

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORT

NAME:	Kathryn Cargill
TOPIC:	Health and Wellbeing
DATE:	November 2024
UPDATE SINCE LAST REPORT:	<p>The ND Alcester project has been successful in its funding application to Church Street Properties – many thanks to them. Local businesses have responded very positively to initial approaches, so the funding will enable us to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Make a film, primarily aimed at businesses and local shop owners, to raise awareness and understanding of neurodiversity and to introduce simple and practical ideas and adjustments that could be made to help their clients with these conditions.2) Create 25 sensory bags as a resource for businesses and shops/cafes. These would contain items such as ear defenders and fidget toys.3) Create an ND Friendly Town logo and stickers for shop windows <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The SPEND support group plans to continue as an independent organisation and is looking for potential committee members. ATC will offer assistance in creating the group’s constitution, looking for funding and providing use of The Depot free of charge.• The Thursday evening sessions at the Youth Club for older children are continuing to go well. Funding is being sought to allow both weekly sessions to continue.

- We have secured funding to continue the Holiday Lunch Club at least until the end of the year.
- Alcester Community Shed is now officially open! After two very successful open days in September and October, the grand opening took place on 25th October with the Mayor, our MP and numerous contributors and volunteers present. There has been an immense amount of hard work to get the Shed ready and this would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers.
- The Grand Days Out has been successful in a funding application to Moorfields charity which will allow us to continue this popular project. Since the last report trips have taken place to Coventry Cathedral and Bourton on the Water, with around 100 older people enjoying different days out. The next planned destinations are Coventry Car Museum and a Christmas shopping trip to a garden centre.
- The Bikeability sessions in July and August were very successful and further level 1, 2 and 3 sessions have been booked for the October half term. These are free for children to attend.
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- The Repair Café had its 5th Birthday celebration on 19th October. This coincided with International Repair Day and the 15th anniversary of the first ever repair café. The press and our MP were present and it was a great opportunity to showcase the amazing work being done in local communities to encourage repair and reuse.

	<p>Some interesting stats from our first five years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We have had over 1000 visitors 2) We have saved over 20,000 kg of CO2 emissions, which is equivalent to driving over 87,000 miles 3) We have successfully repaired over 600 items 4) We have saved over 2 tonnes of waste from landfill 5) We have had a 74% satisfaction rate from our customers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Days mobile farm visited the Depot on 22nd October, with a number of animals taking up temporary residence on Jubilee Fields. This was an intergenerational event, to allow older and younger people to spend time together in the company of farm animals. Attendees came from our primary schools, the Dementia Café, Cherry Trees and our local older residents centres.
<p>FUTURE PLANS:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Talk Cancer workshop, presented by Cancer Research UK, taking place on Tuesday 26th November at The Depot • The SPEND support group are looking for potential committee members • The next Working Group meeting is arranged for 16th January 2025

**FOR
CONSIDERATION/
DISCUSSION AT
FULL COUNCIL:**

- We are thinking about further intergenerational projects that we could initiate or support. Ideas include taking children's craft or music sessions into care homes or older people's accommodation centres. Other thoughts would be very welcome.