

APPENDIX 1A

Great Alne Parish Assembly Chairman's Report

List of achievements in 2023/24

Objectives from last year

- Follow up results of Housing Needs Survey
- Climate change action group aiming to produce action plan by the autumn
- Deliver Street Light replacement programme
- Continue with Chatty Café and Huff Space
- Establish more volunteer groups

So what have we done?

Housing needs survey undertaken at start of the current financial year. Working with rural housing enabler at WRCC to identify the need and type of **affordable housing** in Great Alne. 5 potential sites originally identified for consultation, one further site has become available.

Dedicated webpage on the Parish Council's website for all updates and developments.

Climate Action Group celebrated its one year anniversary. Great team of dedicated, passionate and enthusiastic volunteers.

- Working plan prepared
 - terms of reference
 - goals and targets in the short, medium and long term.
- 'Making Great Alne Greener' survey
 - Circulated to all residents of the parish
 - Gained understanding of climate priorities and concerns at a local level.
 - This information has helped support the CAG's terms of reference and objectives.
- Calculation of carbon footprint
 - For Parish and of GAPC
 - provides benchmark to measure progress.

- Also helped focus CAG priorities and steer the key areas for funding.
- SDC Community Climate Change Fund.
 - 4 Expressions of Interest successfully submitted
 - Flooding measures
 - EV charging point
 - Water provision in the park for future planting plans
 - Feasibility study for a Great Alne Greenway down to Alcester
 - Full applications for 3 projects were submitted on 19 April. Delighted to confirm that the applications for all three projects have been successful and the full funding amount has been awarded for each one as of 20 May 2024. Legal agreements yet to be signed and all projects must be delivered within 12 months.

Flooding issues

- Parish Councilor Responsibility Allocated
- Outline Plan Developed
- FLAG Volunteers recruited
- Four FLAG meeting held
- Action Plans identified
- Key Parties engaged including:
 - Surrounding Parishes
 - Farmers and Key Land Owners
 - WCC Highways
 - Severn Trent
 - Environmental Agency
 - Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
 - The Woodland Trust
 - Third parties such as drain clearance professionals, and hydrologists
- Weir Management

- Upstream tributaries investigated by WWT: proposals on natural flood management measures have been received and are to be discussed with relevant landowners and farmers. Drains, Ditches and Culverts mapped and conditions documented
- Sernal Lane investigated and issues identified

Funding Applications

- **£500 grant** fund award from the **WRCC for GAPC's winter warm hub**:
 - Chatty Café – free light lunch provided for part of year, now reverted to free tea, coffee and sweet treats.
 - Also offered an activity table with games, crafts or demonstrations, or the occasional guest speaker.
 - Flyer drop provided to the whole parish and Cllr Francis and the Clerk gave a presentation to residents at GAP about Chatty Café in January.
 -
- **£600** funding awarded by **WRCC** for **slow cooking course**. Shared with Alcester Town Council, one of only 12 courses run throughout the whole of Warwickshire.
 - 12 households, including some of which were considered vulnerable.
 - All provided with a free family sized slow cooker to keep
 - All ingredients, recipes and demonstration lesson provided
 - Selection of meals prepared over a 4 week course.
 - Attendees received a file of slow cooking recipes to keep plus items and leaflets from WRCC on home energy efficiency, free carbon monoxide alarm etc.
 - Feedback overwhelmingly positive. Initiative was a great example of local parish and town councils working together, along with other agencies.
- **£25,000 UKSPF for the streetlighting upgrade to LEDs** has been spent on upgrading the remaining 17 of the parish's ageing lighting stock. There have been technical issues which have caused some

delays, but the project is now very nearly finished, with just one street column and lamp left to be replaced. The funding aspect of the project has been signed off by SDC with confirmation that GAPC has met its contractual obligations.

Huff space

- Just celebrated its one year anniversary.
- Monthly session held at the pub for the older children.
- Range of activities and events with them, including a session at the HoEF building dens and cooking on fires they had lit themselves.
- Funded by Parish Council.
- Had a number of sessions at full capacity of 20 children.
- Thank you to the volunteers who run the sessions, who are all DBS registered. More needed please!

Parish-wide speeding survey

- Survey undertaken by IVG across the 4 main routes in and out of the parish.
- Serious speeding issue at Sernal Lane and outside the school being considered by WCC Road Safety Team
- Also trying to introduce traffic calming outside GAP. Possible options:
 - buffer zone of 40mph,
 - dragons teeth
 - signage for the concealed entrance
 - new white 'entering Great Alne' gates.
- Waiting for WCC to analyse the data so we can discuss further.
- CSWG now has a new speed detection device and awaiting authorisation on new roadside locations for the team to use the device.

Easter Hampers

- Donated to local families in Great Alne that would benefit from extra support. We worked closely with Great Alne Primary School who distributed the hampers on our behalf. Donations from residents were again, very generous and much appreciated.

CPBT continue to work in the parish – GAPC, Church, School, Memorial Hall all benefitted from the very high quality workmanship and attention to detail

Community Action Day

- Hugely successful, well attended community gathering in Memorial Hall
- Included, among other things, several SDC team representatives, Police, Fire Brigade, Act On Energy, School, Alcester Minster and other local community groups
- Showcased work of Climate Action and Flood Action Groups

Other activities during 2023-24 included:

- Establishment of a Footpaths Survey working group who have now almost finished surveying the footpath network. Next steps will be to carry out repairs, signposting and working with landowners on specific crossing points where applicable.
- Further tree maintenance in the park
- Work to maintain and protect the new trees in the Coronation Copse
- 250 free trees applied for and awarded by I Dig Trees Charity – awaiting planting in the autumn
- Worked with SDC to resolve serious fly tipping at the Ford in Feb 2023

- Survey of residents on the local bus service (Stagecoach x19) with a view to approaching the operator about possible improvements,
- Local elections in May 2023 – Great Alne election uncontested, all 5 parish councillors re-elected.
- Supporting Open Reach with ultra fast broadband project. Survey work is now being undertaken. Work is due to start in summer.
- Continuing to help residents with the cost of living crisis, through schemes such as Chatty Café, huff space, and the slow cooking course, but also signposting to sources of funding and access to help.
- Dogs in the park – clarification of signage and trial period of allowing dogs to walk on the path on a short lead. New signage to follow.

AND FINALLY

Thanks to residents, my fellow councillors and volunteers for all their support throughout the year. Also partners, and particularly our clerk Kyla Brown, without whom we couldn't have come close to our accomplishments in 23-24.

Lynn Bowring

Chairman, Great Alne Parish Council

May 2024