



# ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

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## Rooksdown SCOUT GROUP

*It is just on a year ago that we launched our taster evenings for youngsters in the Rooksdown area, to come along and to see if Scouting suited them and we became registered as Rooksdown Scout Group on 21st March 2012.*

Since then we have grown into a thriving Scout Group: we are currently running

A Beaver Colony, which meets on a Wednesday evening between 6.30 and 7.30pm, we have three Leaders and 15 Beaver Scouts and a waiting list of 21 young persons, hoping to join us in the future.

A Cub Scout Pack, which meets on Friday evening between 6.30 and 8.00pm, we have three Leaders and 12 Cub Scouts, at the present there is no waiting list for this age group, but we are looking forward to Beavers coming into the Pack during the next few months.

Our Group over the last year has participated with events and activities with all the over Scout Groups in the district of Basingstoke West and youngsters and Leaders are getting Fun and enjoyment belonging to such a worthwhile organisation.

As I have said we have a waiting list and enquiries are coming in more and more as we get known around the estate.

Our main priority is Leaders, if we could entice a few more parents to come along and offer their services, we could bring the waiting list down

If you would like more information regarding the Rooksdown Scout Group, either your youngster would like to join or if you yourself would like to offer your service and become a Leader or Helper, full training will be given.

Contact:

Ron Barker  
Group Scout Manager

01256 322172

E: ron.rosa@btinternet.com

Or come along on one of the evenings.



tel: 01256 869 626 [www.rooksdownonline.com](http://www.rooksdownonline.com)





**As is known the future of Park Prewett Hall (PPH) has been in doubt since the unfortunate failure of Wessex Christian Fellowship to secure finances to purchase and crucially refurbish the premises for their use, despite extended deadlines by the developers.**

The future of the building has been in doubt whilst a viable option for its redevelopment has been sought. The building has been in danger of being lost, not just as much needed additional community facilities and converted to all residential, but also for possible demolition and housing rebuild. There has also been rumours over the years about being turned into a possible mosque; an idea that is favoured by a least one long standing Basingstoke and Deane Councillor to our knowledge. However in reality there has been no firm alternative proposed privately or by Basingstoke and Deane Borough council (B&DBC) despite these rumours hence the potential loss of the building itself or at the very least no additional community facilities.

With the potential loss of additional facilities quickly looming, Rooksdown Parish Council (RPC), aided by Rooksdown Community Association (RCA), and following input from one or two B&DBC Council Officers, approached Taylor Wimpey (TW) and the land owners, Homes and Communities Association (HCA) to see if there was any way we could negotiate at least some space for community facilities.

The cost of renovating and refurbishing the building will be so high that there is a general

agreement that the only viable option is for a residential led redevelopment. TW has been actively working with the RPC and RCA to develop a residential led proposal for the hall which will also deliver much needed community facilities and preserve an iconic Basingstoke landmark.

Those discussions have now resulted in pre-application inquiries being submitted to B&DBC planning department for assessment the results of which will be hopefully known by the end of March. RPC and RCA reached agreement on the proposed layout of the community facilities early this month with TW. This package would require no capital funding by B&DBC. This additional facility would be operated by RPC with RCA managing the day to hiring, giving a single point of hiring contact for the Community Centre and new facility.

At present until the results of the pre-application are known we are not permitted to share the detail of the plans publicly.

However at the Rooksdown Parish Council Meeting on Monday 22nd April at 7.45PM we plan to share fully with residents and all other interested parties the details behind those plans including layout and funding methodology, subject to positive outcome of the pre-application process. At this meeting RPC will be voting on providing a letter of support to the full planning application. Therefore if you want to ensure your voice is heard please come along to see and hear about those proposals.



# Update from CLLR KAREN CHERRETT

**Farewell and thank you** - to PC Ian Hoile who ended his work as Rooksdown beat bobby last month. We wish Ian all the best in his new role working with young offenders. Ian has done a great job helping to keep our area safe and low in crime and his work will continue with PC Dan Carter and PCSO Dan White until a long term replacement is found. Please keep reporting incidents of nuisance behaviour and crime on 101 - unless we report it we won't keep our beat bobbies

**Calling all young people** - the Community Association needs to know what facilities you want in Rooksdown as we expect development funding to be released later this year for community use. If you have ideas and opinions, let any member of the Community Association know or pop along to the youth club and share your ideas with the team.

**Future planning** progress on the pre-application plans for the Old Golf course site have been progressing well with David Wilson Homes and we look forward to the start of the planning application and public consultation later this summer. They have listened well to community feedback so far so please take part in the planning process if you want your views heard.

Advance notice that it is very likely that Aldermaston Triangle will be another piece of land brought forward for development in the future. Previous plans were fought by the community because the then developers did not take notice of concerns raised by St. Michael's Hospice or residents. Let's hope that any new developer asks for local opinion first.

**Park Prewett Main Hall** - Rooksdown Parish Council and Community Association are getting close to the final negotiations on Main Hall for part community and part residential use. Fingers crossed that the right balance can be struck and a planning application submitted this summer.

**Benefit changes** - it is clear that the housing and job seekers benefit changes this year are going to impact a lot of people in Rooksdown.

If you are affected please talk first to your landlord and council officers about your concerns and how they might be able to help.

If you need general advice don't forget to contact the CAB or see what advice is available online at: [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

Free confidential advice about managing debt is also available through Money Lifeline - a free debt advice service for Basingstoke. Call 01256 351026, leave a message and they will get back to you at a time and in a manner you choose or go online: [moneylifeline@btinternet.com](mailto:moneylifeline@btinternet.com)



**ARE YOU  
ENTITLED TO A REBATE?**

**Did you know most properties in Rooksdown are entitled to a rebate and reduced water waste charges.**

This is due to new properties being designed to have their surface water (rain etc) being drained into the soil through a soakaway rather than emptied into the drains.

Applying for you rebate is easy by using the web address to find the online form or talk to them on the phone.

<https://secure.thameswater.co.uk/dynamic/cps/rde/xchg/corp/hs.xml/15757.htm>

Google search "Thames Water surface water rebate" or ring Thames Water and speak to the billing department.



# GRANTS FROM ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL



**Rooksdown Parish Council (RPC) is able to offer grants (in the form of money, provision or paying for items, services or facilities) to organisations or individuals for the benefit of some, or all of the residents of Rooksdown. Organisations must be providing benefit primarily to persons residing in the area of benefit. Examples of grants made are: (i) Set up costs for a new Scouts group, (ii) equipment for the community centre, (iii) equipment and facilities for the Youth Club etc.**

There are two dates in the year when RPC will award grants.

RPC will receive applications between 1st and 30th April 2013 with awards being decided at the May RPC meeting and also October 1st-31st being awarded in the November RPC meeting. There is a limit on the total grants which may be made each year. RPC has allocated the sum of £4,000 in the 2013/2014 financial year.

For a grant application form and further details, please contact the Parish Clerk on **01256 356701** or **07791 548838**.

RPC reserves the right to request additional supporting information if needed in support of the grant application eg copies of quotes for equipment.

