



Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2021



Parish Council: Think You Have Something to Offer??

Then You Are Needed As a New Parish Councillor This May!

Parish Councils are the main vehicles by which local communities promote the needs and aspirations in their area. In today's volatile environment, it is more important positive and proactive way. This is no time side lines. Local councils need active, and get involved in their work. That Council has places for eleven councillors, with two vacancies. Parish councillors serving Parish councillors will retire in May will take office. Retiring councillors can new councillors for May this year! So if will not be surprised to know that there is elections, stemming from the The conduct of elections is governed by are already underway for the first set of Scotland and Wales in Covid-secure conditions. The key information that you need to know at this stage is:-



than ever to engage with local issues in a to sit on the fence or offer views from the interested and committed people to serve means you! Alveley and Romsley Parish There are currently nine serving members, hold office for a period of four years. All 2021. At that time newly elected councillors stand for re-election. We will definitely need you are you interested please read on. You a detailed legislative framework around Representation of the People Act 1983. the Electoral Commission and preparations elections to be held across England,

1. You need to be 18 or over;
2. You must be a local government elector for the Alveley and Romsley Parish, or have worked (sole or principal occupation) in the Parish for at least twelve months, or have resided within the Parish or within 4.8 km of it for at least twelve months;
3. You will need in due course to submit a nomination paper which must be endorsed by a Proposer and a Seconder;
4. The proposer and seconder must be local government electors of the Alveley and Romsley parish;
5. If there are eleven or less valid nominations, all those nominated will become Parish Councillors;
6. If there are more than eleven valid nominations, an election will be held on 6th May 2021 and the eleven candidates with the most votes will become Parish Councillors on 10th May 2021.

Need any more information? Please contact me (David Rawlinson) on 07972040818) or email clerk@alveleyandromsleypc.org.uk.

CORONAVIRUS – WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Useful contacts: We want to ensure you get the right support and advice to help you through these times.

Coronavirus helpline for non-health related enquiries – 0345 678 9028
8am to 6pm weekdays, 9am to 1pm Saturday
Email customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk

Child welfare and safety – 0345 678 9021
For concerns about a child's safety or welfare, or for family support

Adult welfare and safety – 0345 678 9044
For concerns about a vulnerable adult's safety or welfare, or advice about adult social care

Council tax and benefits – 0345 678 9002
Email: council.tax@shropshire.gov.uk
Email: benefits@shropshire.gov.uk

Housing support, including homelessness and prevention – 0345 678 9005
Email housing.options@shropshire.gov.uk

Schools and education (including free schools meals) – 0345 678 9008
Email customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk

Waste and recycling, including assisted collections – 0345 678 9007
Email customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk

Business support and advice
For business rates enquiries – email business.rates@shropshire.gov.uk
For business-related enquiries – email COVID19businessenquiries@shropshire.gov.uk
For information about help and support for businesses please visit www.investinshropshire.co.uk

To report a business which should be closed or isn't complying with social distancing requirements – 0345 678 9067 (option 3).
Email advicecompliance@shropshire.gov.uk

For advice and information about all service areas, please visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus
For any health-related queries and issues please use the NHS 111 online service.
Visit our Newsroom website – www.shropshirenewsroom.com where you can sign up to receive email alerts.

Follow us on Twitter (@shropcouncil)

Facebook (shropshirecouncil)

Instagram (@shropshirecouncil)



Keep on Running-Parkrun Will Return

Parkrun has had to postpone the return of events in most areas of the country but we are really looking forward to starting up our weekly events at Severn Valley Country Park as soon as we can. In the meantime, keep running, walking or jogging and we hope to see you soon. We've loved welcoming participants from Alveley and Romsley, as well as from further afield and hope to see some new faces there when we return. We'll let you know when we're able to start up again, but hopefully the recent good news about vaccines will mean this will be in the first half of 2021. In the meantime you can log any 5k runs you do, referencing Severn Valley Country Parkrun on the website – <http://parkrun.me/fp1hy>. For more information, email severnvalleycountry@parkrun.com or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Covid 19 and Other Information

A brief reminder that our upgraded and redesigned new Parish Council Website at www.alveleyandromsleypc.org.uk is now even more accessible. It contains a wealth of information ranging from local organisations supporting Covid 19 help, to forthcoming road closures and much, much more besides. Our aim is to include any contact details, events or news that involve our Parish so that everyone can be kept up to date. For anyone without Internet access we endeavour to put as much information as possible on our notice boards. Our clerk, David Rawlinson, can also be contacted by phone or email.

Planning For The Future

Over the last 60 years Alveley has grown in size out of all recognition. Wherever you look during this time there has been major housing development. For instance, in the 1970s the Bridge Road estate came into being. Since then, expansion has been mainly smaller developments like recent housing at The Oaks, homes on part of the Sports & Social Club car park, and the anticipated dwellings on the old garage site along the main road. The gaps and spaces in the village itself have been taken up by "Infills" of one or two houses.

Shropshire Council has responsibility to ensure provision of homes and employment land for the future is met everywhere in its county area. For this it has a Local Plan which now in its final consultation stage when the public in general have had the which your Parish Council has done until May 2022 before the Government's revision of the Local Plan, by which time could already be out of date!

Some expansion of housing is proposed Council has stated that over the period of dwellings will be needed to supplement development. Two areas in the Green provide 35 houses. These together with (ones not planned) or exception sites of the Green Belt) will meet need.

Your Parish Council has accepted the Belt proposed behind Maple Crescent as some growth is needed. BUT it does not support the development of housing on the Cleckars field as there are ecological and hydrological issues with the site which your Parish Council considers have not been adequately taken into account. More recently it has been declared lawful for mobile homes at The Butts caravan site at Little London, so the Parish Council is looking for a review of the need to use so much Green Belt land for housing development.

While all this is going on, the Government has produced a White Paper proposing radical changes to the planning system. These proposals which are being hotly challenged by countryside campaigners are considered unacceptable because they claim there is loss of local democracy, scrutiny, accountability and reduces further trust in the planning system. In consequence the Government is having a rethink! It is envisaged that expansion of Alveley will be limited for the future because of restrictions in the use of Green Belt land. Having said that, even now Shropshire Council has earmarked a small area of Green Belt land for possible development after 2038!



since 2017 has been under review. It is stakeholders, Parish & Town Councils and opportunity to comment on its soundness, (see below). However, it is likely to take Planning Inspectorate can ratify the no doubt, after five years, some parts of it

for Alveley in the Plan. Shropshire the Plan (which is to 2038) a further 99 existing committed sites like the old garage Belt are proposed for Alveley, each to an allowance of 29 homes by windfalls (that is, small developments on the fringe

development of 35 houses in the Green field as there are ecological and hydrological issues with the site which your Parish Council considers have not been adequately taken into account. More recently it has been declared lawful for mobile homes at The Butts caravan site at Little London, so the Parish Council is looking for a review of the need to use so much Green Belt land for housing development.

In Memoriam

Councillors have paid their respects to a former colleague who sadly passed away on Christmas Eve. Jenny Hall was a relatively new Councillor but her willingness to get involved in local issues and her positive interest made us all feel she'd been with us for much longer. Her courage and determination to overcome her illness and attend meetings was inspiring and we will miss her greatly. Our condolences are with her family and friends.

Broadband Explained.....

Rural broadband continues to be a hot topic in both our local community and at a national level. Brought into further focus with the change to many peoples' working lives that we have seen this year through the pandemic. We as a council take a keen interest in developments in the industry and would like to explain what options are available today to parishioners and our hopes for the future. I personally have had a lot of feedback from local people that the jargon used by providers is confusing; pricing options are very disparate and people often just don't know which option will suit them the best, so we have put together a short guide that we hope will help. *(This is just a small extract from the article on "Broadband" by Alveley Parish Councillor and resident James Taylor. The full article and guide mentioned, appears on www.alveleyandromsleyipc.org.uk - the Parish Council website. I urge you all to log on benefit from the information it contains -Ed)*

Can We make Alveley & Romsley Zero-Carbon?

We spelled out some of the effects of Climate Change in the last newsletter. Now, we want to do something about it locally.

In the short term, we will use the Parish Council website to give you easy access to expert advice and information on, for example, improving the efficiency of domestic energy use for heating, lighting, cooking and leisure. We hope to start this soon. Going forward, we could consider:

1. Creating or joining local consortia for procuring e.g. energy;
2. Promoting use of solar panels; Installing recycling points within the area;
3. Promoting second-hand sales to encourage re-use;
4. Encouraging all consumers and local traders to reduce their use of plastic;
5. Promoting tree planting and wild-life areas;
6. Installing a charging point in the area for electric vehicles;
7. Promoting a farmers' market or supporting an existing market in the wider area.
8. Improving the network of footpaths and cycle tracks in the area.

The Parish Council has the power to engage in any of the above. However, we have limited resources of staff and money, so none of the activities are feasible without significant support and input from local people. Also, they would probably involve additional expenditure at least in the short term. This might require an increase in the Parish precept i.e. what you pay for the work that we do. So we need to know if you are prepared to give your time and money to help make Alveley and Romsley a zero-carbon community. We hope so because, in the face of the climate emergency, this would be an essential investment in the future of your children and grandchildren.

Please let us have your views at clerk@alveleyandromsleyipc.org.uk.



Your Parish Councillors - Contact Details ([R] = Romsley Councillor)
Pam Barker 781357 Chairman, Keith Stanton 780637 Vice Chairman,
Chris Noble 780715, Richard Narburgh [R] 781180, Samantha Potter
[R] 01299 861101, Ben Punchard 781807, David Voysey 780356,
Alexa Buffey 07515461925, James Taylor 07815043117.

Clerk: David Rawlinson - Email: clerk@alveleyandromsleyipc.org.uk

Address: 43, Church View Gardens, Kinver, Stourbridge. DY7 6EE
07972040818. Website www.alveleyandromsleyipc.org.uk

Your Shropshire Councillor:

Tina Woodward—Contact Details -780737

[Shropshire Council Helpdesk : 03456 789000, website:

www.shropshire.gov.uk]