

# Alcester Town Council



## Winter Newsletter

December 2022 Issue 68

### ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARD!



*Photo courtesy of the Stratford Herald: Wendy Sherwood, Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk and Councillor Kathryn Cargill, Mayor of Alcester*

What a result for Alcester! We are absolutely delighted to have been named Council of the Year for 2022 by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). This is a very prestigious award and it means a great deal to us. To give it some context, there are 10,000 parish and town councils out there and Alcester was the winner!

As a Town Council we have “community” at the heart of everything we do and our entry for the award reflected this. Our councillors and our wonderful staff work incredibly hard to keep our town running smoothly, whilst developing new initiatives to benefit our residents. Our Health and Wellbeing programme has been nationally recognised and underpins everything that we are about. Our projects aim to meet needs in the community, whilst giving people the added wellbeing boost of making new friends and getting out with a purpose.

Particular congratulations are due to Vanessa Lowe for writing such a brilliant application, to Wendy Sherwood for her work on all the projects that helped us to win, and to all the councillors who went out to meet the public to publicise the award. Most especially, thank you so much to all of you who voted for us. This is a wonderful achievement and we are extremely proud.

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

So much has changed since I wrote my last Mayor's Message, when we were reflecting on a summer of events including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Although we were prepared for the inevitable passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at some point, it still came as a great shock to us all. The best description I heard was that the nation was mourning the loss of a treasured grandmother. It was a busy and challenging time and my thanks go to our wonderful office staff, who had the plans in place and worked incredibly hard over that weekend to ensure that we did everything required of us at the right time. I just had to follow instructions! I never imagined when I became Mayor that I would be reading the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III. It was an honour and a real privilege to be part of history.

A very special event that I was delighted to attend recently was the groundbreaking ceremony for Calgavin's new production and research facility, which is being built on the new Alcester Employment Park (see right photo). Calgavin is a local business, currently based at Minerva Mill, who are at the forefront of heat exchanger technology. The company is a world leader in this specialist field and partner with the University of Birmingham in ongoing research, as well as manufacturing bespoke equipment for global giants including Shell, BP and Petronas. We are immensely proud, not only to have had this inspirational company in Alcester for many years, but also that they plan to stay here as they grow into their



new premises. I wish them every success for the future.

And finally, in a great month for Alcester Town Council, two of our popular and successful projects featured at the Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) Volunteers Awards (see left photo). These awards celebrate volunteers across Warwickshire who tirelessly give their time and energy to help others. The Well Connected computer group earned Special Recognition in the Community Impact category and the Alcester Repair Café won the award in the Environment category. This is great and well-earned recognition for all our tremendous volunteers at these two groups who truly go that extra mile. Congratulations to you all!

*Cllr Kathryn Cargill, Mayor of Alcester*

## CLERK'S CORNER



**A Civility & Respect  
Pledge Council**

At its meeting on 6 September 2022, Alcester Town Councillors signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge, in line with many other town and parish councils across the country.

Throughout the sector, there are growing concerns about the impact of bullying, harassment, and intimidation on local councils, councillors, clerks and council staff and the impact that this has on the effectiveness of local councils.

The National Association of Local Councils has been working with partner organisations to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and to start a culture change for the local council sector.

Alcester Town Council has signed the Pledge to demonstrate that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour across the sector and driving through positive changes that support civil and respectful conduct.

*Vanessa Lowe, Town Clerk*

## ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

Office of the Town Clerk: Tel: 01789 766084

Mayor's Secretary: [mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

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

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

Town Clerk: [clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Office Administrator: [office@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

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



## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



### WARWICKSHIRE BUSINESS GREEN RECOVERY GRANT SCHEME

Warwickshire County Council has established The Warwickshire Business Support Green Recovery Grant Scheme, a new initiative that will deliver £300,000 in decarbonising grants for Warwickshire businesses.

The scheme will provide capital aid to assist businesses with decarbonising projects which support long term sustainability and growth of the local economy.

The scheme will offer grants between £1,000 to £20,000 to cover up to 40% of the cost and is open to small businesses within the Warwickshire Area who meet the grant eligibility criteria. For more information see: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/greengrants>

*Cllr Piers Daniell, County Councillor*

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This year was marked by the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen. This was a busy period culminating in my reading of the proclamation of King Charles III in Stratford. We all wish him well.

Covid has not gone away. We are still seeing infections although reducing in number. Possible new variants in Europe make it more important that you get your booster jab when offered. We are anticipating a bad flu year based on what's happened in Australia, so again, if eligible, please get your flu jab.

Life goes on and so does the war in the Ukraine. A small charity, Medical Aid Ukraine, deliver medical goods to Ukraine. If you have any suitable donations, please take them to Elizabeth House. Follow this link for the list: - <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/item/137842>

Along with Nadhim Zahawi, I attended the ground-breaking ceremony for a new factory unit in the Alcester Employment park, Calgavin (see Mayor's Message). This is marvellous news; not only are they growing their business but staying in Alcester.

Sponsored by the Stratford Herald and Stratford District Council, I attended the Business and Tourism awards event celebrating the successes of local businesses, many of which are start-ups, in what have been very trying times. Well done to all, but let's have more Alcester firms next year!

*Cllr Mark Cargill, Alcester and Rural*

## FREE SAFE AND WELL CHECK



Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service offer a free Safe and Well check to residents across Warwickshire. They are carried out by firefighters and Community Fire Safety Officers and have helped protect thousands of residents across Warwickshire from the risk of fire in their home.

Are you or someone you know vulnerable? If you or someone you know can tick any of the boxes below, please telephone 01926 466282 and ask for a **FREE Safe and Well Check**

- Does not have a working smoke alarm
- Cannot hear smoke alarm if sounds
- Does not know what to do when smoke alarm sounds
- Has a disability which does not allow them to leave the property
- Over 65 live in the property
- Smoker
- Children under 5 years of age
- Hoarding in the home
- Lives alone
- Prevention fall

The visit aims to assess the risk of fire in the home and how to minimise fire risks. A Copy of our Fire Safety in the Home leaflet will also be given as part of the Safe and Well check which contains lots of useful information about keeping safe. Additional Information will be given in relation to health and well-being including slips, trips and falls, smoking, electrical safety, scam callers and advice on how to improve your health and well-being.

Referrals can be made to other agencies as required to offer further support if needed. For more fire safety information visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/firesafety](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/firesafety)

## WINDOW WANDERLAND 2023



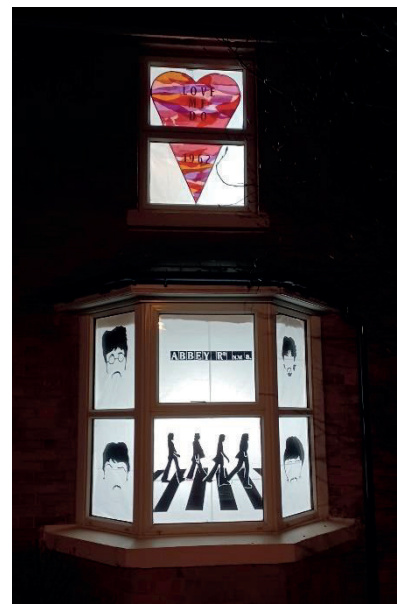
**Alcester's magical outdoor gallery-** It's official - Alcester Window Wanderland is back and will be held from 15 -22 January 2023.

Our streets were first transformed into a magical outdoor gallery in 2020 by bringing our community and neighbourhoods together, reducing isolation and inspiring creativity amongst residents. What are you waiting for?

Add your window to our gallery now via this link: <https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/alcester-2023/>

This year there will be four categories to be judged by an independent panel. These include:

- \* The Creative Award
- \* The Community Window Award
- \* The Best Classroom Window Award
- \* The Positive Message Award



With the help of volunteers, the Town Council will be hosting some workshops (November and January) to showcase simple ways of creating your window displays.

A big thanks goes to Seco Tools for their kind donation to help us run these events. Waitrose has also offered to donate prizes for the winning participants. These donations have enabled Alcester Town Council to run two free workshops at the Eric Payne Community Centre to encourage those that feel that they are lacking artistic talent to join in. Sally and Sean Macreavy, who have participated with their neighbours in the last few years, are offering their expertise to demonstrate that it is very easy and inexpensive to create a captivating window display. Places are limited so please book your place now, materials will be provided.

To reserve a place at the Window Maker Workshop on 7 January 2023 from 1.30- 4.30pm please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3zwZFfM>

For further information, please contact Cllr Kathrin Foster by email [kfoster.atc@gmail.com](mailto:kfoster.atc@gmail.com)

## CLIMATE ACTION IN ALCESTER 2022



Like many town and parish councils across the United Kingdom, Alcester Town Council voted to declare a climate emergency at the meeting of the Full Council in June this year. This underlines our commitment to take positive steps against climate change and to find practical and tangible solutions at a local level in collaboration with local groups and individuals. I have been inspired by the actions of other councils within Stratford District such as Oxhill Parish Council who organised a community event earlier this year to showcase how they are taking practical steps in conjunction with residents and large utility companies such as

Severn Trent Water.

So far, Alcester Town Council has hosted three meetings of the Climate Emergency Action Group which were attended by representatives of many local organisations and residents. It was extremely heartening to hear about the great practical measures that are already been done in our town and as well as their plans for the future.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time and Alcester Town Council intends to play its part by working within the community and partnering with neighbouring parish councils. Through their lead councillor's roles, members of Alcester Town Council are also contributing to the Climate Change Action plan which will be published in Spring 2023.

Anyone wishing to hear more about the Town Council's climate change initiative including getting involved with the work of our group can contact me by emailing [kfoster.atc@gmail.com](mailto:kfoster.atc@gmail.com).

*Councillor Kathrin Foster*



# Bereavement Support Group

For those experiencing the loss of a loved one

**Alcester Methodist Church**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month**

[14<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> Aug, 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, 13<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10<sup>th</sup> Nov, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec]

**@ 2pm**

An opportunity to meet others in similar circumstances to chat together and share experiences and coping strategies

For more information call  
Sally on 07884 191101

## FORGET- ME – NOTS

### NEW BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at Alcester Methodist Church 2pm.

A friendly inclusive group of both men and women, aimed at those looking for support, help and friendship from others in a similar situation.

## WINTER WARM HUBS

The cost of heating our homes is going to soar this winter so new 'warm hubs' are springing up across the country where people can go and get cosy. Warm hubs are where people can drop in, get warm, have a hot drink and be in the company of other people.

Alcester is taking part in this initiative, and we currently have the following Warm Hubs, although more will be added in the future so watch this space!!

Mondays- Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Church Hall 10am-12noon

Tuesdays- 10am- 2pm at Alcester Methodist Church and 9am- 12pm at Orange Mabel (Chatty Café scheme)

Wednesdays- 9.30am- 11.30am at Alcester Baptist Church and 11am- 4pm Church House, Butter Street

Check out our website for more updates

<https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk>

Or see <https://www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/wrcc-warm-hubs/> for further information about this initiative.



## ALCESTER COUNTRY MARKET



Alcester Country Market, in Alcester High Street, has a variety of Christmas treats for the family. The market offers baking, which can be ordered for Christmas, preserves and local honey and Christmas wreaths, greenery and plants. Potential gifts to purchase include Christmas decorations, cards, clothing, wooden items, glassware and a variety of other unique craft items. Everything is handmade or grown by our members. Come and visit us in Alcester High Street every Friday 9am- 1pm and between 10am- 1pm on Saturdays 3, 10 and 17 December. Order collections available on Friday 23 December. We will then be closed for the holiday period and re-open on Friday 13 January 2023.

We wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Ian Flear, Manager, Alcester Country Market*

# ALCESTER & DISTRICT COMMUNITY RESPONDERS



## We are recruiting!

The local Community First Responders group is looking for more volunteers to join their ranks.

No prior medical knowledge is needed, but a calm temperament and a desire to serve the local community is essential. There is a formal application and interview process, and if successful a candidate is booked onto the training course.

Full training for the national CFR qualification is delivered by instructors the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust Training School.

Once training is completed, uniform and PPE are provided from scheme funds, and following a probation period of up to 6 months, the CFR can then respond to 999 calls alone, in the liveried scheme car, if they wish to.

Candidates should be:

- Aged 18 and over (no upper age limit)
- Have a current clean driving licence
- Be physically fit
- Have a caring attitude with good communication skills
- Be highly responsible, professional and trust worthy
- Able to remain calm under pressure
- Able to handle sensitive, stressful and often demanding situations

If you would like more information about becoming a CFR, please contact the Alcester & District Scheme Coordinator, Bill Goodall, on 07714 677609.

## MAYOR'S CIVIC AWARDS

Before Covid, the Town Council organised the annual Mayor's Civic Awards and this year they will be held once again.

There are three categories of awards- Young Person of the Year, Community Organisation of the Year and Citizen of the Year. Nominations are open from Tuesday 15 November until Friday 16 December 2022. Nomination forms are available to download from the Town Council website or hard copies are available from the office. Nominations need to say why the nominee should receive an award plus the benefits resulting from the nominee's service to a particular field, area, group or community. Criteria apply to nominees and this information is on the form. The Civic Awards will be promoted on the website, social media, newsletter and on noticeboards.

The Mayor selects the winner from each category and a presentation is made at an Awards Evening which this time will be held at The Greig Hall on Friday 13 January 2023.



## ALCESTER GOLDEN OLDIES CINEMA CLUB

**We're Back!** Having been away since Covid 19 hit the UK, we have restarted the Cinema Club which was originally introduced in 2013 to help combat loneliness and isolation of the elderly within our beautiful town. We will be operating monthly at the Eric Payne Community Centre from October through to the spring on the following Fridays:

2 December 2022 and 6 January, 3 February and 3 March 2023

As always, we will be screening the film and serving afternoon tea afterwards for the small sum of £7pp. For catering purposes please confirm your attendance using

the contact details below.

Doors open at 2pm and the film starts at 2.30pm

In addition, we will be holding a special charity 'Evening at the Ballet' where we will serve a glass of Prosecco and canapes prior to screening a popular Matthew Bourne ballet on 9 December.

Contact Yvette 07984 413028 or Sue 07767 893886 or email [alcestercinemaclub@gmail.com](mailto:alcestercinemaclub@gmail.com) for further information or attendance confirmation.



## VOLUNTEERS AT REPAIR CAFÉ ALCESTER AND WELL-CONNECTED COMPUTER GROUP BOTH WIN AWARDS!!



Following on from the success of last year's awards, Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) hosted this special event to celebrate the wonderful volunteers who tirelessly give their time and energy to help others. Awards were offered across a range of themes and Repair Café Alcester won the Environment category, with the Well-Connected computer group receiving a Special Recognition for Community Impact.

Repair Café Alcester (see left photo)

takes place every fourth Thursday of each month 2pm – 5.30pm at the Eric Payne Community Centre (EPCC), off St. Faiths Road, Alcester B49 6AG.



Well-Connected computer group takes place every Wednesday from 9.30am – 11am at the Conservative Club, High Street, Alcester (see photo on left).



The Crafty Lunch Club takes place every Wednesday from 11.30am – 1.30pm at the EPCC £10, including lunch and drinks for carer and cared for (see photo above right).

For further information on any activity mentioned above or to enquire about volunteering, please contact Wendy Sherwood, Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Alcester Town Council. Tel: 01789 766084 or email: [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk)

Limited places! Book yours today using the QR code:



### PERI & POST MENOPAUSE AWARENESS

**FREE**

**Saturday 21st January 2023 - 10am-1pm**  
Eric Payne Community Centre, St. Faiths Road, Alcester. B49 6AG

**Aline Boblin**



Marsha  
Meno Moves



**MENOPAUSE KNOWLEDGE**  
HELPING COMMUNITIES & INDIVIDUALS UNDERSTAND  
MENOPAUSE - AND BEYOND



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL





## RIVERSIDE ANGLING CLUB



With the hot balmy summer nights and low river levels well behind us now, we have the challenge of high river levels and shorter days. But now is the time for the hard fighting chub and dace to show up in large groups in the rivers. With thanks to Nick Paddock allowing me to reproduce this picture of the chub he caught recently on the Riverside Angling Club waters

*Robert Jones, Hon. Secretary, Riverside Angling Club*  
**Tel: 07745358603**

## MARATHON KIDS

Marathon Kids UK's sister company, Raceways, held their Autumn 10K run on 9 October. All proceeds from the race go directly towards Marathon Kids UK, meaning that all of you who took part were directly assisting us with combating poor-health and obesity in children.

We can't thank you enough for joining us and we were so pleased with the turn out and how well the event was received. There was a great atmosphere on the day and it was a lovely way to welcome in the colder months.

We also had a fabulous turn out for the Kids Fun Run, with many children taking part and happily getting involved. It was lovely to see them enjoying themselves and doing something fun for exercise!

Our local Park event for kids is also ongoing, so if you've not been along, why not come and join in with the fun?

This is held at Jubilee Fields, at 9.30am every Saturday. We wish to engage as many children as possible, therefore all are welcome and it's also a great place for the kids (and parents) to make new friends who share similar passions and goals.

Please visit our website to find out more information – [www.marathonkids.co.uk](http://www.marathonkids.co.uk)

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION JUBILEE FIELDS PLAY AREA

Alcester Town Council are proposing to reduce the fenced area at Jubilee Fields from the current layout (Picture 1) to the area shown on Picture 2. The fenced area will still include all the play equipment at the rear of the Eric Payne Community Centre.

The reason for the proposed change is to reduce the amount of fencing and timber that needs to be replaced when or if damage or decay occurs with a potential cost saving in excess of £3000.

Picture 1



Picture 2



If you wish to comment on this proposal, please email the Town Council on [office@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@alcester-tc.gov.uk) by 31 January 2023.



## ALCESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR RENEW SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSONS COACHES



Alcester Male Voice choir have announced that the sponsorship agreement between the choir and Henley based Johnsons Coaches has been renewed for the next twelve months. The choir, in return for the sponsorship offer Johnsons promotional opportunities at the various concerts held throughout the year.

Judith Land BEM, the choir's founder and Director of Music, said "We are delighted that Johnsons have agreed to sponsor us again. They are our coach operator of choice and we use them for transporting the choir as and when we need to as well as for UK & overseas tours. As a choir it's vital that our coach operator

understands that much of what we do is time critical. Johnsons understand this and offer perfect travel solutions to what, at times, can be a demanding and complicated schedule."

The choir now have a busy programme of concerts with bookings well into next year, the highlight being their 49th annual concert which returns to The Greig Hall on 22 April 2023.

The choir always welcomes new members and any gentlemen interested in joining should contact Judith Land on 07886 139781 or email her at [judithamvc@hotmail.com](mailto:judithamvc@hotmail.com)



### **Christmas Concert** **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December** **4pm** **St Nicholas Church, Alcester**

**£10; Under 14s free**  
**Tickets: Humphries Shoes (cash only)**  
**High Street, Alcester**  
**Or on the door**

[www.alcestersingers.co.uk](http://www.alcestersingers.co.uk)  
[events@alcestersingers.co.uk](mailto:events@alcestersingers.co.uk)



#### **Save the date for Alcester Singers' Christmas Concert!**

The start time of 4pm is family friendly and there is no charge for under 14s.

The choir will sing "O Come, Emmanuel" by Alan Bullard and a selection of Christmas music.

The audience will be requested to join the choir in singing certain well known seasonal favourites.

Enjoy a brief break from the pressures of festive preparations.

## ALCESTER & BIDFORD ROTARY CLUB

# Rotary



Two more successful Big Breakfasts this autumn! Thanks to all the local businesses who support us with these events and all those who helped on the two days. Most of all thanks to those of you who attended and helped to raise more funds for all our good causes in Alcester and Bidford.

This year we have been able to donate to a great number of groups including: Dementia Day Care, Food Bank, Community Fridge, Scouts, Depot Youth Club, Rainbows, First Responders and Community Christmas Lunch in Alcester. Dementia Day Care, Christmas Lights, Crawford Hall in Bidford. Internationally we have donated to ShelterBox, Ukraine Crisis, and Goodwill in Africa (GAGA).

You can see us at Alcester Town Hall for the Christmas Lights switch on, in Church House, Alcester for Santa's Grotto and on 18 December outside Waitrose collecting for Parkinsons UK.

**BIG BREAKFAST DATES for 2023** are Saturday 4 March Bidford and Saturday 11 March in Alcester.

If you would like to join a friendly group helping your local community, contact us now!

[www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk](http://www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk)

Email: [alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com](mailto:alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com)

## OVERSLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Have you been inspired by an AGM? Not words you might read in a newsletter, or anywhere else come to that, but we have just had ours and it was great fun. Committee renewed with grateful thanks from the Chairman. One of the most interesting suggestions at the meeting involved Oversley Bridge. This bridge used to carry all traffic from Alcester to Stratford but now, unless you take the detour through Oversley Green on your Stratford trip, you could miss it

completely. It has been there a long time. Research has not yet revealed how long, but residents take an interest and there is a date carved into the bridge that gives us a clue. It's a start. It's also difficult to find and read and there's the challenge. To renovate or not? A pity to change what has been there for some time but good to focus on the history of what is a truly wonderful construction. So there it rests and we're having a think and starting to research. In the meantime Oversley loves its bridge and we'll do something to bring its wonderful history to light. Oh and do visit and see if you can find the date. It's not obvious. And what is it?

*Richard Slatter, Chair Oversley Green Residents Association*

## THE GREIG HALL



### Memories of The Greig

Your memories and memorabilia of past events at The Greig are being sought to be part of the Reopening Ceremony and/or

Celebration, both of which will be in February 2023. Perhaps the Hall played a significant part in your life and you celebrated your wedding or special birthday there, or were part of a performance on the stage? Your memories and photos will be gratefully received - as soon as possible please to [greighall@gmail.com](mailto:greighall@gmail.com) or post them through the letter box to the left of the door at The Greig.

### Membership of The Greig

You can become a Member of the new Greig Hall Charity free of charge. Members will elect the Trustees and be able to influence what is offered at The Greig. If you love The Greig and want to be part of its future please complete and return the simple application form which can be downloaded here

- <https://greighall.org.uk/membership/> - or a paper copy can be requested via [greighall@gmail.com](mailto:greighall@gmail.com)

Alternatively you can scan the QR code which will take you to the membership form.



## PLANNING MATTERS

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are working together to produce a new South Warwickshire Local Plan to cover the combined geographic area. Alcester is within the combined geographic area.

### The South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

The SWLP will set out a long-term spatial strategy for housing, jobs, infrastructure, and climate change for both Districts.

The Plan comprises 8 stages and is expected to replace the strategic policies of the existing [Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/core-strategy.cfm) (<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/core-strategy.cfm>) and [Warwick Local Plan](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20410/new_local_plan) ([https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20410/new\\_local\\_plan](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20410/new_local_plan)) which are soon due for review.

**Scoping and Call for Sites Consultation** took place during May and June 2021. Amongst other things this consultation asked where in South Warwickshire new development should be located and how we should accommodate growth. The *Consultation Statement* was published in January 2022 and can be found, with a more detailed explanation, by following this link:

[South Warwickshire Local Plan - South Warwickshire Plan - Warwick District Council](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20376/planning_policy/1666/south_warwickshire_plan) ([https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20376/planning\\_policy/1666/south\\_warwickshire\\_plan](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20376/planning_policy/1666/south_warwickshire_plan))

The next stage is the publication of the *South Warwickshire Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation*, which is expected to be presented to the two Councils' Joint Committee in December 2022, with a 6-week consultation period commencing in early January 2023.

Your views are important to this process, and I encourage you to take part in the consultation when it is published.

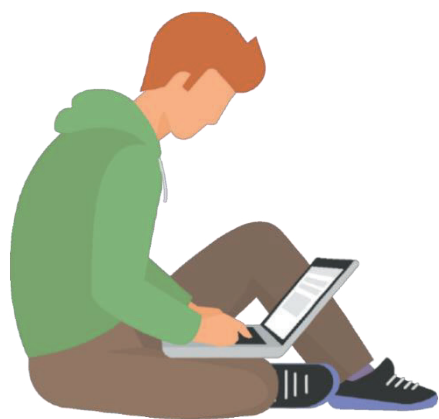
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### **Planning Committee advice to residents making planning applications:**

*For Planning applications over 20sq m, a Climate Change Checklist, focusing on Climate Change adaption and mitigation, is an important document and must be completed.*

*Cllr Mike Bowe, Chair, Planning Committee*

## 'YOU CAN ONLINE', A NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT ONLINE INCLUSION IN AN INCREASINGLY DIGITAL WORLD



Warwickshire County Council has launched You Can Online, a brand-new initiative delivered through Warwickshire Libraries. The initiative provides support and access to digital tablet devices for individuals, families, and local communities to help with the development and learning of key digital skills. Digital tablets can be borrowed from Warwickshire Libraries. It is hoped that this scheme will help enable people to feel safer, more confident, and included in the online space.

The You Can Online digital Lenovo M10 tablets, which are pre-loaded with a selection of apps and come with internet data included, are available for library members to borrow

for up to six weeks at a time, completely free of charge. During this time, library members will receive regular support from Warwickshire Libraries' IT team to learn and develop the digital skills they need. If someone is not a library member and would like to borrow a tablet, they can join their local library for free by asking at their local library in person or by visiting [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jointhelibrary](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jointhelibrary)

Read more about You Can Online and the impacts of digital exclusion at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3431/council-launches-you-can-online-initiative-to-support-digital-inclusion-in-an-increasingly-online-world](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3431/council-launches-you-can-online-initiative-to-support-digital-inclusion-in-an-increasingly-online-world)

Warwickshire Libraries are interested to hear if you know of any opportunities to link up You Can Online with any other work happening across the County Council, including with any partner organisations, that will help to further reduce the digital divide in Warwickshire. For any ideas, suggestions, or if you would like to discuss You Can Online in more detail, please email [youcanonline@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:youcanonline@warwickshire.gov.uk) Engagement hub for Warwickshire County Council.

## ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL WELCOMES COUNCILLOR GAVIN SMITHERS



Alcester's newest town councillor, Gavin Smithers, was elected on 8 September 2022. He is now addressing a number of issues residents have raised with him.

Gavin was born in Oxford and graduated from Oxford University in 1982. After twenty years in retail banking, he owned and ran a soft play centre in Redditch. A spell as a business consultant in the public sector followed, and since 2009 he has been a private tutor and writer. All his children attended Alcester schools, and two of his daughters live in the town now. Both work for Helping Hands.

He has been appointed lead councillor for play areas and looks forward to this area of responsibility.

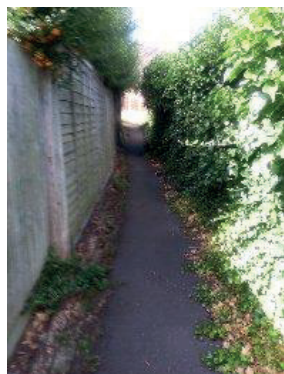
"The profile of our local population is always changing, and we need to try to make sure that play provision stays relevant", Gavin

says. "Regulations and inspections keep play areas safe, but we meet those costs out of your council tax, so it's vital that the equipment we maintain is used and useful".

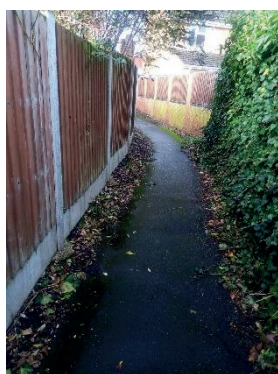
Gavin welcomes any ideas or suggestions residents want to put forward on sustainable play area provision. You can contact him by email at [gsmithers.atc@gmail.com](mailto:gsmithers.atc@gmail.com)

Gavin says that he has a list of issues which residents have raised, to do with parking, speeding, access for emergency vehicles and other topics. "I will try to resolve residents' concerns via our partners at the district and county councils where we can. Alcester is a great place to live. Council tax can't pay for everything we'd wish for, but I want to contribute in some way to the good work which underpins our community".

## ABBEY TUERY- BEFORE AND AFTER



Before



After

Residents who use Birch Abbey Tuery- behind Flax Close, linking Birch Abbey and Bleachfield Street- will have noticed how much easier it is to walk along now.

A resident of Birch Abbey asked Gavin Smithers, our newest councillor, to get the overgrown vegetation cut back.

County Highways at Warwickshire County Council took up the request and the Tuery is tidier now. Alan Jones of County Highways says that the footpath will also be inspected to see if temporary repairs to the surface are possible. He also suggested that residents whose

gardens adjoin the Tuery can help by keeping an eye on any overgrowth from their own gardens.

Residents can report problems with footpaths, dangerous

trees or vegetation direct to the county council on-line, or via any town councillor.

Gavin said "It's pleasing to find our Highways partners so willing to help, within their own cost constraints. Whilst it's not always easy to know who is responsible for a piece of land or overgrowth, I'd encourage residents not to keep these issues to themselves".

## WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL- HELP WITH COST OF LIVING



The rise in living costs is having a huge impact on household budgets for many and people are making some tough decisions about what to prioritise. Help is available if you are struggling to afford food or pay household bills this winter.

Information and support is available online at

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/costofliving> which features links to services to help with budgeting- meeting the costs of council tax, energy, food and childcare for residents. Alternatively you can call **01926 410410**

**Warwickshire Directory-** Find information about local organisations, groups and agencies that provide activities, advice, services and support: <https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/>



**Will you be alone this Christmas Day?**

New to the area and want to make new friends?

If so, join us for the

**Alcester Community Christmas Day Dinner**

at the Eric Payne Community Centre  
St Faith's Road

Alcester

B49 6AQ

Call us or email for your invitation

07414 851644

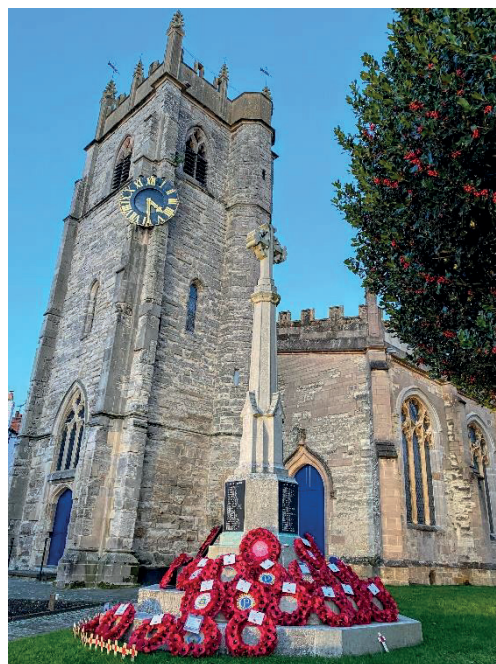
alcester-ccd@hotmail.com

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

Can you spare an hour or two on Christmas Day, or a few hours before the big day? Call or email: 07414 851644 alcester-ccd@hotmail.com

## REMEMBRANCE 2022

Another great turn out by Alcester on a beautiful sunny Remembrance Sunday, 13 November to remember all those who had lost their lives in conflict. The Parade started at Centenary Field then marched up the High Street to Church Green. It was very well supported this year - led by Alcester Royal British Legion accompanied by Alcester Victoria Silver Band, followed by serving members of HM forces and veterans, representatives of the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff, Alcester Army Cadet Force, Alcester Town Council, other Council representatives, Emergency Services, Alcester Court Leet, Alcester Churches Together, town organisations, youth organisations and junior sports clubs. A short outdoor service was led by Reverend Katie Cross on Church Green where wreaths were laid, standards presented and lives remembered (see three photos below). A short outdoor service on Church Green had also been held on Armistice Day, Friday 11 November.



Armistice Day, 11 November 2022





## MONEY ADVICE MARKET

Residents concerned about the rising cost of living attended a special Money Advice Market in Alcester on Friday afternoon 11 November at the Eric Payne Community Centre. The event, organised by Alcester Town Council, gave everyone a chance to speak face to face with experts about concerns including benefits, housing, paying energy bills, managing debt and eating on a budget.

A wide range of agencies were available to offer immediate advice at the event plus residents attending were able to watch cookery demonstrations, enjoy free refreshments, children's activities and take part in a raffle to win a slow cooker.

There was also an opportunity for people to bring along their broken items to the ever popular Repair Café.

Organisations attending included:

- Act on Energy
- Age Concern
- Alcester Community Fridge
- Arden Foodbank
- Orbit Housing Association
- South Warwickshire Citizens Advice
- Voluntary Action Stratford on Avon District
- Warwickshire Family Information Service
- Warwickshire Rural Community Council



*One of the lucky winners of a slow cooker!*



*Repair Café volunteers*



*Orbit Housing Association and resident*



*Arden Foodbank & cookery demo*



## POLICE WEEKLY DROP IN SURGERIES

On Wednesdays evenings 6- 9pm Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team (Alcester SNT) has been opening the doors to the old front office at Alcester Police station for you to speak to a member of your safer neighbourhood team about any community concerns you may have, to gain advice on anything policing related including crime prevention or just simply to have a chat and get to know your local policing team.

Please note: Due to the nature of Policing there will be occasions where the session may need to be cancelled at short notice. If this is the case Alcester SNT will do their utmost to advertise this by social media, but this may not always be possible.

## CONTACTING THE POLICE

The Police would like to remind residents that they need to report any policing issues directly to them. A direct report from a resident is logged onto their database and builds evidence for resource to be applied to issues.

Social Media conversations do not contribute to this important database.

### Points of contact:

#### **999**

This is the number to ring if there is an emergency incident happening right now that needs an immediate police presence – if life is at risk, people are injured, offenders are nearby or a crime is in progress.

#### **Reporting online**

This is the preferred method to contact police and report any non-emergency issues which do not require an immediate response. This also includes reporting non-emergency collisions and anti-social behaviour.

Online reporting is available 24/7 and can be accessed here: [Report/ Warwickshire Police](https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report/)

(<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report/>)

#### **Just reporting**

If you simply want to provide information or intelligence without speaking to anyone, this can be done online at [Home/Warwickshire Police](https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/) (<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/>)

#### **Operation Snap**

Online reporting re Operation Snap in relation to vehicle ASB/traffic offences- [Operation Snap/ Warwickshire Police](https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/police-forces/warwickshire-police/areas/warwickshire-police/campaigns/campaigns/2019/operation-snap/)

(<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/police-forces/warwickshire-police/areas/warwickshire-police/campaigns/campaigns/2019/operation-snap/>)

#### **101**

If you are unable to report an issue online but have concerns that do not need an emergency response, this is the number you can use. Please be aware that you may have to wait if the lines are busy, but make sure you have (or receive) an Incident Number.

### **Alcester Police Station**

#### **Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood Team**

Please feel free to contact the team direct by email:

SGT 1685 David Ebbs

PC 1672 Beat Manager Rob Davies

PCSO 6327Carolyn Davis

PCSO 6111Gary Johnson-Jones

Alcester Office - 01789 444816

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

[david.ebbs@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:david.ebbs@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

[robert.davies4@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:robert.davies4@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

[carolyn.davis1@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:carolyn.davis1@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

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

### **Crimestoppers**

#### **0800 555 111**







If you want to report something anonymously, you can contact Crimestoppers. They are an independent charity working to help communities. Your anonymity is guaranteed. Google Crimestoppers and you can report online.

Of course, if it relates to just information or intelligence and you would rather speak to a person, the public can speak to any of the SNT while out and about or email the SNT directly.

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Full Council and Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings are held in person at Globe House. Planning Committee meetings are generally held online via Zoom or by email. Agendas are published on town noticeboards and 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 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. Social media is another source of information regarding council matters- we are on Facebook [www.facebook.com/alcester.towncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/alcester.towncouncil) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown](https://www.twitter.com/AlcesterTown) and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/alcestertowncouncil/>

### Town Councillor's Contact Details

Alcester West Ward	Alcester Oversley Ward (contd)
 <b>Mark Cargill</b> 07988 485050 <a href="mailto:mcargill.atc@gmail.com">mcargill.atc@gmail.com</a>	 <b>Gill Forman</b> 01789 763828 <a href="mailto:gforman.atc@gmail.com">gforman.atc@gmail.com</a>
 <b>Gavin Smithers</b> 07955 687341 <a href="mailto:gsmithers.atc@gmail.com">gsmithers.atc@gmail.com</a>	 <b>Kathrin Foster</b> 07875 609324 <a href="mailto:kfoster.atc@gmail.com">kfoster.atc@gmail.com</a>
 <b>Emma Randle</b> <a href="mailto:randle.atc@gmail.com">randle.atc@gmail.com</a>	 <b>Andrew Foster</b> 01789 766708 <a href="mailto:afoster.atc@gmail.com">afoster.atc@gmail.com</a>
 <b>Clive Neal-Sturgess</b> 01789 764416 <a href="mailto:csturgess.atc@gmail.com">csturgess.atc@gmail.com</a>	 <b>Keith Greenaway</b> 01789 766818 <a href="mailto:keithgreenawayatc1@gmail.com">keithgreenawayatc1@gmail.com</a>
 <b>Erick Wilson</b> 01789 764366 <a href="mailto:ewilson2.atc@gmail.com">ewilson2.atc@gmail.com</a>	Vacancy
Alcester Oversley Ward	
 <b>Vaughan Blake</b> (Deputy Mayor) 01789 764128 <a href="mailto:vblake.atc@gmail.com">vblake.atc@gmail.com</a>	 <b>David Henderson</b> 01789 765271 <a href="mailto:dhenderson.atc@gmail.com">dhenderson.atc@gmail.com</a>
 <b>Mike Bowe</b> 07775 500993 <a href="mailto:mbowe.atc@gmail.com">mbowe.atc@gmail.com</a>	 <b>Wendy Mills</b> 07842 596542 <a href="mailto:wmills.atc@gmail.com">wmills.atc@gmail.com</a>
 <b>Alison Leask</b> <a href="mailto:aleask.atc@gmail.com">aleask.atc@gmail.com</a>	
	Oversley Green Ward
Delivered by  and printed by  on behalf of Alcester Town Council 	 <b>Kathryn Cargill</b> (Mayor) 07745 608567 <a href="mailto:kcargill.atc@gmail.com">kcargill.atc@gmail.com</a>