



# ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

Winter 2015 / Issue 15

## THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

Rooksdwn Parish Council regularly receives complaints from residents about thoughtless, often illegal parking around the parish. Over recent months there has been an increase in comments about the parking, the blocking of paths and parking by dropped kerb crossing points.

Unfortunately the Parish Council can do nothing formally more than refer the matter to the Police. Informally we have on occasion and will in the future address letters to residents where these issues are a particular problem. If you wish to complain about parking matters please contact the local Police Officer by calling 101. But also think before you park.

As Rooksdwn is a residential area roads tend to be narrow and windy, often have traffic calming measures in their design. Extra danger is created when pedestrians have to walk on the road when cars are parked on the footpath or pinch points. Children especially, cannot be seen by oncoming vehicles.

Remember that if you park on the footway, or part of it, or block a dropped kerb, the Police can issue a fixed fine.

We have also had a couple of emergency call outs for the Fire and Rescue Service and fire engines have found it difficult to get through some roads. So, please think before you park.



LETTINGS  
ARE DELIGHTED  
TO BE ABLE TO...

## GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO ROOKSDOWN.

Chris Hendon, a local resident here in Rooksdwn and a Lettings Manager for the Connells group explained, 'Rooksdwn is a great place to live, offering a number of wonderful facilities such as the popular community centre and easy access into town, as well as the new school to be opened in September 2015, to name just a few. There really is a wonderful community spirit in the area and it offers something for all age groups. This has made it incredibly popular for our potential tenants looking for a new home in Basingstoke.'

In recognition of the work that the Community Association carries out in the area, Christi Collins and the Lettings team at Connells, Basingstoke are proud to donate £5 to the association for every Market Evaluation for rental properties, carried out by Connells, in the Basingstoke area, before the 30th April 2015.

If you are currently renting your home in the Rooksdwn or Basingstoke area, or are considering doing so, simply contact Connells, Basingstoke Lettings on 01256 464566, quoting the code CH14, for a free, no obligation, Market Evaluation and potential yield report on your property. Connells will then make a £5.00 donation to the Rooksdwn Community Association on your behalf.



## HAMPSHIRE ALERT

Lets you know  
what's happening  
in your community

### REGISTER FOR HAMPSHIRE ALERT

Hampshire Alert is our new community messaging system which enables us to send you messages about incidents that are happening in your area.

Hampshire Alert is a free web based system which you can sign up to and choose what information you want to receive and in what format - email, text or phone message - so the 'alert' is personal to you.

PCSO Ellen Beardsell 15439



tel: 01256 869 626

[www.rooksdwnonline.com](http://www.rooksdwnonline.com)





## Community Centre WEEKLY PROGRAMME

### Monday

Bokwa Fitness	6.30pm
RDYC - Youth Club 8-11	7.00pm
Metafit	7.30pm
Parish Council (monthly)	7.45pm
RDYC - Youth Club 11-17	8.15pm

### Tuesday

Pilates	6.30pm
Yoga	7.30pm
RDYC - Youth Club 11-17	7.00pm

### Wednesday

Baby Clinic (monthly)	9.30am
Beavers	6.30pm
RDYC - Youth Club 8-11	7.00pm
Freedom-2-Dance (beginners)	7.45pm
RDYC - Youth Club 11-17	8.15pm
Freedom-2-Dance (advanced)	8.45pm

### Thursday

Over 55's Coffee Morning	10am - midday
Homework Club	4.00pm
Karate Class (juniors)	6.30pm
Bokwa Fitness	6.45pm
Martial Arts (seniors)	7.30pm
Metafit	7.45pm

### Friday

Cubs	6.30pm
Scouts	6.30pm
Zumba	8.00pm

### Saturday

Freedom-2-Dance	all day
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### Sunday

Basingstoke Eagles Church	10.00am
Freedom-2-Dance	all day
LifePoint Church	4.00pm

Check the Community Centre diary at  
**www.rooksdownonline.com**

for the dates of monthly activities or call

**01256 869626**

# Parish Councillor UPDATES

## Dear Residents

I appreciate that we are now mid February, however, I just wanted to wish all residents a belated but very Happy New Year and hope that 2015 brings you all health and happiness and also further progress on facilities in the parish for all of us:

### TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKS *Park Prewett Road*

As most of you will have seen by now, work is well under way on the new 210 place primary school for Rooksdow on the site behind the Community Centre. The plan is for the school to be built in time to open in September 2015 this really is great news for Rooksdow. Plans and information are available at the Community Centre should you wish to know more.

We will give you updates on progress as we move through the year.

### PAVILIONS *Park Prewett Road*

You will recall that Taylor Wimpey / HCA submitted a planning application in November 2013 for the removal of the four Pavilions on Park Prewett Road. The application has quite a complex planning history and is to be determined by Development Committee. The Parish Council is reliably informed that Taylor Wimpey have now (finally) submitted all the necessary information that should have been included with the original application back in November 2013 so that the Planning Department at Basingstoke & Deane can now at last begin the process to consider the application.

Many of you had expressed concern at the generally poor condition of the Pavilions at the back end of last year, particularly as we move through the winter month. We therefore requested Taylor Wimpey carry out some basic renovation just before Christmas. We have also had discussions with the Planning & Development team at BDBC to understand the enforcement action that could be pursued against Taylor Wimpey should the current planning application for demolition be refused.

We will provide an update just as soon as we have any news with regards to the outcome of the planning application.

### WESTERN TRIANGLE DEVELOPMENT

*The piece of land off Rooksdow Avenue, opposite Vitellius Gardens - the site of the old Bryant Home / Taylor Wimpey Sales office*

Construction work for 30 Apartments is well under way on this piece of land. Groundwork preparation is now nearly complete and the area is to be handed back to Taylor Wimpey at the end of February. Taylor Wimpey have already sold many of these flats off plan with the first occupation by residents likely to be before the end of the year.

### BARN AREA *Park Prewett Road, corner of Pumphouse Way* *(20 residential units and listed Barn (B1))*

Construction work for 20 residential units and the listed Barn is well under way on this piece of land. Once again groundwork preparation is now nearly complete and the area is to be handed back to Taylor Wimpey at the end of February / early March. Taylor Wimpey are expecting first occupation by residents before the end of the year.

### THE OLD HALL *Northbrook Crescent*

Taylor Wimpey have carried out some initial work inside the building to help them understand how the structure has been built and how they would execute their construction should the planning application be approved.

Planning discussions are drawing to their final stages and we expect a decision in the next few months.

### RETAIL CORE PHASE 2 *Park Prewett Road, opposite the Coop & Costa Coffee site (16 residential units & 2 retail units)*

Taylor Wimpey have confirmed that the construction of residential & retail units will be starting in the next few weeks and should be substantially completed by Christmas.

## CLUB 55 THE OVER 55 GROUP THURSDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM

The group regularly meets on Thursday mornings at 10am for a coffee morning in the Community Centre and has a programme of trips kindly supported by the Rooksdow Parish Council.

For more information just come along to the next coffee morning or ring the community office on  
**01256 869626**

**PARK PREWETT NORTHERN AREA** (*David Wilson Homes*)  
*The Old Golf Course*

Things may appear to have gone quiet regarding the proposed David Wilson Homes development but construction of the first stage of their building programme is expected before the end of 2015. The Parish Council is planning a meeting with David Wilson Homes mid March so will report back with an update as soon as we have had this meeting.

**ROAD ADOPTIONS** *West & East side of Core Area*

The Parish Council has just seen the latest snagging list from HCC with regards to the proposed road adoptions on the West and East Side of the Core Area and understand that Taylor Wimpey is currently working through the list of faults and issues. Taylor Wimpey and HCC are looking to conclude this matter as soon as they can. We will provide update when we have more news.

**FURTHER UPDATES**

Last year, the Parish Council submitted a Local Infrastructure Fund application for a grant for much needed street furniture for the development (including seats, benches and bins). We are delighted to confirm that the Parish has been successful in this application and are currently reviewing the best place for location of the seats, benches and bins. We are hoping for installation in the summer months but will provide an update when we have concluded the review.

The Parish Council is working very closely with Taylor Wimpey to ensure they fix the many street lamps across the development which currently do not work (some of which have never worked).

The Parish Council is also working with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to have a further general tidy up and regeneration of the pocket parks along Park Prewett Road along with the repair/removal of any damaged trip knee high fencing. This has been delayed by the weather, but you should see some movement with this over the coming weeks and months.

The Parish Council has resolved that Rooksdown is very much in need of a handyman / lengthsman to help with the general upkeep of the parish. Therefore we will shortly be advertising for the position. If you know of anyone who you would consider suitable for circa 10 hours per week then please ask them to contact Lorraine Jeffs - Parish Clerk on 01256 869612 or 077414 72622 or parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk.

We have reviewed the Parish Precept to be able to pay for this much needed position which means that there will be a modest increase of circa £4.00 for the year per household. We will look for other ways to fund this in future financial years including whether there is any funding available from Basingstoke and Deane to partially support such a position.

More details explaining this increase in precept can shortly be found on our Parish Council noticeboards and the Parish Council Website.

The Parish Council attended a Safer Neighbourhood meeting at the back end of last year. I was concerned to hear that towards the end of last year there has been a spate of thefts from cars across the development that have been left unlocked and also low level opportunist crimes. Please have a read of the message on the insert from Police Constable Steve Ladhams and Police Community Support Officer Ellen Beardsell. Also, it may be worth registering at [www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk) to receive free crime and community information regarding the Rooksdown area.

Thought I would share this with you all to give you advance notice. In January the Parish Council resolved to support the implementation of a 20 mile an hour speed limit across the whole development just after you enter from the A339 or the Aldermaston Road. Please be aware this decision has been taken for the safety of all residents. We all know those cars which regularly speed through the development (and where these cars belong to residents, we know where most of the drivers live). Let me be very clear irresponsible speeding

around the development will not be tolerated and any such vehicle is likely to be caught on speed cameras which will soon be used at various locations around the parish. Any one exceeding the speed limit is likely to incur a fine and at least 3 points on their license. The Parish Council thank the Police for the support they currently provide in enforcing the current 30 mile an hour speed limit & will be providing to enforce this new speed limit.

Finally ... I think from all the feedback we had, the Rooksdown Fireworks display back on November 2014 was a resounding success. Thanks to you all for supporting it.

RPC has already resolved to hold a Fireworks display in 2015. Can you help? For this year's event to happen we really need more residents to volunteer to help with the overall planning and to help on the day itself. So, if you want to be involved in the planning or if you think you will have a couple of hours during the day itself to help set up or in the evening during the event, please contact Lorraine Jeffs - Parish Clerk on 01256 869612 or 077414 72622 or parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk. Appreciate I am referring to an event in 9 months time, however, we need more help for this event to go ahead.

These are the key highlights. So, as you can see ... lots going on in the parish to make it a better place for us all to live. For news on these projects and many others, we look forward to seeing you at a forthcoming Parish Council meeting. Dates can be found on notice boards around the Parish and online.

All the best

Regards

*Paul Mahoney*

Chair - Rooksdown Parish Council

## **ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

### **2015 BRINGS SEVERAL NEW PROJECTS FOR THE RCA FROM:**

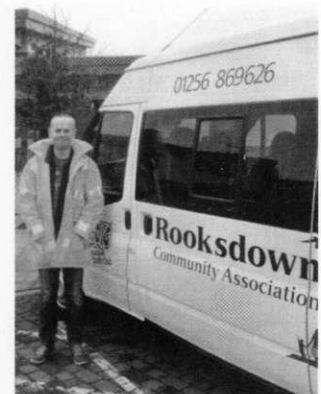
- **Managing The Spinney, the piece of woodland that goes around the old Park Prewett Hospital**
- **Increasing the activities for the over 55s**
- **Munchkins baby & toddler group starting**
- **LifePoint Church working with us in the community**
- **Running Winklebury Youth Project**
- **Work starting on Rooksdown Park**
- **Integrating the school into the community**
- **Planning further improvements with the Parish Council for services and amenities in Rooksdown**

If you see me either in the Community Centre or anywhere else around Rooksdown, I am often wearing the "Rooksdown Community" high viz, stop me for a chat. Either just to find out what is going on or even perhaps how you can get involved.

Speak to you soon.

*Simon Bound*

Development Manager







# ROOKSDOWN WALKING GROUP

WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US FOR  
A LEISURELY WALK AROUND THE  
SPINNEY AND ROOKSDOWN

**Next Walk Dates:**

7th March • 4th April

Start at 10am from the Community Centre.

# LifePoint Church

## LifePoint Church in Rooksdow

Although the church is new, Pastor Jo Royal and the team are no strangers to Rooksdow, having run Messy Church in the Community Centre for a couple of years already.

LifePoint is a lively, friendly, Christian Church that will meet in the Community Centre at 4pm on a Sunday afternoon. Messy Church will continue to run at 4pm on the last Sunday of the month.

LifePoint aims to be far more than a 'Sunday church' and would love to get involved in the community in many different ways. They are currently working with the Community Association to see the start of a Baby and Toddler Group in the local area. You will also see Jo as a regular customer in Costa, especially on a Thursday between 10am and 2pm for 'Costa Chat' - a casual drop in time to chat about - well - whatever you might like to chat about!

*LifePoint would love to get to know you - why not pop in to say hello on a Sunday?*

If you would rather arrange a visit, please contact Jo on  
**07736 942873**

or email [jo@lifepointchurch.uk](mailto:jo@lifepointchurch.uk) - for more info you could also visit their website - [lifepointchurch.uk](http://lifepointchurch.uk)

# CO-OPTION OF A Parish Councillor

**There is a vacancy for a councillor on Rooksdow Parish Council. The Council will shortly be advertising on the notice board, which are seeking to fill by co-option.**

If you think you might like to consider becoming a councillor, which does not take up a great deal of your time, but is a worthwhile and rewarding community service, and/or you would like to know more about what is involved, or any other information, please contact the Parish Clerk:

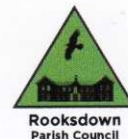
*Lorraine Jeffs*

T: 01256 869612

E: [parish.clerk@rooksdow.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@rooksdow.org.uk)

or in writing to:

Rooksdow Parish Council, Rooksdow Community Centre,  
Park Prewett Road, Basingstoke. RG24 9XA



*Munchkins is a new Baby  
and Toddler Group in the  
Rooksdow & Winklebury  
area of Basingstoke*

**We meet on a Thursday morning  
between 10am-11:30am  
starting on 26th February at the  
Sea Cadets and Community Centre  
on Sycamore Way in Winklebury  
(Just over the bridge).**



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