

**Parish Council Report**  
**for the Annual residents meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

Ladies and Gentlemen may I warmly welcome you to the 3rd Annual Residents meeting, with a special welcome to our guests Kevin Bourner – English Partnerships & Nigel Phillips Taylor Wimpey

This annual meeting is quite a milestone for me personally and the council. It was four years ago that a group of like minded people got together and formed the Parish Council, prior to this we were join to Sherbourne St John.

Rooksdown has come a long way since 2004, none of us knew exactly what we were doing, but we all believed in the same goals & had the same passion.

The council team has changed since the first meeting but the goals and passion of the team remain the same – to live in an area that is crime free, with a sense of community & facilities that we can call our own.

There's a long list of people who work tirelessly behind the scenes, and without this team effort nothing would be possible.

Firstly I would like to thank the Community Association for their work in making Rooksdown a more enjoyable area to live. I'm sure you will have made new friends by attending the various events.

The role of the Community Association is a very important part of Rooksdown today and in the future.

Without our Parish Clerk there would be no one to keep us on the straight and narrow, or help weave us through the maize of Borough red tape, Ron thank you for all that you do for both the Council and Community Association.

A website was something that I felt was essential for Rooksdown in the early days, and I urge you today if you have not already logged on to [www.Rooksdown.org.uk](http://www.Rooksdown.org.uk) then do, it is one of the best Parish Council sites I have seen. Tim Botten is a resident who without his help in this area, I'm confident to say that Rooksdown would not have the professional site that you see today. Tim Thanks for all you do it is very much appreciated.

The Parish Council has had great support from both its Borough Councillor - Karen Cherrett & County Councillor – Stephen Reid. Stephen has also worked with the Community Association; I know the Association appreciates his support.

We are lucky in Rooksdown to have the support of a local beat officer PC Ian Hoile, Ian has been a great help in ensuring that Rooksdown remains a low crime free place to live.

One of the areas that the council has worked hard on in the last year is street cleaning. Cllr Uzzell spent a lot of time with the Street care team. We campaigned for several years to have our own person on the ground – and I'm sure you have all noticed the work that Rodney Marsh has done in the last several months keeping Rooksdown spic and span.

When the government announced that the Rooksdown development was going to move at pace, John Holland was appointed Project Manager & it has been a great loss to Rooksdown that due to changes John is no longer with us.

The Parish is currently made up of 1,049 dwellings, and as you know this figure changes daily with new people moving in all the time.

As the lighter nights arrive, I noticed that the goal posts have been back in constant use – and for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year I would like to thank both the Borough for cutting the grass on a grace and favour basis and English Partnerships for the use of the land.

Parish Councils are made up of a team of people from a variety of backgrounds with one thing in common – they want their area to be the best place to live – and it has been a privilege to work along side my fellow councillors.

The Rooksdown Parish council is only 4 years old, some might describe us as the pre school toddler, like children we do not always know the answers, but as a team we somehow find the will and the way to cut through the red tape and push forward.

The next 12 months are going to be changing times, and I'm sure the Parish Council's 5<sup>th</sup> Year will be as challenging & interesting as the previous 4.

I would like to take this opportunity if I may to wish the whole team every successful year ahead.

I'll now pass you over to Ron for a summary of our finances.