

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

Actions/Issues arising from Full Council

- Confirmation from SDC that no election has been requested in response to the vacancy notice. Co-option vacancy advertised with a response date of 20th February.
- Precept demand sent to SDC.
- Email to WCC re proposed on street parking charges sent jointly with other affected towns. Press release on the topic. Posters on noticeboards. Receipt of email acknowledged by WCC Portfolio Holder but no substantive response.

ATC Operations

- Burials/interments in January 2026 – 1 burial.
- Income from EPCC in January 2026 - £1775 plus VAT.
- Regulation 14 consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan Review continues until 30th January 2026.
- Hard copy consultation documents for SDC's consultation on Social Housing Allocations Policy Review received and made available in the Library. The documents are also available online if councillors wish to respond
<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/138683>
The consultation has been passed to the Planning Committee.
- Following on from the demise of WRCC, we have received the following message from SDC
We are contacting you about the services provided by the Rural Housing Enabler through Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC). As you may be aware, WRCC ceased trading and closed all services with immediate effect on 1 December 2025. We're sure this will have caused some concern for communities who were actively working with the Rural Housing Enabler. The District Council recognises the important service a Rural Housing Enabler provides to communities, and we are currently exploring options for this provision to continue. In the meantime, if parishes have any concerns or specific queries in relation to local needs housing, please contact the Housing Policy and Development Team: Housing.Policy@stratford-dc.gov.uk
- Work to replace the lychgate roof in the Cemetery completed – see Cemetery Lead Councillor report.
- On a personal note, I have been elected as Chair of the NALC Smaller Councils Committee for 2026 and 2027, having been Vice-Chair for the past two years.
- We received a thank you note for ATC staff assistance with Community Christmas lunch.
- The nutrition talk given by Cllr Vicky Holyland on 16th January was extremely well received with 20 attendees.

- Allotment renewals almost complete – See Allotment Lead Councillor report.
- As part of the Alcester Connected for Climate and Nature project, there have been wildflower and hedge planting sessions during January. We have also planted a few new trees to replace those lost in storms.
- Email exchange with Fortitude School sharing community events that their students may wish to get involved in.
- Preparations for Window Wanderland continue – this starts on 28th February. We currently have 10 addresses signed up.
- A very nice email received in the office:

Having watched the BBC breakfast this morning they spoke about a new idea of 'Town of Culture' I'm a Redditch lad and have often said how much I like the village of Alcester, naturally I'm corrected, my comment is a compliment because if a Town can offer a village feeling then in my opinion it's doing really well for it's community and beyond. I feel Alcester should consider entering if not this year may next.

- We work closely with our colleagues in Alcester Library and at their request, I have pledged ATC's support for The National Year of Reading 2026. I have committed to nothing more than publicising local events but it seems a worthwhile initiative connecting the library, our schools and our new bookshop [National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#)
- Following the New Year's Day Stirrup Cup I received the following email:

I have recently spent a wonderful week on holiday in your beautiful town. I noticed on the notice board road closures for the "stirrup cup", a phrase I had my suspicions about so dug into its real meaning. It's disguised wording for "trail hunting", that discredited smokescreen for real illegal hunting (as per the hundreds of convictions for it in recent times).

I've done Facebook digging and like the rest of the country, fox hunting no longer has the approval of the public in town or country (80% oppose hunting nationally). Tiverton town council have passed a motion declaring the hunt no longer welcome in the town. Should Alcester Council not follow suit and express the wishes of the majority of its residents to declare the hunt unwelcome? Can this be proposed please at the next council meeting? I welcome your reply.

I have replied to the correspondent confirming that I will share this email with councillors. I have explained that Stratford District Council are responsible for approving the road closure for this event and ATC have no role in this process.

- Email received from St Nicholas Night team seeking support from ATC – email shared with councillors and I have asked for a meeting to discuss. Cllr Andrews and Cllr Ashfield have indicated that they would be happy to help.
- The Town Council has been consulted on a project for a small scale woodland planting scheme adjacent to the River Arrow (on the Greenmech site). This was an informal consultation. The Flood Resilience Panel were happy with the proposal and I have therefore replied accordingly.

Visitor Information Boards and Finger Posts

I have been attending Alcester Place Partnership meetings arranged by SDC for 12 months and during one of these meetings, I was informed that funds might be available for Alcester to refresh the triangular Visitor Information Boards in the car parks and the cast iron finger posts around the town centre.

As with all such applications, we had to put in an urgent funding bid and I am extremely grateful to Cllr Mills for her invaluable support in obtaining suitable quotes over the Christmas period.

We understand that funding has now been secured to refresh all the signage. This work is currently being commissioned as it must be completed by 31st March 2026. The cost of the project should be covered by funds agreed by SDC.

External meetings attended

High Bailiff's Church Service – 11th January
Local Climate Engagement Steering Group – 13th January
Meeting with potential Town Councillor – 15th January
NALC Smaller Councils Committee meeting – 20th January
SLCC National Conference – 28th and 29th January.

Vanessa Lowe

Town Clerk

26th January 2026