

# Alcester Town Council



## Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to our online newsletter- Issue 59 September 2020

### MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I hope that you, your family and friends have been keeping well during these difficult times. We all need to play our part in following government advice helping to make sure we protect ourselves, each other and our wonderful NHS staff from this terrible virus and hopefully avoid a large increase in cases in the coming winter months.

Once again, I would like to say a very big thank you to my fellow Councillors and volunteers for all the time and hard work, they have put in running the Alcester Community Resilience Support Network. The requests for help are reducing but we are living in very uncertain times and we do not know what the future holds with regard to this virus, so if you find yourself needing help please join the Facebook page: Alcester Community Resilience or call the helpline: 07707598379. Alternatively, send an email to [alcester.response@outlook.com](mailto:alcester.response@outlook.com)

In June, the Council set up the Alcester Recovery plan task and finish group. A questionnaire was issued which gave residents and business owners the opportunity to express their ideas of how to reopen Alcester safely. The Councillors in the group then worked with the local businesses to put measures in place that gave residents and visitors to our town the confidence that Alcester is open and, as always, is a safe place to visit and shop. A pedestrian layout and queuing system for shops was drawn up which allowed for social distancing and the protection of shoppers and visitors. Thank you to the Councillors who worked on this and to you the residents of our wonderful town for helping to make Alcester safe.

I am sure many of you, like me, visited the Alcester Positivity Line, a line of painted rocks laid along the old railway line. I was amazed by how many painted rocks appeared; I believe over 5000. Katie Gillett and Serena Stratford were the organisers, a massive thank you both for coming up with this wonderful idea and bringing joy and a smile to the many residents who went for a walk to look at the rocks. The Council is working with Katie and Serena to make a permanent display of the rocks so that they can be enjoyed long into the future and remind us of the community spirit that exists in Alcester, helping to support us all in difficult times.



Winning scarecrow- Scaring crows for dummies

On 12 July I helped to judge the Oversley Green Residents Association Scarecrow Competition with Paul Stephens, the current High Bailiff of Alcester's Court Leet. The imagination and creativeness of the residents that entered scarecrows into the competition was brilliant. We had a very enjoyable time walking round and looking at all the scarecrows. We had a very difficult task in picking a winner, but eventually first prize went to "Scaring crows for dummies". This is an annual competition so if you didn't go to see the scarecrows this year please go next year as it is well worth a visit. Well done to everyone who entered.

On 7 August I attended the opening of the Greig Leisure centre. Our local MP, Nadhim Zahawi, cut the ribbon to officially re-open the centre. Stratford District Council have funded a new outdoor floodlit 3G football pitch, renovations to the gym, dance studio sports hall and changing rooms to improve the leisure centre facilities.

Please continue to follow government advice and guidelines so that we can overcome this crisis and I hope you, your family and friends all stay safe and well.

*Cllr Gill Forman, Mayor of Alcester*

## Clerks Corner

Following the latest government guidance, we were delighted to be able to reopen our offices at Globe House on 3 August. After 4 months of working from home it was nice to return to some sense of normality. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ATC staff for their valiant efforts to keep services going during lockdown.

Our offices are now open from 9 am to 1 pm Monday to Friday. Please however note that members of the public should make an appointment if they need to see a member of staff.

The Town Council meeting schedule returns to normal from September but with all meetings continuing to be held via Zoom for the time being.

We hope to open the Eric Payne Community Centre from 1 September and look forward to welcoming back user groups as soon as we are able to do so. Bookings for private parties will be accepted from January 2021.

We have used our enforced lockdown to good use in that work on the new Depot kitchen and the new Wellbeing Room at the EPCC have been completed. We plan to hold an official opening ceremony as soon as we are allowed!

Stay safe.

*Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk*

## Alcester Town Council Contacts

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Community Care: [office@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Health and Well-Being:

[info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.alcester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk)

## BUY AND EAT LOCAL



A big thank to all residents and visitors for supporting Alcester's 'Buy and Eat Local' campaign which commenced in the middle of July and runs until October.

Our local businesses have done a great job in adapting to social distancing rules and making things safer for you, and are delighted to see so many familiar faces returning to our shops, café's, pubs, restaurants and every other business in our beautiful town.

Did you know that there are over 120 business operating from the High Street and surrounding streets? We have a bespoke tailor – ice cream specialist – florist – café's and gastro pubs with outside seating, table service and all social distancing measures in place. An artisan baker, exclusive delicatessen, antique shops, furniture restorers, hairdressers, barbers including a Turkish barber, children's clothes and eco friendly children's toys, bridal studio, ladies fashions, suppliers of everything a pet - large or small - could wish for, gentlemen's tailors and outfitters, opticians, cabinet maker, beauticians and nail salons to name but a few!

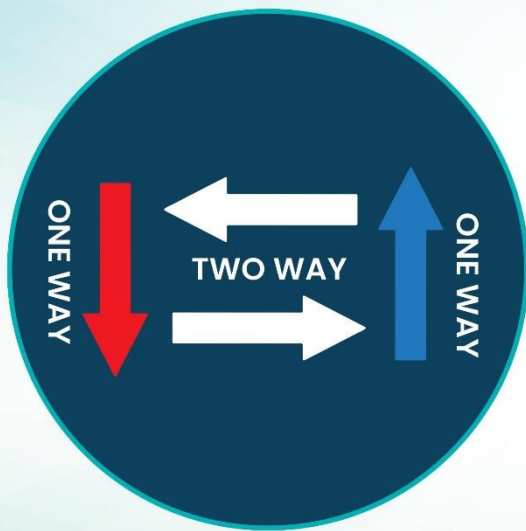
Shopping and eating locally demonstrates the often talked about resilience and community spirit that underpins this great town.

This short '[Buy and Eat Local](#)' video is well worth a look!



# **Help Alcester to stay safe**

**If you are able to, please:**



**Follow  
the  
pavement  
arrows**



**Use the  
favoured  
road crossing  
points**

***Thank you***



## COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

First, a big well done to everybody during the pandemic. There have been very few cases of Covid 19 in Alcester. The volunteers for the Response Coordinators group have truly been inspirational. Our businesses have stepped up to the mark helping shielding and vulnerable people and they have supported us. Now it is time to return that favour as many of you are already doing.

When it comes to Covid 19, we are in uncharted waters. I keep saying to people that 'this is the first time I have done this'. We are all learning. Mostly though, common sense presents itself as the best solution. In general Warwickshire has handled the pandemic very well and because of that we were selected as a beacon site for a Testing and Tracing pilot. Stratford District has not been immune to the pandemic with a number of people sadly passing away. Thankfully this is on the decrease and in the past couple of weeks there have been no reported deaths and only a few confirmed cases. With the relaxation of restrictions though, there is the danger of a second spike. Please stick to the basic principles of washing hands, social distancing and wearing masks when in shops and crowds.

Council business as usual is slowly returning although face to face meetings are restricted and the advice is, if possible, work from home. In spite of the additional work by council officers we have maintained our busy work programme. Again, a well done to all the officers for the exceptional work done of late.

This period has made us all appreciate the need for good digital communications. Zoom calls are becoming the norm and video conferencing has enabled many of us to carry on with our work. One initiative I am working on is the rollout of super-fast broadband across the whole District, but especially to our more remote regions (see another article here). This will be fibre not copper, with the promise of very high speeds. This is important for our residents but vital for those businesses we already have, wish to keep and those we wish to attract. After all, who would not want to come and work in one of the best parts of the country?

When out on my daily walks during the pandemic, it was very noticeable that the amount of traffic had decreased significantly. This had a huge positive impact on noise, wildlife and pollution. Traffic volumes are starting to get back to 'normal' with the downside that we are starting to hear very noisy motorcycles racing up the A46. I am engaging with the police to see what can be done there.

With increased movement, we are seeing an increase in littering and dog mess being left around. Please take your rubbish home. Sadly a minority of dog owners do not pick up after their dogs and this reflects badly on the majority of responsible caring dog owners.

Finally, Nadhim Zahawi officially opened the Greig Leisure Centre on Friday the 7th. I wish to thank everyone who has helped over the (many) years to bring the centre into public ownership and of course in doing so, attracting significant investment from SDC. We now have a leisure centre residents of Alcester can be proud of.

I hope that you are and will remain well and healthy.

Stay safe.

[markcargill@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:markcargill@warwickshire.gov.uk) or 07988485050

*Cllr Mark Cargill*

## HOLIDAY LUNCH CLUB FOR CHILDREN HAILED A SUCCESS



This free take away service for children during the school holidays was warmly welcomed by both parents and children while they enjoyed the lovely weather in Jubilee Fields over the summer. Food was served from the Eric Payne Community Centre every Wednesday



and Friday from 12:30-1:30pm on a first come, first served basis.



## ALCESTER COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The current COVID-19 crisis has presented serious emotional, financial and practical challenges for us all. But while our world has been turned upside down, the community response here has been in the best traditions of the town.

The Alcester Community Resilience group was established a few years ago to support the town's emergency plan. The expectation was that it would be needed to respond to a major weather event. A global pandemic was low on the scale of possibilities!

By the time that the national lockdown was announced in March, people were already reaching out to their neighbours offering help. Within a matter of days more than 200 volunteers were enlisted. Since then, anyone needing practical help has been able to get in touch and a volunteer has responded, usually within a day.

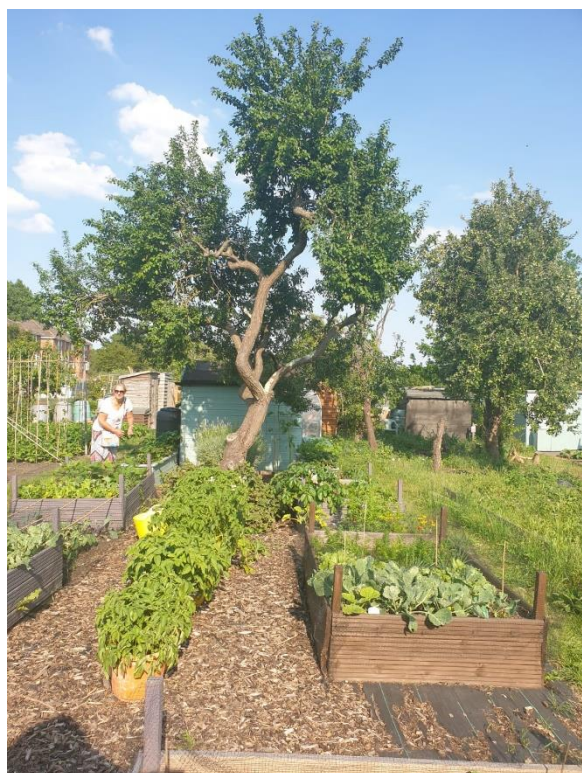
A complimentary meals service run by local business owner Mandy Downes, funded by Alcester Town Council and private donations, supported by the devoted group of volunteers has delivered 4,500 individual food portions to residents. This has made a crucial and positive impact on recipients. Companionship calls are available to anyone who fancies a regular chat with a friendly voice during uncertain times.

At the time of writing there has been a slow down in the number of requests for help. However there is no appetite from our volunteers to stop the service altogether. Indeed, the last few months have inspired a new generation of residents to get involved locally. This gives us hope and optimism in what has been an otherwise awful time.

If you need help as a result of COVID-19 you can contact us by either calling 07707 598379 or emailing [alcester.response@outlook.com](mailto:alcester.response@outlook.com) Monday to Friday. There is also a dedicated Facebook Group called 'Alcester Community Resilience'. Rest assured the group will be here for as long as it is needed.

*Cllr Andrew Foster*

## ALCESTER COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT HAS ITS FIRST FULL YEAR OF HARVEST



The idea behind the Community Allotment was to bring people together to grow and harvest fresh and delicious produce, be active, make friends, connect with nature and feel part of a 'growing' community. Unfortunately, during lockdown, it wasn't possible for everyone to tend to their beds at the same time. However, lots of produce has been grown and people have helped each other in a coordinated way. Would you like to be involved? If so, please get in touch with Wendy Sherwood, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator at Alcester Town Council. Email: [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk) Tel: 01789 766084





## ALCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR

### A POSITIVE APPROACH IS KEEPING US GOING...

#### Judith Land BEM, Founder & Director of Music

"I founded the choir over 46 years ago and in all those years I have never had to cancel rehearsals or concerts.

Our last rehearsal was on the the 11 March and our last concert on the 14 March in Henley in Arden. The choir is a huge part of my life and of our members, so its fair to say we all feel a little lost on Wednesday evenings which is when our main rehearsal takes place at the Eric Payne Community Centre. As I write this article we still have no clear indication as to when we will be able to meet up again. These are unprecedented times for choirs , but we are not alone. It is estimated that there are some 2.5 million people who sing in choirs in the UK, some are professional but most are not, and I can guarantee that most of them are itching to get back to a hobby they love so much.



*Judith Land and Alan Wood, AMVC at Cherry Trees Care Home*

But in spite of all this we are firm believers in maintaining a positive approach and even in these uncertain times we are planning hard for the day when some normality can return for our choir. Our committee have met regularly on Zoom. I am actively looking at a new repertoire to take us through the next twelve months. Our choir members are making use of specially prepared rehearsal discs which they use at home to revise our existing programme. Plans for our 2021 annual concert at Pershore Abbey on March 20th are almost complete and we are in discussions with several organisations about the possibility of holding a fund raising concert for them. Our free CD initiative for care homes has been very successful and we are still getting requests for copies which is wonderful. Finally we would love to hear from any gentlemen who would be interested in joining us when we can resume.



*Judith Land and Alan Wood, AMVC at Meadow View Care Centre*

So, we have not been idle, in fact we have been very busy and look forward to the day when we can get together again and channel this positivity back into what we really enjoy, singing and entertaining audiences in the local area and beyond.

Anyone who would like more information on the choir or would be interested in joining us can contact me on 07886 139781 or email me on [judithamvc@hotmail.com](mailto:judithamvc@hotmail.com)

**ALLOTMENTS AND THE CEMETERY REMAIN OPEN**

**PLEASE KEEP 2M APART FROM OTHER VISITORS**

## ALCESTER'S KIDS RUN FREE

### Children cycle across Europe to raise money for Kids Run Free

Two Alcester school kids have cycled 1,233km through Europe during their summer holidays, raising an incredible £723.25 for national charity Kids Run Free.

Jefferson (12) and Marijke (9) Verweij joined their parents Martine and Brian in completing part of the Rhine Route, beginning in Switzerland before pedalling through Germany and Austria, and then finishing in the Netherlands, after a three week long odyssey.



Kids Run Free - which was co-founded by Martine a decade ago - is a national charity headquartered in Alcester that provides two running programmes for children; Marathon Kids in school time, and Park Kids at weekends and in the holidays. Children across the UK accumulated more than 365,000km in the 2019/20 academic year after engaging with the two initiatives.

'Like lots of children, Jefferson and Marijke love to move, run, cycle, climb, crawl and swim! They jumped at the chance when we suggested doing the ride over three weeks, and one of my colleagues said we should set up a fundraising page,' said Martine.

'Initially I thought we'd do well to raise £200, but was then convinced to increase this to the £500 target. So we are absolutely thrilled with the final amount and would like to thank all those extremely-kind people who donated,' she added.

Fully rested and recovered, Jefferson and Marijke are currently thinking up new challenges for future summer holidays! If you'd like to donate money to Kids Run Free after their epic adventure, please visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/RidingtheRhine>

INFORMATION: Marathon Kids will restart when children go back to school in September, and Park Kids plans to kick off again during the same month. Do you want to know more about Kids Run Free? Please visit [www.kidsrunfree.co.uk](http://www.kidsrunfree.co.uk) or email the team at [info@kidsrunfree.co.uk](mailto:info@kidsrunfree.co.uk)



## ALCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

The club has had a positive few weeks with a slight return to normality.

Earlier last month, senior teams returned to socially distanced training. Pre-season numbers have been good so far peaking at 31 players for the hour-long session. Head coach David Miles continues into his second season training the side and is joined by player-coach Ed Gough who will be assisting him in his duties.

Additionally, ahead of the new season Max Biltcliffe has stepped up to the role as club captain after coming through the junior ranks at the club and being a prominent figure in recent years. He selected Phill Birks and Jamie Harland as his vice-captains.

Pre-season training is every Thursday from 7pm, for all players 17 and over. New players are very much welcome with no previous rugby experience needed.

Junior and mini training will recommence on the 6th September from 10am from pre-school ages to 17 years-old with groups and coaches to cater for all ages and abilities.

Off the field, Alcester's bar and facilities reopened at the start of August and will continue to open every Thursday from 6:30pm – 9:30pm and Sundays from 12pm – 3pm.

A strict one-way system has been enforced and hand sanitising stations have been set up to ensure the safety of all our players, volunteers and supporters.

All are welcome, but please stick to the rules and help us do our bit to stop the spread of the virus.

<https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterRugby/>



## 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY

On Saturday 15 August members of Alcester Royal British Legion, along with a restricted number of guests, marked the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Japan and subsequently the end of WW2 with a short flag raising ceremony on St Nicholas Church green.



The proceedings were started with an introduction by Vice Chair Christine Tolman. The flag was then raised by John Bunting before the Last Post was played by Vic Butler. Peter Lewis Jones announced the Kohima Epitaph and Deputy Town Crier Rory Duff gave a special Cry.

Wreaths were laid by Mayor Gill Forman and Legion member Gareth Onens. Finishing Prayers were given by Reverend Julian Davey.

The day was also commemorated around the town. Staff and residents of The Cherry Trees Care Home and residents of Winchcombe Road and Riddell Close

were just two of many places that put on a party. Thank you to all those that took part.

**David Malin, Secretary, Royal British Legion Alcester Branch**



## ALCESTER REMEMBERS VE75 EXHIBITION

The global pandemic of Covid-19 meant the cancellation of Alcester's plans for a weekend of commemoration of 75 years since the end of WW2 in Europe.

An exhibition, "VE75", showing Alcester through the war years was to form part of the commemoration and it is hoped to show this during the Remembrance weekend (6-8 November) at Alcester War Memorial Town Hall, subject to Covid guidelines.

A group of local organisations (including Royal British Legion, Alcester & District Local History Society, Alcester Civic Society, Alcester Town Council, Alcester Heritage Network, Alcester & Bidford Rotary) are coming together to help to publicise the event through their own networks and to provide willing volunteers for the organisation and manning of the exhibition. If anyone else would like to be involved, please contact John Bunting (email: [jandbbunting@btinternet.com](mailto:jandbbunting@btinternet.com) Tel: 01789 766753)

If any change in the situation prevents the exhibition taking place in November, then everything will be in place to hold it at an opportune time in the future.

*In 1945, spontaneous celebrations took place for both VE & VJ days. The actual Peace Celebrations took place the following year, on 8 June 1946, by which time many servicemen had been demobbed and a General Election had taken place.*





## ALCESTER MINSTER CHURCHES....

Sadly said farewell to Revd Adrian and Juliette Guthrie on Sunday 9 August 2020. Adrian and Juliette joined Alcester Minster churches at the end of 2013. They had planned to leave us this April for a new parish and we have been very grateful that they were able to stay on in Alcester and guide us through the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic. We wish them both well in their new ministry.

We have been delighted to re-open our churches for services. From September we are introducing a new, if reduced, pattern of Sunday services at either 10am or 4 pm.

We are following the restrictions laid down by the Church of England enforcing social distancing, the use of hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church and the wearing of face coverings. This requirement to enforce social distancing has greatly reduced the number who can attend a service so; anyone who wishes to attend a service is requested to reserve a place by contacting the Administrator before 1 pm on Friday. Contact details: [administrator@alcesterminster.org](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org) or 01789 763 246.

Our weekly on-line services will continue alongside services in church and can be accessed via the home page of the Alcester Minster website [alcesterminster.org](http://alcesterminster.org)

The Minster churches are currently open for private prayer at specific times on certain days. The current days and times are listed below:

Private Prayer in Church	Day of the week	Open From	Until
St Mary the Virgin, Kinwarton	Tuesday	10 am	3 pm
St Mary Magdalen, Great Alne	Wednesday	9 am	4 pm
Sambourne Church	Wednesday	10 am	12 noon
St Nicholas, Alcester	Wednesday	10 am	3 pm
St Mary and All Saints, Haselor	Wednesday	10 am	5 pm
St Mary the Virgin, Kinwarton	Friday	10 am	3 pm
Sambourne Church	Saturday	10 am	12 noon
St Nicholas Alcester	Saturday	10 am	3 pm
Holy Trinity, Arrow	Saturday	10 am	1 pm
St James, Weethley	Saturday	10 am	6 pm

*Please note: Churches may not be able to open if they are required for a funeral.*

## HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

Rural connectivity has always been an issue for us, and we (SDC) have been working with our partners to try and get the best Broad Band possible especially for our remote regions. This has not been an easy task. Following meetings with the then Secretary of State Nicky Morgan MP and Matt Warman, MP, Digital Minister last year, we were approached directly by BT Openreach to work with them in developing a plan to rollout the Community Fibre Broadband Programme in Stratford District. The Covid 19 pandemic has focused everyone's minds on how vital good connectivity is when working from home. We also want to ensure that our businesses, present and future, have the best provision to allow them to become successful in our District.

This new Gigabit voucher scheme is available potentially to all business and residents in the SDC District who may be eligible for additional funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises when part of a group project.

These vouchers can be put toward the costs of a Community Fibre Partnership. Each Village, Parish or Ward would 'gather' support from residents or businesses who are interested who could then apply for vouchers to contribute towards the cost. There is no direct cost to the resident.

The way the scheme operates is that a Village/Parish/Ward uses the online application to register an interest for that area. Some communities may be too small to make this work on their own. Under those circumstances it is possible that two or more very rural areas, that are relatively geographically close, are allowed to 'brigade' together, combining their resources.

Once notified, Openreach would then undertake a Business Case to ascertain the cost of connection.

Openreach will then fund 50% of that total cost, then set a target number (minimum) of subscribers who would need to sign up for a voucher and in turn to agree to a BT Broadband contract for a minimum of 12 months. You can change providers after one year.

We will be offering our full support to help both you and your communities achieve the potential for Giga-bit speeds. Please contact me if this is of interest.

[mark.cargill@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.cargill@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

Tel: 07988485050

**Cllr Mark Cargill**

## PLANNING MATTERS

During the Covid lockdown the Planning Committee has been processing small applications by email. However, recently there have been some large applications and the Committee has met using Zoom software. These meetings are briefly reported below, additional details can be found on the Planning Page of the Town Council website.

### Planning Applications discussed on 20 July 2020:

**20/01523/FUL & 20/01524/LBC- The Swan, Swan Street Alcester B49 5DP.** Proposed: Change of use from Hotel (C1) to a mixed-use scheme comprising ground floor commercial units (A1, A2, A3, A4 or B1a) and 7 residential units.

Whilst the Committee would like to support this application in principle, it was felt that several technical issues had been raised in SDC officer's reports which would need to be addressed and resolved by the developer, as such, it was agreed to submit a **HOLDING OBJECTION**. Since then, both applications have been withdrawn.

**20/01500/FUL-Land off Eclipse Road Alcester.** Proposed: Construction of a section of road between Eclipse Road and the Bloor Homes Development at Land North of Allimore Lane.

The Chair, Cllr C Neal-Sturgess, and Cllrs K Cargill and V Blake, having declared an interest with respect to this item, left the meeting. Cllr M Bowe took the chair.

This application has been brought forward by Bloors who have now purchased both parcels of land (north and south) on land north of Allimore Lane. They wish to change the location of their show homes to plots in the southern part of the northern parcel of land. Planning permission for Reserved Matters is still pending on the southern parcel of land. Residents objections were considered. As access from Eclipse Road via the fallow green space has always been proposed for access to the Allimore Lane development, a decision of **NO OBJECTION** was agreed. Bloor's have commenced work on the site and hope to sell the first houses in the summer of 2021.

Cllr C Neal-Sturgess, and Cllrs K Cargill and V Blake returned to the meeting and Cllr Neal- Sturgess resumed chairmanship.

**20/01667/FUL- Garage block Hertford Road Alcester.** Proposed: Demolition of 24 lock up garages and construction of four dwellings and associated works.

The Committee had serious concerns about a significant number of issues: decision of **OBJECTION** was agreed.

### Special Meeting to consider the application from ALDI on 27 July 2020:

**20/01587/FUL:** Broad Lane Caravans Kings Coughton Alcester B49 5QD. Proposed: Demolition of existing structures and erection of a Class A1 food store with new vehicular access/egress to Birmingham Road, new internal vehicular access road, car parking, servicing area, and hard and soft landscaping. For: Aldi Stores Ltd.

Five households attended the Zoom meeting. Questions from residents were also sent electronically for Cllrs to consider ahead of the meeting. Objections centred around location of the store in such a small village, grave concerns about increased traffic and road safety on an already busy road more HGVs and traffic flow in such close proximity to a roundabout, an increase in capacity at Arden Industrial Estate and the new housing development on land north of Allimore Lane, loss of amenity for neighbouring property, noise pollution, and air pollution. Cllrs were each given an opportunity to speak. Generally, it was felt that whilst there were some positive aspects for Alcester residents in having an Aldi store close by, these were outweighed by the unsuitable site location. This proposal fails to meet any of the criteria for development within the green belt and no special circumstances have been forwarded. There were numerous other detailed objections which are contained in the Council's response on the SDC website. Taking into account the comments by those residents attending, other objections circulated, and based on the discussions above, a unanimous decision of **OBJECTION** was agreed.

*Prof Cllr Clive Neal-Sturgess (Chair)*

**STOP PRESS: ALCESTER ROMAN MUSEUM-** Limited re-opening from Tuesday 8 September. For the foreseeable future the Museum will only open when the Library (with which it shares a building) is closed ie. Tuesdays and Saturday afternoons. There will be a special opening for Heritage Open Day on Sunday 13 September.





## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ALCESTER

### Warwickshire Police Supports "Safety In Neighbours Campaign"

This campaign seeks to encourage communities to work together to keep their homes and neighbourhoods safe. It highlights how life is safer when you know your neighbours, and if more people are keeping an eye out for unusual behaviour or activity in their street, more burglaries can be prevented.

In Warwickshire alone there are an estimated 1,875 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes with memberships covering 22,000 households. Neighbourhood Watch members believe that everyone has a right to feel safe where they live, and they promote that right by building strong, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen.



During the last financial year there was a 20% drop in house burglaries in Warwickshire compared to the previous year which was a fantastic result and the Police are keen to continue to reduce this even further. The only way this will be achieved is by working closely with our communities and Neighbourhood Watch groups, as we rely on the information we receive from local residents to help us build a picture of what is happening in your area.

The Police urge the public to report any concerns they may have or suspicious activity they may have seen to us by calling 101. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association stated, " More than ever we need to work together to protect our communities from harm. I would encourage anyone who is interested to join their local Neighbourhood Watch group."

For more information about Neighbourhood Watch Alcester please contact [nhwalcester@gmail.com](mailto:nhwalcester@gmail.com) or telephone Dorrie Manders on 01789 762999

### Communicating with the Police: Emergencies dial 999

**The Police Non Emergency number: 101** To be used to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. 101 to your local Police. Calls cost 15p per call (landlines and mobiles).

**Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team dial 101 or 01789 444815/444816**

Please feel free to contact the team direct: Email:

[alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

SGT 1284 Angus Eagles - [angus.eagles@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:angus.eagles@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

PC 1672 Beat Manager Rob Davies - [robert.davies4@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:robert.davies4@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO 6327 Carolyn Davis - [carolyn.davis1@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:carolyn.davis1@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO 6111 Gary Johnson-Jones

[gary.johnson-jones@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.johnson-jones@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)



Twitter- [@AlcesterCops](https://twitter.com/AlcesterCops)

Facebook- [Alcester Police](https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterPolice)

Instagram- [southwarwickshiresnts](https://www.instagram.com/southwarwickshiresnts)

Facebook- [Warwickshire Police](https://www.facebook.com/WarwickshirePolice)

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.

Contact Warwick Trading Standards on 01926 414040 to report a rogue trader. For general advice on scams and rogue traders contact 0845 4040 506.

**Action Fraud** Report a Fraud or Cyber Crime to 0300 123 2040

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

## Town Council Meetings

In line with government legislation, Full Council meetings are being held remotely (via Zoom software). Committee meetings have been cancelled with the exception of the Planning Committee who are reviewing planning applications by Zoom and email meetings.

Agendas are published online at: [www.alcester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk) three days before each meeting.


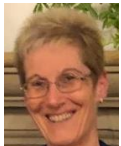















Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings via Zoom and are given time at the start of the meetings to speak. Draft and approved Minutes from meetings can also be found on the Town Council website.

The Alcester Town Council Facebook page is another source of information regarding council matters:

[www.facebook.com/alcester](https://www.facebook.com/alcester) Please click "like" and share with your friends.

We're also on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown](https://www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown)

### Town Councillor's Contact Details

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	<a href="#">Mark Cargill</a> 07988 485050		<a href="#">Gill Forman</a> (Mayor) 01789 763828
	<a href="#">Laura Pusey</a> 07928 327923		<a href="#">Tim Forman</a> 01789 763828
	<a href="#">Emma Randle</a> randle.atc@gmail.com		<a href="#">Andrew Foster</a> 01789 766708
	<a href="#">Clive Neal-Sturgess</a> 01789 764416		<a href="#">Keith Greenaway</a> 01789 766818
	<a href="#">Erick Wilson</a> 01789 764366		<a href="#">Mat Hempell</a> 07939 797582
Alcester Oversley Ward			
	<a href="#">Vaughan Blake</a> 01789 764128		<a href="#">David Henderson</a> 01789 765271
	<a href="#">Mike Bowe</a> 07775 500993		<a href="#">Kathryn Soares</a> 07551 311528
	<a href="#">Kirsten Forbes</a> 07810 522920		
		Oversley Green Ward	
			<a href="#">Kathryn Cargill</a> (Deputy Mayor) 07745 608567