

NEW ALRESFORD TOWN COUNCIL NEWS LETTER

Number 5

February 2006

GRAND SLAM OPENINGS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

The Town Council is arranging a Grand Slam opening of all the five major projects which have been completed during 2005. The Mayor of Winchester and the Mayor of Bricquebec will officially open the FIVE New Alresford amenities in April.

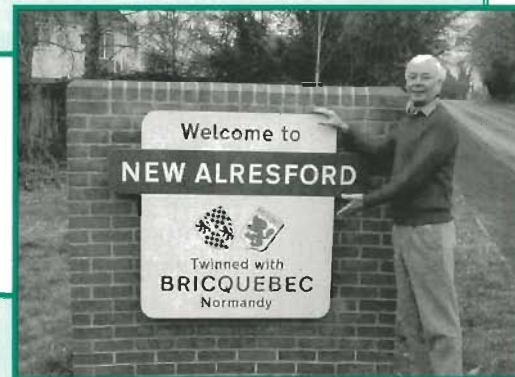


New Play Area

Stratton Bates has a new modern timber play area. The jolly green towers with its slides and ropes are proving to be very popular with the youngsters of Alresford.

Town Signs

Much praise has been received regarding our new Town Entry Signs. With the added attraction of plants to be generously supplied and planted by the Alresford Rotary Club they will be the envy of the South.



Arle Valley Trail

Thanks go to the Alresford Society and their trusty volunteers for their work in creating the Arle Valley Trail.



Continued overleaf



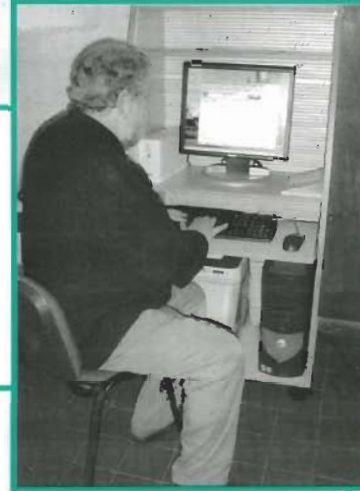
Allotments

The New Alresford Allotment site is now declared well and truly opened. They're digging and planting and are about to be officially opened

Local Pilot Scheme

New Alresford has bravely agreed to pilot this link to HCC, WCC and other bodies. Any information from your City Council you'll find on the computer situated in the lobby at Arlebury Park. (Monday to Thursday during Office Hours (11.00 - 13.00))

See article below.



With the successful completion of five major projects during 2005 this can only be seen as a year to celebrate. We hope that 2006 will herald further projects, chief of which will be a New Improved Arlebury Park Building which will include New Town Council Offices for the benefit of both staff and community, together with new changing rooms for the sporting community.

Len Orton
Chair of NATC

NATC, WCC and HCC PARTNERSHIP LOCAL PILOT SCHEME

An exciting step forward has been taken towards providing a new information service for the people of New Alresford and surrounding parishes. Representatives of New Alresford Town Council, Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council have signed an agreement pledging to work together to help residents in the local area access services without having to travel - by using new technology.

A new public access computer is available at the Town Council's Arlebury Park offices and you can search and retrieve information such as Planning Applications and also complete on-line forms to make remote payments. Trained staff will be on hand to help you during office hours (Monday to Thursday 11.00 - 13.00).

In time it is hoped the project will provide outreach sessions by City and County Council officers, to offer the most convenient services to local residents. Residents are encouraged to make use of this facility.

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY**

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH 8.00pm
PERINS SCHOOL, MAIN HALL

TOURISM



Autumn was a time of preparation and anticipation as we awaited the visit of Penelope Keith, the south east judge in Country Life's competition to find England's favourite market town. After visiting the town she had this to say: "There is much to recommend Alresford, far too much to list....The splendid Georgian town, which has emerged from the ashes of several serious fires, sits alongside the clear waters of the River Arle. A delightful tearoom with the friendliest staff was the location of our decision making. Over a delicious plate of egg-and-watercress sandwiches, which is in itself reason to visit the town, judgment was delivered. Facts and figures, pros and cons....were all pored over. If I had to choose one (Faversham in Kent and Lewes in East Sussex were also nominated) to live and shop in, which one would it be? Alresford you have my vote. You are my favourite town in the south east."

Although the final shortlist pitted Alresford against Framlingham, Marlborough, Stamford and the ultimate winner, Hexham, the judges agreed it was a difficult decision. People who live and work in Alresford can identify with the Country Life editor's comment "In many ways market towns represent the perfect solution to modern life."

As befits a top five national favourite, the new brick and flint signs at the entrances to the town on the Winchester and Bishops Sutton roads and near the Cricketers on Jacklyns Lane were completed in time for Ms Keith's visit.

The Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Neil Baxter, will open the new town signs in April and the Mayor of our twin-town Bricquebec is being invited to the ceremony which also marks the official opening of the Arle Valley Trail extension to The Millennium Trail. Developed in conjunction with The Alresford Society and supported by a grant from Hampshire Countryside Access Forum, a team of volunteers refurbished the trail which starts at the bottom of the Arlebury recreation ground. The Eel House information board outlines the development and migration of freshwater eels and how they were caught in the river Arle. Take a spring stroll down the Arle Valley Trail, along Drove Lane and enjoy the sight of the daffodils in The Avenue.

Cllr Malcom Phillips
Chairman Tourism Committee

ALRESFORD WATERCRESS FESTIVAL SUNDAY 14TH MAY

The 2006 festival will be taking place in Broad Street on Sunday 14th May. There are Watercress cookery demonstrations from Celebrity chef Antony Worrall Thompson and TV presenter Keith Chegwin will be there to help the day go with a swing. Look out for Brian Aldridge and Shula Heben Lloyd from Radio 4's The Archers who will be helping to judge The Watercress Food Awards.

WILL ALRESFORD BE A BASKET CASE IN 2006?

Oyez, Oyez...

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF ALRESFORD

Hanging Baskets are a traditional part of the Alresford scene but the tradition is waning. To ensure this colourful welcoming summer display remains part of our beautiful town both businesses and residents alike need to hang out their baskets on the Alresford streets. NATC and the Chamber of Commerce are working in partnership to ensure Alresford has an abundance of hanging baskets this summer. With the Tourism Committee funding the new bowser, this year's baskets are expected to be the best ever and should prove to be a feature appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

Hanging Baskets purchased from the Chamber of Commerce are hung regularly watered and removed. To purchase your basket please telephone 01962 733593.

We will be knocking on your door to encourage you to purchase a Hanging Basket. (Water Retention Wicker Baskets approximately sixteen inches in width. Water retention means Bowser will only be required for watering every other day.)

RECREATION

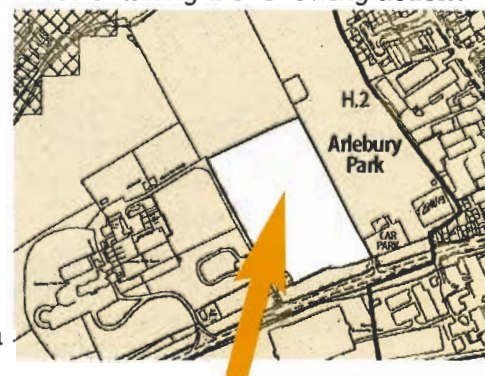
Children's Play Areas

The new play area at Stratton Bates has now been completed with the introduction of Woodlander Towers, Fireman's Poles and other attractions. Stratton Bates was also the first of the play areas to benefit from the Committee's refurbishment programme. Replacement Spring Mobiles for the toddlers are being put into Stratton Bates and Sun Hill. Arlebury Park and Sun Hill are scheduled for a face lift during 2007/08. So the Alresford play areas are looking good for the future.

ALRESFORD SPORT

Rugby The Compulsory Purchase procedure for the land adjacent to Arlebury Park will provide Alresford with two much needed Rugby pitches. To obtain the site NATC is in the process of taking the following actions:-

- Stage 1** At Full Council unanimous approval was given to Compulsorily Purchase the land for Rugby.
- Stage 2** A valuation of the land has been undertaken.
- Stage 3** An application is being made for the change of use of the land.
- Stage 4-7** This will involve WCC acting on our behalf. The Secretary of State will hold a public enquiry and make the Compulsory Purchase Order. The whole process is expected to take approximately 3 years to complete. Most of the project will be funded by the Rugby Football Union which will be providing an interest free loan.



Land for compulsory purchase

Tennis The Alresford Tennis Club and NATC are working together to provide better and new facilities at Arlebury Park. This will include new porous drainage for the 3 existing courts and a new tennis pavilion. LTA are keen to support this project. The completion date is anticipated in April 2007. So keep your eye on this ball.

What else has been happening on the Recreation Front?

Skatepark - This area is still attracting the youth and is proving to be very successful.

New Bye Laws - These are with the Home Office and are awaiting approval. The Byelaws will regulate all activities on our 4 Recreational Parks and Gardens.

Tree Maintenance - All trees on the Recreation areas have been given a clean bill of health. Work was carried out and completed in December 2005.

Car Parking at Stratton Bates - The main benefit of this strategy has been safety, with a reduction of on-road parking.

Large Council Forum - This was an extremely successful meeting of the 5 large Parish Councils in the area and resulted in both mutual co-operation and sharing of knowledge. The next meeting of the Forum is being hosted by Denmead and is scheduled for 23rd February.

Fireworks at the Park - Well done to the Rotary Club for again organising this successful annual event at Arlebury Park. The event was attended by 3000 people who contributed in the region of £7k towards the club's charities.

Ellr Robin Atkins
Chair Recreation Committee

NEED A CAR PARKING SPACE IN ALRESFORD?

THERE ARE 12 CAR PARKING SPACES AVAILABLE FOR COMMERCIAL RENTAL AT ARLEBURY PARK. FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. RENTAL COST IS £300 PER ANNUM or £30 PER MONTH.

APPLY TO:-

Stevie Kavanagh,
Commercial Parking,
New Alresford Town Council,
Arlebury Park, The Avenue,
Alresford SO24 9EP
Or Telephone 01962 732079

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT

Bollards to Broad Street

As most residents will know the work to replace the broken paving stones in Broad Street is well under way and is near completion. The bollards, that are being placed at regular intervals are fixed, with a few collapsible exceptions which are being sited on the Island at the top of Broad street outside the Horse and Groom. There will also be four bollards located on the curved pavement outside Wessex Pharmacy. We hope that these bollards will safeguard the Purbeck paving that adds to the uniqueness of our beautiful Georgian town.

NEW CHAIR AND WINTER DIGGING AT THE ALRESFORD ALLOTMENTS

Most Plot-holders are now getting stuck into their "Winter Digging" as preparations progress towards the Spring crop. Some manure has been delivered and more can be made available should any plot-holder require it. An Allotment Society has been established and Mr. Peter Green (Tel: 01962 734060) was elected the first Chairman of the Society. Congratulations and Good Luck to the newly formed Alresford Allotment Society.

Jacklyns Lane Bridge A More Vigorous approach Needed

It has been made absolutely plain from the letters we have received from Hampshire County Council that they do not intend to provide any work for a one way priority system under the Jacklyns Lane bridge, nor has any provision been made to improve the width of the bridge pavement. However, the Council, together with the Giles Group and others still vigorously pursue these options as we feel these are the only methods which will resolve this situation. With ever increasing numbers using Jacklyns Lane as a route to the town we may well have to adopt a more ROBUST approach to emphasise to others what is patently obvious to the residents of New Alresford.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PROSPECT ROAD

Improvements to the footpath and proper tarmac "pull in" areas are nearing completion in Prospect Road. The top T cul-de-sac section of the road has now been allocated parking spaces. A really good job is certainly being carried out, resulting in a huge improvement to this area of the Town.

John Cattle

Chair of Environment Committee

Finance

2005/6 The current year to 31/3/06 (05/06) is projected to break even with expenditure and income both totalling £176k. On this basis NATC General Reserve will remain untouched at £30k.

2006/7 With the increasing level of NATC activities the budgeted expenditure (both revenue and capital) will rise to £198k, which necessitates a rise in the precept of £34k to £179k. The annual cost to Band D Council Tax payers will be £80.50 per annum which is an increase of 23.28%.

The table and notes below set out the key figures:-

	Budget 2006/7		Likely Outcome 05/06	Notes
	£k	£k	£k	
Expenditure				
<u>General Admin</u>				
Office Salaries	64		62	1
Central Overheads	25	89	20	2
<u>Committees - Revenue</u>				
Recreation	24		24	
Environment	8		14	
General and Policy	9		9	
Tourism	9	50	9	
Capital				
Environment	5			3
Office	9	14		4
Loan Repayments		38	38	
Transfer to General Reserve		7	---	5
		198	176	
<u>Financed by Income</u>				
Interest, Sports Fees & Hiring		19	31	6
Precept needed for 2006/7		179	145	
		198	176	7

NOTES

1. NATC currently employs 5 part-time office staff. The average hours per week for 2006/7 have been set at 83, which is in line with the current level of work load.
2. Provision for additional overheads when the new offices are re-located in Arlebury Park building.
3. Environment Capital projects include one bus shelter and a lighting scheme.
4. New computer system and office furniture.
5. Increase of General Reserves to meet Auditors Requirements.
6. Interest reduction due to monies being spent on Arlebury Park Extension and reduced car park fees projected for 06/07
7. Approved at Finance Meeting, March 2005.

CASH AND PROJECTS

The Football Foundation has yet to finalise its grants for the Arlebury Park building. On the basis of its indications NATC has sufficient available cash to carry out this project.

All other capital projects can be financed by Third Party donations and Open Spaces Fund monies.

Public Information

Further details of these figures can be obtained from the office or at the next Finance meeting on 29th March, 7.30pm, Community Centre.

Ellr Robin Atkins

Chair of Finance Committee

FACILITIES

The Facilities Sub-Committee has the job of realising the aims of other committees where such objectives involve building work. It has seen the Town Signs project to fruition but its major preoccupation has been, and still is at the time of writing, development at Arlebury Park to provide NATC with much-needed office accommodation and a meeting room, together with expanded changing rooms for sports. We have engaged a professional design team and have

obtained an acceptable tender for the building work. Now all that we need are the funds to get started, the total cost being about £550,000. The Council has earmarked funds for half of this sum, and has applied to the Football Foundation and our contacts with them give us considerable hope that we will receive sufficient funds to enable us to go ahead. Watch this space!

Len Orton
Chair of Facilities Committee

Planning

To date during the current council year, the Council has reviewed some 60 planning applications, ranging from a garden shed in the conservation area to residential developments on larger sites. Naturally, it is the latter that attract the greatest interest from residents.

Amongst the most important of these is the redevelopment of Hankins Garage site for a new Co-op facing onto West Street with houses and flats behind; this was finally approved after revisions were made to protect pedestrians and traffic from the danger of delivery lorries. Other developments include Linden Homes' 16 dwellings at the rear of 16-20 Grange Road, now under construction and 14 dwellings in the coal yard at the Station Yard which was allowed on appeal.

These developments, together with Orchard Dean, are nearing completion. These together with other smaller developments allowed during the last 18 months, mean that the housing stock of Alresford will have increased by about 60 dwellings in the space of 18 months. The Winchester and District Local Development Plan does not identify any particular requirement or target for housing in Alresford but our Council believes that a 10% increase (ie. About 200 dwellings) over the period of the plan, which ends in 2011, is the maximum that the Town's infrastructure could cope with. The Planning Committee will continue to look carefully at all future applications with this point in mind.

Len Orton
Chair of Planning Committee

GENERAL AND POLICY

The General and Policy Committee has many areas it oversees including Planning and projects such as the Town Design Statement. Until recently Tourism also came under the G & P umbrella but the Committee decided that due to the growth of Tourism within Alresford it should become independent. One of the major functions of the Committee is to review grant applications and during 2005/6 the following grants were approved:-

Steve Middleton
Chair of General and Policy

GRANTS APPROVED

A & D Christmas Tree Fund	£ 600
St. John's Church	£1,000
Community Centre	£1,000
Perins School	£1,000
Bowls Club	£ 200
Citizens Advice Bureau	£ 250

Grant Forms can be obtained from NATC offices

CONTACT LIST

Town Office: New Alresford Town Council, Arlebury Park, The Avenue, Alresford, SO24 9EP
Phone: 01962 732079 Email: Alresford.council@virgin.net

Councillor (Committee Chairs)	Address	Telephone No.	Email
Len Orton Chairman NATC (Planning/Facilities)	38 Broad Street Alresford SO24 9AQ	733063	LOrton9799@aol.com
Steve Middleton Vice-Chairman NATC (G & P)	83 Jacklyns Lane Alresford SO24 9LF	736536/7 07831 278 486	middletonbuilders@yahoo.co.uk
Robin Atkins (Finance/Recreation)	7 Lindley Gardens Alresford SO24 9PU	733778	robin.atkins@tesco.net
Paul Beresford	29 Mill Hill Alresford SO24 9DD	733773	beresfordpm@hotmail.com
Michael Byrne	Elm Bank Inhams Row Old Alresford SO24 9SJ	734041 07785 572 171	mwjbyrne@aol.com
John Cattle (Environment)	39 Beneden Green Alresford SO24 9PE	734846	
Paul Hogben	7a, Robertson Rd Alresford SO24 9LQI	734339	
Barbara Jeffs (Design Statement)	Badgers Bighton Lane, Bighton Alresford SO24 9SW	734629	erniejeffs@aol.com
Mark Luckham	Farmgate Cottage Sun Lane Alresford SO24 9NE	07711 624 862	mluckham@aol.com
Malcolm Phillips (Tourism)	Mill Lane House The Soke Alresford SO24 9DB	733023	malcolmena@hotmail.co.uk
Ken Yeldham	13 Covey Way Alresford SO24 9QN	732695	

REVISED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2006

(Venues to be advised)

March	Wednesday 1st (Recreation), Wednesday 8th (Environment), Thursday 16th (ANNUAL TOWN MEETING), Wednesday 29th (Finance)
April	Tuesday 4th (Full Town), Wednesday 5th (Tourism), Wednesday 26th (General and Policy)
May	Wednesday 3rd (Annual Town Council & Recreation), Wednesday 24th (Environment), Wednesday 31st (Finance)
June	Tuesday 6th (Full Council)
July	Wednesday 5th (Environment), Wednesday 12th (General & Policy), Wednesday 19th (Tourism), Wednesday 26th (Recreation)
August	Tuesday 1st (Full Town), Wednesday 23rd (Finance)
September	Wednesday 6th (Recreation), Wednesday 27th (Environment)
October	Tuesday 3rd (Full Town), Wednesday 11th (Tourism), Wednesday 18th (General and Policy)
November	Wednesday 1st (Recreation), Wednesday 22nd (Environment), Wednesday 29th (Finance).
December	Tuesday 5th (Full Town)

Listed below are the NATC Committee Clerks together with the Committees for which they are responsible.

Clerks	Committee Responsibilities
Charles Bazlinton	Full Town Council
Stevie Kavanagh	Recreation, Tourism, Planning, General & Policy
Turea Spencer	Environment
George Smith	Finance
Mike Heal	Facilities

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH

8.00pm

PERINS SCHOOL, MAIN HALL