



ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

INSIDE this issue...

www.rooksdow.org.uk | May 2022



1 Parish Council Update



2 Platinum Jubilee Wordsearch



3 Borough Councillors Update



4 Community Centre Weekly Programme

Jubilee Picnic

Sunday 5th June
11-3PM

Rookdown Park & Community Centre

Bouncy Castle & other attractions
Entertainment
Refreshments
Face Painting

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC!

FREE FAMILY EVENT SPONSORED BY

Rookdown Community Association | **Rookdown Parish Council** | supported by **Basingstoke and Deane**

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Welcome to the 'Platinum Jubilee' edition of the Rooksdown Reporter.

The Parish Council is preparing to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend and invites residents of the Parish to join us on Sunday 5th June 11am to 3pm at Rooksdown Park & Community Centre – Bring your family and picnic to enjoy the afternoon; with refreshments, children's entertainment, Bouncy Castle & other attractions & lots of fun.

This event is co-sponsored by the Rooksdown Community Association and supported with a grant from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

It would be brilliant to see a big turn out from our community. Children attending will also receive a commemorative gift. Red, white and blue outfits are also encouraged!

It's been quite a while since our last Rooksdown Reporter so I thought it would be useful to let you know who we are, what we've been doing and what's in plan for the next 12 months.

WHO ARE ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL?

Rooksdown 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 on the 4th Monday of the month (except in August & December) spending an average of 6 hours per month advising and helping to run Rooksdown Community. We all do our best to represent the interests of Rooksdown residents.

The names of the current Councillors are: myself, Paul Mahoney, Doug How, (Vice-Chair), Dave Knights, Scott Mason, Jessica Lewis-Dalgarno, Gaynor Woods and Sarah Hoare.

Three previous councillors stood down at the May 2021 election – Paul Lovett, Jon Payne & Tim Botten – we are very grateful for all the effort they put into their time as councillors.

COVID IMPACT

2020 and 2021 saw severe disruption to all our lives with the COVID pandemic affecting all areas of our society.

We are extremely proud of the way our community has worked together to support their fellow residents at a time when many have been unable to spend time with family and friends.

To all volunteers who have helped in any way, Thank You.

I would also like, on behalf of the Parish Council, to express our sympathies to all those in the Parish who have lost relatives or friends affected by the COVID virus.

The virus and national restrictions made planning and implementation of many of the Council's activities difficult and uncertain. Despite this, many projects have been progressed.

ALLOTMENTS

The Sherborne Fields Allotments have now been running – or growing – for two years.

A number of Parish Councillors have been working hard over the last few months to clear a few of the overgrown plots and to resolve the underutilisation of the site ... with 100% occupancy now achieved.

There is a steady turnover of tenants as people leave the area and the developers of the Old Golf Course should be handing over at least 10 new allotments sometime in 2022. Keen growers should make sure their names are on the waiting list. Just drop an email through to the Parish Clerk – parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk

PRECEPT & BUDGET – HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

The Parish Council are conscious of trying to be as cost effective as possible.

The precept is an amount of money paid by all households along with their council tax covering the costs of the Parish Council. In January 2022 the Parish Council resolved to keep the precept the same for Rooksdown households as in the previous financial year i.e. for households to pay the same amount as in 2021/2022.

The Parish Council will receive a precept of £38,438 (which represents approx £1.51 a month for a band 'D' property) for the new year 2022/2023. The Parish Council will endeavour to use these funds wisely and on local initiatives or for grant funding in support of local groups / organisations.

All the information regarding the precept & budget can be found at www.rooksdwn.org.uk

GRANTS DURING THE PAST YEAR

Rooksdown Parish Council made a couple of applications for Grant awards throughout the year & were successful in each application:

1. £1000 – BDBC Borough Councillors Grant – to purchase Silent Soldiers from the Royal British Legion
2. £1000 – County Councillor Grant – to put towards the Queen's Green Canopy

The County Councillor has also offered up to £1,000 funding towards providing a solution to the lighting situation at the White Bridge that crosses the A339 from Rooksdown to Winklebury. This project is still under consideration.

Rooksdown Parish Council has a budget for the award of grants. The Parish Council can only award grants for specific activities or projects which will be of benefit to Rooksdown and its residents e.g. grants to a sport club, charity or towards community celebrations or special events.

You can review the website for further details ... and please do. All applications must be accompanied by appropriate accounts or supporting financial information. Forms and the supporting information must be sent to the Parish Council via the Clerk. In 2021/22 Rooksdown Parish Council awarded the following grants under its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

- Grant request for £1,000 from Victim Support
- Grant request for £784.20 from Rooksdown Scout Group

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council continues to discharge its duties as a statutory consultee on all planning applications within the Parish boundary.

Over the last 12 months the Parish Council have been asked to consider & comment on 19 planning applications.

NEW COMMUNITY PLAN

Over the next 12 months we will create a new Community Plan, pulling together all the information about Rooksdown (from knowledge of existing / past councillors, members of

the Community Association, Local Plan for the whole of the Borough, 'Rooksdown Master Plan' which dates from the earlier periods of building, new and recent significant planning applications, building phases etc). This information will then be published on our Parish Council website.

We intend that this Plan will be a source of knowledge about the recent history of the area, including specifically a source of information about any ongoing projects like the Main Hall. We hope this will help residents and Parish Councillors alike to understand what has gone before, so that we can plan for the future.

Any members of the Public who want to contribute should reach out to the Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

Further works / initiatives that will take place over the next 12 months include, but not limited to:

- Commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Rooksdown
- Compilation of Rooksdown Community Plan, as above
- Planning for Projects/Events throughout the year (including celebrations like Diwali, Christmas etc)
- Original Tommy Soldier, Unknown Tommy & Unknown Women in War statues installation to reflect Rooksdown's historical connection to the treatment of soldiers in the First World War, and the personal connections of our residents
- Lighting improvements on the White Bridge over the A339 linking Rooksdown to Winklebury to aid safety
- Replacement of the wooden knee rail fencing as part of the LIF application (2019)
- Car Parks on Peggs Way – transfer of ownership from Taylor Wimpey as part of the adoption of the Southern Area
- Working with Taylor Wimpey as they conclude the adoption of The Avenue/Southern Area
- Setting up of the new Allotments
- Working with the Developers to be considerate neighbours to the residents of Rooksdown
- Continue to work with the Hospital in terms of the parking issues, litter, speeding & the future of the hospital facility
- Main Hall – progress the handover of the Community facilities
- Identifying new locations for Parish Council noticeboards & improving the use of noticeboards / social media
- Reintroducing a quarterly Rooksdown Reporter
- Installing Salt / Grit bins in the unadopted areas of Rooksdown

AND FINALLY ...

Many thanks to the three Borough Councillors for the Borough ward of Sherborne St John and Rooksdown, Cllrs Simon Bound, Jay Ganesh and Tristan Robinson and the County Councillor, Cllr Arun Mummalaneni.

Many thanks to Vice Chair, Cllr Doug How, for his persistence in holding the Developers at Squirrel Wood to task over the underpass from Winklebury through to Rooksdown, their general consideration towards residents in Rooksdown and liaising with the Hospital over parking issues, smoking & general litter & for keeping residents updated on Social Media on all these matters.

Many thanks also to Gordon, the Rooksdown Parish Council Handyman for his efforts to keep Rooksdown neat and tidy, keeping paths clear, picking up litter and mending fences.

I just wanted to finish by saying a massive thank you to all the Parish Council members for the work they have put in, all of which is on a voluntary basis without personal reward to make Rooksdown a great place to live.



We currently have 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. If you think you might like to consider becoming a Parish Councillor and help shape our Rooksdown community, which does not take up a great deal of your time and is a very worthwhile & rewarding community service, and you would like to know more about what is involved or any other information, then please speak to me or any of the Parish Councillors, or email the Clerk – parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk

Thanks for your co-operation & support.

I look forward to meeting you out and about in Rooksdown, and especially at the Jubilee Picnic on Sunday 5 June.



Cllr Paul Mahoney
Chairman – Rooksdown Parish Council
cldr.paul.mahoney@rooksdwn.org.uk

PLATINUM JUBILEE WORDSEARCH

Search horizontally, vertically and for all 20 words, put your skills to the test and see how many you can find!

F	E	R	I	D	C	L	M	D	A	U	K	C	O	R
U	H	I	P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M	F	E	T	E
J	F	B	S	D	S	J	M	O	C	S	E	L	E	I
V	B	Q	R	A	T	Q	N	A	C	A	K	E	I	G
D	J	U	B	I	L	E	E	I	B	T	R	B	O	N
Y	N	E	F	C	E	E	H	C	N	P	A	R	T	Y
E	U	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	Y	A	R	S
S	G	N	A	T	U	G	H	C	H	L	D	T	Y	E
X	B	H	G	H	A	B	P	A	R	U	E	E	B	V
N	M	U	S	I	C	S	A	R	O	B	G	H	I	E
B	A	E	U	E	C	O	R	O	N	A	T	I	O	N
I	A	F	C	Y	R	E	A	H	E	U	S	E	N	T
Q	M	X	H	P	O	T	D	M	A	J	E	S	T	Y
S	R	G	I	R	W	F	E	I	R	U	S	D	I	O
U	E	H	M	O	N	A	R	C	H	E	H	N	J	D

- | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|
| CAKE | FLAGS | PARTY |
| CASTLE | JUBILEE | PLATINUM |
| CELEBRATE | MA'AM | QUEEN |
| CORONATION | MAJESTY | REIGN |
| CROWN | MONARCH | SEVENTY |
| ELIZABETH | MUSIC | THRONE |
| FETE | PARADE | |

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS UPDATE

Thank you to everybody who voted in the recent Borough Council elections. David McIntyre has been elected as the third Borough Councillor for the ward of Sherborne St John & Rooksdown.

We continue to welcome new residents who have moved into the borough over the last few months. Sadly, the trend of meeting our new neighbours whilst helping them with problems with developers continues. We have most recently been supporting those people who have moved into Gillies Meadow and experienced problems with Barratts and David Wilson Homes.

If you couldn't come to the resident meeting that we hosted but want our support, please do copy us into the emails that you are sending to your housebuilder. It can be slow progress, but we are starting to have some success.

With these new homes comes new facilities and we know that many are looking forward to the new playparks being opened and the new zip wire and surf-board being finished in Rooksdown Park.

Many people will remember that "opening" play parks can take a while, and many people have asked us why it takes so long. The borough council has a good reputation for keeping parks safe and we rely on the developer handing over parks when promised and in a safe condition. Delays are often caused by the inspection team who check the parks not being given any notice and it is taking several attempts for the installation work to be done to a high and safe standard. We're sure the final facilities will be welcome once they are open.

We look forward to seeing you during the jubilee festivities or do say hello when you see us out and about.

Cllr Simon Bound
cllr.simon.bound@basingstoke.gov.uk
07879 477696

Cllr Jay Ganesh
cllr.jay.ganesh@basingstoke.gov.uk
07723 381042

Cllr David McIntyre
cllr.david.mcintyre@basingstoke.gov.uk
07736 645250

ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE WEEKLY EVENTS

M Monday
Beavers 18.30-19.30
Ron Barker - (rooksdown@bwds.org.uk) 01256 322172

T Tuesday
Available

W Wednesday
Ballroom and Latin Dance Classes 19.00-22.00
Freedom 2 Dance Jonathan Morrison 07545 075425
Dance 19.00-20.30
Cullum Dance Val Cullum 07976 778809

T Thursday
A Capella (singing group) 20.00-22.00
Andrew Jackson 07711 004212

F Friday
Cubs 18.30-20.00
Ron Barker - (rooksdown@bwds.org.uk) 01256 322172
Scouts 19.15-21.00
Ron Barker - (rooksdown@bwds.org.uk) 01256 322172

S Saturday
Karate 10.30-12.00
07706 966636 lstockleykarate@hotmail.co.uk

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@rooksdowncommunity.uk or call **01256 869626**



Community Contact

Park Prewett Road Basingstoke RG24 9RG

01256 869626

admin@rooksdowncommunity.uk

www.rooksdownonline.com



Published by Rooksdown Community Association (registered charity: 1174526) & Rooksdown Parish Council

Disclaimer: Please note that the views expressed in this magazine are contributors' personal opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors, Rooksdown Community Association or Rooksdown Parish Council.

The RCA or RPC do not necessarily endorse the service and All information was correct at the time of printing but maybe subject to change.