



Celebrate with your community!



SUNDAY 7TH MAY
The Community Centre and Park

AT
11-3
AM PM

FREE ENTRY!

LIVE MUSIC
Brass Band!

CORONATION
big lunch

REFRESHMENTS

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

BOUNCY CASTLE!

CRAFT ACTIVITIES

HOSTED BY



Rookdown Parish Council
Empowering our community



CHAIR'S UPDATE

Hi all,

WELCOME TO THE CORONATION EDITION OF THE ROOKSDOWN REPORTER.

Rooksdown Parish Council is preparing to celebrate The King's Coronation and invites residents of the Parish to join us on Sunday 7 May from 11am to 3pm at Rooksdown Park & Community Centre – Bring your family and lunch to enjoy the afternoon; with refreshments, entertainment, Brass Band, Bouncy Castle & other attractions & lots of fun.

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 (Chair), Doug How, (Vice-Chair), Dave Knights, Scott Mason, Jessica Lewis-Dalgarno, Gaynor Woods, Ebenezer Nortey, Nsima Udoh & Mike Anigbo.

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'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 call me on 07973 826003 or email me at: cllr.paul.mahoney@rooksdwn.org.uk

HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL



07515 777060



parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk



www.rooksdwn.org.uk



www.facebook.com/rooksdwnparishcouncil/



@RooksdownPC

Thanks for your co-operation & support.

Regards

Paul Mahoney

Chair - Paul Mahoney
Rooksdown Parish Council



ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2023/24

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 which is shown as 'Rooksdown' on your bill) for Rooksdown in 2023 – 2024.

The good news is that the Parish Council resolved to make no change to the amount which residents pay to what was paid last year and, indeed, we have not increased the precept since 2015.

We want to ensure that Rooksdown Parish Council projects and activities are making the best use of existing funds, without needing to pass on costs to residents.

Please do read on to find out more about the improvements and activities we are working on in Rooksdown for the benefit of you, the residents.

CELEBRATIONS IN ROOKSDOWN

We were delighted that so many of you came to the Christmas Fair and craft market, held in the Community Centre on 26 November. It was a great event, with the great Christmas lights switch-on closing the day. The Parish Council were pleased that the event was well received, and will be looking to build on this next year.

CORONATION WORDSEARCH

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

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

BUNTING
CAKE
CELEBRATION
COMMUNITY
CORONATION
COUNTRY
CROWN

KING
MAJESTY
MONARCH
MUSIC
PARADE
PARTY
PICNIC

QUEEN
REIGN
SING
TIARA
TRIFLE
THRONE

SAFETY AND POLICING IN ROOKSDOWN

The Parish Council have been engaging with local police, Borough and County Councillors, and other stakeholders, to contribute to the ongoing management of crime and antisocial behaviour in the area.

CAR MEETS

Following a number of reported car-meets around the Borough, Hampshire Constabulary and Basingstoke Police organised a meeting at Rooksdown Community Centre on the 8th December 2022. This public meeting was to bring people together to hear more details of dangerous driving incidents on local roads particularly by those attending 'car meets' and what action we can all take to support enforcement action.

The reports received from you, the residents, are vital in helping officers to conduct investigations and patrols as well as preventing crime. Some information shared by the residents helped officers to tackle unauthorised car meets and resulted in the seizure of three vehicles a few days later. Since December Basingstoke has enjoyed a reduction in unauthorised car meets, although it is possible they may return.

If you witness any dangerous driving or serious Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) relating to unauthorised car meets, **please quote OP CHROMIUM** when you contact the Police. Following your report, you may be sent a link in order for you to upload any footage you might have especially if this includes registration plates.

Please see new updated reporting guide that includes a QR code that will hopefully make it easier to report incidents.

SERIOUS ASSAULTS

In January there were two serious assaults, one on Highpath Way and the other on Blackmoor Drive. This is a concerning matter for residents, and Rooksdown Parish Council have been in close contact with the police and Borough Councillors about the issue.

As this is an active investigation, the police are not able to give a statement about the case. However, police officers have conducted a number of enquiries and are now asking the public for any information that may help the investigation. Police are interested to hear from anyone who has CCTV, ring doorbell, or dashcam footage that could be of assistance. Please phone 101 with reference 44230027011. Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Following reported incidents, police have increased additional patrols in Rooksdown, and the beat officers have been conducting some specific patrols and engagement in Rooksdown where necessary. As part of the routine 'Beat Surgery', PCSOs Page and Doherty spent Saturday 18th February morning listening to some of your concerns, suggestions, and recommendations.

Your local intelligence is very valuable for our officers for crime prevention and safeguarding of the community. Please continue to report anti-social behaviour or any crimes through standard channels and feel free to contact us if we can assist you in any way. If you have any information, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem to please get in touch by calling 101 or report online at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/>

Alternatively, if you don't want to speak to police directly, then please get in touch with Crimestoppers where information can be given 100% anonymously. You can call them on 0800 555 111 or report online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

The Parish Council have spent time identifying street lights where the lights are low or not working, and have reported this to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who are able to address this where the lights are the responsibility of BDBC. Unfortunately, Barratt Homes still operate street lights in the newer development area including around Blackmoor Drive, so we are chasing Barratt Homes for action on these street lights.

We will continue to chase up improvements to street lighting. If you are aware of any street lights which are not working, or where the light is too low, please email parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk so we can pick this up. Please also share any security concerns that you would like us to explore.



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

Help keep Rooksdown a great place to live.

PLANNING MATTERS AFFECTING ROOKSDOWN

As we all know, Rooksdown has been so much a focus for housing development in recent years, and one result is that very little land (if any) is left in the Parish to build on. However, developer interest continues in the greenfield sites around our Parish borders.

Manydown will potentially be the borough's largest new housing development. The site extends to meet Rooksdown to the south of the A339 Kingsclere Road – between the Roman Road (Rooksdown Avenue) roundabout & Rooksdown Lane.



Outline planning permission was granted for the whole north Manydown site in December 2021, for up to 3,520 homes plus mixed used development, local facilities, amenities, schools; also a 100 hectare Country Park.

It is often called out that 'no houses have been built on Manydown yet'. It seems that progress is in the form of two planning applications for construction access – to the Roman Way in Worting ([23/00033/FUL](#)) and to the Roman Road in Winklebury ([23/00032/FUL](#)). Both applications, as would be expected, have attracted objections and if approved will bring traffic to the Avenue roundabout.

Permission to develop north Manydown is already granted and the site will need construction access.

It is largely because of the delays in building out Manydown that Basingstoke & Deane is under-delivering on its planned allocation of new homes. This is the backdrop to the current planning application for 350 new homes at **Kiln Farm** on the western edge of Popley and a further planning application for c250 homes on **Weybrook Golf Course**, which is expected imminently.

Land at Kiln Farm ([23/00205/OUT](#) January 2023) - The BDBC website has so far received over 350 public objections to this application, which is not allocated for housing in the current Local Plan. Decision makers will be mindful of the public opposition and scrutiny. However a decision must be taken according to Planning Policy, both local and national. The case officer will make a recommendation, and the decision will be taken by the borough council's Development Control Committee.

Weybrook Golf Course – This site is also not allocated in the Local Plan. Last November, Bewley Homes staged a public exhibition and 'community engagement' event which it will use in support of its proposals. You can read the Parish Council feedback to Bewley Homes on our website. Once this application is published on the [BDBC website](#) it would be helpful if all Rooksdown residents could respond to the consultation and make your views known directly.

HOW TO RESPOND TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

You'll need to find the application on the BDBC website: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/view-planning-applications>. There is helpful guidance on that website as to how to use the site.

If you support or oppose either application and would like to register your input on the BDBC planning portal, please detail what benefits you think it will bring, or benefits you would like to see, and please raise any concerns. Local input is very important but must relate to planning issues.

You may wish to consider local infrastructure and road safety; impact on landscape and trees; provision of, or the effect on, local amenity; the importance of local access to the countryside and green space; impact on the public footpath and local views. Specific detail, local knowledge and individual experience in relation to the points you raise are valuable.

The Parish Council will consider and submit its own comments which you will be able to read on our website – please see the QR Code on page 2.

If you have any queries regarding local planning issues, please contact the Parish Clerk: parish.clerk@rooksdown.org.uk



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 or visit the parish council website <https://rooksdown.org.uk/>



MAKING ROOKSDOWN A GREAT, SAFE PLACE TO LIVE ...

GUARD RAIL FENCING

The Parish Council is committed to making Rooksdown a great, safe place to live.

You may have noticed that the Rooksdown Parish Council guard rail fencing replacement project is nearing completion.

Much of the existing wooden guard rail fencing around Rooksdown has been in place for around 10 years and is broken, rotten and unsightly, with risk of injury to passers-by and users of the open spaces.

The Parish Council successfully applied for grant funding from Basingstoke & Deane's Local Infrastructure Fund to replace around 1500m of the wooden guard rail fencing with a powder coated steel guard rail solution.

This will reduce ongoing maintenance costs, discourage nuisance parking and illegal encroachment.



We're pleased that the work has been carried out by ROCON Contractors Ltd who are based locally in Bramley and the fencing itself is manufactured by the British Company, Fabrikat, chosen for quality, to look attractive and enhance the overall locality.

Thanks to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for their financial support & to the Parish Councillors past and present who have been involved in progressing this project.

WHITE BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

The Parish Council has also 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 safer.

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 been a significant improvement.

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 and it won't be long before this is completed.

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

QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

As part of the Jubilee celebrations last year, the Parish Council secured funding to participate in the Queen's Green Canopy, a project designed to see a million trees planted. We have been exploring viable locations for this project, and are making arrangements to plant a variety of trees outside the Community Centre, which will provide colour and shade through the year. We are excited to see how this unfolds, and will update in the next edition of the Rooksdown Reporter.

CONSERVATION GROUP LITTER PICK ON 16 APRIL

We have had a number of residents expressing their interest to take part in future litter-picking and conservation events around Rooksdown. We are currently working with the Borough Council to set up a Conservation Group for Rooksdown and Sherborne Fields.

If you are interested in volunteering or interested in joining future conservation events in Rooksdown, please drop your contact details to cllr.jay.ganesh@basingstoke.gov.uk

A Community Litter Pick on Sunday 16th April is planned, with the invite being shared on Rooksdown Social Media (Facebook) pages. Please accept the invitation and join the rest of the community in keeping Rooksdown clean, tidy and litter free.

Please keep an eye out for future events on the Rooksdown Social Media (Facebook) pages and here in the Rooksdown Reporter.



YOUR HEALTH IN RENTED ACCOMMODATION - CONDENSATION AND MOULD

If you're worried about condensation or mould in your rented accommodation, Housing Standards team can help regardless of whether there is a social or private landlord.

If the landlord has not rectified the hazards after being notified by their tenant, the Housing Standards team can investigate and arrange an inspection of the property to assess the risk to the occupants. If the team determines that there is a serious risk to health present, they have a range of enforcement options open to them to compel the landlord to make the property safe.

You can report any concerns to the team by emailing ehteam@basingstoke.gov.uk and providing the team with the following information, if possible:

- Your name, address and contact details
- Name and address of the landlord
- Any photographs of the issues

If you require any advice or wish to discuss any cases in more detail with a member of the team prior to making a report please contact **Chris Williams**, Environmental Health Team Leader (Housing Standards). More information and advice for residents is available on our website at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/condensation-and-mould

ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE WEEKLY EVENTS

M	Monday Beavers Ron Barker - rooksdwn@bwds.org.uk 01256 322172	18.30-19.30
T	Tuesday Freedom Yoga Kerli Hughes - 07841 418258	18.45-19.45
W	Wednesday	
T	Thursday A Capella (singing group) Andrew Jackson - 07711 004212	20.00-22.00
F	Friday Cubs Ron Barker - rooksdwn@bwds.org.uk 01256 322172 Scouts Ron Barker - rooksdwn@bwds.org.uk 01256 322172	18.30-20.00 19.15-21.00
S	Saturday Karate 07706 966636 Istockleykarate@hotmail.co.uk	10.30-12.00
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@rooksdwncommunity.uk or call **01256 869626**

USEFUL CONTACTS

COMMUNITY

Rooksdwn Parish Clerk	07515 777060
Rooksdwn Community Centre	01256 869626

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Rooksdwn Practice of Bramblys Grange GP	01256 399710
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital	01256 473202
Castle Hill Primary School (Rooksdwn Campus)	01256 350300

COUNCIL

Basingstoke and Deane Council	01256 844844
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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	0300 555 1375
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POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Urgent	999
Less urgent and to report a crime	101
Community Safety Patrol Team	01256 845700
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111

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/>

Community Contact

Park Prewett Road Basingstoke RG24 9RG

 **01256 869626**

 admin@rooksdwncommunity.uk

www.rooksdwnonline.com



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

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

RPC and RCA do not necessarily endorse services mentioned and all information was correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change.