

## Great Alne Parish Council Update – November 2020

The next Parish Council meeting will take place online on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 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 are below and will also be put on the website, Facebook and sent to the email contact group held by the Clerk, by 10<sup>th</sup> November. Please note that if you would like to attend you will need to register for the meeting via Zoom.

*You are invited to a Zoom meeting.*

*When: Nov 18, 2020 07:00 PM London*

*Register in advance for this meeting:*

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9876543210>*

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

**We would politely request that if any residents have anything they wish to raise, please do so in writing to the clerk, 3 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](mailto:greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com).

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

### **CORONA VIRUS SUPPORT**

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](mailto:alcester.response@outlook.com)

Alcester Community Resilience is also on Facebook

### **4a. Alcester South SNT & crime statistics update**

The following report has been made to the police since the 16<sup>th</sup> September meeting:

- Damage. Sernal Lane, Great Alne. Ball bearings fired at car causing damage to the glass and panels. Between 1pm and 3.45pm Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October. 0288 31/10/2020

An update from the Alcester South SNT on any issues of local interest has been requested and will be provided at the meeting.

#### **4b. Update on Great Alne Park development**

Ben Ling confirmed that in line with the new lockdown restrictions, everything will remain closed to residents of Great Alne for the foreseeable future.

The following update was provided by Jez Conen (Senior Development Manager) at the beginning of October and was included in the Autumn 2020 Parish Council newsletter. A further update has been requested and will be provided at the meeting if there is anything new to report.

##### **General Progress**

*Our contractor, Seddon, are making good progress with the next phase of cottages. They have adopted the industry approved working practices to keep everyone safe and this has had a slight delay in allowing progress. We are also experiencing supply issues with some materials. We hope to have the next phases of cottages complete in November and December. The two apartment blocks are due to finish before the end of the year subject to the impacts of the pandemic.*

##### **Events**

*The events programme for this year have been suspended due to the Covid outbreak.*

##### **Hoarding**

*It is still our intention to replace the hoarding on Henley Road and complete the landscaping works and install the signage previously shared with you. Our board requested further information on costs and feedback from our own residents which will be presented for approval this month. Once approved we will be able to progress a planning application followed by the implementation.*

##### **East Entrance**

*Whilst for marketing reasons we want to open the east entrance as soon as possible, our safety advisers are very concerned at the risk of residents and heavy construction traffic coming into conflict. This is especially a concern due to the heavy earthworks required to complete the foundation excavations for our third phase. The material excavated needs to be transferred across to the meadow where it will be shaped and landscaped. We are currently reviewing the programming of these works with planning officers and will be engaging county highways in these discussions.*

##### **Phase 3**

*We are still working with the local planning authority on our proposals to change the type of units we want to build in our third and final phase at Great Alne Park. Our objective is to introduce smaller and more affordable units into the scheme. This appears to be supported by the local authority, although there are some challenges we need to work through with them around the Community Infrastructure Levy and affordable housing contributions. Our aim is to have a planning application ready to submit in December 2020. We will share our plans with the Parish ahead of any submission.*

### ***Farm Shop and Medical Centre***

*Work is underway with the conversion of the former sales centre to convert this into the new medical centre. We hope to be able to handover the property to Alcester Healthcare in December 2020.*

*We have also placed the contract to fit out the thatched building which will operate as the village shop. We have identified a local business who will be operating the shop as a farm shop. We hope this will open in the first quarter 2021.*

### **4c. Memorial Hall's representative report**

Update to be provided at the meeting.

### **4d. Representations from residents**

To be considered at the meeting. Please raise any issues in writing to the clerk, 3 days ahead of the meeting where possible: [greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com](mailto:greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com).

### **4e. County Councillors Report**

Update to be provided at the meeting.

### **4f. District Councillors report**

Update to be provided at the meeting.

### **4g. Climate Change**

Update to be provided at the meeting.

### **5a. Huff Cap Update**

The new owner hopes to attend the meeting and will provide an update. The planning application has been submitted to Stratford-upon-Avon district council and can be seen here:

<https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/AppDetail.aspx?appkey=QGCHX3PMMQL00>

### **5b. U Route – Spernal-Coughton Fields Lane**

An update will be provided at the meeting.

### **5c. General maintenance update**

**Gunn Court street light** – The new light is now working and the old column has been removed.

**Phone box repair** – the broken pane of glass has now been repaired.

Further updates will be provided at the meeting.

### **5d. Creation of Unitary Authorities – update**

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) held Devolution and Recovery workshops (open to Town and Parish Councils) in October in partnership with Warwickshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) and Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA).

The following items were discussed:

CLLrs Seccombe and Timms updated participants about Local Government Reform in Warwickshire. The Government has invited councils in three other counties to submit proposals for unitary government.

The Minister recognised the work undertaken and progress made in Warwickshire to date, and has indicated his willingness to work with WCC as they develop a vision for future local government in Warwickshire. Councils in a number of other counties are in a similar position and WCC will work closely with them in the coming months.

WCC are still in the early stages of exploring the potential options for Warwickshire.

The main focus of the workshops was on the concept of 'double devolution', which underpins Warwickshire County Council's Strategic Case for Change. Their vision is to create a flexible framework that puts more power, assets and resources into the hands of local people and communities, via Town and Parish Councils, voluntary groups and social action where the willingness, capability, capacity and resources exist to do so.

Such a framework would need to take account of the very different places, Town and Parish councils and voluntary groups across the County, and support a variety of approaches. There would be no 'one size fits all' approach or effort to push responsibilities to places that don't want them or where appropriate resources are not in place.

WCC explained this is about creating the conditions to build community capacity, invest in communities and create a culture of community innovation and collaboration to build on our existing strengths in the vibrant voluntary and community sector.

WCC confirm they want to continue the conversation with Town and Parish Councils and gather more valuable feedback.

Immediate actions following the initial workshops are:

1. **Workshops to showcase what has worked elsewhere:** WCC will work with WALC and WCAVA to set up some virtual workshops featuring areas that have successfully adopted a double devolution framework, with input from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).
2. **Working group of Town and Parish Councils:** They would like to pull together a small group of Town and Parish Councils to work with them to inform their thinking about the options and practicalities of a double devolution framework.
3. **Voluntary and community sector:** They will engage the voluntary and community sector (VCS) through discussions at the Third, Private and Public Sector Partnership Group, and may set up a similar working group of VCS organisations.

#### **5e. Hedgehog signs**

The Traffic & Safety team at Warwickshire County Council advise that residents can erect signage on their own property, as long as it does not obscure vision for drivers on the highway, or overhang the pavement, causing problems for pedestrians. No signage can be placed on any Warwickshire County Council owned land.

Residents who raised this query initially will explore this further. An anonymous donation towards the cost of these signs has been offered as well as help with installing signs should anyone require this.

A request has been made for the Parish Council to approach Great Alne Park to enquire if they would be willing to erect a sign on the wide verge they have in front of their advertising hoarding as you leave the village. Councillors will discuss this at the meeting.

#### **5f. Speeding/Road Safety**

Update to be provided at the meeting.

#### **5g. Proposed changes to the planning system**

The government consultation has now closed. The government's response to the feedback is expected in the very near future.

#### **5h. Equality and diversity policy**

With the importance and high profile of Black Lives Matter, WALC have provided all local councils with information on the Equalities act. WALC also suggested that councils should adopt an Equality and Diversity Policy which was agreed at the September meeting. Since then, the Chairman has amended the draft policy provided by WALC and circulated to the councillors for discussion/approval at the meeting.

#### **5i. Newsletter**

All residents should now have received the Autumn 2020 newsletter. Please email the clerk if this was not received. If you would rather receive your copy electronically rather than by post, please let the clerk know. Email: [greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com](mailto:greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com)

#### **6a. Progress against budget**

Update to be provided at the meeting.

#### **6b. Covid-19**

The government have confirmed that playgrounds can remain open during this second lockdown. The Parish Council politely remind people to read the signs within the playground and ensure the rules and social distancing are adhered to at all times.

To keep up to date with the most current guidelines and advice, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

#### **6c. Recreation ground – annual review**

Please see separate report below.

#### **6d. Dates for 2020/21 meeting**

The following meeting dates for 2020 are proposed:

20<sup>th</sup> January, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> May (Annual and ordinary meeting), 21<sup>st</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Parish Assembly

#### **6e. Internal Financial Check**

An update will be provided at the meeting.

#### **6f. Information Commissioner's Office – Data Protection fee renewal**

Organisations that process personal data are subject to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Under the Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018 (the Regulations) they must also pay an annual data protection fee, unless they are exempt. The Parish Council's registration as a data controller under the Regulations expires on 20/12/2020 and the renewal fee is £40.00.

#### **Planning applications**

Since the last meeting the following representations have been made:

**20/02241/TREE – 3 Gunn Court** – Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: No objection.

**20/02488/FUL – The Huff Cap** - Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: No objection - On balance, we have no objection to the proposal. We do, however, have the following additional comments:

- We feel that the new houses will impact upon the views from the houses opposite on School Road. In order to mitigate this impact, we would request a condition stipulating the provision of suitable planting.
- Despite WCC Highways lack of objection, we have some concerns over the safety of vehicular egress from the north east corner of the site onto Sernal lane.
- We welcome the applicant's intention to re-open the Huff Cap operationally and we note elements in the proposals which should enhance the pub's viability. We would wish to see this intention secured by condition or legal agreement to the effect that the pub should be kept operational for at least 3 years in order to assess its long-term sustainability, recognising that the current Covid 19 restrictions, which will obviously have an impact on viability, will be temporary.

**20/025211/FUL – Glebe Farm** – Great Alne Parish Council submitted the following: No representation.

Reference	Received	Status	Address
20/02937/AMD	09/10/2020	Pending consideration	Newlands, Alne Hills, Great Alne

20/02521/FUL	10/09/2020	Pending consideration	Glebe Farm, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/02492/LBC	09/09/2020	Pending consideration	Dinglewell Farm, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/02488/FUL	08/09/2020	Pending consideration	The Mother Huff Cap, Spernall Lane, Great Alne
20/02326/LBC	25/08/2020	Pending consideration	Keepers Cottage, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/02241/TREE	18/08/2020	Tree works approved	3 Gunn Court, Ashfield House, Park Lane, Great Alne
20/01860/VARY	13/07/2020	Variation permitted with conditions	Cutlers Farm, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01862/LBP	08/07/2020	Listed Building Prop – Lawful dev granted	The Old Post Office, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01744/LDP	29/06/2020	Proposed lawful development permitted	Newlands, Alne Hills, Great Alne
19/03615/FUL & 19/03616/LBC	18/05/2020	Appeal in progress	8 Mill Cottage, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01223/FUL	12/05/2020	Application withdrawn	Cutlers Farm, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01237/LDP	12/05/2020	Pending consideration	Manor Court, Trap House, Henley Rd, Great Alne
20/01138/FUL	29/04/2020	Permission with conditions	Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green, Alcester
20/01034/FUL	16/04/2020	Permission with conditions	Newlands, Alne Hills, Great Alne
20/00461/FUL	17/02/2020	Pending Consideration	Dan Skelton Racing, Lodge Hill, Shelfield Green, Alcester
20/00146/FUL	16/01/2020	Permission with conditions	Little Orchard, Henley Rd, Great Alne

## **Playground Report – November 2020**

A site visit was completed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 by Cllr Paul Clark and Clerk, Jo Bullingham.

They reviewed the annual playground inspection report (completed by the Play Inspection Company on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020) and also considered the issues raised during weekly playground inspections that are completed by Cllr Bowring, Cllr Clark and clerk, Jo Bullingham.

Based on recommendations, the following work will be actioned.

- Entrances to toddler area. The surface is lifting at the edges and creating trip points. Repair perimeter of surfacing to remove trip points. Cllr Clark will look at this and fill the gaps with some clear silicone.
- Picnic tables. There is algae or moss on the surface of the item. Clean and treat appropriately. Clerk will ask Limebridge to quote for this and hope it could be completed at the same time as the outstanding work.
- Redundant cable ties to be removed as they have sharp edges. Most of these were removed by Cllr Clark but a further check will be made to ensure they have all been taken off.
- Swings – There is notable evidence of chain wear and the seats have minor damage or wear. Clerk to get a quote to replace swing seats. If not replaced, the shackles are now worn in excess of 40% and require replacing. There is surface corrosion present on the item and the report suggests considering treating the item. Clerk to explore various costs of doing this work vs replacing whole unit.
- Activity Trail – Replace worn shackles as now worn in excess of 40%.

### **The following items need monitoring:**

- Kompan multiplay – Notable evidence of chain wear and connecting lugs are also showing signs of wear. Replace when 40% worn/repair as required.
- Activity Trail – Secure all loose fixings. Cllr Clark will sort these and ensure all fixings are secure.
- Activity Trail (all of the wooden play equipment) – The timber has a number of splits/shakes or air cracks and this may affect the stability or allow water ingress which will accelerate the rotting process. Monitor to ensure the splits do not cross through fixing points of the structure and/or cause any instability.
- Activity Trail – Some fixings have worked loose in the rope connectors and they are beginning to corrode. Cllr Clark and the clerk were unable to identify any problem areas but this will be monitored.
- Activity Trail – Monitor chain wear and replace when 40% worn. The connecting lugs are showing signs of wear. Monitor and repair as required.
- Multi play Junior – The item is slightly loose in its foundations. Monitor for any further deterioration and repair as required. Cllr Clark and the clerk could not see any areas of concern but this will continue to be monitored at each playground inspection.
- Multi play Junior – The paintwork on this item is damaged/worn exposing the metal underneath which is rusting. Consider treating any rusting components and repainting in 2021/22 financial year.
- Multi play Junior – Notable evidence of chain wear. Monitor for deterioration and replace when 40% worn.
- Multi play Junior – There is some damage to the platforms around the fixing points. Monitor and replace as required.



The inspectors suggested the toddler swing (isolated due to Covid restrictions) was either removed fully or reinstated. Cllr Clark and the clerk agreed it was safer to leave both swings in use and trust that people will adhere to the correct social distancing guidelines.

The following works are still outstanding and a date for expected completion was requested on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

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.
2. Clear the algae/moss off the playdate 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 bird's nest swing)
5. Turf around the two benches

### Other

Throughout the year, the toddler area has been made near unusable by someone covering the play house, slide and tunnel in mud. The mess appears to have been deliberately caused as opposed to mess caused through playing. In the first instance, the Parish Council paid to have this jet washed following complaints about the state of it but this is not practical if it is happening regularly. Please remind your children to take care of and respect the playground so everyone can enjoy it.