



ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

www.rooksdown.org.uk | Summer Edition | July 2023



*Rooksdown Parish Council
are proud to launch...*

ROOKSDOWN PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR

and

YOUNG ROOKSDOWN
PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

See inside for more competition details! >>>



CHAIR'S UPDATE

Hi all

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER 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 monthly throughout most of the year spending an average of six hours per month advising and helping Rooksdown's Community. We all do our best for the Community, especially where the community is changing as fast as in Rooksdown.

The names of the current Councillors are:

Paul Mahoney (Chair), Doug How, (Vice-Chair), Dave Knights, Scott Mason, Jessica Lewis-Dalgarno, Nsima Udoh and Mike Anigbo.

Gaynor Woods and Ebenezer Nortey have recently moved out of the area and therefore have resigned their position as Councillors. The Parish Council thanks them for their contribution and wishes them well in their new homes.

For news about all the projects we are working on, we look forward to seeing you at a forthcoming Parish Council meeting. If you'd like us to look specifically at something you think would be of interest or benefit to the whole Parish then please let Susan, our Parish Clerk, know at parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk or by calling her on 07515 777060.

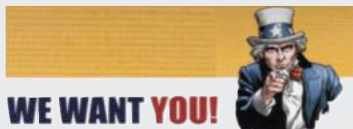
PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of the month – apart from August and December – from 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Dates for meetings until end of March 2024 can be found below, on the Parish Council noticeboards around the Parish and, of course, on our Website.

25th September – 23rd October – 27th November 2023
22nd January – 26th February – 25th March 2024

THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL



If you think you may like to consider becoming a Parish Councillor, which is a worthwhile and rewarding community service, and you would like to know more about what is involved why not call me on 07973 826003 or email cllr.paul.mahoney@rooksdwn.org.uk

Thanks for your co-operation & support.

All the best

Regards

Paul Mahoney, Chair
Rooksdown Parish Council



POLICE ADVICE

ROAD RACING AND CAR MEETS

Police advice is to encourage the local community to report anti-social use of vehicles by calling 101 quoting **Op Chromium** so this can be filtered down to local Policing units. This can also be done online.

www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/

In an emergency or if dangerous driving is witnessed always call 999.

'Any photo or video evidence is very useful to us especially if it shows a number plate. A top tip if filming is to speak the number plate out loud as often they are difficult to see afterwards. We can then complete follow up action and have already reported drivers for various offences after a car meet following information received.'

Please remember first and foremost to never put yourself or others at any risk in attempting to gather evidence.

ROOKSDOWN POLICE SURGERIES

Local police surgeries give residents the opportunity to ask questions or discuss issues directly with our local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer). Dates are often at quite short notice so please keep an eye out on noticeboards, Facebook, or the Parish Council website.

COUNTY ON POTHOLES

Our County Councillor is conscientious in providing updates as to the whys and wherefores of Hampshire's strategic approach to repairing potholes. So to share here some extracts from Cllr Mummalaneni's reports...

Why so many? Last winter's cycles of heavy rain and frosts were more perfect than usual for potholes. Freeze - thaw action of water in cracks rapidly weakens and break open road surfaces. Then there is the hydraulic effect of vehicle tyres constantly going over standing water in cracks and other small surface defects – which is why potholes are continuing to develop and why some of the temporary fixes are beginning to break down.

Why the temporary fixes? Due to the sheer number of potholes, HCC's Highways team took the decision to keep roads serviceable and safe with emergency infill repairs because four to seven temporary infills take the time of one more permanent fix.

But... replacing the temporary fixes and returning the highway network to its pre winter condition is likely to take most of this calendar year. This has been helped by a Government allocation of £6M for pothole repairs.

What Hampshire does next? The County Council is planning to commit a further £22.5M to support the road repair programme in Hampshire over the next three years (£7.5M per year). As part of these proposals, contractors have been asked to adjust their working method so that when a single repair is made, smaller ones nearby can be filled at the same time. The repair teams at the moment are asked to fix only the defects that pose the biggest risk. This new repairs programme and funding is due to be agreed by Cabinet on 18 July.

As ever, please report potholes at www.hants.gov.uk/-transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes

KINGS CORONATION CELEBRATION EVENT ROOKSDOWN – 7TH MAY 2023

As with the coming of Spring, the spirit of the nation began to flourish as we marked the King’s Coronation. The event was celebrated by different people, families, and communities each in their own special way, as did we on Sunday the 7th May 2023 at the Rooksdown Park. The event began as a quiet affair with a cloudy morning. But slowly the sun, along with our residents, came out and by afternoon the Park was packed with a now warm sun watching over. There was a variety of free entertainment for children including inflatables, interactive games, a football goal, balloon animals and crown making. Ice cream and hot food vans were on hand to replenish people’s energy; all while a live brass band filled the air with familiar melodies before closing the day with *God Save The King*.

The Parish Council had an open stall on the day – along with the crown making – and were on hand to help support our residents with any queries they wished to raise.

WHAT PEOPLE LIKE MOST ABOUT ROOKSDOWN Feedback comments

Based on these findings, it’s clear to us that Rooksdown is valued for its green spaces and its warm community. We hope to protect these attributes, especially when considering the impact of future projects and plans. Where possible we will seek to nurture and protect green space, and seek to enable and support our community to flourish.

WHAT CONCERNS PEOPLE ABOUT ROOKSDOWN Feedback comments

Parking is an historical and ongoing issue in Rooksdown and other parts of Basingstoke. Hence, we continue to be mindful of the potential impact on parking of any project or planning proposal. If given the opportunity and the means, we will push to help improve the parking arrangements of the area. For example, we have negotiated to purchase the two car parks on Peggs Way for use by local residents; legal work is underway.

Roads and potholes is a hot topic... County Cllr Arun Mummalaneni has reported that, as of the end of June, all serious potholes in the area should have been temporarily fixed. Temporary fixes are quicker to implement and potholes are addressed on a priority basis, due to limited resources.



Overall, the day was a roaring success and we had lots of feedback that echoed this sentiment. We would like to thank the Borough and County Council’s Coronation grant schemes for assisting us with funding for the event and would also like to say a special thank you to the Mayor Cllr Paul Miller, and Mrs Sandra Miller Mayoress, for attending. Our gratitude also extends to all the individual people and businesses who contributed to the event. Finally, we would like to thank all our residents who could attend as you were the key ingredient.

SURVEY AND PRIZE DRAW

We ran a voluntary survey about Rooksdown on the day and participants were invited to enter a prize draw. A big thanks to all who participated, as your invaluable feedback will help direct future actions, and congratulations to the prize draw winners.

We compiled the survey results and can share key findings...

LIKES AND CONCERNS ABOUT ROOKSDOWN

Community	Parking
Friendly/Nice People	Roads/Potholes
Parks	•Anti-Social Behaviour/Crime
Open Spaces	More Pubs/Shops/restaurants
	Street lighting

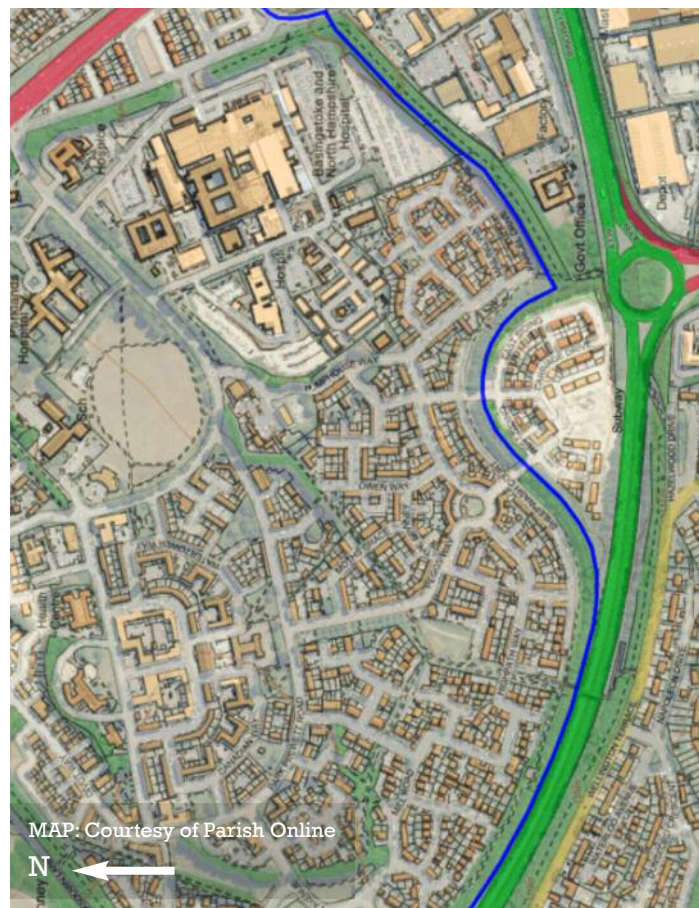
Antisocial behaviour featured highly in responses, much due to car meets and road racing on or near the A339. Concern is also driven by incidents of vandalism, the smell of recreational drugs in public spaces and anti-social behaviour in public spaces. Feedback also mentions a desire for more police patrols. A CSPO (Community Safety Patrol Officer) has confirmed they are in the process of procuring a speed camera and training officers to use it. In addition, by April 2024, each area will have its own dedicated Police Officer to help us address local concerns.

Lack of shops, restaurants and pubs – and the need for more of all of these – is a growing sentiment. The Parish Council would happily endorse, but recognises the challenge of finding suitable locations. Most residents prefer not to live next door to a shop, restaurant or pub so the scope for suitable locations is limited. Thus we will support opportunities for new businesses to come to the area while being mindful of impact on residents’ amenity and well being.

Street lighting is an ongoing issue the Parish Council is actively tracking. We are working with Ward Councillor Jay Ganesh to try to help with this. Jay has expressed similar concerns and carries out his own surveys on the non working lights in the Barratt David Wilson Homes part of Rooksdown to identify faults and seek their redress. Members of the Parish Council also proactively survey and report faulty streetlights. Jay has been engaging the companies responsible for street lighting – which depends on the location – and is monitoring progress.

SQUIRREL WOOD FROM TRUMPET JUNCTION

To some people in Rooksdown, 'Squirrel Wood' may not mean very much, let alone where it is and interestingly how it came about. The latter may be of particular interest to those who now live in Squirrel Wood, as it may answer questions as to how a small area of land nestling at the edge of Rooksdown by the A339 is now an almost complete and self-contained



community of 122 properties. And yet the only way out of Squirrel Wood is through Rooksdown.

Indeed, for those who moved into Rooksdown some 10 or more years ago there was no such place as Squirrel Wood. (Acknowledging that before April 2004, there was no Parish of Rooksdown.) But we were soon to learn that the area of land north of the A339 – which had originally been identified to play a major role in the junction of Ringways West and North, and was subsequently not required – went under the name of Trumpet Junction.

As we now know, this did not take place, but it left the land originally allocated to the northern end of the junction unused. Thus, in 2011, planning approval was given for this area of land – which then became known as 'Land Adjoining The Spinney, Park Prewett, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke'.

Fast forward six years and a detailed planning proposal by Zero C Holdings Ltd for the 122 dwellings was approved by Basingstoke & Deane with the principal contractor being Allenbuild and their successors. So late in 2017 Squirrel Wood was begun and the rest, as they say, is history.

A continuing anomaly in an unusual history of development is that the Rooksdown Parish Boundary, drawn in 2004, continues to show Squirrel Wood to be outside the Parish. The Boundary Commission for England are responsible for keeping under review the electoral boundaries. **The 2018 review of Basingstoke and Deane Ward Boundaries included Squirrel Wood within the Ward and electorate of Sherborne St John and Rooksdown – but the line of the Parish administrative boundary as shown on the map hasn't been changed.** This is something to be addressed at the next Boundary review.

Hence, and not before time perhaps, these are a few words of welcome to Rooksdown's residents in Squirrel Wood. This Summer edition of the *Rooksdown Reporter* will be the first to be hand delivered; from now on you will receive issues as and when published. Please contact the Parish Council if you have any issues to raise and particularly if you would like something included in a future issue of the *Reporter*.

For those of us looking over to our new neighbours while walking through The Spinney, we might have learnt a little more about a locality which has more than squirrels in the shaping of its recent past.

This drone photo taken by Keough Video Productions – www.keoughvideoproductions.com – has been previously posted on the various Rooksdown Community Facebook pages and the company has kindly given permission to reproduce it here. It perfectly shows the setting of Rooksdown together with Squirrel Wood



INTRODUCING ROOKSDOWN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR



We know you're as proud of living in Rooksdown as we are, and we'd like to showcase your photography talent by launching a new photography competition.

Across the next year, we will run two categories, one closing at the end of December, and the other closing at the end of May. These will be judged by our panel, made up of volunteers from our parish, borough and county councillors. By this time next year we'll run a public vote, to ensure you get to vote on the best of the best; that vote will decide who is Rooksdown Photographer of the Year. We're also looking for the best Young Rooksdown Photographer of the Year. All categories are open to under 18s too and will be judged in the same way.

CATEGORY 1: ANIMALS OF ROOKSDOWN

You have until 31 December 2023 to submit your photograph by email, and the best three photos will win a prize. Your animal should be found in Rooksdown please, any photos obviously taken elsewhere won't count. Be inspired by birds, insects, reptiles or mammals, and of course including pets.

CATEGORY 2: ROOKSDOWN FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE

You have until 31 May 2024 to submit your photograph by email, and the best three photos will win a prize. We're looking for unusual views of Rooksdown, the green spaces, the buildings, or a combination. Your photograph must be taken in

Rooksdown, any photographs obviously taken elsewhere won't count. Look for secret spaces, interesting angles, or unusual views of commonplace things.

SPECIAL PRIZE: THE PRIDE OF ROOKSDOWN

We're also looking for photographs which show something really special about Rooksdown, something that we can all be proud of. The single photograph which really sums up the Pride of Rooksdown will receive a prize. All photos received will be considered for this prize, but if you'd like to submit a photo for this prize which doesn't fit the other categories, please do so. You have until 31 May 2024 to enter this category.

Please make sure that any people in your photographs give their consent to appear in the photographs you submit to us. Please always stay safe when taking photographs and respect property and people when exploring Rooksdown.

Terms and conditions can be found on our website (see QR code).



Please note: Entries must be sent to rooksdownphotographer@gmail.com on or before the closing date. Please send your photo as an attachment saved as your name. Please also include in the body of the email your name, your age if you're entering the Young Photographer of the Year competition, and which category you are submitting your photo for. You may send a maximum of nine entries, three for each category and three for the Pride of Rooksdown prize.

Look out for reminders on social media as the deadline for submissions approaches!

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

THE WHITE BRIDGE

The Parish Council has been working with Hampshire County Council for some time 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. This work has already made a significant improvement to the lighting of that area.

At the end of last year you will have seen that HCC Arboriculture Team carried out tree clearance to improve visibility for pedestrians using the steps or footpath. One of the lamp post pedestals has been relocated and an additional column has been installed at the foot of the footpath

The final part of the project will be a section of illuminated LED handrail on the pedestrian ramp from the base to the top of steps. It will look great and installation is scheduled for 31 July..

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

SILENT SOLDIER

You will soon see a World War I Tommy outline statue standing by the wall at the entrance to Rooksdown from the Avenue Roundabout. Thanks to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, who maintain this area, for their permission to install the outline soldier on a concrete and brick plinth.

QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The Parish Council's project to contribute to the Queen's Green Canopy also looks to enhance Rooksdown's natural environment and public spaces. We are choosing small trees

PARISH COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING

Each year the Parish Council budgets a set amount to provide grant funding for the benefit of Rooksdown and its residents.

Applications may be considered from

- Voluntary organisations and community groups
- registered charities.

For example, this may be a grant to a sports club, towards a specific purchase that will benefit the community or a community group, or towards community celebrations or special events. The Parish Council will request background information to support an application; applicants should be satisfied and be able to demonstrate they have sought value for money.

On awarding a grant, the Parish Council will either make a donation, or donate the requested item as appropriate. For further information please contact the Parish clerk.



to add natural form and colour to the central location outside the Community Centre. Top of the list of recommended trees are varieties of crab apple and hawthorn. Please contact us if you have a favorite to suggest. We will need to place an order at the end of the summer for Autumn planting.

ROOKSDOWN CONSERVATION GROUP

Rooksdown's Conservation Group is seeking to increase its numbers and so take on viable projects to improve provision for wildlife and biodiversity. If you'd like to join the group, please get in touch with our local enthusiast and Ward Councillor Jay Ganesh at Cllr.Jay.Ganesh@basingstoke.gov.uk.

POLICING BASINGSTOKE

REPORTING GUIDE

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT
CONSTABULARY

SAVE TIME & REPORT CRIMES ONLINE, SCAN...



ONLY CALL 999 IF IT'S AN EMERGENCY



NOT AN EMERGENCY? CALL... 101



PLEASE RESPECT THE 20mph LIMIT

If you do so, so will the people behind you





To support the Rookdown Community SpeedWatch team please contact crr.paul.mahoney@rookdown.org.uk or visit the Parish Council website <https://rookdown.org.uk>

Community Centre

Park Prewett Road RG24 9RG
admin@rookdowncommunity.uk
 Tel 01256 869626
www.rookdownonline.com



ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE WEEKLY EVENTS

Weekdays 7.30 to 18.00 Blossom Day Nursery

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|--|
| M | Monday | 18.30-19.30 |
| | Beavers | rookdown@bwds.org.uk |
| | Ron Barker | 01256 322172 |
| T | Tuesday | 18.45-19.45 |
| | Freedom Yoga | freedomyogawithkerli@gmail.com |
| | Kerli Hughes | 07841 418258 |
| W | Wednesday | |
| T | Thursday | |
| F | Friday | 18.30-20.00 |
| | Cubs | rookdown@bwds.org.uk |
| | Ron Barker | 01256 322172 |
| | | 19.15-21.00 |
| | Scouts | rookdown@bwds.org.uk |
| | Ron Barker | 01256 322172 |
| S | Saturday | 10.30-12.00 |
| | Karate | lstockleykarate@hotmail.co.uk |
| | | 07706 966636 |
| S | Sunday | 10.00-12.00 |
| | Basingstoke Eagles | Pentecostal Church |

If you would like to book a room at the Community Centre please call 01256 869626 or email bookings@rookdowncommunity.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

COMMUNITY

Rookdown Parish Clerk 07515 777060
 Rookdown Community Centre 01256 869626

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

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

POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Urgent 999
 To report a crime, suspicious incident, antisocial behaviour and when nothing to be gained from immediate response 101
 Report a crime online (101 equivalent)
www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/
 Report antisocial behaviour online
www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/
 Community Safety Patrol Team 01256 845700
 Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council 01256 844844
 Report dog fouling
www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling
 Report a noise nuisance
www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-noise-nuisance
 Information about bin collections
www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections
Hampshire County Council 0300 555 1375
 Help for households struggling with the cost of living
www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities
 Links to report road issues including potholes, flooding, problems with paving, encroaching trees/hedging
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems
 For problems with rights of way: www.hants.gov.uk/land-planningandenvironment/rights-ofway/reportaproblem

Published by Rookdown Parish Council

Disclaimer: The view expressed in this magazine are contributors' personal opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the publisher. Rookdown Parish Council does not necessarily endorse services mentioned. All information is deemed correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change