Alcester Town Council



Autumn Newsletter

Issue 63 September 2021

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I hope that you have all had a good summer. The weather has generally been kind to us, as has been the improving situation with the pandemic. Whilst the new freedoms are welcome to many, we must not forget those who find them a cause for great anxiety. The virus will not go away and we must learn to live with it and to manage our personal risk. Getting vaccinated and being mindful of our responsibilities to others is something that we can all do to help in our town's recovery.

Talking of recovery, it is extremely heartening to walk down the High Street and see so many people out and about again. I would urge you all to use our local businesses whenever possible. They have been through a tough time, and the next few months are crucial to the survival of many of our shops, cafes and pubs. By keeping our spending local we are all able to play our part.



At this time of the year, the new Mayor is usually getting into their stride and representing the town at civic functions across the county. By contrast, this year I have yet to meet a single other civic head in person. I have been delighted to attend a number of events in Alcester, including flag raisings for the Royal British Legion's 100th birthday and a wonderful garden party for Cancer Research (replacing the usual garden walkabout). I attended the virtual WCAVA Volunteer Celebration and it was great to see Pantry Anns and Mandy Downes recognised at this event for their tremendous efforts providing hot meals during the lockdowns. I was also invited to the opening of the Game Fair at Ragley, which was a great opportunity to meet with the organisers of the event and discuss the facilities that Alcester has to offer. The Game Fair will be here for at least the next four years and brings much needed revenue to the area for weeks ahead of the show itself.

Whilst it may be quiet on the civic side of things, the Town Council has reopened for business with a vengeance! We are keen to help restart as

much of the town's normal life as possible, with most of our regular activities now resuming. The Repair Café and computer club, Well Connected, are operating once again, and bookings at the Eric Payne Centre are increasing rapidly. The town's Youth Club has restarted, one of very few in the area to do so, with some new faces and exciting new ideas. The 'Alcester – Get A Move On!' project, exercise classes for the over 60s, has been a great success. It has proved so popular that we are exploring options with the Greig Leisure Centre for the sessions to continue there. And finally, keep an eye out for the Cook and Eat Your Tea project which will be restarting at the Depot in the autumn.

As many of you will have seen, work has at last begun on the refurbishment of the Greig Hall. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity that Town and District councillors

have fought for over the last ten years. It is a complex and daunting project, but there is a great will to succeed.

And finally I faced an unusual 'opportunity' as Mayor, when our grounds staff were unfortunately required to self-isolate for 10 days in July. With a team of other councillors, we performed daily safety checks on our playgrounds and open spaces and kept a watch on our litter bins, emptying them as necessary. It really brought home to us what a fantastic job our groundsmen do, every week of the year, and also just how many bins they are responsible for! I'd like to say a huge thank you to our staff of Paul, Jack and Chris Hands for keeping Alcester looking so lovelv.



Cllr Kathryn Cargill, Mayor of Alcester

CLERKS CORNER



I am using my column this quarter to thank one of our longest serving members of staff, Jenny Theobald, who is retiring at the end of September 2021.

Jenny has worked for the Town Council since 2009 and has had a really important role in progressing the Town Council's health and wellbeing work. She has clerked the Community Care committee since its creation including the important job of administering the Town Council's Community Grant scheme which allocates funds to our local groups and societies.

She has also previously acted as Clerk for the Alcester Youth Project, the Jubilee Centre Management Group, the Alcester Youth Council and the Community Safety group. Her involvement with the Youth Council and Youth Project led to the successful grant bid to the Norton Foundation which enabled us to build the Depot.

More recently she has been a key member of the Holiday Lunch Club team.

Jenny will be missed by everyone at ATC and we hope that she enjoys her well earned retirement!

Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk

Alcester Town Council Contacts

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Town Clerk: <u>clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk</u> Mayor's Secretary: <u>mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk</u> Planning: <u>administration@alcester.gov.uk</u> 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

THE GREIG HALL

After what was a slow start, work has started to repair the main roof as this is considered the most important part of any building. Considering how long the hall had been abandoned there were only a few serious leaks and of course the broken skylights smashed by vandals. We are having a number of surveys for the services to ensure the hall is safe for when we reopen.

Thanks go to our fantastic group of volunteers who are finding out just what can be reused and what needs replacing. We have already sourced some catering equipment and are looking at refurbishing the stage including the lighting and sound equipment.

We still have a long way to go before we reopen and are keen to engage with people wanting to offer help. If you want to help, please email me on <u>mcargill.atc@gmail.com</u>. Visit <u>www.greighall.org</u> to see what's happening.

Cllr Mark Cargill, Chair, Greig Working Group

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT



The big news of course was the fire in July at the Pure Recycling facility in Ettington. Fortunately the 30 members of staff were all safe. However, the fire completely destroyed the facility making it highly unlikely it will reopen. Blue bin collections restarted on the 2 August only 8 days after the major fire. A big thanks to the officers who helped get our service back on track so quickly. 20% of residents did not miss a collection and everyone else, only one collection.

We have recently seen a number of illegal encampments by travellers, one of which was at Alcester Rugby Club. The cost of this has run into the thousands of pounds and is quite

unacceptable. I have, with our MP Nadhim Zahawi, written to the Home Secretary expressing my concerns and have received a reply which is available on the Town Council website. I appreciate that new trespass laws are coming through Government but am not sure yet how they will help.

If you have any issues please contact me on mark.cargill@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Cllr Mark Cargill, Alcester & Rural Ward

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

After a whirlwind election in May, business as usual at County has resumed. I have enjoyed my first meetings as well as sitting on the Fire and Rescue Committee and supporting the cabinet with Education. Across the Alcester division, following the survey I carried out in April, issues local residents have been having are on the whole centred on Highways. From dropped kerbs and damaged footpaths to potholes and overgrown verges we have identified lots of areas that need attention. Stretched budgets and capacity limitations due to lockdowns have meant there is a lot to catch up on and across Warwickshire the teams are working hard to make up for lost time. I regularly escalate matters to the team but the biggest issue is getting enough detail to report matters effectively.

If you see an issue that needs reporting, download the FixMyStreet app onto your phone which then allows you to take a photo at the correct location and report the issue you have identified. This can be from fly tipping to overgrown hedges to full dog poo bins. This method ensures a record is kept and updates are reported to you.

Another big area for concern for our community has been speeding- whether that is around town or through our villages. Twenty is Plenty is a National scheme which is currently being reviewed at a county level to see whether Warwickshire wants to adopt a policy of 20 mph limits across all residential areas. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed before such a scheme could be implemented or whether parts of it might be adopted instead. We have a number of 20 mph zones in Warwickshire such as in Alcester. There are good arguments on both sides for further 20 mph limits. Certainly a number of villages such as Wilmcote, Wixford and Binton that would be very supportive as the villages have been suffering from a significant increase in antisocial speeding.

SpeedWatch is a great initiative which has local residents support the police with speed guns and I am pleased to say that the programme is up and running once more. Training has started for new volunteers and you will see more of us out regularly checking speed over the coming weeks.

If you have any concerns you would like to raise do please contact me directly at <u>piersdaniell@warwickshire.gov.uk</u>. Every issue I am investigating gets recorded, and I report on the progress of these with the Parishes and Town Council on a weekly basis.

Cllr Piers Daniell, Alcester Division



summer holidays, Wednesday to Saturday 10.30 to 15.30



RIVERSIDE ANGLING CLUB, RIVER ARROW

The Club has issued 24 permits to date to the residents of Alcester who have enquired about fishing the stretch on the River Arrow. Also people have joined the Riverside Angling Club to not only fish the River Arrow but the the River Alne too. The River Arrow at the moment is very low and clear but plenty of fish can be seen.

The Club is very interested to see if members/permit holders would like to fish contests on the stretch later in the year and would be very interested in any response. Please contact:

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



ALCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR-IN HARMONY AGAIN



Users of the Jubilee Playground & Fields were in for a bit of a surprise earlier in the summer when they came across the Alcester Male Voice Choir being put through their paces outside the Eric Payne Centre.

Judith Land BEM the choir's Director of Music explains "Like all choirs AMVC have been unable to get together to rehearse since March last year and we were all desperate to get back to singing. Although we were still unable to meet indoors we were, with some limitations, able to sing outside as restrictions started to ease. For five consecutive evenings commencing on 16 June we rehearsed in the open air, all with the blessing of Alcester Town Council, a first for the choir. Strict guidelines were followed which included a limit on the numbers taking part, social distancing, the wearing of masks. On the fifth evening 21 July the choir held a mini concert, which we called "Concert in the park" with only passers by as the audience, and this included a solo by Vic Butler, on the Cornet, from the Alcester Victoria Silver band. We had a lot of fun, the weather was kind and it was a wonderful opportunity for many of us to get together again after such a long break".

At the time of going to press the choir are working on plans for a return to indoor singing which will be on Wednesday 1 September, guidelines permitting, and soon after will be holding their annual recruitment evening when they will be looking to welcome new members.

Any gentlemen interested in joining the choir should contact Judith on 07886 139781 or email judithamvc@hotmail.com

Have your say on bus service improvements

The County Council is working closely with bus operators to develop an ambitious Warwickshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) aimed at encouraging more people to travel by bus. Please take part in the <u>survey (https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/bus-service-improvement-plan/</u>) which runs from Monday 26 July 2021 – Sunday 19 September 2021.



ALCESTER POPPY APPEAL 2020 - 2021

The Branch has continued to carry out its work over the last few months, including celebrating its 100th Birthday on the 3 June and marking Armed Forces Day on the 26 June. Small ceremonies on the Centenary Field

marked both occasions.

We are now steadily looking forward to the Poppy Appeal that begins again in October and Remembrancetide in November. There is a hope that we can return to some sort of normality for both. Further details will be released as soon as possible. If you would like to volunteer to help with the appeal or the remembrance parades please contact David Malin.



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



MARATHON KIDS UK

With the temperatures rising and the glorious sunshine, it is very tempting to sit back, relax and sunbathe at any given opportunity but we cannot forget the importance of keeping active. It has been so lovely for us to see the continued presence at our parks events this summer. Between 40 and 60 children have been participating every Saturday at Jubilee

Fields (9:30-10:30) and we love knowing that the sweet smell of summer will not stop our Marathon Kids from coming along and keeping themselves fit.

Our school programmes have been flourishing recently too, with many of our children achieving marathon distances, inspiring each other to keep pushing further and accomplishing what they might not have dreamed possible before. We love knowing that so many of them are enjoying themselves and smashing their goals simultaneously.

To get involved with Marathon Kids UK go to our website www.marathonkids.co.uk

MAYOR'S CHARITY

If you have two minutes to spare, I would urge you to watch a YouTube video by Nike called 5 Extra Years (<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiSzbZUQRPk</u>). It delivers the quite staggering message that for the first time in history, this generation is expected to die five years younger than their parents.

This is the background to the Mayor's charity project. There is an alarming increase in sedentary lifestyle and drop-off in physical activity when pupils move to secondary school. The aim of the project is to identify and understand barriers to exercise for teenagers and to work on overcoming these barriers. During last term, Martine Verweij and Christopher McShane from Marathon Kids UK started working with pupils from Alcester Academy, with the support of Headteacher Sarah Mellors and Director of Student Wellbeing Karen Buckthorp. The six-week pilot programme was conducted with one group of 26 girls and one group of 22 boys from year 9.

Martine said "We focused on breaking down barriers to exercise with these students, helping them to gain understanding of the impact of physical activity and allowing them to gain confidence in being active. The ultimate goal was to change mindsets and get these teenagers to want to help each other to become active. We taught them leadership skills, we gave them tools to help them listen and understand. Most importantly their approach to physical activity has changed. They have become more confident and want to show others how important it is and what fun it should be. They are aiming, each in their own way, to be active for the rest of their lives."

In the new school year, ten boys and girls from these two groups will have the opportunity to act as group leaders and become positive role models for new groups of younger students joining the project.

And perhaps most importantly the project now has a name, chosen by the youngsters participating. After watching the video they have called it 'Plus 5'.....because they want to get those years back.

ALCESTER RUGBY CLUB



Wow, what a last couple of months!!

Pandemic, invasion, feeling the love and back again.

ALCESTER RFC The 2020/21 season has seen the club devastated by the global pandemic, with no competitive rugby played for the entire season and the club's finances stretched to manage this barren period.

A glimmer of hope returned when our teams were given the green light to return to training however the player's and club's joy was short lived.

On Friday 25 June our beautiful club was invaded by illegal caravans and a week long battle to get them removed began in earnest. Having sought the assistance of Bailiffs and finally the Police, who served them papers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, our visitors finally left our site at 8pm the following Friday, leaving us to count the cost of their week-long stay.

Broken windows, defaecation and general waste greeted us and we realised that we would not be able to reopen until the site had been sanitised, to safeguard all of our membership.

We therefore announced a clean-up day on Sunday 4 July and were truly humbled by the response from the local community, who turned out on mass to assist in any way possible and help us get back on our feet. After a long hard day we had our lovely club back and pictured is the resulting waste collected from the site

We were further humbled when the Dog & Partridge set up a go-fund me page and again the local community gave generously, generating in excess of £5,000 which has been put toward the legal fees,



repair costs incurred during this period and increasing our security, in order to prevent a repeat. The committee therefore decided to transform one of our upcoming Family Fun Day events, planned for Sunday 25 July, into a community event to say thank you. Invites were sent out via social media to the wider community. Plenty of new faces turned out, to join our membership in a great, fun filled day, with live music provided by Tex from the Texan Peacocks, who gave up his time, free of charge, to make the day that more special.

A raffle was conducted on the day with the prizes donated from local businesses and we would like to



thank Stratford Butterfly Farm, Panache 50, the Royal Oak, Moments hair & beauty salon, Cardammon, Ellenden Farm Shop and the Broom Tavern for their generous gifts.

We would also like to thank New Inn Lane Nurseries who sent us 7 hanging baskets that now adorn our lovely clubhouse (pictured).

Thanks also to O'Connor & Sons who erected the fence and gate that now encloses our 1st team pitch, RGS Gardening Services who helped with the site clearance and Greenmech/Jack Green who are fabricating height restrictors to go on our access points.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has supported us, from heart-felt

messages, to offers of equipment & assistance and to everyone who gave their time & effort to get us back up and running.

The Phoenix has risen again thanks to indomitable spirit of the local community and we hope to see everyone again soon.

All our love and thanks from everyone at Alcester RFC



Calling all girls

Alcester RFC are looking to raise the profile of females within rugby.

We are therefore initially appealing for all girls in school ages Reception through to year 6 to join us for the 2021/22 season. Come and join the Alcester Rugby Family and have fun with our existing players, some of who are pictured in action.

Girls can play rugby. Girls can do contact. #innerwarrior

#thisgirlcan

For more information please contact Stu Phillips (Director of Mini & Junior Rugby) Mobile: 07843 080865 ; Email: arfcdor@gmail.com We hope to see you soon.



WELCOME TO WARWICKSHIRE CONNECTED

Get connected with what is happening in your local area, keep up to date and get involved in shaping what goes on where you live or work.

Warwickshire Connected is a free messaging service brought to you by Warwickshire Police where you decide when and how you hear about the issues that matter most to you- whether that's getting regular crime updates, the latest information on ongoing incidents and emergencies or learning more about what your local Police are doing. This is also the place where you can get involved in helping to make your local area a safer place, tell us what Police should be doing in your area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe and tell us what matters are causing your communities harm. The Alcester Police weekly report will continue to be sent out via email to the circulation list (for the time being) and also on this new system. Members of the community and business owners in the area are encouraged to sign up to receive our reports and more.... Sign up here - https://www.warwickshireconnected.com/

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD



This month's meeting focused on the pandemic and its after effects. Whilst we are seeing a significant reduction in both hospital admissions and deaths, there are still people getting Covid and worse, encountering 'long Covid' which can be quite devastating. Although there are few statistics available appears to hit middle aged people worst. The symptoms (of which there are many) include acute tiredness, shortness of breath, brain fog and more. Long Covid is defined as someone experiencing such

symptoms after 12 weeks. If you feel that this applies to you please contact your doctor. The general conclusion is that Covid is here to stay and that, like flu, we need to learn to live with it.

Cllr Mark Cargill, Chair H&W Board

ALCESTER- GET A MOVE ON!



The months of June and July were very active for some of our residents as the 'Alcester – Get a Move On!' project provided a wonderful opportunity to improve their health and wellbeing through exercise and movement.

One-hour sessions were held by two qualified instructors every Saturday for six weeks to encourage residents over sixty to improve their physical health after spending time in lockdown.

These sessions aimed to improve spatial awareness through common exercises, such as stretching, balancing, and use of equipment to strengthen the core. The event also provided some

much-needed social interaction, allowing the attendees to finally get an opportunity to engage with other members of the community.

All in all, the event was a huge success, with both the attendees and the instructors really enjoying both the experience and improvement.

A short film is available on the Town Council website or on YouTube https://youtu.be/q-vKf9bi7ek

GONE FISHIN'...

In May and June, Alcester Town Council hosted a fishing programme for a small number of individuals. Funding from The Angling Trust (Sports England Tackling Inequalities Fund) provided an opportunity for four lucky residents to have some free coaching sessions and learn how to fish.

The event was a fantastic opportunity in allowing participants to get outdoors, be active and re-connect after the effects of the pandemic.

One participant commented "I really enjoyed the lessons, and they met my objective of having an experience of fishing. Both instructors were excellent. Paul was also an experienced hand and provided good tips. They were all very patient with a beginner."

One of the participants is now training to become a fishing coach and will put those skills to use by teaching the children at the Youth Club.



PLANNING MATTERS - UPDATE



May, June, and July were busy months for the Planning Committee with twenty-five planning applications coming into the office.

The committee met via Zoom on seven occasions to assess tree works applications and other matters as diverse as erecting flag poles, converting a barn into a holiday let, erecting signage, reviewing amendments to applications for the Allimore Road housing development and considering amendments to the Aldi supermarket proposals on the A435.

The Allimore Lane and A435 planning amendments attracted a lot of interest from residents living close by and several local people

attended the committee meetings to express their views. The latest amendments to the Bloor Homes Development fully addressed the matters of concern raised previously by the committee and NO OBJECTION to these amendments was ATC's response.

Questions remain over the proposals for the Aldi application on the site of Broad Lane Caravans. High amongst them are outstanding highway issues and further detail is necessary to assist the committee. Until these details are provided by the applicant and WCC Highways for scrutiny, the committee were unable to fully evaluate the application and responded to the amendments by sustaining the previously submitted HOLDING OBJECTION.

Participation from the public is extremely important to assist Councillors in their deliberations whilst always being mindful of the strict guidance covering the consideration of all planning matters.

A recent addition to the Town Council website is a link to Online Resources found within the Planning Committee section. These documents provide comprehensive information about the various planning regulations, from simple explanations of the rules governing home extensions to the Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan, Stratford District Council Core Strategy, and the Government National Planning Policy Framework. Whatever you might be looking for regarding planning applications or planning policy, you will be able to find it there.

Cllr Mike Bowe, Chair, Planning Committee

CHANGES AT ALCESTER MINSTER CHURCHES



Not only have we welcomed Revd Katie Cross to Alcester Minster as our new Rector but, with the lifting of the restrictions imposed due to COVID, things are changing in our services. We continue to request that anyone feeling unwell does not attend church.

We are remaining cautious and wish to assure everyone that our first priority is always to protect the safety of every soul in our parishes. Up until now

we have asked people to reserve a place at all services due to the restriction on numbers we were allowed to have. This is no longer the case, although we continue to ask that everyone records their attendance either by using the QR code or adding their name and details to a paper form to support NHS 'Test and Trace'. Aware that not everyone is



confident to resume being in close proximity to others, we are introducing an area in all our churches designated for people who prefer to remain a little distant from other people. People may wear a face covering if they wish to, but this is no longer required. We are delighted to announce that singing has returned to our services, but in a limited way and wearing a face covering when singing may be encouraged.

Look out for more news about services etc on the Alcester Minster website www.alcesterminster.org

Saturday 11 September will see Beth Clarke, the Children and Family Worker launch 'Messy Church'. Earlier this year she successfully introduced, 'Messy Church in a bag' and many families were able to engage in the activities it provided. Meeting together every month from September will be even better.

The Fun and Chat event for all ages will start again in September at Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall, Henley Road, Great Alne from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm on Saturday, 25 September. There will be activities for the young at heart and a place to sit and catch up. Cakes and hot and cold beverages will be available all morning followed by a light lunch before the event finishes.

OVERSLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Whilst no specific events have taken place over the preceding months from the last newsletter, things have been far from quiet in the hamlet

REFLECTION AREA

The area is becoming nicely established with a variety of bulbs and plants - our working party set about creating and stocking two designated areas either side of the bench which in the future should look bright and welcoming.

Other area's of the hamlet continue to be maintained and attended to by a dedicated team of volunteers ensuring the perpetual appeal to locals and visitors alike.

HEDGEHOGS

They are a real concern to our community and hoped that the recently erected hedgehog signs will help in altering motorist's to our growing hedgehog population and their welfare.

Over the past months many residents have taken part in 'Hedgehog Watch' and regularly reported activity of our prickly friends. It is hoped that the population will even increase in future with a family of hoglets!! RAGLEY AIR DISPLAY





Free entertainment and much excitement was provided courtesy of the Ragley Air Display!!

A Friday evening in July saw a majority of Oversley residents turning out to see the sky full of hot air balloons - one of which narrowly missed landing in the barley field opposite and thankfully avoided landing on any prized vegetable patches! With cloudless blue skies, the weekend entertainment was provided free of charge by the Red Arrows display team with loops, rolls and other feats of spectacular flying performance's. Future activities are currently being discussed so be sure to constantly check our notice board and social media for updates.

Mary Nash, Oversley Green Residents Association

Alcester RFC are recruiting for the 2021/22 season. **Players, Coaches and Volunteers needed.** We currently offer rugby for all Junior age groups from U5 (Reception) through to U17 (year 12) and adult rugby (17+). All ages and abilities welcome. No previous rugby experience required. Fully qualified and DBS checked coaches. Adult training Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm. Mini and Junior rugby Sundays from 10am. Come along and join a great rugby family.

For more information please contact Stu Phillips email: arfcdor@gmail.com ; mobile: 07843 080865 We hope to see you soon



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Once again, many of Alcester's prominent historic buildings will be open to the public as part of the Heritage Open Days festival on Sat 18 & Sun 19 September. Most of the venues will be open between 10 am and 4pm.

Alcester's Roman Museum will be open with activities for families planned for a marquee in the courtyard. Details will be on their website <u>https://romanalcester.org/</u>

Alcester Town Hall, St Nicholas Church, Church House in Butter Street and the Methodist Chapel will also be open for visitors to explore the history of the town.

For more details, see the Heritage Open Day website:

https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/

All venues will ensure that they are clean and safe for visitors who want a relaxing day out.

For enquiries contact: Susan Juned, 07980 803088, <u>susan.juned@gmail.com</u>

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ALCESTER



Ghost Brokers

'Ghost brokers' are fraudsters who sell fake or invalid car insurance policies. Victims are sold fake insurance documents for a policy that does not exist, or for a genuine policy that has been set up using false details to lower the price of the premium.

Fraudsters lure victims in with the offer of cheaper insurance premiums, usually via social media or by word-of-mouth. This type of fraud is typically carried out either by forging insurance documents, falsifying your details to bring the price down, or by taking out a genuine policy for you but cancelling it soon after. Often, the victim is not aware that they have been scammed until they are involved accident and claim in an try to on the policy. 'Ghost brokers' tend to target vulnerable communities, including members of non-English speaking communities who may not have full knowledge of UK insurance and laws, as well as young people looking for cheaper insurance deals. Last year, Action Fraud received 694 reports of 'ghost broking', with almost a third (29%) coming from victims aged 17-29. The reported losses for these victims alone totalled £113,500, with each individual losing an average of £559.

To protect yourself against Ghost Brokers:

- 'Ghost brokers' often advertise and communicate via social media, online forums and messaging apps. If a broker is only using a mobile phone or email as a way of contact, this can be a sign of this type of crime.
- They may also try to sell policies in pubs, clubs/bars or newsagents
- If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. If you are not sure about the broker, check on the Financial Conduct Authority or the British Insurance Brokers' Association website for a list of all authorised insurance brokers. You can also contact the insurance company directly to verify the broker's details. You can also check to see if a car appears to be insured on the Motor Insurance Database website.

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

PCSO 6111Gary 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 Facebook- Alcester Police Instagram- southwarwickshiresnts Facebook- Warwickshire Police

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

To join Neighbourhood Watch Alcester, contact <u>nhwalcester@gmail.com</u> 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 September 2021, most Council meetings will be held in person at Globe House. Community Care and Community Facilities meetings are held bimonthly. Planning Committee meetings will be held by email or online via Zoom.

Agendas are published online at: <u>www.alcester-tc.gov.uk</u> three days before each meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings 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: <u>www.facebook.com/alcester</u> Please click "like" and share with your friends. We're also on Twitter: <u>www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown</u>

Town Councillor's Contact Details

Alcester West Ward	Alcester Oversley Ward (contd)
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Emma Randle	Andrew Foster
randle.atc@gmail.com	01789 766708
Clive Neal-Sturgess	Keith Greenaway
01789 764416	01789 766818
Erick Wilson	Mat Hempell
01789 764366	07939 797582
Alcester Oversley Ward	
Vaughan Blake	David Henderson
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	Oversley Green Ward
Delivered by LL logo and printed by PSW	Kathryn Cargill
logo	(Mayor)
on behalf of Alcester Town Council	07745 608567