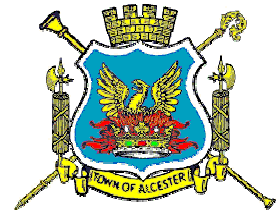


Alcester Town Council



newsletter Issue 12 Spring 2008

In this edition: Alcester Hospital news..... Adoption of the Town Plan

CRITICAL TIME FOR ALCESTER HEALTHCARE IT'S IN YOUR HANDS

There are two important points to make:

We must put behind us the disappointments of the last 20 years with the on/off situation with the hospital rebuild. We must look to the future. This is your last chance to have your say in the healthcare facilities you want to see at Alcester Hospital. The PCT have said that a rebuild is possible by the end of 2009. What is rebuilt is down to you!



You will have the opportunity to vote on **ONE of TWO** options and on the health services you would like to see in Alcester. Please use your vote for your own sake and your families' future.

Option 1 – Do nothing (this is not a feasible option)

Option 2 – Develop new premises on the Alcester Hospital site providing a range of health services

You will see a list of Health Service preferences on the feedback form. You need to rate these in order of preference. For example, if you consider inpatient beds to be the most important, this should be preference 1. Choose carefully because if you don't make inpatient beds preference number 1, it is unlikely that we will get them.

DON'T LEAVE THIS TO SOMEONE ELSE

The Town Council is fully committed to getting the best possible healthcare facilities it can for the Alcester and Arden Area. To this end, it has set up a Task Force to concentrate purely on it. The Task Force has been working hard over the past few months gathering information, and has produced its own healthcare document which has been sent to NHS Warwickshire PCT with whom we are working on community engagement. Our vision includes everything from new GP surgeries, diagnostic units, physiotherapy, new inpatient facilities and drug/alcohol clinics to chiropody, dieticians, access to NHS Dentist, specialist clinics and wellmen/women clinics.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

Soon you will receive a public consultation document and a feedback form. Please support your Town Council in its efforts to get the best it can for Alcester and Arden Area, and fill it in. Feedback forms can be sent by post or put in special boxes at the following locations:

Hopkins Precinct Chemist, Ross's Garage, Select & Save, Somerfield, Library, Globe House

Additional forms can be obtained from the Town Council office at Globe House or you can go online to www.warwickshirepct.nhs.uk/alcester

"PLEASE DO IT – YOUR RESPONSE IS VITAL" Cllr E Payne - Community Committee Chairman

Ageing Well Project

The Ageing Well Project is promoting healthier lifestyles for men and women aged 50 or over.

Exercise for ladies and men

Tuesday mornings

10am - 11am

Alcester Town Hall

Cost: £2.50

This keep fit class is all about having fun, while keeping you fit and active. A mixture of sitting and standing exercises all to help improve your balance; reduce stress; improve circulation and enjoy a laugh.

Whatever your ability, please come along and find out that keeping fit can be fun.

Alcester Malt Mill Lane Walks meet every other Wednesday at the Malt Mill Centre at 11.00am for a short walk around Alcester for an hour. Dates are 5 and 19 March, and 2, 16 and 30 April.

For further details contact Kim Skipsey 01789 205059.

Dog fouling – a perennial problem

There are between 6.5 and 7.4 million dogs in the UK and 1000 tons of dog foul is being left on our streets and parks every day. Dog owners are reminded that allowing their dogs to foul pavements, parks and public places is illegal and can result in a fine of up to £1000. Every dog owner is obliged to pick up all their dog(s) droppings and the plastic bags may be deposited in any dog bin or be taken home. Dog fouling is a public health problem especially to children; it is also very anti-social if collected on shoes of passers-by. Alcester people are reminded that they can inform offenders that if they fail to pick up after their dog they can be reported to Stratford District Council where a prosecution can be made.

You can contact your Dog Warden at Stratford-on-Avon District Council on 01789 260835 if you have any queries.

Thoughts from the Mayor

2007 was a year that all of us would wish to forget but we should continue to be aware of the difficulties still being experienced by everyone affected by the events in July and November. The consequences of both events

will be felt for a long time to come but you may be assured that Alcester Town Council is working with all of the agencies concerned to reduce the effects of any future similar occasions.

As you will have seen elsewhere in this newsletter the healthcare provisions, in particular the concerns about the future of Alcester Hospital, is a matter which concerns us all very much. The Health Authority has given a public commitment to consult very widely with all of the communities involved about their proposals, and I sincerely urge you to take part in that consultation and attend the public meetings when they take place. It is up to all of us to make our views known.

It is always a welcome sight at this time of year to see the days lengthen and our gardens come to life again. I am certain that, with your help, we can all continue to make Alcester a place where we all wish to live. I trust that 2008 will be a good year for everyone.

David Hancox

Mayor

Clerk's Corner

Bad news and good news.....

The first of the old air-raid shelters, behind the cottages in Bleachfield Street, has nearly been demolished; however the future of the remaining ones now looks grim. The buddleia and ivy plants that have been allowed to grow profusely, both on the top and sides, have been so invasive into the mortar that the strength in the structures of the buildings has been severely threatened. As a result, the council has had no alternative but to consider demolishing all four. These shelters have raised a number of issues in the past, as their shape is almost unique with an arched roof. The latest theory is that they were built originally by out-of-work canal tunnel builders. If anyone has more information on their origin (Victorian pigsties?) we would welcome it before they are lost to history completely.

Now the good news - as one set of structures disappears, another appears. Work will begin very shortly on the youth shelter and multi-sport facility for teenagers next to Hopkins Precinct - thankfully not before time.

Chris Wright

Clerk

Bin It!

The Town Council is planning, at considerable cost, to replace and update litter and dog litter bins in the town to keep our town tidy and clean. Any person, trust, business, club or society can help by sponsoring the purchase of bins, to the benefit of everyone. Please contact the Clerk on 766084 for more details.

Flood Surgery



A flood surgery has been arranged for Saturday 15 March at Church House, Butter

Street, from 10.00am. Councillors will be present for you to speak to and literature will be available. So come, have a chat and enjoy free coffee/tea and biscuits.

Introducing a New Councillor

We'd like to introduce you to our newest Alcester Town Councillor – Yvonne Hine. Yvonne has lived in Alcester most of her life and is passionate about the town. Over the years she has been very involved in many local activities and looks forward to doing her best for Alcester people.

The Rotary Club of Alcester Need a Holiday?

We provide a week's holiday in a family hotel in bracing Blackpool, which includes dinner, bed & breakfast, entertainment, and transport to and from your home. All for £134 per person per week sharing a room, or £159 per week for a single room

5 to 12 June 2008

To reserve your place, phone Jim Adams on 400371 or John Kinnersley on 762554

An Ode to Litter

Thinking of litter, many feel bitter
Why should I regard, what others discard
No! Feel up – not down, with joy – no frown
Inspired to work for a litter-free town - Anon

Adoption of Town Plan

Alcester Town Council adopted its Town Plan at a meeting held on Tuesday 5 February 2008. Copies of the Town Plan and the Action Plan for 2008 to 2012 can be collected on request from the office at Globe House.

Town Criers' Competition

For many years Alcester has run the Heart of England Town Criers' Competition at Eastertime and around 20 Town Criers have competed in a colourful and happy event. For Easter 2008 however, Alcester has been asked to host the Championship of the Ancient and Honorable Guild of Town Criers.

We have 41 competitors from all over this country, one from Holland, one from Belgium and one from Australia! The Championship is to be held on Saturday 22 March outside at the Greig Centre. The morning heat starts at 10.45am and the afternoon heat at 2.30pm. Judges have been appointed and the criers will be judged on volume and clarity, diction and inflection, and cry content. There will also be awards for the best dressed crier, best dressed escort and best dressed couple.

It will be a very colourful day and we hope the weather will be kind to us. There will be covered seating for spectators, so we hope you will pop in to listen and watch this spectacle. Tea and coffee will be served in the lounge throughout the day.

Council Surgery Dates 2008

5 January at Alcester Town Hall
2 February at Jubilee Court
1 March at Globe House
5 April at Jubilee Court
3 May at Globe House
7 June at Jubilee Court
5 July at Globe House
2 August at Jubilee Court
6 September at Globe House
4 October at Jubilee Court
1 November at Globe House
6 December at Jubilee Court

All on Saturday mornings from 10am until 12 noon. Come and speak to your councillors on any issues and concerns about the town.

Councillors Contact details

Alcester Ward

John Bunting	766753
Peter Crabtree	762660
Mike Gittus	488027
Chris Gough	762307
David Hancox	763393
Mrs Yvonne Hine	764739
Ron Leek	762574
Alan Morgan	762486
Eric Payne	762577

Oversley Ward

Mrs Susan Adams	400371
Peter Carr	766473
Nick Dearling	765070
Malcolm Graham	763925
Shahid Juned	762751
Bill Malin	763113

Oversley Green Ward

Mrs Nina Knapman	764319
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Clerk

Chris Wright	766084
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Assistant Clerk

Paula Haggerty	766084
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Full Council Meeting 4 March at 7.00pm

Planning Meeting 17 March at 7.00pm

Planning & Forum 14 April at 7.00pm

all at The Council Chamber, Globe House,
Priory Road, Alcester (Seggs Lane entrance).



RU up for it?

Come and find out more at The Great No Smoking Day Challenge.

Your chance to win shopping vouchers to the value of £40.00.

Strictly Come Walking – to help you reach your target – a short walk leaving The Pavilion at 11.00am – all welcome.

Wednesday 12 March

10.00am until 7.00pm

**Alcester Opportunities,
The Pavilion, Conway Fields**

- *Free No Smoking Day Quiz – open to all*
- *Free Refreshments*
- *Stop smoking help and advice*
- *Health checks and advice*
- *Activities for children*
- *Healthy eating information*
- *Information on fire safety in the home*
- *Come and meet PHILLIS*

act.com – supporting Alcester's Conway and Ten Acres communities

Wednesday Lunch Club at The Pavilion

The Club provides lunch, hot drinks and company for anyone over the age of 55 who has a need for social interaction. The Lunch Club is organised by Heather and Bill Ballinger. There is a nominal charge and transport can be arranged. Please contact Heather on 400260 for more details.

Delivered by the Alcester Scouts & Guides to Alcester and Oversley Green. Editorial Team: Nina Knapman, Shahid Juned, Ron Leek
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Please let us have your comments and views

Name

Address

Comments

Return to Clerk, Globe House, Priory Road, Alcester or email clerk@alcestertown.intercontec.co.uk