

Crime Report and Guidance

A regular update on local crime issues is issued by Warwickshire Police and can be found on their website <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/>. Or you can sign up to the Warwickshire Police community messaging system 'Warwickshire Connected' – <https://www.warwickshireconnected.com>

The police, in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Watch Network, have recently published a Crime Prevention Booklet. This covers topics such as burglary, dog theft, rural crime, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour (ASB), car crime, cybercrime, scams and street harassment. The booklet provides practical guidance including how to protect your home and property, recognizing and reporting ASB, password protection and guarding against fraud. For a copy of the crime prevention booklet please visit www.ourwatch.org.uk or call 0116 402 6111.

Police matters

Main contacts for Great Alne are:

PC Rob Davies (Beat Manager)

PCSO Carolyn Davis

PCSO Gary Johnson-Jones

Alcester Police Station, Priory Road, Alcester, B49 5DZ

Tel: 01789 444816 (Team voicemail) or 101

E-mail: alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @AlcesterCops

Instagram: southwarwickshiresnts

Facebook: Alcester Police

Keep in Touch!

The 'Great Alne Parish Council' Facebook page provides regular updates and information concerning our local area, including road closures, events and news from across the Parish, District and County. It's a great way to keep in touch with what's happening where you live.

Great Alne Parish Council (GAPC):

Lynn Bowring (Chairman): The Old Cottage, Henley Road, B49 6HR

Paul Clark: 66 School Road, Great Alne, B49 6HQ

Ian Millard: West Meadow Barn, Manor Court, Henley Road, B49 6HR

Diane Francis: 6 Millway Lodge, Woodland Drive, Great Alne, B49 6FX

Kyla Brown (Clerk):

2 Gunn Court, Park Lane, Great Alne, Alcester, B49 6HS

Tel no: 07833 790375 Email - greatalne.parcouncil@googlemail.com

Any thoughts on the newsletter? Please let us know below!

Please complete and return this form to Kyla Brown – 2 Gunn Court, Park Lane, Great Alne, Alcester, Warwks B49 6HS
Do you have any comments about the condition of the footpaths, pavements or overhanging trees for example?

Traffic calming

The results of the recent speeding survey show that speeding is still a serious issue in certain parts of the parish, particularly near Great Alne Primary School. The data, which was commissioned by Inspired Villages Group on behalf of the parish, has been sent to Warwickshire County Council's Highways Dept (WCC) for analysis.

The next step involves working with WCC to consider and install traffic calming measures in the worst affected locations. These things always take considerable time, but we will keep you posted with developments.

Flooding issues

Flooding has been a serious problem across the region as well as Great Alne this winter. GAPC's volunteer Flood Action Group (FIAG) had its first meeting in January and some of the team have already undertaken basic training.

The team is currently working on referencing the drains for allocation amongst the volunteers, and where safe to do so, they will help with keeping their drains clear of debris and silt. They will also assist with reporting flooding and drainage issues to WCC and providing an emergency response to residents, if and when required.

GAPC has also been working with WCC to create a list of jobs required on highways and gullies, including regular clearing, jetting and drain capacity. We also have the support of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust in assessing and delivering Natural Flood Management on the tributaries of the River Alne. Local farmers have also been very supportive and, following a recent meeting, are working with GAPC to address some of the concerns around ditches and specific problem areas. We are also in touch with Severn Trent to see what help and solutions they might be able to provide.

There clearly isn't one solution to the flooding issues, but GAPC is hopeful that a multi-angled approach will help alleviate and mitigate the problems and ensure that at least the main route to Alcester is accessible at all times. If you would like to join the FIAG group, please contact the Clerk.

ISSUE

13

Spring 2024

Great Alne Parish Council

www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk



Dates for your diaries:

Sat 2 March 2024 – 10am -2pm
Community Action Day followed by *Great Alne Parish Council's (GAPC) Annual Parish Assembly* @ 2pm-3pm.

Tues 26 March – 7pm – general meeting of GAPC. Venue - The Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, B49 6HX.

Tues 21 May 2024 – 6pm – GAPC's Annual Meeting followed by the formal Parish Assembly at 6.30pm and the General Meeting at 7pm. Venue - The Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park

Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband in Great Alne

At the last parish council meeting, Robert Rowan, Partnership manager from Openreach, confirmed that Great Alne has reached the required number of households pledging support for the Openreach Fibre Community Partnership (FCP) scheme. This means the parish will benefit from the installation of Fibre to the Premises broadband connection which is not only very fast but also more reliable. There is more information from CSW here <https://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/>

The initial surveys are already underway and work will commence in July. If you have not yet pledged your support for ultrafast full fibre broadband, there is still time. Once you have pledged, you will receive an email to validate your voucher. At this stage you are committing only to receive a full fibre broadband service so please check individual suppliers' terms and conditions as costs will vary.

You can pledge your support here <https://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity>

COMMUNITY ACTION DAY

GAPC is hosting a Community Acton Day on **Saturday 2 March 2024, 10am-2pm** at the Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall, Henley Road B49 6HL. This is an opportunity for you to meet and ask questions with a number of local organisations and services including, among others:

- Alcester Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- Rural Crime Advisers.
- Act on Energy.
- Alcester Fire Service.
- The Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC)
- Healthwatch Warwickshire.
- Great Alne Primary School.
- The Alcester Minster.
- Great Alne's Climate Action Group.
- The Heart of England Forest.
- Other local community groups and organisations.

Residents will have the opportunity to seek advice and support from experts on energy, home safety, local policing, local health and social care services, home security, our local primary school, our churches, local environmental issues and much more. You can visit the stands and ask questions and be sign posted to support locally. You will also have an opportunity to comment on possible sites for affordable homes in Great Alne with the WRCC.

During the event, you will be able to access the new *crime prevention tool box* of which the parish council will become custodian, courtesy of the Rural Crime Advisers. This contains: window vibration alarms, property marking kits, faraday pouches, van alarms, shed alarms, property marking pens, TV simulators, personal alarms, switch timers, and much more.

There will be refreshments available throughout the event. Subject to its being needed elsewhere, it is hoped that there will be a fire engine outside the Memorial Hall for residents to investigate at close quarters!

The event will be followed by the Parish Assembly from 2-3pm which is a further opportunity for residents to come together and find out more about what is available in the local area and hear about the parish council's plans for the year ahead.

The Community Action Day is free to attend and we are certain there will be something of benefit for everyone in Great Alne.

CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE

The Climate Action Group will be available at the Community Action Day to discuss plans and ambitions for the year ahead.

With new funding available, the volunteers are keen to speak to residents about the results of the 'Making Great Alne Greener' survey and how this has enabled the group to prioritise resources for key projects. These include flooding issues, active travel, planting of a community orchard in the Recreation Ground next autumn (plus water provision for the new trees), looking into an electric vehicle charging point for the parish, rewilding verges and working with School on climate action projects. The Group is also planning a 'Community Swap Event' later in the year.

FOOTPATH SURVEY

A new working group of volunteers has been established to undertake a survey of the footpath network across Great Alne. Once completed, the group will be able to work with WCC and the Community Pay Back Team to address issues along the surface of the paths as well as signage. GAPC will liaise with relevant landowners regarding other factors affecting access or the condition of the paths or crossing points. If you would like to join the group, either to take part in the survey or assist with repairs, please email the Clerk at greatalne.parcouncil@gmail.com

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Just over 10% of households in Great Alne receive this newsletter electronically. We are hoping to increase this number to 50% by the end of 2024. Please email GAPC through the QR code below to register your address for an electronic Newsletter. The information will be used for the purposes of the newsletter only. Our Privacy Notice is available at greatalnepc.gov.uk.



Stagecoach x19 bus survey

As part of our Making Great Alne Greener initiative, GAPC is seeking your views on local public transport. We intend to initiate a conversation with Stagecoach who provide the regular bus service through the village, with a view to improving coverage of bus services in and around Great Alne.

We have therefore prepared a very short survey to establish residents' views on the current X19 service and what improvements might be needed. The survey should take no longer than 2 minutes to complete and your responses will be completely confidential.

You can access the survey either through the web link, or the QR code. Thank you for your input.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q75MTBJ>



Fire service changes

A series of information sessions have been set up to consider proposed changes to the service delivery model of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. The public consultations will give residents, businesses, community groups and public sector partners a say on the way in which Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service manage their resources.

The public consultation is open until 10 March 2024, giving everyone a chance to view the details of the proposal and give their feedback. The public consultation and a link to the information session booking page is available at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask. Anyone needing a paper copy of the survey, an alternative format or language, or who would like to book a place at one of the information sessions by telephone, should call 01926 410410.

Dogs in the Recreation Ground

A number of residents have asked for clarification on the current signage regarding dogs in the recreation ground. The issue has been discussed at the last two GAPC meetings and after considered debate, the councillors have decided that on a trial basis, dogs will be allowed to go through the park but only on condition that they stick to the existing footpath from the Nightingale Close entrance to the Henley Road entrance. Dogs must be kept on a short lead at all times and are not allowed on the grass under any circumstances.

A group of local residents, all of whom are dog owners, will observe how well this rule is adhered to for the next few months. If the rule is flouted, the GAPC will introduce an absolute ban on all dogs in the recreation ground, even as a thoroughfare. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEW HEAD AT GREAT ALNE PRIMARY

GAPC is delighted to welcome Matthew Penn as the new headteacher of Great Alne Primary School. Mr Penn took over at the school in December 2023. He has been in teaching roles for the past 20 years, including seven years as deputy head at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School in Stratford.

Mr Penn recently told The Stratford Herald: *"I'm all about creating a safe and calm environment for people to work in and for children to learn in, where other people feel welcome, so it has been fantastic to feel welcomed by all of the people over here already."* Music at the school is just one of the attractions for the new headteacher and keeping Great Alne immersed in music is one of his aims. *"I could see that the school is an absolute festival of music. There's an abundance of creative and musical staff who are just really committed to making the children have a good time and a good education."* Mr Penn is a keen pianist outside of work, and as well as spending time with family – he has two children with his wife Caroline - he also enjoys playing table tennis, golf, darts and snooker. We wish him every success in his new role, and he has the full support of GAPC in achieving his objectives at the school.

Councillor vacancy

GAPC is seeking to co-opt a new Member to join the team of parish councillors. The term of office will last until May 2027, when all Members must be re-elected. Applications in writing, together with a brief statement of reasons why you wish to be a Councillor, are invited from any parishioner who feels they could contribute to the working of GAPC and who is keen to be involved in shaping their community's future. No experience is necessary, and training is available.

A candidate for a parish or town council is qualified if, when nominated:

- he or she is a British citizen, a citizen of any member state of the European Union or an eligible Commonwealth citizen
- is over 18 years of age
- is either in the list of electors for that parish or town or has during the whole of the preceding twelve months:
- occupied land as owner or tenant in it; or
- had a principal place of work there; or
- resided in or within three miles of it.
- And is not disqualified from holding office as a Councillor.

Applications should be emailed or posted before the closing date of **26 February 2024** to the Clerk (contact details overleaf).

Community Shop

A new community shop will be opening in April/ May in Great Alne Park.

The shop will be run by volunteers from the Retirement Village and the wider community of Great Alne. The operators are very excited about the project, even though it has taken longer than anticipated to get off the ground.

The opening hours are still to be confirmed but will hopefully be 9am - 11am and 3pm - 5pm, Monday to Friday; and 9am - 12pm on Saturdays.

Payments will be debit card only.

The intention is to source local products such as honey, bread and eggs where possible. Alongside basic groceries i.e. tea, coffee, dairy products and tinned foods, there will be a limited stock of beer and wine.

The team are working on sourcing a fresh fishmonger to come once a month. Other items for sale include cards, postage stamps and wrapping paper.

The operators of the shop are keen to serve the whole community, so if there is anything you would like the shop to stock, please ask and the team will try to accommodate you.

We will keep you posted when the opening date is confirmed. The team look forward to seeing you soon!