

Alcester Town Council



newsletter **Issue 26 Autumn 2011**

In this edition: 'The Depot' news

Mayor's Report



The Mayor, Lennox Cumberbatch

The past three months have been rather hectic for the Town Council and its councillors. Following the elections in May there have been a few changes in the way we set about our differing and different tasks as councillors. The Town Council now has committees titled Community, Planning, Recreation & Open Spaces as well as Full Council which meets once monthly. Special interest groups are also in action, and we hope that our availability will further increase contact with residents of Alcester. Each councillor has taken on a specific task thereby sharing the workload of council business and reinforcing the original objective of operating as a team.

I would still like to see more members of the public attending our council meetings. You do have the opportunity to ask questions or comment at the start of each meeting.

Alcester Town Council is facing a number of challenges but I am confident that the council can positively respond to

them. In particular we now know that the Greig Hall will be closed in September 2011. This is disappointing news for many, and a challenge to the trustees, service users and residents about the best way forward. There are opposing views about the future plans for the site, and as the Clerk states in his report, the decision about planning will at least clear the way about the future direction. Leaving buildings empty for any length of time is not good for our environment. The people of Alcester have also waited for many years for a long term decision regarding the hospital site, and a significant number of residents have worked tirelessly for the completion of the new health centre. Delays, apparently by the Strategic Health Authority as well as other agencies involved, have at best been very frustrating for those who want to see some positive action on the site, particularly our local doctors. The recent news is that a decision about the commencement of work on the site will be made by the start of September 2011... holding ones breath may not necessarily be the right thing at the moment, but it is hoped that the new primary care centre will bring a host of health care benefits for the local community.

On the 29th August we celebrated the opening of The Depot. We need additional resources to make The Depot and The Pavilion work for all in the community and sponsors and supporters are very welcome.

Clerk's Corner

We are nearly into autumn and what a summer it has been for the Town Council. The 'New Home for Alcester Town Football Club' is now firmly established at the old Golf Range on the Stratford Road in Oversley Green. The completion of the first phase of the pavilion extension is completed and at last Alcester has a building dedicated as a Youth Club, the Depot. The Pumping Stations for removing flood water from the town are now operational, but as usual there is much more.

The last phase of the flood relief system, being done by Morgan Sindall for Severn Trent Water, is the big one and will involve a lot of disruption along the Stratford Road from the High Street junction to the Oversley Green junction and we hope people are understanding and supportive of completing this as the benefits to the town in a flood situation are tremendous.

The Town Council has taken over the front desk at Globe House, and discussions are ongoing to ensure the facility is viable and sustainable for future generations and we hope the Town Council's confident attitude will ensure the District and County Councils continue their support for especially the Museum, Library and Police in the town as a foundation that can support the expansion of the town that will be inevitable in years to come.

The Greig Centre remains a concern and the announcement of the closure of the Greig Hall by the directors only days before the announcement of the date of the District Council Planning Committee meeting to discuss their Planning Application shows what a critical position they are in. A decision on the planning will no doubt settle the immediate future prospects one way or another.

In good Alcester Tradition let's forget our worries and hope that the knees-up at the Celebration of Youth on the 29th August cleared at least some of the cobwebs.

Chris Wright

Meet Your New Councillor Yvette Morrison



Yvette was born in Birmingham and has lived in Alcester for nearly 16 years. She is married to Paul and has one daughter. Yvette completed an apprenticeship as an auto-electrician and then moved into electronics and computer repairs. She has travelled extensively across Europe and the US supporting global accounts and services within the IT industry. Yvette is now self-employed in an office interior business. Her hobbies include walking, reading and spending time with the family. What Yvette likes most about Alcester is the community spirit. She joined the town council to contribute back into the town and to help the town continue to develop and be a lovely place to live.

Olympic Celebrations



Momentum is building in Alcester towards celebrations for next year's Olympic Games

after Waitrose gave some funding to the committee. The Alcester Olympic Committee was formed last year and is organising a week of events next summer to co-incide with the Games. From 6th to 14th July sports clubs and schools in and around Alcester will be joining in with activities to get people involved. The committee is still trying to track down as many local sporting clubs as possible to make the event a success. Please contact committee secretary Dianne Gittus on 01789 488027 or di@gittus.com for more information.

Severn Trent Water Sewerage Works in Alcester

Historic Progress of Scheme

The 'Big Tank' project was conceived as part of the flood relief project dealing with raw sewage leaking into the homes and public areas of the Alcester community. The engineering component was identified about 18 months ago though the overall scheme had been identified more than 15 years ago. Since the beginning we have worked very closely with the community and stakeholders:

Holding regular monthly stakeholders meetings;

Reporting to Alcester Town Council at every public meeting;

Regularly reported in the local papers and radio;

Members of Oversley Green Residents Association and Oversley Mill Park Homes Owners Association kept informed;

Planning application was advertised in the newspapers; planning notices around the sites;

Application available for full examination on the planning website;

Considered by public Alcester Town Council Planning Committee;

Public exhibition;

Presentation Town Development Group;

Presentation Chamber of Trade;

Considered by Warwickshire County Council public Audit and Regulatory Committee;

Residents Association Meeting;

Public meeting.

Permission was granted for the scheme with conditions, mostly relating to landscaping and highway diversion. There are no secrets, far from it; the works will protect the lives of some of the most vulnerable residents in Alcester.

We have always said that the residents most affected by the works will be Oversley Green. If there were any alternative to the full road closure we would have taken it.

The Old Town Sewer is 20 feet below the road surface of Stratford Road, and its renewal will not involve a simple trench but a major excavation of the highway.

There are 4 phases and the first three will be undertaken without the road being reopened. There will be a six-week period of reopening between phases 3 and 4 for the Christmas period.

No access will be available for vehicles **though pedestrian access will be**

maintained. The emergency services will/have been consulted. Compensation claims will be considered for business premises. We remedy the town's sewage issues now for the future of the users and residents. Any decision to delay the works would be a mistake in the current financial climate.

Diversion Route

On Thursday 18 August an 'all agency' meeting considered the best course of action for dealing with the two diversion routes for the Stratford Road end of the Big Tank works.

The meeting was well attended and there was an enthusiasm to get this diversion route legal, safe and acceptable to users. The following actions were agreed on site, A46/Trench Lane junction.

Attendees: Mike Gittus; Ian Woodward (Severn Trent Water); Graham Halling (Amey); Ian Davies (Amey); Gez Romano (Warwickshire CC); Barbara Hancox (Warwickshire CC); Karen Farwardin (Morgan Sindall) & Dave Sidaway (Morgan Sindall).

Local diversion route

Haselor and Great Alne, needs to incorporate 7.5t weight restriction.

Confirmation of gritting status, to be addressed.

Confirmation 7.5t weight limit, on the main diversion route is suspended/does not apply. May have to cover signs on A46 to avoid confusion.

A46 Diversion route

Coning off of the entire hatched (red) area in middle of carriageway allowing for provision of a refuge area when turning right from Trench Lane.

Road width reduction to single lane on the western approach from a distance 300-400m from junction.

Advisory speed reduction signs to 30mph through the works. NB caution re number and placement of signs due to visibility at junction.

Regular ground maintenance of westerly verge to aid sight. We will learn some lessons from this diversion route that will enable us to provide a safer junction for the future. Work on site should have started on 30 August and the road will be closed from 19 September until 30 November. The second road closure will be from 3 January 2012 until approximately 10 February. If you have any queries please contact Dave Sidaway at Morgan Sindall on 07890 513718.

Alcester's new development at Conway Fields



Alcester now has its own community building not dependent on Trusts, Schools and the vagaries of the market and other authorities. The Conway Fields is a fantastic asset with room for more community activities, functions and equipment.

Youth Building "The Depot"

The building was handed over by the builders in August and we have done as much as the grants we were given permitted.

Work had to start by March 2011 and finish by August 2011 to claim the grants.

What you see there is paid for, what is left has to be done so funds have to be found! **The Depot** will be run by "**The Alcester Youth Project**" which has done sterling work over the years with its helpers under the direction of Bill Bayley and his devoted followers.



Bill Bayley

A youth worker has been appointed by St. Nicholas Church and the Diocese. They have provided accommodation and the funds. We thank them for all they have done and all the positive things they are doing.

Warwickshire County Council Youth service, run locally by Rob McCluskey, have worked extremely hard and overcome great difficulties to facilitate the project and its future capabilities.

Stratford District Council has given much help and support and offered us surplus furniture.

A Pool table is promised from the Fire Station from their old club; this with the help of Alcester Lions Club.

Many things are required to get the club and unit operational. We are looking for items such as Table Tennis Tables, stacking chairs and suitable items for a youth club. Any youth activity equipment that can be used either inside or in the field outside would be welcome but please check with Bill Bayley.

Orbit Housing donated a day of volunteers to decorate the interior of the Depot and provide a kitchen, for which we are very grateful.



Orbit volunteers hard at work

The open day, "Celebration of Youth", held on 29 August, will be reported on in the next newsletter.

Over 28 people have volunteered to support and run the Depot, but others are needed, Please contact Bill Bayley for details.

Modules to complete the Depot

Heating system

Ladies and gentlemen's toilet block with storage above. (Meanwhile existing toilets are to be used in the old block).

Exterior landscaping and disabled access

Computer club and games function

Community Room at the Depot/Pavilion Much has to be done here to complete the structure of this section but it is far from complete to use. A programme to complete the work in small modules is listed below. All will be implemented as funds, offers of help, work parties, company and society support become available.

Mezzanine floor, with safety partitions and stair access for storage and office;

Plaster (4 walls);

Ceiling and lighting;

Heating;

Wooden finished floor;

Exterior landscaping with disabled ramps with terrace and seating area;

Improved parking and parking surfaces.

The interior of the old pavilion (now enclosed by the new structure) already has refurbished toilets, kitchen and reception area which can still be used to accommodate small functions, meetings and social activities.

When the new Community Room is completed the following are possible uses:

Day centre - Alcester lost its day centre when the hospital closed!

Large meetings - It can seat 150 people

Café open all hours for the community and run by the community.

Crèche

Luncheon Clubs - Two already use the facility. Why not join or come along to see how you can help.

Community Cinema

Venue for clubs, eg. fishing, nature, sport coaching, fitness, art.

Orbit Housing meeting place

Practice and rehearsal room

Mothers and toddlers meeting and activity club.

We would like to thank the Ladies' Knitting Club, which included the late Frankie Malin, for their kind donation of £156.00. This will be put to good use to

further enable the community side of the Pavilion.

A group has been formed by Councillor Hine, Deputy Mayor, to run the Community Room and the old pavilion area which houses the toilets and kitchen. Contact her if you would like to know more, want to help or run a group in the Community Room area. Visit the building and see what you can do. It is in everyone's interest to have this facility for our youth and community.

'CLEAN IT UP' plea

We all have a collective responsibility to keep our streets, plays areas and riverside walks clear of litter, so the Town Council has fitted several signs around the town to remind and inform residents of the penalties that can be levied on offenders.

We are particularly concerned about irresponsible dog owners who allow their animals to foul footpaths and playing fields. Not only is this particularly unpleasant for other users, it can cause medical problems particularly for small children.

So please 'CLEAN IT UP' - you can use any of the waste bins in the town, it does NOT need to be a dog litter bin. Further litter bins are to be provided by the council to assist in keeping Alcester clean and tidy.

Lets all work together to improve the environment that we wish to live, work and play in.



Rotary Alcester Alauna Charity Big Breakfast

Supporting 'The Depot' Project

Saturday 17 September 2011

8.00am to 11.00am at

Alcester Town Hall

Tickets available from Lakes Cakes,
3 High Street - 01789 772112

amanda@lakescakes.co.uk

The Bell at Salford Priors - 01789
772112 info@thebellatsalfordpriors.com

Regular breakfast (1 sausage, 1 slice
bacon and all the trimmings) **£5.00**

Supersize breakfast (2 sausages, 2
slices bacon and all the trimmings)
£7.00



Neighbourhood Watch Alcester

Door to door clothing collections

Many charities now ask householders for old clothes and other items, which can be sold for charitable purposes. However, not everyone who comes to your home, or drops in a plastic bag is operating on behalf of a charity. Some collectors will be businesses, asking for unwanted items which can be sold for profit. If householders want to ensure that their donations are going to a genuine charitable cause, they should always look for the charity number which should be printed on the flyer or collection bag. Alternatively they can give direct to charity shops or use clothing banks instead. To check if a charity name or number is genuine, visit the Charity Commission website: www.charity-commission.gov.uk

10/08/2011 Solar Energy Warning

With rising energy costs, roof top solar energy installations are becoming increasingly popular projects with many new companies entering the market offering free solar panels and free or reduced cost electricity. However, Trading Standards Officers have received complaints from consumers who have paid large deposits of £250 for the installation of solar panels to their properties following door to door visits. In these cases, the panels were not fitted and the trader disappeared. Warwickshire Trading Standards advises residents not to sign up with any solar panel trader who makes a cold call by telephone or to your door, and seek quotes from at least 3 traders.

Lead and Scrap Metal Thieves

Metal thieves are becoming more and more brazen. Police are asking people to be extra vigilant and keep things secure as possible. Any sightings of these thieves should be reported to the Police as soon as possible with descriptions of those concerned and vehicle registration numbers.

NHW Poster Competition

NHW is running a Poster Competition for primary school children in the Autumn in an effort to promote and advertise NHW in Alcester. Further information will be given through school.

The next meeting of NHW Alcester will be held on Wednesday 7 September 2011 at 7.30pm at St Benedict's School in the Community Room. The meeting will include a Police/Incident Report, and the latest developments in Neighbourhood Watch. Everyone is welcome. Meetings last approximately one hour.

If you would like to find out more about

NHW Alcester, please email:

nhwalcester@gmail.com or telephone Dorrie Manders on 01789 762999

Communicating with the Police

Emergencies dial 999

Report a crime or serious incident 01926 415000

Stratford Police Station 01789 414111

Call **Crimestoppers** anonymously with information about crime on 0800 555 111.

Crimestoppers is a charity who will pass on information to police without revealing any details of the caller.

Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team 01789 444816

Please feel free to contact the team direct:
Email:

alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

To leave a Voice Mail (VM) message tel
01789 444816

PS 542 Bob Shaw (Team Sergeant) **01789 444815**

PC 781 Pete Essex (Beat Manager) **VM: 10781 Mobile: 07979704373**

PCSO 6236 Andy Hyman VM: 16236 Mobile: 07979704373

PCSO 6093 Becky Morris VM: 16093 Mobile: 07979704373

PCSO 6179 Pete Groom VM: 16179 Mobile: 07823 533488

Contact **Warwickshire Trading Standards** for advice on scams and rogue traders on 0845 4040 506. For access to latest information on scams go to

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards

Alcester is a relatively crime free area. We work together to keep it that way.

Countdown to Christmas..... Chairman's Charity Concert

The Chairman of Stratford on Avon District Council, Councillor Eric Payne, will be holding a fundraising concert in aid of the Chairman's charities at St Nicholas Church, Alcester, on Saturday 3rd December at 7.00pm. The concert will be given by the highly-acclaimed Alcester Male Voice Choir, conducted by Judith Land, accompanied by Elliott Rooney, with guest soloist Claire Johnson (soprano). The concern promised to be a light-hearted and entertaining evening of favourites old and new with all proceeds going to Myton Hospice, the Alzheimer's Society and Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. Tickets priced at £10 each, to include a glass of wine and a mince pie, are available from 01789 762577.

Have you heard about Community Forums?

Community Forums are public meetings led by the County Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council to engage the public in council business. Warwickshire Police promote 'Safer Neighbourhoods' through the Community Forums. Additionally the Safer Neighbourhood Teams hold a surgery prior to the forum during which time tea/coffee is available. Your Community Forum's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 13 September at Bidford Parish Council meeting room. If you have a specific concern or problem, then drop in to the local surgery from 6.30pm to 7.00pm where you will be able to speak to your Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team, Councillors and Officers from Warwickshire County Council and Stratford on Avon District Council. If you would like to suggest an issue for a future Community Forum meeting, or find out more, please contact Amanda Wilson-Patterson on 01789 260135 or email amandawilsonpatterson@warwickshire.gov.uk



Royal British Legion Alcester Branch

Friday 11th November Armistice Day Parade and Outdoor Service, St Nicholas' Church

The Parade will meet at 10.15am outside Guy's Menswear ready to march to St Nicholas' Church for 11.00am and two minutes silence and service.

Saturday 12th November Festival of Remembrance Concert – Greig Sports Hall The very popular concert will start at 7.30pm. Tickets available nearer the event.

Sunday 13th November Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service – St Nicholas' Church

Parade to meet in Bleachfield Street at 10.15am to march to St Nicholas' Church for 11.00am church service and wreath-laying. After the church service the parade will march to the Town Hall for dispersal. All Legion members, friends, veterans, serving members of the Armed Forces including their families and the town's organisations are invited to take part. Road closures will be in force on the 11th and 13th November and traffic through the town will be affected. Any enquiries please contact 07902 926850.

Recreation and Open Spaces Committee

The previous Amenities Committee has joined Recreation, effectively forming one committee responsible for all parks, play areas and land maintenance. The new structure is divided into sections with a lead councillor. Cemetery - Councillor Alison Brown; play areas - Councillors Jim Kenyon and John Bunting; ground maintenance - Councillors John Bunting and Jim Kenyon; allotments - Councillor Yvonne Hine; Environment - Councillor Nina Knapman; Vision Group development projects co-ordinator.

All play areas have been inspected and a programme of maintenance and improvements is being prepared. A public meeting will be held to discuss our ideas, ask for your ideas and request help to raise funds. Suggested projects are a skate park; more play equipment on our 4 play areas; prescription walks with different length routes with exercise areas, seats, disabled picnic tables and firm paths; more recreation areas; outside performing arts platform; BMX track; disabled fishing platform; dog-free picnic and junior sports area; improved parking.

Alcester Town Football Club has taken a long lease with the Town Council and moved to land at Oversley Green which will enable them to develop the site into a major area for football. If you haven't visited them do go and watch one of their matches; there are over 22 teams of all ages including ladies' teams. They would appreciate your support.

Alcester's Rugby, Tennis and Cricket clubs all run junior and senior teams, have coaching sessions for all ages and run functions. They would make you very welcome so why not go and visit them and see how you can help or even take part.

The Town Council looks after hundreds of trees and acres of land for your enjoyment. If you see damage being done, dog owners not cleaning up after their animals, vandalism to equipment, general abuse, or motor bikes on the recreation areas, please ask individuals to respect the area as it is for everyone's benefit. If necessary report to the Town Council or Police.

Anything dangerous or hazardous must be reported to the Town Council immediately on 01789 766084.

Councillors' contact details

Alcester Ward

Mrs Alison Brown	07763 492821
John Bunting	766753
Mark Cargill	07988 485050
Mike Gittus	488027
Chris Gough	762307
Jim Kenyon	763975
Mrs Yvette Morrison	400460
Clive Neal-Sturgess	764416
Eric Payne	762577

Oversley Ward

Mrs Susan Adams	400371
Peter Carr	766473
Lennox Cumberbatch (Mayor)	766940
Mrs Yvonne Hine (Deputy Mayor)	07771 930002
Mrs Julie Styles	07813 120796
Bill Malin	763113

Oversley Green Ward

Mrs Nina Knapman	764319
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Clerk

Chris Wright	766084
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Email: clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Assistant Clerk

Paula Haggerty	766084
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Email: office@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Mayor

Cllr Lennox Cumberbatch	766940
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Email: mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Website www.alcester-tc.gov.uk

Town Council meetings

Full Council Meetings

Tuesday 6 September, Monday 3 October,
Tuesday 1 November, Monday 5
December, all at 7.00pm

All meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Globe House, Priory Road, Alcester (Seggs Lane entrance). Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the council meetings. Please see the agendas on the notice boards on Market Place and High Street from the Thursday before each meeting.

Town Council Surgery

Town Council Surgery dates are on the following Saturdays: 1 October, 5 November, 3 December from 10.00am to 12 noon at Globe House. (Please note change of venue). Councillors will be in attendance to answer your questions and a representative from the Police will attend. Please come along and enjoy FREE coffee/tea and biscuits

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Please let us have your comments and views

Name

Address

Comments