

Alcester Town Council



Summer Newsletter

Issue 62 June 2021

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



It is a huge honour and privilege to have been elected Mayor of Alcester by my fellow Town Councillors on 4 May 2021. With Mark, my husband and Consort, we are very excited as we look ahead to a year of hope and recovery for our very special town.

I must truly thank Councillor Gill Forman for her commitment and dedication in serving as Mayor for the past two years, the last of which has of course been extremely challenging. She has done an amazing job. Congratulations also to her husband Councillor Tim Forman, who has been elected as Deputy Mayor for this year.

There is a great tradition of civic office in the Cargill family, but one that I never had the faintest idea that I would one day continue. When I first came to Alcester in 1986 I was greatly impressed by the community spirit in the town and the fact that everyone seemed to know Mark and his parents! His

father David had been Chairman of Alcester Rural District Council, and when we married in 1988 at St Nicholas Church, my new mother-in-law Marion was serving as the first Mayor of Alcester.

Alcester, as everywhere, has been through a very difficult year and a half, with a massive impact on people's mental and physical health and on the health of many of our local businesses. This has been a hugely challenging time for us all, but what an incredible and heartwarming response we have seen from so many of our residents, helping others at a time of unprecedented need. We have seen our key workers – health, shop and postal workers, school staff, refuse collectors (to name just a few) – continue with their service at a time of significant danger to their own wellbeing. And we have seen an awesome spirit of resilience from our community volunteers, banding together to do whatever they could for our more vulnerable residents. What an amazing community we have!

And it is that amazing community that I know will now mobilise to meet the challenges ahead. The Town Council's Health and Wellbeing projects are restarting, with the addition of our latest project called Alcester – Get a Move On! – outside exercise classes for the over 60's. We also have a new initiative to help our local businesses get busy once again. Totally Locally is an online platform providing essentially a virtual high street, where our shops and other businesses can display and sell their goods, advertise their services and publicise events. Alcester Town Council has provided the start-up funding for this project, to help our businesses recover as we emerge from the pandemic. This is a great opportunity for our high street to come back stronger than ever.

As Chair of the Council's Community Care Committee for the last four years, I have been very involved with the many innovative projects initiated under the Town Council's Health and Wellbeing agenda. For my Mayor's charity I will be working with Marathon Kids UK and Alcester Academy to deliver a new project for the town. The aim is to help teenagers improve their mental and physical wellbeing by building their own programme of physical activities that they want to do. At this time of pandemic recovery, this is more important than ever for our young people. Watch out for more details on this exciting new project in the next Town Council newsletter!

And then of course there is the Greig Hall. What a great positive news story that Alcester Town Council has finally taken ownership of the hall, and one that has been greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by our community! We are under no illusion about the scale of the task we are taking on, to refurbish and reopen the hall after many years standing empty, but we have the support of a small army of volunteers and a huge desire to develop a centre the town can be proud of. This is going to be a challenging year, but also an exciting year and I am really looking forward to it!

Cllr Kathryn Cargill, Mayor of Alcester

CLERKS CORNER

At the virtual Mayor Making event on 4 May, I was very pleased to oversee the election of the new Mayor, Cllr Kathryn Cargill and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Tim Forman.



Congratulations to both Kathryn and Tim on their appointment- I am sure that they will do an excellent job in representing the town locally and further afield.

The Town Council offices at Globe House have now reopened but we would ask visitors to ring and make an appointment in advance of coming to the office so that we can ensure that everyone stays safe and well.

Full Council meetings will return to "real" meetings from 1 June 2021 and will be held in the Hertford Room at the Eric Payne Community Centre to allow for social distancing.

Committee meetings will continue to be held by Zoom for the time being. Agendas for all meetings are posted on our website.

Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk

Alcester Town Council Contacts

Office of the Town Clerk: Tel: 01789 766084

Town Clerk: clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Mayor's Secretary: mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Planning: administration@alcester.gov.uk

Facilities: reception@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Community Care: office@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Health and Well-Being:

info@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.alcester-tc.gov.uk

SUCCESS! ALCESTER HAS A NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN!

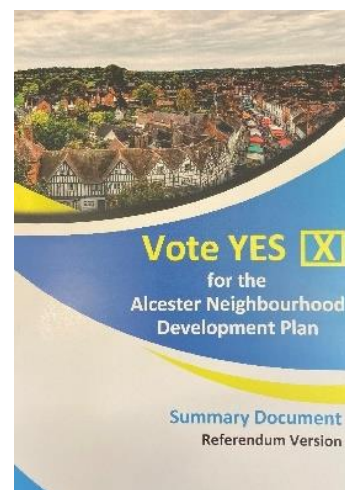
I'm delighted that at the local referendum held on 6 May 2021, Alcester's residents voted that they wanted Stratford on Avon District Council (SDC) to use our Alcester Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications, from now until 2031.

This was the culmination of several years' work creating a plan which contains policies based on the feedback of local residents, businesses and landowners. It will help to ensure that Alcester remains a wonderful town in which to live, work and for tourists to visit.

My thanks to everyone who contributed to the plan. This includes members of the Steering Group, the Town Clerk and her team, and the Alcesterians who took part in questionnaires and consultations thus helping to ensure that the policies reflect what they think is important.

Finally, my thanks to all who voted in favour at the referendum.

Many of you will have received a booklet summarising the plan but if you want to see the NDP in full it is on SDC's website.



Wendy Mills, Chair of Alcester NDP Steering Group

PLANNING MATTERS - UPDATE

During March and April, the Planning Committee were consulted on 24 planning applications and held three meetings via ZOOM with some of those applications considered via email in the intervening period. There were no objections to the majority of applications; however, an OBJECTION on 21/01065/FUL Alcester Rugby Football Club (retrospective) was agreed because the canopy is considered inappropriate in this setting, causing harm to the Green Belt.

Amendment application 20/01587/FUL Broad Lane Caravans Kings Coughton Alcester B49 5QD was considered and a decision of HOLDING OBJECTION was submitted because the committee was not in possession of all relevant reports and responses and therefore unable to fully scrutinise the application.

A HOLDING OBJECTION for 21/01149/TREE Red Horse House Henley Street Alcester, was agreed 'pending better quality photographic evidence.'

On 26 April, the Planning Committee considered Amendment 17/01087/REM - Land South of Allimore Lane. Three members of the committee declared an interest in this application and withdrew from the meeting. This application was then considered by the remaining members of the committee. A decision was reached to submit a HOLDING OBJECTION subject to the resolution of drainage issues and other matters noted in the response to SDC (Stratford on Avon District Council).

The committee were notified by SDC on 15 planning decisions, notably amongst them were:
20/0050/FUL St Benedicts RC High School Alcester- Retention of modular classroom- Permission with conditions.

20/03344/FUL & 20/03345/LBC The Swan- Permission with conditions.

20/03475/ADV - Waitrose signage, Consent with conditions.

Cllr Mike Bowe, Chair, Planning Committee

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

This will be my final newsletter as your past County Councillor for Alcester Division having proudly served you for the past four years. County Councillor Piers Daniell having been duly elected on 6 May 2021.

The pandemic has taught us a great deal about ourselves and our society. We have lost loved ones, but the community spirit demonstrated during the pandemic has been truly remarkable. We must not lose sight of that.

Both Stratford and Warwickshire authorities were adversely impacted financially by the pandemic with Stratford being the fourth hardest hit local authority in the country. This year's budgets however focused on recovery and growth. The goal is to recover as quickly as possible to the position held in 2019 as being one of the top performing Districts in the West Midlands.

To do this we need our businesses to both recover and grow. Over £40m in Government business support grants were provided in the last year, but even then, some businesses sadly failed, and jobs were lost. Alongside that we have seen a number of business start-ups which the new WCC grants are aimed at helping grow and thrive. With the optimism generated by the huge success of the vaccination programme, loosening of restrictions and the potential for economic growth we should all be looking to a positive future.

Cllr Mark Cargill



OVERSLEY TRAIL 10K

Alcester-based community interest company **Raceways** is hosting its first event of 2021 with the Oversley Trail 10k taking place on 20 June 2021 – and there's still time to sign up!



Following the success of last year's inaugural event, runners of all abilities can once again enjoy the stunning trail route that weaves through the Warwickshire countryside.

All money from the sale of race registrations to the Oversley Trail 10k go towards funding Marathon Kids UK, a not-for-profit organisation that provides fully-funded running opportunities for children in Alcester and across the UK.

Race registrations are still available, and are priced at £13 for UKA registered runners, and £15 for non-UKA athletes. Check out

<http://www.raceways.org.uk/oversley-green/> for more details.



RIVERSIDE ANGLING CLUB, RIVER ARROW

Over the last few weeks bank clearing work has been carried out in several locations along the stretch making unfishable pegs now available for fishing. Whilst the river was low it was possible to get in with chestwaders and remove a half buried shopping trolley, foldable seat, lots of built up drift wood and 20 feet of plastic tubing. There is still plenty to do with signs to be put up and general work along the stretch of the river before the opening of the fishing season. Anyone interested in joining the next working party please contact

Robert for more details. All help much appreciated!

R A Jones, Hon. Secretary, Riverside Angling Club Tel: 07745358603



NEW BOOK KEPT ALCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR IN TOUCH DURING LOCKDOWN

The arts have been hit particularly hard during the pandemic, with organisations both professional and amateur no longer able to perform. Within the restrictions put in place to stop the spread of Covid-19 in March last year, was a ban on singing. This came as a blow to the Alcester Male Voice choir with 46 years of singing coming to an abrupt halt.



The ban set Judith Land BEM, Alcester Males Voice Choir's Founder and Director of music thinking of ways to keep members in touch with each other. One of the ideas Judith came up with was the publication of a book which contains a collection of witty anecdotes, cherished memories, illustrations, photographs, poems and songs, all submitted by choir members their families and friends. The book also incorporates a photographic history of the choir together with listings of all members both past and present.

Judith commented, "I have never published a book before, so it presented a challenge for me. But as expected, the choir members rallied to my call with enthusiasm and I am delighted with the finished product. The book will also serve as a permanent reminder of one of the most challenging periods

in our lifetime for our members, the wider community and archives of the choir".

The book, entitled "Lockdown Anecdotes" is A4 format, published in full colour contains some 140 images and runs to over 70 pages,. Copies can be purchased directly from Judith by calling 07886 139781 and cost £9.95 each plus £4.00 post and packing.



ALCESTER DUCK RACE

When: Saturday 10 July 2021

Where: Footbridge Centenary Fields- old bridge Oversley

Why: Fundraiser for Alcester Bunting and Lighting

Sponsor a duck for just £1

Ducks available online at <https://alcesterduck.elygin.co.uk/>

ALCESTER METHODIST CHURCH OPEN MORNINGS....

Will resume again on Tuesdays at 10.30am from 18 May: Initially outside, weather permitting.

An opportunity to meet some new friends and catch up with others, to chat or sit quietly with a newspaper; to get involved with craft activities or challenge someone to a game of chess.

One thing is for certain you can enjoy as much tea, coffee and cakes as you can manage.

Open Morning is open to all, whether you are a regular, a first timer or just someone who drops in to see what is going on. You will receive the warmest of welcomes.



ALCESTER POPPY APPEAL 2020 - 2021

The townspeople and visitors of Alcester have raised an amazing £7,227.12 for the 2020 to 2021 Poppy Appeal.

Our fortnight of Appeal collections last year were carried out under strict Covid restrictions. To reach such a high total is a credit to the Poppy Appeal volunteers and supporters we have in the Alcester District. I thank everyone who helped and donated.

We hope that in our Centenary year, the 2021 - 2022 Appeal which starts in October, can return to some sort of normality, and I look forward to another successful period.

More information on the Poppy Appeal can be found here - <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal>

David Malin, Secretary, Royal British Legion Alcester Branch & Poppy Appeal Organiser



CHILDREN'S CHARITY SEEKING MENTORS

Could you spare an hour or two a week? Would you like to help children and young people in Warwickshire and/or Worcestershire

Children's charity Mentor Link is recruiting Volunteer Mentors to support children and young people in schools. Owing to a current shortage of mentors, particularly in areas near the Warwickshire/Worcestershire border. Mentor Link would like to hear from women and men who would like to support children in schools for around an hour each week. Currently we do have a shortage of male mentors, so we should like to encourage men to come forward, as well as of course women. Anyone interested should be a good listener, patient and enjoy working with children and young people.

The Mentors are trained to support and encourage young people who are facing issues which are impacting on their education and well-being, with a view to improving their self-esteem and engagement in learning. The charity has an excellent track record of success in achieving positive outcomes with children and young people.

Mentor Link is a Safer Recruiter and requires two character references and an Enhanced DBS clearance. They will provide Induction training, travelling expenses, on-going training, and a dedicated team of staff to support you in your role.

If you can spare an hour or two a week, and you are able to commit to a minimum of 6 months volunteering please contact Claire Quinn on 07973 572768 or email claire.quinn@mentorlink.org.uk

We welcome enquiries from schools, parents and organisations in the area who want to hear more about our services.

For further information see our website: www.mentorlink.org.uk

Find us on [Facebook](#). Registered charity number 1169026



NEWPORT'S
School Foundation

NEWPORT'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION was founded in 1582 to assist poor children of Alcester to obtain an education. Currently the Foundation can offer financial assistance to pupils, or former pupils, of the three secondary schools in Alcester between the ages of 16-25. It can also provide grants to the schools.

The Foundation has a [website](#) where an application form can be found.

Please see <http://www.newportsschoolfoundation.org.uk/>. Any persons, or schools, eligible for grants are encouraged to apply, particularly in these difficult times; we exist to help.

Alcester!

Outside Exercise for over 60s



Held every Saturday from the 12th June
at Jubilee Fields, St. Faiths Road,
Alcester, B49 6AG

Contact Wendy for more information:

Landline: 01789 766084

Mobile: 07434664435

One hour session each week, for six weeks—perfect for physical and mental well-being. Planned and run by a qualified coach, and completely free of charge.

—

These classes are an ideal opportunity for people to improve their balance and spatial awareness, reducing their risk of falling later in life.



Get a move on!

Alcester Friends of Cancer Research UK

Riverside Garden Party



Saturday 4th July 2021
from
2.00 to 5.00 pm

at

Riverside, Malt Mill Lane, Alcester

TICKETS £12
(Children under 12 £4)

**including a free glass of Prosecco or Mocktail (for over 18s),
tea, coffee, scones and as much cake as you can eat!**

on sale at

PSW Stationery, Bulls Head Yard, Alcester

**PLEASE NOTE : - Due to space constraints tickets are available for
these times 2.00 to 3.00, 3.00 to 4.00 or 4.00 to 5.00.**

Access to the garden is via a flight of steps.

For further information please call 01789 762901

cruk.org



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



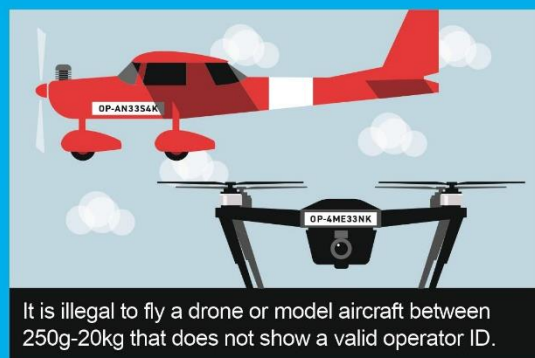
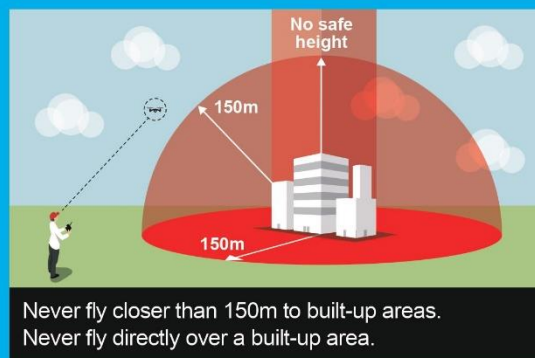
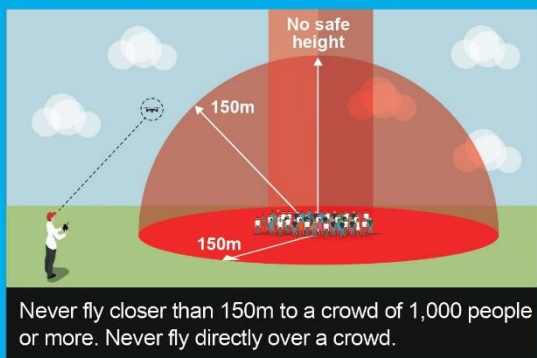
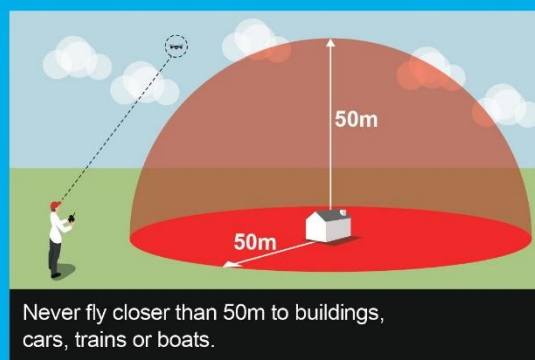
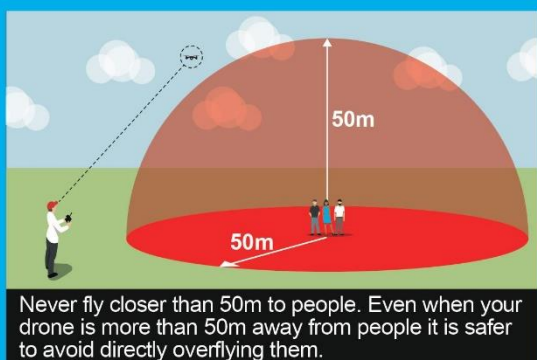
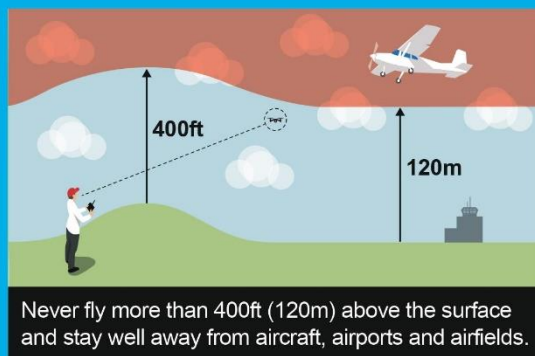
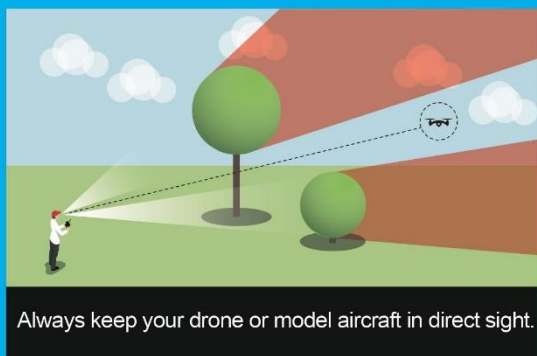
In aid of

**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (0289444) and Scotland (SC045563)

THE DRONE CODE 2019

If you own a drone please be aware that new regulations came into force on 31 December 2020 in addition to the 2019 Drone Code. Please see the Civil Aviation Authority [website](https://www.caa.co.uk) for more information and updates.



You are responsible for each flight. Legal responsibility lies with you. Failure to fly responsibly could result in criminal prosecution.



**THE
DRONE
CODE**

The UK Dronecode is published by the Civil Aviation Authority to assist drone users in flying safely.

October 2019

For further information please visit dronesafe.uk



ALCESTER WELLBEING CAFE A SPACE TO BE!

Where it's ok not to be ok.
Come and Chat, share friendship, over your coffee.



If coming out of
Lockdown is hard,
this is a safe space
for you.

*If you're sad, that's ok
If you're hopeful, that's ok
If you're angry, that's ok
If you're tired, that's ok
If you're lonely, that's ok.
If you're anxious, that's ok
If you're worried, that's ok
If you're just ok, that's ok
If you are none of these things and just want
a chat.... You are welcome*



EVERY WEDNESDAY
MORNING 9:30 – 11:30
ORANGEMABEL
59 High St, Alcester, B49 5AF
 Alison 766376
In Association with Alcester Health and Wellbeing Board,
Alcester Baptist Church and Orangemabel.

OVERSLEY GREEN'S COVID YEAR

As the pandemic hit, the residents of Oversley Green took it upon themselves to try and create a bit of cheer with events and projects to lift the spirit.



Oversley Green Festive Walk of Lights and Santa's Grotto. December saw our 'Light up Oversley' Xmas lights campaign with almost three quarters of the houses contributing. This was followed by the 'Christmas Grotto' with a resident's garage converted into a magnificent Santa's Grotto. 300 people came over 4 days to shout out their Christmas lists to a jovially distanced Santa, who duly wrote them all down. It was a very joyful event at a very unjoyful time!

Reflection Area - During January and February OGRA committee members revamped the area by the bench at Oversley Farm, by creating a 'Reflection area'. Two small flowerbeds were created with

snowdrops and cyclamen planted around the tree and small shrubs planted against the fence. We are not sure if the public like it but the rabbits have certainly given their vote of approval!

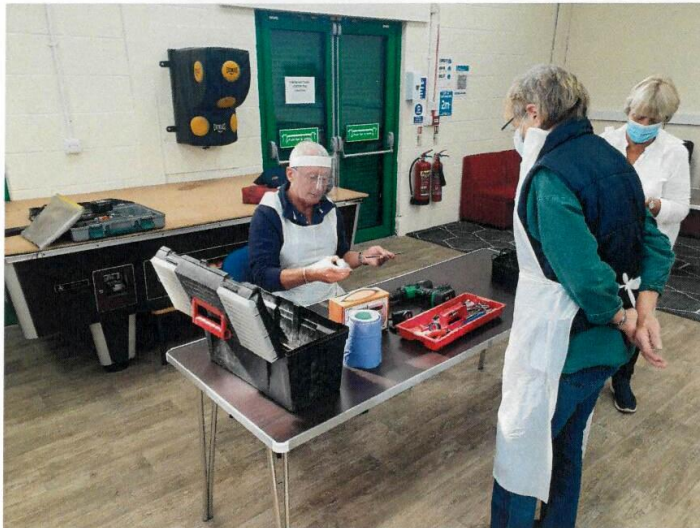
Mallards' Creek - During this time a small area along the public footpath opposite the farm was also cleared. Two small benches were constructed from recycled wood, 4 bird boxes were erected and the stream area was cleaned out. Two mallards landed in the stream as it was being cleared and the area immediately became 'Mallards' Creek'.

Hedgehogs As hedgehogs are critically endangered, we have tried to make the area 'Hedgehog Friendly' with a number of signs to ask drivers to take care. A small 'watering hole' has been created at the 'Reflection Bench' and many residents have provided hedgehog houses and food. There is a lot of hedgehog activity in the area and we are hoping for a new generation of 'hoglets'.



Jim Jolly, Oversley Green Residents Association Committee member

REPAIR CAFÉ IS RETURNING



Drop off the repair and collect later

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ITEM FOR REPAIR BY CONTACTING WENDY AND A DROP OFF TIME WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU –

Every fourth Thursday of the month 2pm until 6pm (first one 27th May)

Email Wendy: info@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01789 766084

Mobile: 07434664435

COMPUTER GROUP IS RETURNING



Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month

(first one 26th May) 10am – 12 midday

Both activities taking place at The Depot
Eric Payne Community Centre,
St. Faiths Road, Alcester. B49 6AG

Covid 19 secure – using PPE, screens and social distancing

DID YOU KNOW?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs) and are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements such as MOT, licensing, tax and insurance. As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and don't always have visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads. E-scooters must therefore be kept on private land. Some parts of the country are taking part in government trials for e-scooter hire with a view to making them legal to use on the roads. Warwickshire is not currently part of the trials.

Warwickshire County Council and the Police are therefore asking the public not to buy an e-scooter at this current time, and to not ride an e-scooter in a public place. Please follow Warwickshire Police on Twitter @WarksPolice and @OPUWarks and help raise awareness of e-scooter legislation by sharing posts.

For more information see - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ALCESTER

Protect Your Car : Keep it Locked, Lit and Empty

Most car crimes happen because cars are left unlocked and both new and old cars are at risk. The good news is that there are simple steps everyone can take to help reduce the risk. Police say that there is only a 46% recovery rate and are reminding everyone to leave their car locked, lit and empty."

Leave your car:

1. **Locked:** A simple mistake that can prove calamitous: 44% of cars are broken into via an unlocked door.
2. **Lit:** 80% of car crime occurs during the evening or at night. Park near street lamps or in a busy area.
3. **Empty:** Owners often forget that personal belongings are at as much risk of being stolen as the car itself. Car thieves are opportunists. Leaving items on a car seat or forgetting to lock your car can act as an invitation for crime. Double-check where and how you've parked your car with Locked, Lit and Empty.

Scams- Key signs to spot a Fake

1. Official text messages will contain the name of the organisation eg NHS, Vodafone. If the text shows it is from another mobile number but claims to be from an organisation, then report and delete immediately.
2. If website links look slightly different from normal, eg, Royal Mail's website is royalmail.com, the scam website may be royal.mail.com. Use google to find out official website address.
3. If you are asked to provide your account number and the long number on your bank card, it is a red flag.

4. Never feel pressurised. If you are told you have a limited time to respond, it is another red flag.

For suspicious emails- forward to report@phishing.gov.uk.

Suspicious text messages can be sent to 7726 which spells SPAM on keyboard and is free of charge. Anyone who has provided personal information should tell their bank and report to Action Fraud (see below).

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 by email:

alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

SGT 1685 David Ebbs- david.ebbs@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PC 1672 Beat Manager Rob Davies - robert.davies4@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6327 Carolyn Davis - carolyn.davis1@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6111 Gary Johnson-Jones

gary.johnson-jones@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6336 Mark Lucas - mark.lucas@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk (Covers north & south areas)

Online reporting services are also available on our website - <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/>

Alcester Office - 01789 444816

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](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/) 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](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/) Report a Fraud or Cyber Crime to 0300 123 2040

To join Neighbourhood Watch Alcester, contact nhwalcester@gmail.com or telephone Dorrie Manders on 01789 762999

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

Town Council Meetings

With effect from 1 June 2021, Full Council meetings will be held at the Eric Payne Community Centre. Committee meetings will be held as advisory committees with decisions ratified at Full Council and will be held by Zoom.

Agendas are published online at: 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 Please click "like" and share with your friends.

We're also on Twitter: www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown

Town Councillor's Contact Details

Alcester West Ward		Alcester Oversley Ward (contd)	
	Mark Cargill 07988 485050		Gill Forman 01789 763828
	Laura Pusey 07928 327923		Tim Forman (Deputy Mayor) 01789 763828
	Emma Randle randle.atc@gmail.com		Andrew Foster 01789 766708
	Clive Neal-Sturgess 01789 764416		Keith Greenaway 01789 766818
	Erick Wilson 01789 764366		Mat Hempell 07939 797582
Alcester Oversley Ward			
	Vaughan Blake 01789 764128		David Henderson 01789 765271
	Mike Bowe 07775 500993		Kathryn Soares 07551 311528
	Kirsten Forbes 07810 522920		
		Oversley Green Ward	
Delivered by LL logo and printed by PSW logo   on behalf of Alcester Town Council 			Kathryn Cargill (Mayor) 07745 608567