



# ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

inside  
this issue...



1

Parish Council  
Updates



2

Borough Councillor  
Update



3

Community Centre  
Weekly Programme



4

Speed Limit  
Reminder

[www.rooksdown.org.uk](http://www.rooksdown.org.uk) | January 2020



**Rooksdown Parish Council**

Empowering our community

## CHAIRMAN UPDATE

### Welcome to the January 2020 issue of Rooksdown Reporter.

**All the members of Rooksdown Parish Council would like to wish the members of our community a very Happy New Year. And for all those who've recently moved in to our community – a very warm welcome to you all.**

A huge 'thank you' for supporting our 'Christmas Tree light switch on' at the Community Centre at the beginning of December, following the Children's Party. We've been overwhelmed by your wonderful complimentary messages about the Community Christmas Tree and so have already embarked on a project to plan a slightly bigger Christmas theme in 2020 and would welcome your feedback and suggestions.

#### WHO ARE ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL?

The Parish Council is made up of a great group of people with a wide variety of talents and skills who have been working hard to make Rooksdown a great place to live. We meet at the Community Centre on the 4th Monday of the month, spending an average of around six hours each month advising and helping to run Rooksdown Community. We all do our best for the Community.

As we start a New Year, if you'd like to help shape our community or if you'd like us to look especially at something that you think would be of interest or benefit to the whole Parish, why not contact the Clerk, Martin Whittaker, for a chat? 07928 129122 or [parish.clerk@rooksdown.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@rooksdown.org.uk).

Also, why not come along to one of our meetings and meet the Parish Councillors and find out more about the many issues that are discussed, debated and decided upon each month. This is especially important where the community is changing as fast as Rooksdown.

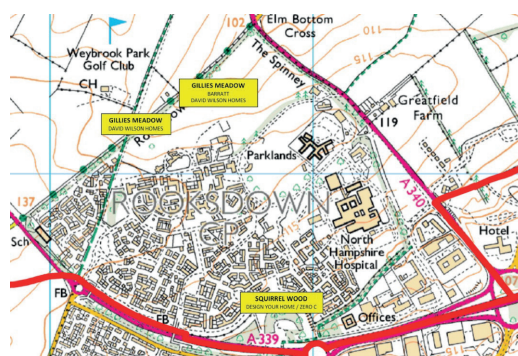
#### ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2020/21:

The Parish Council has put together its budget and precept (the money you pay to the Parish Council as part of your Council Tax bill) for Rooksdown in 2020 – 2021. The precept, subject to any changes, has been set at £33,686. The good news is that there's been no change in the amount paid per house since 2015, and the cost per Band D household, will be just 35p per week (or £18.20 for the year).

#### UPDATE ON ROOKSDOWN BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS:

House building across Rooksdown continues 'at pace' with Homes England (the freehold landowner of a number of development phases) monitoring delivery and ensuring developers maintain or exceed their agreed build programmes.

We thought it would be useful to give you the latest on developer phases:



### Gillies Meadow – Phase 1 (David Wilson Homes)

As at the end of December, David Wilson Homes are nearly half way to completing the 300 homes, with 142 homes already occupied. A total of 196 homes will be completed by June 2020 including 55 affordable homes by Sovereign Housing. Phase 1 is on track to complete by autumn 2021. The first of three kickabout areas on the scheme has been completed and the first equipped play area will be completed this coming summer.

### Gillies Meadow – Phase 2 (Barratt David Wilson Homes)

As at the end of December, Barratt David Wilson Homes are progressing well with over 60 homes completed and occupied on Phase 2A and the first six homes on track for occupation on Phase 2B by end of March 2020, following commencement in August 2019. The latest build programme for Phase 2 shows all homes completed by June 2021.

### Squirrel Wood – Design Your Home/ZeroC

This phase of 120 homes has progressed well during 2019 with Phases 1 and 2 largely complete and the Phase 3 timber framed houses erected. Over 22 homes are now sold. The development is on track to be completed in July 2021. With regard to the Self Builds plots - 3 properties are sold of which 2 are under construction and the other due to start in January 2020.

### Other development issues:

Following the dedication of the 'Southern Area' in August 2019, Homes England is now working with Persimmon Homes to have the Lavender Copse / Persimmon area (technically known as "DfM" – Design for Manufacture – Phase) similarly dedicated as highway by Hampshire County Council. This is likely to happen in summer 2020 at the same time as remedial works are completed on The Avenue (the road north of the Hospital) and to the roundabout at the top of Pumphouse Way (which you can see is currently being remodelled).

Rooksdown Parish Council (in conjunction with Simon Bound the Borough Councillor & Homes England) hold regular meetings with all the developers to ensure that they stick to their planning conditions and other agreements (eg not working outside approved hours, not making excessive noise, cleaning mud off the roads & delivery vehicles to sites to only use approved routes) and ensure that they treat Rooksdown as a residential area, not as a building site.

### CURRENT PROJECTS:

For news about all the projects we are currently working on, we look forward to seeing you at a forthcoming Parish Council meeting or take a look at our Parish Council website. A couple of the projects we are currently working on include:

**Bus Stops** - The Parish Council is looking to install bus shelters at the most popular bus stops in the main area of Rooksdown. However, at an approximate cost of £5000 each we need to make sure they are positioned in the best place possible. If you regularly use a bus stop that you think would benefit from a shelter, please let us know on 07928 129 122 or [parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk). Please bear in mind that not all stops can have a shelter installed – for some there just isn't room on the pavement, and there are others where the ground slopes too steeply.

**Knee Rails** - Rooksdown has been granted £82,000 from the Basingstoke & Deane's Local Infrastructure Fund to replace wooden knee rails with a galvanised metal solution. This will reduce ongoing maintenance costs, discourage nuisance parking and illegal encampments. The Parish Council is funding 10% of the project - £9,200 totalling a project budget of £91,200.

We're only looking to replace knee rails that stand alone as access/parking protection in their own right. Many of the knee rails were originally installed to protect developing shrubbery and are intended to decompose as the shrub develops. These will not be replaced.

We'll be sharing detailed plans on our website soon.

### ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:

The dates of Parish Council meetings for the next few months:

January 27th, February 24th, March 23rd, April 27th  
and May 18th

If you have an item that you wish to be discussed by Rooksdown Parish Council then please contact the Clerk with details of the issue and, where possible, your expected outcome.

The Agenda for the Parish Council meetings is set one week in advance. Any item received with less notice will be held over to the following month. The Agenda is displayed on the Parish Council Noticeboards across the development and published on our website. The Parish Council website is continually updated with information about Council business and your Parish Councillors. It also has minutes, agendas and previous Rooksdown Reporter newsletters and you can find out about Rooksdown past, present and future.

### PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - MAY 2020:

All members of the current Parish Council will come to an end of their term of office in May 2020. An election will be held on Thursday, 7 May 2020, which will coincide with the elections for the Borough Councillors for the newly created Rooksdown & Sherborne St John Ward and the Hampshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

If you would like to stand as a Parish Councillor then please do let the Clerk know. Nominations for election close at the end of March 2020. Being a Parish Councillor is a very worthwhile & rewarding community service. If you want to get involved before May, then speak to any of the councillors.

### HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL:

☎ 07928 12912

✉ [parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk)

🌐 [www.rooksdwn.org.uk](http://www.rooksdwn.org.uk)

📘 [www.facebook.com/rooksdwnparishcouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/rooksdwnparishcouncil/)

🐦 @RooksdownPC

Weather seems to be getting colder... we hope that everyone in the Community will come together to help themselves and each other... like you all did last year.

Thanks for your co-operation and support.



All the best

**Paul Mahoney**

**Chairman  
Rooksdown Parish Council**



**Rooksdown Parish Council**

Empowering our community

## PREPARING FOR WINTER

As you are probably aware, the Parish Council provides and maintains salt and grit bins in many parts of Rooksdown, including Sherborne Fields. You can tell our bins – they're small and either yellow or green. If you discover that any of them need topping up, just let me know by email or phone.

The bigger blue bins are the responsibility of Hampshire Highways. If any of them need filling, please go to [www.tinyurl.com/HCCsalting](http://www.tinyurl.com/HCCsalting).

And remember – salt works better if you use it wisely. First, you should shovel the area and remove as much of the snow and ice as you can yourself. When you apply the salt, only use it on ice and not on snow. This will require less salt to be introduced to the environment. It's also important to keep salt away from your plants to avoid damaging them.



## PARKING NEAR THE SCHOOL

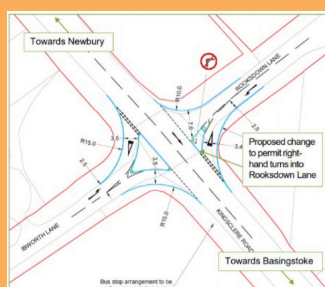
The Parish Council is actively trying to improve safety for parents and children trying to cross the roads in the vicinity of the school. Hampshire County Council have told us that we don't currently qualify for a funded School Crossing Patrol, though we are still looking at other options.

However, discussions with Adrian Morgan, one of BDBC's traffic engineers, have concluded that we can make some worthwhile improvements to the yellow lines on Park Prewett Road between Elder Road and the Condor Way roundabout. We have arranged for the double yellow lines to be extended north of the bus stop, and single yellow lines – with no parking during school pickup/drop-off times – are to be added between the bus stop and Elder Road. This will improve sight lines so that cars can see pedestrians more clearly, and vice versa.

## MANYDOWN

Thanks to all of you who contacted the Basingstoke planners about the planned no right turn into Rooksdown Lane. Of the 215 people who responded to the consultation 192 were from Rooksdown, commenting on the no right turn. This resulted in changes to the junction design to allow golf club traffic to turn into Rooksdown Lane – just as we all wanted. It proves that sustained, sensible pressure from the public can cause changes to happen: thanks to all those who responded.

In mid-December the full updated planning application for Manydown was put out for consultation, with a closing date of 1 March. We are stilling working through it but plan to have a preliminary discussion at the council meeting on 25 January at 19:30 in the Community Centre. We'll also keep you updated with what we find via the parish council website and the main Facebook groups.



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## DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE



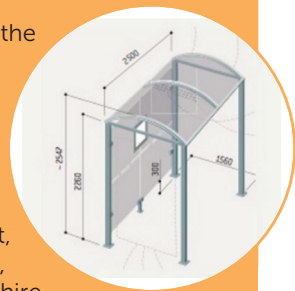
Publicly available defibrillators are rapidly becoming part of our environment. Up till now, the only two units in Rooksdown – in the GP surgery and in the school – weren't available outside opening hours. So the Parish Council, the Community Association and Hampshire County Council have got together to install one outside the Community Centre.

This can be used by anybody – footballers, dog walkers, nursery parents and passers-by – in an emergency. All you need to do is phone 999 and follow the instructions the operator gives you. If somebody has a heart attack, you could be the person that saves their life.

Special thanks to County Councillor Robert Taylor for helping fund this project.

## BUS SHELTERS

We've spent considerable time over the past year surveying the bus stops in Rooksdown and seeing where we could install shelters. This is not as straightforward as it might seem. To be suitable for a shelter, there must be sufficient room around the stop to avoid blocking the pavement, it mustn't obstruct somebody's view, and both the landowner and Hampshire Highways must give their permission. We're still working on this, but we hope to announce some conclusions early in the year.



**DOG PEEP & LITTER**



## Can we remind all residents to clean up after their dogs and themselves?

There has been an increase in litter and dog mess being left around the streets, paths and public green open spaces.

There are plenty of bins for litter and everyone is reminded that all bins can be used for dog mess. There really is no excuse!

**Offenders for dog mess can be reported to the Dog Warden on 01256 844 844 or you can report it online at [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk)**

Help keep Rooksdown a great place to live.



**PLEASE RESPECT THE 20 mph LIMIT**

If you do so, then so will the people behind you



# Borough Councillor UPDATE



## Happy New Year and New Decade.

With much talk this new year about what people looked like back in 2010 it is worth taking a moment to remember what Rooksdown looked like in 2010. This is very clear to me as I moved into Rooksdown in February 2010.

In the last decade we have seen many things that had been much anticipated finally arrive; shops, permanent GP surgery, school (and its extension), community centre, skatepark, play equipment in Rooksdown Park, permanent opening of The Avenue to A340 and the first allotments.

Indeed some items are due to finish in 2020 like Park Prewett Main Hall and the community units in Greenlands Road for example. Thank you to everyone who had contributed to these things. Past councillors, trustees, petition signatories and placard holders standing in the rain.

These things and these people are what makes our community the great place that so many of you tell me it is to live. I would agree.

There are some things that we don't have but clearly would like and the one I hear most is a pub. With all the land now allocated in Rooksdown I have been considering how a "local pub" can be best achieved.

It is with this in mind that I have started lobbying the Manydown project to get a family and food orientated pub within walking distance of the boundary with Rooksdown.

Not many people can have a pub on their new year's resolution list but I'll let you know how I get on and if there is a way that you can help.

**Simon Bound**

**Rooksdown Borough Councillor**  
**07879 477696**  
**[cllr.simon.bound@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.simon.bound@basingstoke.gov.uk)**

# Community Centre WEEKLY Programme

**M**

**Monday**  
Available

**T**

**Tuesday**

English & Maths Tutoring 15.30 - 17.30  
Hampshire Learning 07415 546491  
Pilates 18.30 - 19.30  
Marjorie on 07887 561919  
Yoga 19.30 - 20.30  
Marjorie on 07887 561919

**W**

**Wednesday**

Beavers 18.30 - 19.30  
Ron Barker on [ron.rosa@btinternet.com](mailto:ron.rosa@btinternet.com)  
Ballroom & Latin Dance 20.00 - 21.45  
Jonathan on 07545 075426

**T**

**Thursday**

Over 55s Coffee Morning 10.00 - 12.00  
English & Maths tutoring 15.30 - 17.00  
Hampshire Learning 07415 546491  
Martial Art Class 18.30 - 20.00  
Ian on 07888 660225  
A Capella (singing group) 20.00 - 22.00  
Andrew on 07711 004212

**F**

**Friday**

Cubs 18.30 - 20.00  
Scouts 20.00 - 21.30

**S**

**Saturday**

Halls available for private parties

**S**

**Sunday**

Basingstoke Eagles Pentecostal Church  
10.00 - 12.00

If you would like to book a room at the Community Centre please contact:  
[bookings@rooksdowndownline.com](mailto:bookings@rooksdowndownline.com)  
or call 01256 869626



## Community Contact

Park Prewett Road Basingstoke RG24 9RG

☎ 01256 869626  
✉ [admin@rooksdowndownline.com](mailto:admin@rooksdowndownline.com)

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