



NEW ALRESFORD TOWN COUNCIL NEWS LETTER

Number 4

August 2005

Town's Allotments



The setting up of the allotments is now finished and several of our ploholders featured on Georgina Windsor's Radio Solent Saturday programme in May. The produce has been flowing off the site to the great satisfaction of ploholders and the Environment Committee alike. The site is full and any enquiries for future vacancies should be directed to the Town Office (01962 732079).

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Jacklyns Lane Bridge - Our new County Cllr. Jackie Porter has taken up the running for the safety of pedestrians under the bridge. We are told that the project is still firm but as yet have no start date.

Broad Street bollards - The installation of bollards to protect the pavement is awaiting further discussions and the Council is pressing for a speedy completion.

Improvements ? - If you have suggestions for new seats or bus shelters, please let the office know or contact a Councillor.

John Cattle

Chair Environment Committee

Chairman's Report

The Town Council is currently undertaking a review of its structure and practices in order to be more efficient. It aims to promote good governance and bring practical benefits to the town. This means the Council should have efficient administration, which is capable of dealing with residents' queries and concerns and be able to get effective action from Hampshire County and Winchester City Councils, whilst keeping a firm control of its own finances.

The implementation of the allotments scheme has been an outstanding success, with allotments providing leisure for some 35 residents, many of whom would not otherwise benefit from the Town's recreational facilities. All children's Play Areas in the recreation parks are under review in order to upgrade them with new equipment.

Looking to the future, we are hopeful that the extension to Arlebury Park pavilion will go ahead soon, providing larger offices for the Council and additional changing rooms for all sports. This will enable us to proceed with acquiring further land for recreation, including the much-needed rugby pitch.

The Town Design Statement and related planning matters are under constant review. The Design Statement will soon be ready for submission to Winchester City Council for their comments. On general planning issues the Council looks on the provision of more car parking as a most important matter. This is a long term objective but we have to make a start by involving Hampshire and Winchester Councils.

Cllr Len Orton

Chair of NATC

TOURISM

Significant national and regional press coverage and local radio drove over 5,000 visitors to Alresford last month for the second Watercress Festival. Glorious food and weather, celebrity guests, morris dancers, watercress farm tours and street theatre meant there was something for everyone and visitors confirmed their enjoyment of a lovely day spent in Alresford. The Watercress Festival committee has subsequently met and is already drawing up plans for next May's third festival. It all goes to show how much interest there is in food nowadays and you can't promote watercress without also promoting where it originates from.

The civil war re-enactment by the Sealed Knot took place in Broad Street on 19th June. As news of impending disaster built, the officers retained order amongst the soldiers and civilians whilst preparing for a hasty retreat towards Basing House. An authentic camp was set up on the grass verges, drill displays and street skirmishes by the company of pikemen and musketeers and demonstrations by the gun captain and crew all ensured an exciting, educational day.

New signs at the entrances to the town on the Winchester and Bishops Sutton roads and near the Cricketers on Jacklins Lane have unfortunately been

delayed by 2 months. A key contractor was in hospital when the work was scheduled and we now expect the work to commence in September.



Development of the draft NATC tourism strategy was interrupted by the departure of Phil Millward. However the work is now being progressed in conjunction with delegates from the Chamber of Commerce, the Watercress Line and Winchester City Council and a second draft is expected in mid-summer. In a nutshell, the visitor surveys point to the fact that Alresford attracts visitors who appreciate the town for the same reasons as those of us who live here. So if we like the way Alresford is heading then there's a good chance the majority of our visitors will also.

Cllr. Malcolm Phillips

Chair of Tourism Committee

Finance

New Staff Salary and Internal Review

In 2004 Central government agreed a new salary structure for staff. This scheme will be agreed by NATC in November for introduction in April 2006. This will significantly increase overall staff costs for 2006/7.

Accounts to 31st March 2005

Accounts were audited by the Internal Auditor, who is satisfied that the financial risk is low and that the Council has complied with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

Summary of key figures

Fixed Asset at replacement value	£838k
Long Term liability being Public Works Loans	£424k
General Reserves	£ 30k
* Earmarked Reserves (mainly re Arlebury Park Pavillion Extension)	£340k
* Football Foundation Grants of £280k (applied for) and Open Spaces Fund £81k.	
NATC therefore has sufficient funds available for the Pavillion Extention.)	

2005/6 Budget

Precept	£145k
Other Income	£ 22k
Expenditure	£167k

Cllr Robin Atkins

Chair of Finance Committee

General & Policy

The General & Policy Committee examines all grant applications and has been able to give financial aid :-

- **The Green Wheel project was granted £200.00**

Applications have been received from various other organizations which will be considered at the September meeting. To date the smaller grant award has received no applications, so if you have a project that warrants a grant the General and Policy Committee will be pleased to review all applications. A Grant Form can be obtained from the Council Offices.

Standing Orders continue to be monitored and updated to reflect appropriate changes necessary to the smooth running of the Council. Residents may purchase copies for £5 from the Town Office.

General and Policy have two Sub-Committees reporting Planning and the Town Plan, with Tourism being given full Committee status as from August. A new Office Committee has been set up to ensure the Council's responsibility to its staff is appropriately fulfilled.

Ellr. Steve Middleton

Chair General & Policy Committee

RECREATION

This committee continues to be very active in the following:-

Projects Completed

- New Bye-laws for all Recreation Grounds have been sent to the Home Office for approval.
- Cameron Flights has been granted permission to use Stratton Bates for a maximum of 6 days a year between 1st May to 31st August for Balloon flights.
- 2 further mini pitches for junior football are underway at Sun Hill
- The relaying of the artificial cricket pitch and provision of 2 new portable cricket nets at Arlebury Park

Projects Rejected

- The siting of a Rugby pitch at the bottom of Arlebury Park due to various practical constraints.

Ongoing Discussions and Procedures

- Continual discussions with the landowner and agent for the land adjacent to Arlebury Park for a Rugby ground and other sports,
- Upgrading of Playground equipment in Alresford with a view to providing more modern and exciting equipment.
- Provision of a Cycle rack at Arlebury Park.
- Painting of railings and equipment at Sun Hill and Stratton Bates.



Ellr. Robin Atkins

Chair of Recreation

01962 840222

For queries on Housing, Planning, verge cutting, overhanging hedges, street signs, street lights and street litter please contact **01962 840222**.

For queries about the Recreation Parks (Sun Hill, Stratton Bates, Arlebury, Memorial Gardens) contact **01962 732079**.

Enquiries concerning bus services, electricity supply, sewage, roads (Hampshire Highways) etc, should be directed to the appropriate authority.

FACILITIES

The Facilities Committee's main activity is still the proposed extension to Arlebury Park pavilion. Our application to the Football Foundation for funding will be heard in September. We have high hopes that it will be successful and that a large grant will be forthcoming, which will enable the project to proceed.

In anticipation, the Council has agreed that preliminary contractual actions should be undertaken in conjunction with the design consultants and the builder with the objective of starting work on site in November, providing that the Football Foundation comes up trumps.

Cllr. Len Orton
Chair Facilities Committee

Planning

The Planning Committee comments on Planning Applications to Winchester City Council taking into account concerns of residents, particularly neighbours, but also on the larger proposals, the concerns of the whole town.

It is usual for a public meeting to be held for the large-scale residential developments, of which the following are recent examples:

- **The rear of 16 to 20 Grange Road (11 houses, 5 flats)**
Town concerns over the impact on traffic were not properly taken into account by the Planning Inspector at the appeal. We also asked that the development should respect the local green environment.
- **The coal yard at the Station car park area (14 flats). - Rejected by WCC**
We objected to the dominating appearance of the building and to the loss of potential car park space
- **Station Road rear of Swan Hotel (3 houses, 4 flats) - Awaiting WCC verdict.**
The Committee commented adversely on the loss of potential car parking.

Cllr Len Orton
Chair of Planning Committee

CONTACT LIST : NEW ALRESFORD TOWN COUNCIL 2005 -2006

Town Office and Councillors

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Meeting Dates 2005

GS = Goods Shed. CC = Community Centre.

All meetings 7.30 pm unless indicated. (See noticeboards for changes)

September	7th Recreation CC	14th General & Policy GS	21st Environment CC	28th Tourism GS 6.00pm
October	4th Full Town Council Meeting GS			
November	2nd Recreation CC	9th Tourism 6.00pm	16th General & Policy CC	23rd Environment CC
December	6th Full Town Council Meeting GS			30th Finance CC 6.30pm