds from the day were donated to a charity close to their hearts, the Brain Tumour Charity.

(Photo right - Town Mayor & Chairman Matthew Walsh presenting a cheque for £100 to Louise)



# A Final Farewell and a Rare Visit

Princes Risborough has seen two significant events take place on the local rails during May and June. The first being the retirement of the Chiltern Railways heritage Class 121 'Bubble Car' that operated on the branch line between Risborough and Aylesbury. The two trains, noticeable by their distinct blue or green livery and single carriage formation, were originally built for British Rail in the 1960s before being purchased by Chiltern for use on the branch line during the first half of the last decade. The trains have since been operating the peak time shuttle service between the two towns and according to Chiltern Railways Director of Engineering Matthew Prosser are only now being withdrawn "due to age" and to provide "a more comfortable service" for passengers. The trains were withdrawn from passenger use on the 19th May and in the week prior a significant number of rail enthusiasts and regular passengers took one last ride on 'the bubble' and indeed even the Mayor, Cllr Walsh, was on hand to say goodbye to the trains on their last day of service. Chiltern Railways have confirmed that the trains will now be sold.



The 6th and 9th of June saw Princes Risborough welcoming a special visitor, the class A3 Locomotive 4472 'Flying Scotsman'. The locomotive, which was built in 1923, operated on the long distance East Coast Mainline services between London and Scotland and it is the London to Edinburgh 'Flying Scotsman' service from which the locomotive received its name. The locomotive has over its years earned two different records, the first being the first train to have been recorded as reaching 100mph (in 1934)

and then setting the record for the longest non-stop journey by a steam locomotive with 422 miles. On both occasions the locomotive arrived into Risborough with both main platforms, half the car park and the footbridge full with many onlookers from Risborough and beyond, many with cameras at hand to capture this rare moment. The train stopped just long enough for various fast Chiltern services to pass by before proceeding on the journey back to London via Oxford with a blow of the whistle.



**Cllr Nathan Davis**

## Your Dog & the Law

Many of you will see me accompanied by my Labrador around the outskirts of the town enjoying our daily walks; I get to meet so many others doing the same, the vast majority of them are totally responsible dog owners, respectful of others and their surroundings.

Following a number of complaints and observations perhaps it is timely to give all dog owners some gentle reminders of the by-laws in our town which cover all the town's parks. Any dogs within our park's boundaries must be accompanied and held on a lead - at no time is it lawful for any dogs to be exercised off-lead in any of our parks whatsoever. These by-laws have been in place for many years and are there for the protection of other users of the parks, particularly the young and vulnerable. Any persons disobeying the by-laws by exercising their dogs without a lead risks a fine if caught.

Likewise owners are expected by law to clear up their dog mess; a number of dog waste bins are provided within the parks and at strategic places around the town for you to deposit this conveniently and safely, and additionally it is perfectly acceptable and legal to place sealed bags of dog waste in normal litter bins, so there really is no excuse. Those few individuals who decide not to clear up after their dogs risk being fined if caught, some have even been photographed by other outraged members of the public when flouting the law so please be responsible and respectful of others.



**Cllr Gary Hall**

# Art in the Park

In 2014 I approached my fellow Councillors with an idea for an art project in Wades Park. The project involved installing a number of boards on the fence line between Wades Park and the railway line. The boards would show off the talents of local artist's whilst also enhancing a dull looking fence.

Art In The Park, now in its 3rd edition, has expanded from an original display of 6 artists to the extensive display of talent from 19 local artists. We had an exceptional selection of art covering a wide range of subjects and different media, including our first ceramic entry.

Art In The Park was this year, as it was last year, sponsored by Risborough Gallery who provided the prize for the winner. Steven Aldus of Risborough Gallery also cast his expert eye over the entries and selected the winners.

This year's winner was "Gorilla Reflecting" by Kathy Quantrill. A wonderful portrait of a Gorilla painted in acrylics for her husband who loves Gorillas.

There were also two runners up winning vouchers for Art & Office. Second place was awarded to Mary Casserley for her 1930's railway poster inspired painting of Whiteleaf Cross. Third place went to Callum Colins, a Princes Risborough School student, for his self-portrait inspired by the work of Sir Stanley Spencer.

Any local artists who wish to get involved in this wonderful project, keep your eyes on our webpage and twitter page for details of next year's Art in the Park.



Finally, if you haven't yet been down to Wades Park to see the art display they will be in place for several months and it is well worth the trip.

**Cllr Iain McLauchlan**



Gorilla Reflecting by Kathy Quantrill Acrylic Paint  
 Kathy is a retired primary school teacher and a founder member of the Chalfonts Art Group which meets in St. Mary's Hall each week. It was set up in 1984 after a large group of people took their Art level in Fine Art through an evening class in Princes Risborough Secondary School.  
 This painting was a Christmas present for her husband who loves gorillas. Kathy knew with this pose the had to get the eyes absolutely right so they were the first things that she painted.



## Princes Risborough Town Council

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Please visit our website: [www.princesrisborough.com](http://www.princesrisborough.com) @Princesris

Mayor & Chairman of the Council:	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. Adrian Rolfe	Cllr. Pam Summerbell	Cllr. Nick Chadzynski
Cllr. Nathan Davis		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:	Brian Dickinson, Jake Lloyd and Robert Powell

### 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 September 26th Tuesday November 28th**

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.