



## Update from Great Alne School

Great Alne Primary School would like to thank the Parish Council for their assistance with preparations for the new Piano Library - a suite of 8 pianos alongside a fantastic collection of fiction and non-fiction books due to be opened formally on 9<sup>th</sup> May. We look forward to welcoming local community members in to benefit from this - regardless of piano playing ability - in the near future.

## 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>

## 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](mailto: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  
Ian Millard: West Meadow Barn, Manor Court, Henley Road, B49 6HR  
Diane Francis: 6 Millway Lodge, Woodland Drive, Great Alne, B49 6FX  
Louise Bennett: 6 Nightingale Close, Great Alne, B49 6PE

Kyla Brown (Clerk):  
2 Gunn Court, Park Lane, Great Alne, Alcester, B49 6HS  
Tel no: 07833 790375 Email - [greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com](mailto:greatalne.parishcouncil@googlemail.com)

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

## Community Action Day feedback

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024, GAPC hosted a Community Action Day, followed by the informal Parish Assembly at the Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall. This was a great opportunity for residents to meet and ask questions of a number of local organisations and services including, the Alcester SNT and Rural Crime Advisers, Act on Energy, Alcester First Responders, Alcester Fire Service, The Warwickshire Rural Community Council, Healthwatch Warwickshire, Great Alne Primary School and The Heart of England Forest.

The event was extremely well attended, with up to 250+ people attending across the session. The exhibitors were very impressed by the level of attendance and the keen engagement of residents. We hope to run a similar event in the future.

A number of the issues raised and discussed have been included in this newsletter for those unable to attend. Of particular interest to residents attending was the Crime Prevention Tool Box, provided by the Rural Crime Advisers. The Parish Council will be custodian of this box, which contains:

- Keypad door/ window alarms,
- Vibration/shock sensor alarms,
- PIR sensor alarms,
- Personal torch alarm with high intensity light,
- property marking kits,
- key hiding devices,
- faraday pouches,
- TV simulators,
- Timer switches,
- and much more!

There are also a number of helpful and informative flyers and leaflets covering various aspects of crime prevention measures. Residents are welcome to borrow these items on a trial basis. Please contact the Clerk at [greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com) if you would like to borrow any of the above items. Batteries and fixings are included!

## Rural Affordable Housing in Great Alne

In March 2023, and in collaboration with the Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC), Great Alne Parish Council (GAPC) undertook a Housing Needs Survey that was physically delivered to all dwellings in the parish, as well as being available online. The main purpose of the survey was to assess the need for new affordable homes in the parish, and it was specifically targeted at those with a local connection to the parish or who would like to return to live in this parish.

Once the responses had been collated, our Rural housing Enabler at the WRCC prepared a report on the analysis. The WRCC identified a need in Great Alne for sixteen homes for households with a local connection. Eleven of these were housing association rental properties and five were owner occupier. There are also sixteen households registered on the local housing waiting list for properties in Great Alne. Therefore, GAPC is looking to establish a small-scale development of up to sixteen homes near to the amenities of the main village.

Following this report, GAPC instructed WRCC to investigate potential sites. The WRCC provided comments concerning the suitability of sites to GAPC in August 2023. GAPC then asked the Rural Housing Enabler to carry out further investigation. Discussions were undertaken with several landowners and five sites were identified where the landowner had expressed a willingness to work with the community for the provision of affordable homes; to answer the need identified in the March 2023 survey report. Please note that none of the five possible sites will be completely taken up by the development.

These sites were put to the community at the Community Action Day on 2nd March. The documents that were presented to residents are available on GAPC's website for all to review - [www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.greatalne-pc.gov.uk). These documents include:

- A presentation prepared by the WRCC explaining;
  - the background to the survey,
  - what is meant by a 'local connection',
  - where rural affordable housing is usually built,
  - scheme requirements, and
  - why we need affordable housing in Great Alne
- A map showing the location of the five proposed sites.
- A consultation comment form for residents.

All residents are encouraged to review the documentation and use the form to rate the proposed sites. The form also has space for further questions or comments. Please return completed forms to the WRCC at [housing@wrccrural.org.uk](mailto:housing@wrccrural.org.uk) and the Clerk at [greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com).

### We are inviting comments on this initial list of sites through till Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The Rural Housing Enabler will then prepare a report for GAPC on residents' feedback which will be carefully considered. GAPC will then prepare a detailed list of criteria against which all of the preferred sites will be assessed with a view to shortlisting the sites.

All parts of the process and relevant information will be transparent and publicly available (including regular updates on the GAPC website where there is a new webpage dedicated to Rural Affordable Housing on the left-hand side of the homepage). Residents will be consulted and have an opportunity to engage at all stages during the process. This includes further community engagement to allow households to re-state their interest or identify new housing need. This would mean any draft plans are worked up to the very latest data.

GAPC is seeking community support for this small rural housing development of up to sixteen homes. Our previous housing needs survey in 2012 led to the Linfoot Oaks development, which has been a success story for all involved. GAPC is keen to replicate this success, keeping control of the scale, nature and design of the small development. We are very mindful of concerns such as flooding, protection of wildlife, traffic and speeding – but we also have a duty to provide affordable housing to those people with a local connection to Great Alne and to provide them with an opportunity to live here.

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?



## CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE

The Climate Action Group has applied for funding from SDC's Community Climate Change Fund for the following proposed projects:

- EV charging point in the village
- Flood mitigation measures
- Water provision in the park for future community planting projects
- Feasibility study for a Greenway between Great Alne and Alcester

Having successfully met the criteria at Expressions of Interest stage for all four proposed projects, we are keen to hear in May whether any of our full submissions have been successful. Watch this space!

## NO MOW MAY

This was one of the most popular policies supported by residents in the 'Making Great Alne Greener' survey and GAPC is keen to encourage residents to do the same! Following WCC and SDC's No Mow May policy, GAPC has notified its grounds maintenance contractor and the Community Pay Back Team that we do not wish them to mow any of the verges, the playing field, or the churchyard for the whole month. This will allow plants to flower, thus providing food sources for insects and increasing pollination; supports and enhances biodiversity; helps alleviate flooding and prevents soil erosion (longer, thicker grass slows the flow of water and helps to store water during heavy downpours); and grass and other plants capture carbon emissions from the atmosphere and help combat climate change. Please bear with the various contractors while they catch up with the mowing in June.

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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](http://greatalnepc.gov.uk).



## End of an era....

At the end of our last GAPC meeting on 26th March 2024, we received a letter of resignation from our longest serving councillor, Mr Paul Clark. Paul has been a parish councillor in Great Alne for an astonishing forty-seven years. In this time, he has stood as parish councillor, Chairman and Vice-Chairman and has worked alongside more Clerks than he can remember!

We are so lucky to have had the benefit of Paul's guidance and experience over the years - all with such professionalism, humour and good grace. On behalf of the remaining parish councillors and all of Great Alne's residents, we would like to thank Paul for his unwavering dedication, loyalty and service to the parish. His contribution to parish life has been truly remarkable and unparalleled; and he will be sorely missed at the top table.

However, we are not letting him go that easily and are delighted that he has agreed to continue to assist the parish council in various guises, including helping us maintain our recreation ground, defibrillator and managing various maintenance tasks across the village. Thank you, Paul, for everything you have done for Great Alne over the last five decades. We wish you well in your well-earned retirement!

## Councillor Vacancy

GAPC is seeking to co-opt a new Member to join the team of parish councillors following the resignation of one of our 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 **29th April 2024** to the Clerk at [greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:greatalne.parishcouncil@gmail.com) or to the address overleaf.

### Date for your diaries: **Tues 21 May 2024**

- 6pm - GAPC's **Annual Meeting**, followed by
- **Formal Parish Assembly** at 6.30pm, followed by
- **General Meeting** at 7pm. The **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust** will be joining us to give a presentation on changes to future water availability, and measures and actions to help address both flood and drought conditions along the Warwickshire Avon catchment.

Venue - The Function Room, Maudslay House, Great Alne Park, Henley Road, Great Alne B49 6HX

## Flooding update

GAPC's volunteer Flood Action Group (FLAG) is making good progress on various aspects of the flooding issues. We have created a number of focus groups, including Drain Maintenance, Ditch, Culvert and Grill Management, and have established views on the issues we are trying to resolve.

We have engaged with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to look at upstream natural flood measures, Warwickshire County Council regarding drain clearing and highways works programmes, the Environment Agency regarding the river performance, landowners and farmers to understand their views on the issues, and independent companies to investigate specific culvert blockages. We are also liaising with other local parishes to address common issues, share ideas and add strength to our position with the local authorities.

### Drains:

All of the drains in the main village have now been referenced using what3words, recorded on a spreadsheet as to their condition, and allocated to the volunteers for monitoring and basic clearance / rodding. Of the 119 drains recorded, 23 are still identifying as 'red', meaning they are blocked solid and need jetting and clearing by Warwickshire County Council (WCC). We were delighted to see WCC's 'sludge sucker' truck on Spernal Lane the week before last, and after a day's work assessing and hosing the drains and culverts, the water is currently draining away as it should.

### Culverts and ditches:

The FLAG volunteers have also been hand-digging out the drains and clearing the culverts along Spernal Lane. Many of these assets were completely overgrown and it has taken many hours of physical hard work to clear and remove blockages to ensure water flow. You will no doubt see more volunteers out on the roadside doing this sort of work soon.



Other tasks include identifying, mapping and referencing the most problematic ditches. WCC has approved the required level of traffic management to ensure safe working, and we will be working to build a plan to address the key issues with local farmers and landowners over the coming weeks to start the removal of debris from the ditches.

### Jetting:

WCC continues to support our efforts and has cleared the drain on the bend on the B4089 towards Little Alne. For now, at least, this is no longer a standing pond. The jetting work carried out by WCC on the main road to Alcester, next to Coughton Fields Lane, seems to be working well. WCC has a number of projects and planned works in the pipeline to support Great Alne in its endeavours to mitigate, alleviate and prevent flooding in our parish.

The FLAG continues to consider solutions to the flooding issues. It is clear that a multi-faceted approach will help alleviate and mitigate the problems. If you see any drainage of flood issues, please report it to WCC here - <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit>.

GAPC would like to thank all the FLAG and CAG volunteers for their hard work and efforts over the last few weeks - an enormous amount of work and effort has been contributed on behalf of all of us living in Great Alne.