

Great Alne Parish Council Update – July 2020

The next Parish Council meeting will take place online on 7th July 2020 at 7pm. This will be held via Zoom and the public are invited to attend. The Chairman will ask residents to remain muted. Should a resident wish to speak we will ask that they press the virtual 'raise hand' button which will alert the chairman that they wish to speak.

In order to try and keep the meeting as succinct as possible, an update is provided below to be read by Councillors (and residents should they wish to) ahead of the meeting.

Details on how to log in, along with the agenda, will be put on the website, Facebook and sent to the email contact group held by the Clerk, by 23rd June.

We would politely request that if any residents have anything they wish to raise, please do so in writing to the clerk, 5 days ahead of the meeting where possible. Email address below.

Should you have any queries, please contact the clerk, Joanne Bullingham on 07833 790 375 or via email at: greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com.

You can join zoom for free by following this link: <https://zoom.us/>

CORONA VIRUS

The contact details should you require any help from the Alcester Community Resilience team remain the same:

[Alcester Community Resilience](#):

Helpline: 07707 598379

Email: alcester.response@outlook.com

Alcester Community Resilience is also on Facebook

A team of 30+ volunteers from Great Alne continue to be on hand to help with shopping, picking up prescriptions, dog walking or simply being a friendly voice at the end of the phone.

PLEASE do not struggle. If you need any help, just call 07707 598 379: your request will be directed to someone who will be happy to assist.

If you are currently assisting neighbours/friends outside of this support network, we urge you to share this number with them anyway. Should you suddenly be unavailable to help, they will still have support.

The Parish Council would like to express great thanks to everyone in Great Alne who has given up their time to help others. It is lovely to see the community pulling together in this

time of need. We hope that we can continue this goodwill and community spirit through other ventures in the future.

4a. Alcester South SNT & crime statistics update

The following reports have been made to the police between 19th March and 6th June 2020

- 4 separate reports were made to the police regarding the same issue: Anti-Social Behaviour - Report of a group of people on scrambler type bikes riding through the village, riding in and out of traffic. Caller concerned for the safety of the road users. They were driving on private land and generally causing a nuisance. Reports were made on Sunday 5th, Tuesday 7th, Monday 13th and Sunday 19th April.
- Suspicious Circumstances. Park Lane. Man seen entering secure building compound. It was later found that a security camera was also damaged. A search of the area was made by police – no trace of offender. Nothing believed stolen at the time of the report. 3.20pm Saturday 18th April.
- Anti-Social Behaviour. Two calls. Spernal Lane, Great Alne. Off road motorcycles using the lane and land nearby. No number plates. Generally causing a nuisance and damaging the ground. On-going problem. Descriptions passed to police. 6pm Friday 8th May. Bikes also seen on the Conway Estate on Friday 8th May.

The Alcester South SNT provided the following information:

The main issue they have been made aware of in the area is the reports of the bikes on Stoot Lane and New End Farm Road. They have identified several bike owners from information received from members of the public. The owners of the vehicles have been advised as to their manner of driving and if the police get any further reports of dangerous driving or antisocial use of vehicles involving their vehicles, they will look to take further action. Since then the reported incidents seem to have reduced.

The police have liaised with Richard Barnard at WCC to do some work around signage on the roads in regards to speed limits or warning of careless driving. The difficulties still remain due to the unclassified status of the road. As there is no evidence to suggest it isn't a public road and there are no restrictions for road worthy vehicles to be using them, without signage from the council, they cannot enforce any speed limits or restrictions on vehicular use. This is obviously dependant on drivers holding a licence and the vehicle being registered and insured.

Crime has been a lot lower over the period of lockdown but they have had seen an increase in antisocial behaviour reports over recent weeks. This consists of neighbour disputes due to people spending more time at home, reports of breaches of Covid-19 restrictions with gatherings in public and private houses. More recently, with the relaxation of restrictions, there have been groups gathering in parks/open spaces and drinking, causing noise disturbance and leaving litter as a result. There have been reports of this in the area of Coughton Fields Lane by the Ford and surrounding lanes and fields which officers have attended to and on occasion dispersed people from the area. Police are still responding to

any reports of breaches of restrictions and want to thank all those that have done their part in adhering to the restrictions over the last few months and continue to do so.

4b. Update on Great Alne Park development

Ben Ling, Village Manager has sent the following update:

“All the events this year have been cancelled due to Coronavirus and this has also caused delays to the construction work, however the phase two works should still all be completed by the end of the year as previously planned. A number of residents have been helping us create our woodland walk and I know a number of local village residents have already been making use of this. I hope many more will be able to enjoy this over the coming months. The allotments are only open for residents at the moment so we can ensure social distancing. I am hoping we can ease this restriction soon and will let you know as soon as I have a confirmed date. We are looking forward to being able to welcome people back into the village as soon as things start to return to normal”.

Jez Conen, Senior Development Manager has sent the following update:

General Progress

Work to the next phase of cottages and apartments we are building has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 virus. Our progress with the new homes has been delayed by three months and safe working practices to cope with the Covid virus mean our contractor will need more time to complete this next phase. Most activity ceased in April but our contractor, Seddon, were able to continue with the landscaping work to the meadow. Tree planting and meadow seeding has now been finished so we have been able to take down the hoarding around the meadow. We are delighted with the way it now looks.

Hoarding

We have submitted a recommendation to the board to replace the hoarding with new signage. Details of our proposals are provided for the Parish to consider. It would be useful to have feedback on the proposals from the Parish Council as this will help with our board approval request. We will need planning consent for the signage, which was not required for the hoarding so it would be helpful to know there is support for the proposal.

East Entrance

The work to the east entrance has also been impacted by the Covid virus. We need to complete a s278 agreement with the highway authority to carry out the new bell mouth onto Henley Road. Unfortunately, key team members from the design team were put on Furlough. There are also extensive works we need to complete to the access road to make it safe for residents and the public who will be using the access along with construction traffic. We expect to commence these works towards the end of summer with the entrance being ready for use by the end of the year.

Phase 3

Our architects have prepared a new design for the final phase of development which replaces the consented scheme of cottages with smaller village apartments similar in design to our Austin Heath scheme in Warwick. The aim is to make the homes more affordable but still keep the design in keeping with the surrounding environment. We have submitted a pre-application to the local planning authority and will share these plans with the Parish as soon as we have received feedback from the council and obtained board approval.

Farm Shop and Medical Centre

We will commence work in July to convert the former sales centre building into the medical centre which we hope will be completed in November 2020. We have also provided sketch details, as part of our pre-application, for a farm shop and medical centre to be located on the land next to the cricket club. Again, we will share details with the Parish Council as soon as we have received feedback from the planning authority and board approval.

4c. Memorial Hall's representative report

Please see separate report.

4d. Representations from residents

To be considered at the meeting. Please raise any issues in writing to the clerk, 5 days ahead of the meeting where possible: greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com.

4e. County Councillors Report

County Councillor Clive Rickhards reports: Great Alne Cricket Club were granted £122.71 through his Members Grant. Cllr Rickhards has kept back some money for a second tranche which people will be able to apply for later in the year; probably September. Additionally, he has been pressing the case for Tier 2 vulnerable cases in the present crisis (not on the NHS list) to be given help and supplies. He knows of at least one case in Great Alne where this occurred.

4f. District Councillors report

Please see separate report that was sent by District Cllr Gill Forman.

5a. Great Alne Community Resilience Team

Chairman, Cllr Lynn Bowring has taken the lead in managing the Great Alne team of volunteers. There have been a total of 13 requests for assistance/support which have been dealt with promptly. Ongoing support is being provided to 2 residents.

Thank you again to everyone who has been involved.

5b. U route Spenal- Coughton Fields Lane (AKA E5998)

This continues to be an ongoing nuisance and Warwickshire County Council have been contacted to try and establish where this route fits within the list of U Routes they have to investigate to try and establish a timescale. The Rights of Way team at Warwickshire County Council have ordered some public highway signs to erect. This will allow the police to enforce the same laws that apply to any public highway.

5c. Huff Cap Update

An update was requested from the owners in the last two weeks. Their representative replied saying 'an update on the Mother Huff Cap will be provided once the future of the site has been decided'.

5d. Request for survey from Flood Risk Management Team – update

The original meeting between the Chairman and the Flood Risk Management Team had to be cancelled due to lockdown restrictions. This is being rearranged.

5e. Support campaign for local electricity bill

The Clerk has emailed Councillors to see if they would like to support this.

The Bill, if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge setup and running costs involved in doing so.

The Councillors have discussed this via email. They have agreed that they don't feel they have enough information to formally pass a resolution in favour of something that is a Commercial operation, albeit one that certainly seems to have advantages. There is little support from neighbouring Parish and Town Councils, and Stratford District Council (SDC) is not listed as one of the supporting bodies. The Councillors feel it's likely that this issue will reappear in future and perhaps at that stage they will have more information on which to make a judgement.

5f. General maintenance update – Broken Parapet on Ford Lane, Damaged trees on Henley Rd, Tyres on Ford Lane.

The bridge which has partially collapsed on Ford Lane has been made safe by WCC bridges team. The bridge is owned by Highways England (having been transferred from ownership of the historic railway property board) and they are looking in to suitable repairs.

A couple of ash trees on Henley Road are in a dangerous condition. One bough is completely dead and, if it were to fall, would block the road. Pictures were sent to WCC at the end of May with our concerns raised. The Forestry team are looking in to this and the clerk is chasing for updates regularly. The Chairman is keeping a close eye on the state of these trees. The location is on the North side of the road, close to the notice board adjacent to the Park lane junction.

A large number of tyres had been left on Ford Lane. Stratford District Council are arranging for these to be removed. Biffa were unable to get their truck down the lane and this is now being looked at by County Highways.

6a. Progress against budget

Update to be provided at the meeting.

6b. Annual internal audit report feedback

The internal audit for the financial year 2019/20 has now been completed by Arrow Bookkeeping Services and needs to be approved by the Parish Council at the meeting. The report identified an error within the spreadsheet where two amounts are not analysed correctly. Auditor recommends setting up a double-check on each line to add all the analysis columns up and deduct from the total. This allows an automatic check when entering data in to the spreadsheet. The clerk will arrange this for 2020/21 accounting spreadsheet.

6c. Approval of accounts and annual return for external audit

To be agreed and signed during the meeting.

6d. Great Alne Parochial Charity

Cllr Ian Millard, Trustee for Great Alne Parochial Charity has provided the following update :

“The Charity did a leaflet drop shortly before lockdown started offering their assistance, however to date, we have not had any applications for assistance. The charity over the last 12 months has however been able to provide support for both individuals and organisations. The existing Chairman Martyn Davey has kindly agreed to remain as Chairman and the Trustees have been re-elected where appropriate”.

6e. Churchyard request for donation

The church has made a request for a donation from the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the churchyard. Councillors have discussed this via email and all agreed they would be happy to make a donation of £500 towards this.

6f. Hedgehog signs

A resident has been in touch to request some "beware hedgehog" road signs in the village. They report hedgehogs in their garden and suspect there will be more in the village. New hedgehog signs were introduced by the Department for Transport last year. The resident states that the purpose is to make drivers aware of smaller wildlife, not only hedgehogs on the roads. The resident points out that hedgehog numbers are in drastic decline and wishes to support the wildlife in the village to ensure we are playing our part.

We have raised this with the Traffic and Safety team at Warwickshire County Council and received the following reply.

“We would advise if the Parish Council can prove that there is a significant number of hedgehogs on a certain section of carriageway then there could be a possibility that the Parish Council could request to have these signs installed if they funded the scheme themselves.

We have checked the PICs for Great Alne and there have only been 2 x PICs within the last 5 years which none of mentioned hedgehogs being involved or having any causation factor to the collisions.

These signs should be erected where there has been a number of collision due to small mammals being on the carriageway, but they can be erected and used to give warning to the road user and to try and reduce the deaths of the animal population.

We are able to investigate the implementation of highway works for the Parish Council. We charge a £500 non-refundable deposit to investigate highway works on behalf of Parish Councils. We will then produce a Scheme Design and quote for implementation. If the cost of implementation comes to more than the £500 paid this would be deducted from the cost of implementing the Scheme.

The exact nature of what can be proposed will depend upon the nature of the section of highway in question and how it relates to relevant standards, guidance or Warwickshire County Council Policy. All of these are matters that Engineers will comment on more fully if the Parish Council decides to commission an investigation.

If the Parish Council would like to fund further investigation, an e-mail from the Clerk to this e-mail address, confirming willingness to pay the £500 deposit, will be sufficient to start the process”.

The Parish Councillors have discussed this but do not feel it would be an appropriate use of Parish Council funds and therefore, will not be taking any further action at this time.

6g. Street light repairs update

The following lights have now been replaced:

- Henley Rd (outside the Spinney)
- Henley Rd (bottom of Church Walk)
- Park Lane
- School Rd – opposite Alne Close
- Gunn Court - A new lighting column has been installed alongside the original. EON will attend on a later date to transfer the service supply and take away the old column. The date is not yet known.

6h. Dog waste

The Parish Council have been informed that dog fouling in the village has become an issue again. On the instances reported, whilst the waste has been picked up in a bag, the bag has then been left on the public footpaths. May we kindly remind all residents that is an offence not to clean up after your dog (Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996). We are extremely lucky to live in such a beautiful place so please try and keep it this way. There are five dog waste bins throughout the village. Please use them where possible or dispose of the waste at home.

6i. Recreation ground – update

As of 22nd June, the play equipment remains closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. We would like to thank residents for adhering to these rules.

The following work remains outstanding but Limebridge Rural Services have confirmed all works should be completed by the end of June.

1. Replace matting at the bottom of the silver slide, underneath the two swings and the exit from the toddler bit in to the main play area. The work to install the matting is still in-hand and they have the matting in stock ready to complete the works. The job requires the addition of topsoil before the matting is installed and it has been impossible to carry out the works due to surface water remaining on the works site. They will complete the works as soon as conditions allow.
2. Clear the algae/moss off the playdale frame and sand any rough edges
3. Sand the rough edge on the plank of wood with the stepping stones running along it
4. Lift tree canopy to ensure a minimum clearance of 2.0m from equipment (above the birds' nest swing)
5. Turf around the two benches

The northern park boundary is also in hand but as the works will require a digger onsite, Limebridge consider the works would be best carried out in late summer when the surface and soil conditions will hopefully be a lot drier. They will quote for it in the summer.

6j. Newsletter

Councillors agreed that the newsletter that would ordinarily be issued around March/April time could be postponed. Due to Covid-19, there were very few updates to report upon as most activity ground to a halt. A newsletter will be issued later in the summer. If you have any suggestions about what you would like to see included, please contact the clerk at greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com.

6k. Alne Fest - Cancelled

Alne Fest which was due to take place on 27th June 2020 has inevitably had to be cancelled. It has been rescheduled for 19th June 2021.

6l. Complaints about bonfires

The Parish Council have received complaints from residents about bonfires. May we ask all residents to try and be considerate when deciding when to have a bonfire. Please see attached document for guidance on how to have a bonfire safely and how to report an ongoing nuisance to Stratford District Council.

6m. Moving to online banking – Unity Trust Bank

The Parish Council are re-visiting the potential of moving banking online. This would be more efficient and preferable to our payees. All Councillors are happy for the clerk to explore the options.

6n. Insurance – renewed

The Councillors have agreed to renew our annual policy with Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd.

6o. Clerk's contract

The Chairman has issued the clerk with a contract of employment which has been signed by them both.

6p. Annual playground Inspection

The Councillors have agreed to use the same company as last year (The Play Inspection Company) and the annual inspection will take place in August. Date to be confirmed.

Planning applications

Since the last meeting the following representations have been made:

20/01138/FUL – Dan Skelton Racing – Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following:
Objection

- We accept the requirement to have a person living on site, but do not believe that the applicant has adequately justified the need for an additional person or why existing accommodation on site cannot be used.
- If the new requirement has arisen because of the proposed expansion outlined in application 20/00461/FUL, to which we have already objected, then, in the absence of a decision on this, application 20/01138/FUL is premature.
- The development is inappropriate in the Green Belt: we do not believe that very special circumstances apply because we feel that the spirit of NPPF paragraph 145 is to enable 'provision of facilities for outdoor sports and recreation' for local people, not the provision of training facilities for professional sportspeople.

20/00236/FUL and 20/00236/LBC – Keepers Cottage – Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: No objection - Provided the new materials used are compatible or sympathetic with the original.

20/01034/FUL – Newlands - Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following:
No objection - Requested a condition stipulating suitable planting to ameliorate the visual impact when viewed from the road.

19/03301/FUL - Flaxfields – Great Alne Parish Council submitted a representation of No objection and then later supported this application with the following comments: It is well thought-out overall, the design appears to be of high quality, a vast improvement over the existing property which is of little architectural merit, and will enhance the visual aspect on the approach to the village.

20/00146/FUL – Little Orchard - Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following:
Objection for the following reasons:

- Impact on Green Belt: We estimate that the proposed extension will increase the volume of the dwelling by at least 40%, not including the outbuilding. This cannot be considered a 'small extension' and the development would therefore be 'inappropriate' and contrary to Core Strategy Policy CS.10. Furthermore, the proposed garage element would present a conspicuous blank wall facing onto the access road, and this would have a significant visual impact on the openness of the Green Belt.
- Impact on the Great Alne Conservation Area: For reasons similar to those above, namely scale and proposed design, we feel that the development would adversely impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and will therefore be contrary to Core Strategy Policy CS.8. The Design and Access Statement includes an assertion that the development will 'strengthen the character of the local area' but no evidence is provided, for example by provision of details of design features, materials, brickwork, etc, to support this assertion."

An amended application was later submitted for a much smaller, single storey front extension to provide a bedroom. Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following response to the amended application: No Representation.

20/00461/FUL – Dan Skelton Racing – Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: Objection for the following reasons:

- Dan Skelton Racing is a substantial business situated in the Green Belt. There is already stabling for 140 horses and this proposal is to accommodate a further 72, an increase of slightly more than 50%. It is inconceivable that the increased level of activity will not increase the volume of traffic accessing the site. The roads leading to the yard are narrow and winding and have already been subjected to significant damage on the surfaces and verges, and there are few passing places. Road safety has already been compromised and this is likely to get worse if the application is approved. We therefore consider that the application is non-compliant with Policy AS10.
- As regards Green Belt policy, owing to the scale of the proposals and likely impact on local residents we believe that the development is inappropriate, and we do not agree that the applicant has demonstrated 'very special circumstances' which would make the proposals acceptable.

20/00570/TREE – Stuart Cottage – Great Alne Parish Council submitted a representation of no objection.

20/00008/FUL & 20/00009/LBC- Dinglewell Farm - Great Alne Parish Council submitted a representation of no objection.

20/00179/TREE – Barnfield - Great Alne Parish Council submitted a representation of no objection.

19/03615/FUL & 19/03616/LBC – 8 Mill Cottage - Great Alne Parish Council submitted a response of no representation. Planning was refused and an appeal has now been made.

Reference	Received	Status	Address
20/01138/FUL	29/04/2020	Pending Consideration	Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green, Alcester
20/01034/FUL	16/04/2020	Permission with conditions	Newlands, Alne Hills, Great Alne
19/01294/FUL	28/02/2020	Appeal dismissed	Glebe Farm, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/00570/TREE	26/02/2020	Tree works approved	Stuart Cottage, Park Lane, Great Alne
20/00461/FUL	17/02/2020	Pending Consideration	Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green, Alcester
20/00468/LDP	17/02/2020	Application withdrawn	Fircroft, Park Lane, Great Alne
20/00236/FUL & 20/00237/LBC	27/01/2020	Pending Consideration	Keepers Cottage, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/00179/TREE	21/01/2020	Tree Works approved	Barnfield, 1 Gunn Court, Park Lane, Great Alne
20/00146/FUL	16/01/2020	Pending Consideration	Little Orchard, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/00008/FUL & 20/00009/LBC	02/01/2020	Pending Consideration	Dinglewell Farm, Alne Hill, Great Alne
19/03615/FUL & 19/03616/LBC	31/12/2019	Appeal in progress	8 Mill Cottage, Henley Rd, Great Alne
19/03301/FUL	26/11/2019	Permission with conditions	Flaxfields, Henley Rd, Great Alne
19/03181/FUL	12/11/19	Application withdrawn	12 School Rd, Great Alne