

ALREWAS PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



September 2015

Forward together as a community

An exceptional amount of time and expenditure this last year has been spent on developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Alrewas and fighting the Essington Green planning application for 120 houses on the land North of Dark Lane (see page 2).

Last year our precept, the amount residents pay to fund the cost of running the Parish Council, went up to just over £37K. This is the first increase since the parish split from Fradley in 2009.

We welcome three new councillors following the elections this year - Jan Altham, who organised our Best Kept Village entry, Chris Niblock, an active

resident of Alrewas, and June Attwood from Overley Lane. Thanks go to our outgoing councillors – Peter Coates, who has been particularly committed to our problems with traffic flow and safety within the village (see page 3) and is ever mindful of our historic heritage, and Graham Slight who has, amongst other things, had a major input to our Neighbourhood Plan.

Many community projects have been completed this year that the Parish Council have funded and supported, details on page 3. We continue to have a good working partnership with Alrewas Neighbourhood Watch and our Community Policing team (see page 4) and crime remains low in the village.

Residents are always welcome to Parish Council meetings (page 3) and the website is regularly updated with ongoing projects and issues as well as village news.



Contact us

Mrs Jean Burton, Parish Clerk

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www.alrewasparishcouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan

Our draft Plan was put forward for local consultation last year, every response received was considered and the revised Neighbourhood Plan was eventually completed and submitted in February this year.

The process was lengthy and detailed and many of the alterations to the Plan resulted from the 66 comments received from Lichfield District Council. We tried to accommodate them where possible but, for instance, on housing numbers we are trying to resist any upward revision to our proposed allocation of 90 new dwellings over the life of the Plan (up to 2030). The Plan has just returned from the independent Examiner whose role is to ensure that basic conditions and legal requirements have been met throughout the process and within the document itself. We are currently looking at the modifications needed.

The Plan will ultimately go to a referendum of all Parish residents on the electoral role. A simple majority “yes” vote is required for the Plan to be “made”. It then becomes part of the Statutory Development Framework and future development must be compliant with it.

Dark Lane Planning Applications

In our fight against this unwanted development, the Parish Council has greatly appreciated the reasoned objections sent in by residents to both Essington Green applications and the demonstrable support given at the time of the Planning Committee meetings last July and this June, when both were rejected.

The application went to appeal in July and lasted two weeks. The report will be submitted to the Secretary of State on or before 3rd November and the decision issued on or before 19th January.

We should be in a stronger position now because we have the Local Plan in place, Lichfield’s housing supply for the next 5 years is more than covered, and the Neighbourhood Plan is through its consultation phase.

The Parish Council has spent nearly £12,000 on consultants. The good news is that we have been able to offset a good proportion of this with gifts of nearly £8,000 from villagers. A big thank you to all who have contributed.

Pre-planning meetings with developers

The Parish Council are keen to meet with any developers planning to build in Alrewas before they submit planning applications so that we can work together on the level and quality of housing the village needs to maintain its historic character and rural setting.



Local Minerals Plan

Many residents are concerned about plans to excavate West of the A38 between Alrewas and Kings Bromley. The Parish Council has submitted their comments to Staffordshire County Council which can be found on the website. The Plan is expected to go to the Inspector in January with an outcome at the end of 2016



Website

The website is regularly updated and contains lots of information about the Parish Council as well as what's going on in Alrewas, including:

Minutes and agendas of Parish Council meetings, current planning issues, the Village News (as it appears in the Lichfield Mercury), and the Village Directory (where you can get links to all the village organisations).

alrewasparishcouncil.org.uk

Meetings

Parish Council meetings are held the second Monday of every month in the Village Hall. Planning applications can be viewed and Councillors are available for a chat from 7pm. The meetings start at 7.30pm. There is a public participation session at the beginning of each meeting for members of the public to speak on any item on the agenda. The Clerk must be notified in advance

Village Gateways have now been installed at the Fox Lane and Kings Bromley entrances to the village. These were recommended by Staffordshire Highways as the preferred traffic calming measure before others would be considered. These, together with the new road markings, are designed to alert motorists that they are entering a village and should slow down. The 30mph speed limit on the Kings Bromley Road has also been moved further back towards the A513. Thanks go to Councillor Eagland for all her support and funding for these projects.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor traffic issues in the village as they arise.

Community Projects

Walkfield Play Area

We continue with our maintenance and improvement of the play area on Walkfield. This year we managed to replace the hugely popular cross-scales equipment with thanks to funding from Alrewas Youth Club reserves, and grants from Councillor Janet Eagland and the Civic Society, nearly £6,000 in total.

There is currently a working group investigating designs and funding for further improvements of the play area.

War Memorial.

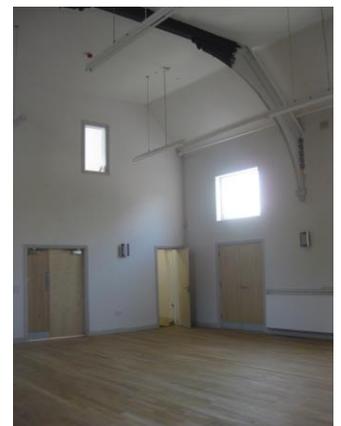
A Task Group has overseen the cleaning and addition of names, replacement of the benches, a general tidy up and replanting of the surrounding garden. Our thanks in particular to Gerald Cartwright for the garden work. We recognize that work is still needed on the base of the memorial.

Tennis Courts

We are delighted to see two new tennis courts on Parish Council land behind the Cricket Club thanks to the hard work of the Tennis Club Committee.

Alrewas Village Hall

The Parish Council are proud to have provided funds towards the extension and refurbishment of our village hall. The transformation is amazing and we now have a larger and more flexible facility befitting a village such as ours.



Community Police Team and Neighbourhood Watch

Your local policing team:

PC 5377 Alison Lewis PCSO 8973 Tracy Horton
PCSO 23805 Liam Kelly PCSO 20808 Hayley Shaddick

The best way to report any incidents is to dial 101. The call taker will take your details and an officer will make contact. Always ask for a crime number. However, if you believe that a crime is in progress or about to be committed then dial 999 and ask for the Police.

Remember to be vigilant at all times with your security on your home, sheds, garages and vehicles, and keep a eye out for your neighbours, especially the elderly and vulnerable. Report anything of a suspicious nature. Alrewas has a low crime rate and working together we can keep it that way.



For the latest
messages and crime
alerts in your area

USEFUL CRIME NUMBERS

Staffs Police (non emergency)	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555111 (anonymous)
Telephone preference service	0845 0700707
Alrewas Neighbourhood Watch	01283 790527

Parish Councillors

John Pegg	01283 791226	Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan
Donna Moss	01283 790837	Vice Chair, Youth, Flood Warden
David Butcher	01283 791032	Playing Fields, Noticeboard
Jane Reilly	01283 791470	Publicity, Website, Youth
Margaret Stanhope	01283 790215	Tree Warden
Tony Coates	01283 790741	Playing Fields
June Attwood	01283 791302	Neighbourhood Plan
Jan Altham	01283 791520	Village Hall Rep
Chris Niblock	01283 791229	Flood Warden, Lichfield Rail Alliance

District Councillors

Margaret Stanhope	01283 790215
Mike Wilcox	01283 791761
Ben Rayner	07729 530020

County Councillor

Janet Eagland 01543 257102

Who else to contact when there's a problem

Roads/pavements/footpaths	Staffs Highways	0300 1118000
Canals & towpaths	Canal & River Trust	0800 4799947
Sewage	Severn Trent	0800 7834444
Full litter bins/dog fouling	Lichfield District Council	01543 308000