



# CROSS*talk*

Town Consultation - Special Issue | Issue 81 | July 2024



## A message from your new Town Mayor and Chairman

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as your new Chairman and Mayor, and to thank Andy Ball for all of his hard work over the last three years. Having been in Public Service, both in the military and in the Civil Service all my life, it is a great honour to both Chair the Council and formally represent the Town at external events as we seek to deliver the best possible service for Princes Risborough. As Councillors we are clear that transparency and accountability are critical, and that this requires public engagement and feedback.

In the current economic environment budgets remain tight, and are likely to remain so. Last year we had to make some difficult decisions on what we could afford, as ultimately we could not provide the continued level of service within our current resources, impacting upon play park refurbishment, flower beds and potentially our Christmas lights (until we obtained additional funding

for this year only). We are therefore seeking your views, both to help us prioritise what we do with limited funding, as well as what we could deliver additionally through a slight increase in the precept. We would also like to know how you want to help improve our Town, whether that is in volunteering - next year we are going to participate in 'Best Kept Village' which everyone can get involved in - or just through supporting and attending our events.

The Town Council wants to maintain and improve the quality of life for everyone in Princes Risborough, please help us by letting us know what you want and what you are willing to do to help us deliver this. And finally, on a personal note, if you see me around the town, please stop and have a chat, whether about what you would like to see us do, or just to say hello.

Many thanks

**Cllr. Neil Rawsthorne**

## Town Consultation: Special Edition



Cllr. Neil Rawsthorne - Chairman

# WHO DOES WHAT



**Open Spaces, Play Areas, and Football Pitches include** King George V Park and Playground, Wades Park and Playground, St Dunstons Park and Playground, Earle Mitchell Playing Field, The Crescent Park and Playground, Kite Meadows Playground, Land in Whiteleaf Hill with a seat, The Ragpit, Land on New Road, Land on south side of Aylesbury Road at the junction of The Avenue, Land on east side of Ash Road, The Pound at Askett, Kite Meadow development.

**Town Events include** Festival Week and Summer Festival, Christmas Lights Switch On, Farmers Markets, Easter Trail, Halloween Trail, Commemorative Beacon Lighting Events, International Women's Day, Remembrance Sunday, Annual Town Meeting, Art in the Park, and Play Days.

**Community Buildings and Facility Hire includes** Wades Centre (inclusive of Cherry Baker Room, Carrington Room,

Sports Hall, Town Council Offices, and Brushwood Suite), The Market House (Grade 2 Listed Building), Dovecote (Grade 2 Listed Building), 39 High Street (Leased to Aylesbury Pub Company), and Café in Wades Centre (Leased to Crew Café).

**War Memorials include** three memorials outside the Library to commemorate the aircrew of three aircraft that crashed in the surrounding area during the Second World War, a memorial beneath the Market House, and a memorial in Mill Lane, Monks Risborough.

**Bus Shelters** include all those within the Princes Risborough Parish.

**Street Lighting** includes all numbered lighting columns in the town excluding those on the A4010 and the High Street.



# Business Plan Consultation

## What is Princes Risborough Town Council and what does it do?

The Town Council is an elected body of 13 unpaid councillors who have responsibilities for certain aspects of the town, these include street lights, public parks, community buildings, town events, war memorials, and maintaining some of the listed buildings such as the Market House. Other areas the council is involved in are commenting on local planning applications, forward planning for the town as a whole, and as a community voice to Buckinghamshire Council and other relevant organisations such as Thames Valley Police.

Princes Risborough Town Council is the most local of the two tiers of government that represent Princes Risborough and the only one with an office in the town. The 'Who Does What' graphic on page 2 outlines popular council services and their corresponding government bodies.

Please be aware that the Town Council has specific responsibilities, including biodiversity and financial management, which are mandated. We are not currently seeking feedback or suggestions related to these areas, as the Town Council ensures compliance with relevant policies, legislation, best practice, and government guidance.

Further information on the various responsibilities of the Town Council can be found here:

[https://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/What\\_We\\_Do\\_19055.aspx](https://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/What_We_Do_19055.aspx).

## What are we doing and why?

We are renewing our long term (5 years) plan and we'd like to get as much input from our residents and organisations as possible. Once we have developed the plan, we will review it each year to assess our progress and to consider any changes that need to be made. This will help to ensure that your council delivers the quality of service you want.

### PRTC Long Term Aims

To help ensure that our future activities improve the town for everyone, we have written and agreed four long term aims. We will use these aims to evaluate what we do, how we do it and what kinds of things we should do in the future.

1. Quality of Life: Foster and improve the wellbeing of our community
2. Civic Participation: Foster active community engagement through direct consultation and events
3. Place: Protect, celebrate and enhance our heritage and evolving character
4. Environmental Sustainability: Deliver and encourage the adoption of the highest achievable environmental standards for our community

Your responses will be instrumental in forming the objectives for our future business plan.

**Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas openly in with this questionnaire.**

**This questionnaire can also be completed online by visiting [www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk) under the "News" section.**

**This consultation closes on Monday 5th August 2024.**



## Quality of Life: Foster and improve the wellbeing of our community

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Never' and 5 means 'Very frequently', how often do you utilise the facilities owned by the Town Council in our community?

Mark only one oval.

|       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                 |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
|       | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |                 |
| Never | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Very frequently |

2. On a scale of 1 to 3, where 1 means 'Not important' and 3 means 'Very important', how important is the appearance of each of the following aspects of our town to your wellbeing?

Tick all that apply.

|                         | 1. Not important         | 2. Somewhat important    | 3. Very important        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Flowerbeds and Planters | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Weeds                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grass Verges            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Play Areas              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. We are committed to making our parks more accessible and inclusive for everyone in our community. Could you please share your thoughts on what improvements or additions you believe would enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of our parks?

*This could include changes to facilities, equipment, services, or any other aspect.  
Your detailed suggestions are highly appreciated.*

---



---



---



---



---

4. In an effort to improve the quality of life in our town, we would like to know your thoughts and suggestions. What additions or improvements would you like to see in our town?

*This could be in terms of equipment, facilities, services, or events. Please provide as much detail as possible.*

---



---



---



---



---

### Civic Participation: Foster active community engagement through direct consultation and events

5. We are keen to ensure that our communications with you are as effective as possible. Could you please share how you are currently receiving communications or accessing updates from us?

*This could include email, postal mail, social media updates, or any other method.*

*Tick all that apply.*

- ☐ Social Media Channels (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter)
- ☐ Princes Risborough Town Council Website
- ☐ Crosstalk Newsletter (printed newsletter delivered to households)
- ☐ E-Mail
- ☐ Noticeboards
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Would you prefer to receive communications from us more frequently or less frequently?

*You can choose multiple options for your answer, including more frequent, less frequent, or satisfied. Additionally, there's an option for "other" if you'd like to provide a longer response.*

*Tick all that apply..*

- ☐ More frequently
- ☐ Less frequently
- ☐ I am satisfied with the current levels of communication
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Not satisfied' and 5 means 'Very satisfied', how satisfied are you with the clarity of communication from the council?

Mark only one oval.

|               | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |                |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Not satisfied | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Very satisfied |

8. Do you find the communication channels (e.g., newsletters, website, social media) accessible and user-friendly?

Tick all that apply.

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Additionally, if you have any suggestions on how we can improve our communication methods, we would appreciate your feedback.

---



---



---



---

10. Would you be interested in Volunteering or Focus Groups with Princes Risborough Town Council to support events and projects? (e.g., Summer Festival, Weeding Flowerbeds, Weeding the High Street)

Mark only one oval.

☐

Yes

☐

No

11. Would you be interested in joining Princes Risborough Town Council Working Groups\* to support with the shaping and delivery of projects? (e.g. Best Kept Village)

\* The purpose of Working Groups formed from both councillors and members of the public is to meet to discuss issues, explore options and develop plans and then report back to the Council or Committee with recommendations.

Mark only one oval.

☐

Yes

☐

No

Place: Protect, celebrate and enhance our heritage and evolving character

12. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Not at all aware' and 5 means 'Very aware', how aware are you of the historical buildings and memorials owned by Princes Risborough Town Council in our community?

Mark only one oval.

|           |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |            |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
|           | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |            |
| Not aware | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Very aware |

13. On a scale of 1 to 3, where 1 means 'Not at all aware' and 3 means 'Very aware', how aware are you of the following facilities owned and managed by Princes Risborough Town Council in our community?

Tick all that apply.

|                                  | 1. Not<br>at all aware   | 2. Somewhat<br>aware     | 3. Very<br>aware         |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| The Market House<br>Meeting Room | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Brushwood Suite,<br>Wades Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stratton Memorial<br>Garden      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

14. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Not satisfied' and 5 means 'Very satisfied', how satisfied are you with Princes Risborough Town Councils efforts to protect, celebrate and enhance our heritage and evolving character?

Mark only one oval.

|               |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
|               | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |                |
| Not satisfied | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Very satisfied |

15. On a scale of 1 to 3, where 1 means 'Not important' and 3 means 'Very important', how important is it to you that we maintain the following activities that contribute to our towns evolving character?

*Tick all that apply.*

|                            | 1. Not important         | 2. Somewhat important    | 3. Very important        |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Thursday Market            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Farmers Markets            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Summer Festival            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christmas Lights Switch On | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 16. Please expand on how satisfied you are with the Town Council's efforts to preserve and celebrate Princes Risborough's heritage, and how you would like to see it commemorated and signposted?**

*For example, monuments, events, plaques, or any other methods. We appreciate your suggestions.*

---

---

---

---

- 17. What actions do you feel could be taken to better maintain and enhance our local environment, public spaces, and offerings?**

*e.g. events, decorations, flowerbeds, etc.*

---

---

---

---

**Environmental Sustainability:** Deliver and encourage the adoption of the highest achievable environmental standards for our community

18. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Not important' and 5 means 'Very important', how important is environmental sustainability to you?

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

---

Not important ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Very important



19. **Are you satisfied with the Town Council's current commitments to biodiversity and environmental sustainability? (Some of which are mandatory)**

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes, I am satisfied with the Town Council's current commitments
- ☐ No, I am not satisfied with the Town Council's current commitments
- ☐ I am not interested

20. **Are you satisfied with the information currently available on our environmental efforts and initiatives?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes, I am satisfied with the information provided.
- ☐ No, I am not satisfied with the information provided.
- ☐ I am not interested

21. **On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Not at all aware' and 5 means 'Very aware', how aware are you of wider community groups that are established to support our community with environmental sustainability?**

*Mark only one oval.*

|           |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |            |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
|           | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |            |
| Not aware | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Very aware |

22. **Would you be interested in the Town Council signposting you to local organisations and charities who can provide information on low-emission living?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Yes, I would like signposting information to be added to the Town Council Website
- ☐ No, I am not interested

23. **On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'Not at all aware' and 5 means 'Very aware', how confident are you in your understanding of the appropriate actions to take during extreme weather conditions such as intense heat, severe cold, flooding, or fires?**

*Mark only one oval.*

|           |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |            |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
|           | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |            |
| Not aware | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Very aware |

## Precept

In the upcoming 2025/2026 financial year, the Town Council expects to experience greater financial pressure and additional responsibilities. Some of this strain arises from various costs and activities being transferred from Buckinghamshire Council to Princes Risborough Town Council. These changes may impact our budget and operational capacity.

Future costs we are anticipating include:

- Verge Grass Cutting - Princes Risborough Town Council anticipate they will need to provide additional subsidies for grass verge cutting in the coming years.
- Christmas Light Display (actual decorations, not the event) - Buckinghamshire Council is no longer contributing to the maintenance and installation of existing Christmas lights displays, the acquisition of new Christmas lights displays, or funding associated costs (such as energy costs and column testing).
- Renovation of historical buildings - Princes Risborough Town Council is responsible for the costs required to repair their Grade 2 listed buildings. One of which will require substantial work over the coming year.
- Play equipment - Princes Risborough Town Council is responsible for replacing existing outdated play equipment. Additionally, accessibility issues have been identified, necessitating the installation of new equipment to meet current standards.
- Wades Centre Phase 3 - The third phase of the Wades Centre renovation project, which was agreed upon by residents in a previous consultation.

### 24. Considering the details shared of anticipated additional costs and the possibility of additional community projects and services, would you be willing to contribute more to the council tax?

**If so, how much extra per week are you comfortable with?**

In 2024, a Band D Property currently pays £121.76 council tax towards Princes Risborough Town Council. This equates to £10.15 a month or £2.34 a week.

*Tick all that apply.*

- ☐ Yes, I would be willing to pay an extra 50p per week
- ☐ Yes, I would be willing to pay an extra £1.00 per week
- ☐ Yes, I would be willing to pay an extra £1.50 per week
- ☐ No, I would not be willing to pay any extra council tax
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 25. Out of the four focus areas discussed in this consultation, which is most important to you as a resident?

*Tick all that apply.*

- ☐ Quality of Life: Foster and improve the wellbeing of our community
- ☐ Civic Participation: Foster active community engagement through direct consultation and events
- ☐ Place: Protect, celebrate and enhance our heritage and evolving character
- ☐ Environmental Sustainability: Deliver and encourage the adoption of the highest achievable environmental standards for our community

**26. Considering the responsibilities outlined earlier, how satisfied are you with Princes Risborough Town Council's efforts to fulfil their duties?**

*Mark only one oval.*

|               | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |                |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Not satisfied | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Very satisfied |

**27. Additional space for further comments**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**28. Name**

---

**29. Address**

*Your personal information is collected solely for the purpose of ensuring the consultation process is transparent and representative of our community. Your details help us verify that responses come from local residents, ensuring that all feedback we receive is genuine and relevant. We are committed to protecting your privacy and handle all personal information in accordance with data protection laws. Your name and address will be kept confidential and will not be shared with third parties or used for any purposes other than this consultation.*

---

---

**Please turn the page to see the return instructions for your completed questionnaire.  
The deadline for submission is Monday, 5th August 2024.**

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire.**  
**The form can be returned to the following point:**

Princes Risborough Town Council,  
 Wades Centre, Stratton Road

Opening hours  
 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:30



## Contact Us!

**Mayor & Chairman:** Cllr Neil Rawsthorne

**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 Andy Ball

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, Don Townsend

### 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](mailto:towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

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

**Twitter:** @Princesris **Instagram:** princesrisboroughtc

**Facebook:** 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:

**July 30th 2024 | September 24th 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.