

**MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 8pm ON MONDAY 11 JULY 2011 AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER (SEGGS LANE ENTRANCE)**

**Present:** E. Payne (Chair) L. Cumberbatch, C. Gough, S Adams, J Styles, Y. Morrison, C.Neal-Sturgess, B. Malin, Y. Hine, J Hodges, J Theobald

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR**

No public were present

**1. Apologies**

Apologies and reasons of absence were received from M. Gittus, P. Carr

**2. Declaration of Interest – non received**

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 June 2011 having been circulated were proposed to be accepted and approved.

**4. Updates**

**a)Emergency Planning**

The Committee agreed to relook at the issues relating to this item and the links with Community Safety.

**b)Health and Inequalities**

Cllr Cumberbatch has written to the Chief Executive of the NHS Warwickshire Board, copying in the two new directors responsible for nursing and the Director of Systems Management asking for an update on the hospital project but to date has not received a response.

**c)Business Support**

No report was submitted in Mr Wade's absence.

**d)Town Development**

The next meeting of Town Development working group is at 10.30 on 4<sup>th</sup> August. The new assistant manager from Waitrose has been approached to attend the meetings.

Prices are being sought for signs similar to those in Bidford. Retailers in Swan Street have requested signs and additional signs from the supermarket car park to the High Street shops.

**e)Senior Citizens Issues**

John Hodges, Senior Citizens' champion, informed the committee that the Department of Works and Pensions' statistics has shown that there will be a further 150,000 people living on pensions this year and volunteers are critical in providing care to vulnerable people. Recruitment of volunteers to be looked at in the Autumn.

The new Warwickshire County Councils' strategy which aims to connect older people's services has funding to support older people's groups. Talks are taking place to set up an Alzheimer's Support Group in Alcester, possibly from the Pavilion Community Building.

### **f)Community Safety**

The problems at Malt Mill Lane recently reported in the local press, referred to incidents that happened in May. Currently no problems have been reported but the article had unsettled some of the residents. Cllr Neil-Sturgess to speak to the editors of the newspaper in connection with the report as it was out of context. A new dispersal order for the area is in place. CCTV cameras have again been requested but previous research showed that the street lighting is not sufficient. Comments will be passed to Orbit Housing. Complaints received that there has been little dialogue with the police over the last 6 months but residents are not attending Neighbourhood Watch and Community Forum meetings to raise their concerns.

### **g)Youth Issues**

The Conway Fields Project has won The Action for Market Towns' Award for best project in the West area and Alcester Town Council will compete for the overall England and Wales winner in October.

### **h) Communication**

Cllr Malin reported seven items were received at the Surgery on July 2 including complaints that buses to Alcester after 6.15 have been withdrawn. This item is on the Agenda for the next Community Forum meeting. Items for the September newsletter were requested by 15 August. The next surgery is in September. Cllr Neal-Surgess to look into setting up a "Twitter" and "Facebook" page on the Alcester Town Council website.

## **5. Community Facilities**

### **a)Alcester Pavilion**

Work on the Depot building is on track with an expected completion date of mid August. Resources to secure the building are in place. An Awards for All grant has been awarded for the Celebration of Youth Event to mark the opening to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> August. One of the main aims is to recruit volunteers to run the youth centre. Funding is still being sought to complete the project

### **b)Globe House**

Cabinet have agreed in principle to lease of Globe House. Councillors were asked to volunteer for reception duties over the next few weeks to monitor types of enquiries. A Skype system is in place for District Council enquiries but there have been some concern by the public over information security.

### **c)Greig Centre**

No decision has been made on planning permission and release of covenant by Stratford District Council. Details will be made public by the Town Council when known.

### **d)Malt Mill Lane hanging baskets**

This item to be kept on the agenda until volunteers are found to water the hanging baskets. The baskets are not provided by the Town's supplier and are therefore not included in the watering. Orbit Housing, English Heritage and charity organisations to be contacted for possible solutions to next year's watering.

## **6. Correspondence**

**a) Flood Defence Assistance Grant** – an invitation to apply for small grants to help communities maintain their flood defences. Cllr Bunting to supply information on areas that would benefit in Alcester's hinterland.

**b) Senior Citizens Action Network** newsletter - Councillors were notified of the next meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. Propositions to Full Council**

None

## **8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011 7pm at Globe House**