



# ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

[www.rooksdown.org.uk](http://www.rooksdown.org.uk) | Winter Edition 2022



Christmas lights switch on at 4pm with carols

## Rooksdown Christmas Fayre Saturday 26th November

at the Community Centre

7.30 PM  
TO 4.30 PM

Mince Pies  
Craft Stalls & Activities  
Meet Father & Mrs Christmas  
Advent Calendars for Kids  
Pets Festive Fancy Dress Competition



## CHAIR'S UPDATE

Hi all,

**Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of the Rooksdown Reporter.**

For those of you who have recently moved into our community – a very warm welcome to you all.

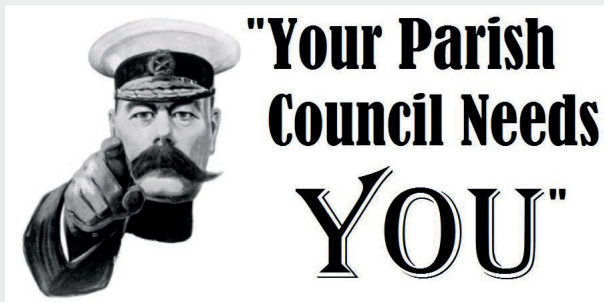
### WHO ARE ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL?

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 spending an average of 6 hours per month advising and helping to run Rooksdown Community. We all do our best for the Community.

The names of the current Councillors are: myself, Paul Mahoney, Doug How, (Vice-Chair), Dave Knights, Scott Mason, Jessica Lewis-Dalgarno, Gaynor Woods, Ebenezer Nortey & Nsima Udoh.

Why not join one of our meetings, meet the Parish Councillors and find out 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.

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.



As we look forward to 2023, if you'd like to help shape our community or if you'd like us to look specifically at something that you think would be of interest or benefit to the whole Parish, why not email me at [cllr.paul.mahoney@rooksdown.org.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.mahoney@rooksdown.org.uk) or call me on 07973 826003.

With the festive season just around the corner, all the members of Rooksdown Parish Council would like to wish the residents of our great Community a very Happy Christmas. We hope that you all enjoy the season with those who are important to you and, most importantly, stay safe and well.

Thanks for your co-operation & support.

Regards,

Chair - Paul Mahoney  
Rooksdown Parish Council



## ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

The Parish Council is responsible for the allotment site at Sherborne Fields. We have worked hard to ensure that all plots are being cultivated and the site is currently 100% occupied, with six new tenants taking over plots in 2022.

We are in the process of receiving the new allotment site off Graphite Close from the developers, and whilst we do not have a definitive date at this point, we are engaging with both Barratt David Wilson Homes & BDBC to ensure this is as quick and smooth as possible.

There is a 'healthy' waiting list for allotments and this will be significantly reduced with the new site.

If you wish to be added to the waiting list, please email the Clerk with your name, postcode and contact details (email & mobile) at [Parish.Clerk@Rooksdown.org.uk](mailto:Parish.Clerk@Rooksdown.org.uk)

## NEW CONSERVATION GROUP

We're setting up a Conservation Group for Rooksdown!

Conservation groups can get involved in all sorts of activity, looking to manage the natural environment for the conservation of wildlife. Once set up, we'd look to explore regular tasks and activities such as litter picks, and would likely get involved in seasonal projects like the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in January 2023.

If you'd like to join the group, please get in touch with our local enthusiast and Borough Councillor Jay Ganesh on [jay.ganesh@mail.com](mailto:jay.ganesh@mail.com)

## COST OF LIVING ASSISTANCE FUND

The Parish Council would like to remind you of the Cost of Living Assistance Fund, a new scheme to support residents across Basingstoke and Deane facing financial difficulties due to the rising cost of living, with grants available to help pay for food and energy bills.

### One-off grants will be available for up to the following amounts:

- Up to £1,000 for those on a household income of between £0 and £15,000
- Up to £500 for those on a household income of between £15,001 and £20,000
- Up to £200 for those on a household income of between £20,001 and £25,000

*Assistance will be given on a first come first served basis until the £1 million funding provided has been spent.*

Eligible households will be able to apply on the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website - search for "Cost of living assistance fund" on the BDBC website.



# ROOKSDOWN JUBILEE PICNIC



**We were delighted to see so many of you join us at the Rooksdown Jubilee Picnic on 5 June. Despite grey skies, there was a really positive atmosphere with fun activities, rides, face painting and balloon shows. It was also a great chance for us to meet you, and the Parish Councillors had lots of great conversations across the day. Although we were saddened to hear of the Queen's passing in September, the Jubilee event in June was a lovely opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy the occasion.**

**The Parish Council would like to thank the Rooksdown Community Association who co-hosted the event with us.**

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

At the picnic we encouraged all members of the community to share feedback with us through the medium of post-it notes, and it was a great success. 96 of you submitted suggestions, with 156 ideas shared. The Council has grouped the ideas under five headings and intend to follow up these suggestions over the next year.

### 1. Community events

The Jubilee event was well-received, with plenty of votes for more community events of the same kind. We have taken this on board and you will see from the front cover that our Christmas event is a bigger occasion than in previous years; please see the back page for more details. We're looking to ensure this is as inclusive as possible and will consider the calendar next year – if you have an idea for a community event please let us know.

### 2. Amenities in Rooksdown

Suggestions included a post office, a barber and hot food provision, including takeaway options. We'd like to encourage any interested residents who would like to start up a business in Rooksdown to discuss with the Parish Council as to how we can support you.

Referring to the feedback from the picnic event as well as the largely positive social media sentiment about the planning application for a fish and chip shop next to the Co-op, the Council sent a letter in support of the planning application to the Development Control Committee at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC). Unfortunately the application was not passed, and it is up to the applicant to make a new application if they wish to do so. In the meantime the Parish Council will continue to keep our eyes open for other opportunities to improve and add to the amenities in our community.

### 3. Environment

We are lucky in Rooksdown to have a beautiful natural environment around us, and we had many suggestions around tree and flower planting, which we will look to explore in the Spring.

We are aware that while new playparks are being built as part of the developers' planning obligations, the process to open them is not a smooth one, and playparks were featured in the feedback from the Jubilee Picnic. We have worked with Borough Councillors, BDBC and the developers to understand what is required and why things seem to take so long. The process involves the developers building to the right specification, BDBC officers assessing the safety of the build, and then the developers making any changes that are required, before BDBC officers sign off and agree that the parks can be opened. We have experienced some delays recently around a new requirement from BDBC that all playparks have what.3.words signs installed; this is a location-based identifier used by the emergency services to assist with emergency response. The Parish Council have chased the developers and BDBC and we believe that we are close to resolution, with three new playparks expected to be opened before the end of the year. Credit to Parish Cllr Dave Knights for his hard work on this.

There was plenty of interest in issues such as grass and tree cutting, dog waste bins and antisocial parking and traffic. We would like to encourage all residents that if they have concerns about particular issues, there are often ways to directly raise this with the appropriate contact. This is particularly important for issues which involve the police; formal reports are much more likely to lead to police action, whereas unfortunately social media posts aren't very effective. We always encourage you to make reports where you can, and there are some useful contact details on the back page.

### 4. Sport and health facilities

We were pleased to see plenty of people making use of the Park and other open spaces across Rooksdown over the summer, and the topic of Sport, health and play came up in the Jubilee Picnic feedback.

There is substantial interest in sports facilities, and we are exploring this further - please see the next page "Rooksdown Park - Masterplan" for more on this.

### 5. Regular events, activities, clubs

The final topic raised at the Jubilee Picnic was regular clubs or activities. The Community Centre can be hired out for regular activities, and the Parish Council would encourage anyone who would like to run an activity to discuss with the Rooksdown Community Association if they can make use of the Community Centre to do so. Please also see the current roster on the back page of this issue, including contact details of those who run the sessions.



## ROOKSDOWN PARK – MASTERPLAN

The Rooksdown Masterplan, focusing on the Park, was developed through discussion with Ward Members, Rooksdown Community Association, Rooksdown Parish Council and a community consultation during 2013/14.

The Masterplan is available on the Parish Council website – please do go and have a look.



The Masterplan is a way to bring together the aspirations of all stakeholders, to show what might be possible. As part of the building of housing in our community, developers have a planning obligation to enhance the range of play and sport facilities on offer by providing equipment or funds (called “section 106 funds”) to support the community. This means that there is some money available to be spent on the Park.

The Parish Councillors have taken the feedback from the Jubilee event and as there was substantial interest in the provision of a sports ground or court, we are exploring the idea. A MUGA – Multi Use Games Area – is one possible option, and we are working with the Borough Council to learn from similar projects like the one in Popley.

We’re also looking to work out how long it might take to build something like a MUGA, and have reached out to the Borough Council to understand how funding and planning for this project can best be managed.

If you have additional ideas for the Park, either relating to sports, or other ideas such as wellbeing and mental health, please do let us know, either by attending a Parish Council meeting, by emailing the Clerk at [parish.clerk@rooksdown.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@rooksdown.org.uk)

## ROOKSDOWN IS A 20MPH ZONE

Rooksdown Parish Council deployed a Speed camera on Park Prewett Road over the summer months.

### A summary of the data collected;

- On average 76% of vehicles were driving in excess of 21mph
- Highest speed registered was 50mph

### We would request Rooksdown residents consider the following;

- To help make Rooksdown a safer place to live, take responsibility as a driver and adhere to the 20mph limit.



**PLEASE RESPECT  
THE 20 mph LIMIT**

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



If you want details of how to support the Rooksdown Community SpeedWatch team, please contact the chair, Paul Mahoney on [cllr.paul.mahoney@rooksdown.org.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.mahoney@rooksdown.org.uk) or visit the parish council website <https://rooksdown.org.uk/>



**THINK  
BEFORE YOU  
PARK**

**Rooksdown 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.

**If you wish to complain about parking matters, please contact the local Police officer by calling 101.**

As Rooksdown 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.

**SO, PLEASE THINK BEFORE YOU PARK!**



## LIGHTING TO IMPROVE SAFETY AT WHITE BRIDGE OVER A339

The Parish Council has been working with Hampshire County Council to improve the lighting on the White Bridge over the A339 from Rooksdown in to Winklebury as part of our commitment to making it a safer space.

HCC Arboriculture Team have recently been down to undertake tree clearance to improve visibility for pedestrians using the steps or footpath. One of the lamp post columns has been relocated and an additional column has been installed at the foot of the footpath to improve overall lighting in the area.

This work has already made a significant improvement to the lighting of that area.

The final part of the project will be to install a section of illuminated LED handrail on the pedestrian ramp from the base to the top of steps. We are working to deliver this final phase in this financial year.

We appreciate the support of County Councillor, Arun Mummalaneni with this project.



## HELP MAKE ROOKSDOWN A SAFER PLACE

As we move towards Christmas there is likely be a rise in crimes committed mainly overnight, which could include theft from motor vehicle, burglary and theft from sheds. We also understand there are instances where car doors are tried to see if they are locked – we encourage you to lock your vehicles overnight.

Do you have a doorbell or other CCTV camera? If so, Hampshire Constabulary want your help. The Police are asking anyone that has camera coverage on their property to register it with them, so they can contact you to ask for you to share the footage should they need it. They say that CCTV plays a 'huge role' in investigating a crime. Any information shared to police will be handled in accordance with data protection legislation and used only for a policing purpose.

Every camera registered increases Police investigative opportunities and their chances to catch offenders. Register your cctv cameras by emailing: [nicedemssupport@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicedemssupport@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) and request to register your cameras.



## CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

Search horizontally, vertically for all 12 words, put your skills to the test and see how many you can find!

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

CAROLS  
CHRISTMAS  
ELF  
FAMILY

FESTIVE  
HOLLY  
LIGHTS  
MISTLETOE

SNOW  
STAR  
TREE  
YULE

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**Saturday 26 November, 1.30pm to 4.30pm**

We'd like to encourage all residents in Rooksdowndown to join us for the Christmas Lights switch-on at the Community Centre on Saturday 26 November. There will be a chance for children to meet Father and Mrs Christmas, take part in craft activities, and to pick up a free Advent calendar.

We'll also have mince pies and a fancy dress competition for pets - bring your furry friends and take a picture using our photo frame to enter! It'll be judged by vote among parish councillors at 3.45, just before the main event.

**The Christmas Lights will be switched on at 4pm and carols will be sung.** We'd love to see you there!



## ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE WEEKLY EVENTS

<b>M</b>	<b>Monday</b> Beavers Ron Barker - <a href="mailto:rooksdowndown@bwds.org.uk">rooksdowndown@bwds.org.uk</a>   01256 322172	18.30-19.30
<b>T</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> Freedom Yoga Kerli Hughes - 07841 418258	18.45-19.45
<b>W</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>Thursday</b> A Capella (singing group) Andrew Jackson - 07711 004212	20.00-22.00
<b>F</b>	<b>Friday</b> Cubs Ron Barker - <a href="mailto:rooksdowndown@bwds.org.uk">rooksdowndown@bwds.org.uk</a>   01256 322172  Scouts Ron Barker - <a href="mailto:rooksdowndown@bwds.org.uk">rooksdowndown@bwds.org.uk</a>   01256 322172	18.30-20.00  19.15-21.00
<b>S</b>	<b>Saturday</b> Karate 07706 966636   <a href="mailto:lstockleykarate@hotmail.co.uk">lstockleykarate@hotmail.co.uk</a>	10.30-12.00
<b>S</b>	<b>Sunday</b> Basingstoke Eagles - Pentecostal Church	10.00-12.00

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### COMMUNITY

Rooksdowndown Parish Clerk	<b>07928 129122</b>
Rooksdowndown Community Centre	<b>01256 869626</b>

### HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Rooksdowndown Practice of Bramblys Grange GP	<b>01256 399710</b>
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital	<b>01256 473202</b>
Castle Hill Primary School (Rooksdowndown Campus)	<b>01256 350300</b>

### COUNCIL

Basingstoke and Deane Council	<b>01256 844844</b>
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Report a tree problem:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-a-tree-problem>

Report dog fouling:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling>

Report a noise nuisance:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-noise-nuisance>

Information about bin collections:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections>

Hampshire County Council	<b>0300 555 1375</b>
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### POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Urgent	<b>999</b>
Less urgent and to report a crime	<b>111</b>
Community Safety Patrol Team	<b>01256 845700</b>
Crimestoppers	<b>0800 555 111</b>

Report a crime online:

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Report antisocial behaviour:

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

If you would like to book a room at the Community Centre please contact:

[bookings@rooksdowndowncommunity.uk](mailto:bookings@rooksdowndowncommunity.uk) or call **01256 869626**

### Community Contact

Park Prewett Road Basingstoke RG24 9RG

☎ 01256 869626

✉ [admin@rooksdowndowncommunity.uk](mailto:admin@rooksdowndowncommunity.uk)

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



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