

Alcester Town Council Health and Wellbeing Working Group
Meeting on 17th October 2024, 1.30pm at Globe House

Present: Cllr Kathryn Cargill (Chair), Rev Alison Mackay, Wendy Sherwood, Vanessa Lowe, Jen Hopkins, Kyla Brown

Apologies: Cllr Alison Leask, Cllr Lauren Martinson

1. ND Alcester Project

Church Street Properties (CSP) have very kindly awarded us a grant of £2500 towards the project. Many thanks to them. This will allow us to proceed with making of the film. CSP have asked how we intend to ensure that the project is sustainable beyond the initial launch.

First step is to start work on the film. We need to publicise to High Street businesses that the project is about to start and that filming will be taking place in the town. It would be great to include some local SEND children in the film talking about their experiences. Parents at SPEND to be asked re potential participation. **Action JHOP**

Wendy will speak to Ben at ATS Films re timings. **Action WSHE**

It was agreed to approach Lippett Creative to create an ND Alcester logo, based on Jen's initial ideas. **Action WSHE**

It was agreed that this Working Group will act as the project group and meet more regularly for project meetings.

2. SPEND Group

The group accept the need to run themselves independently as a community organisation, with their own constitution and bank account. It was agreed that ATC will continue to run the group until the summer holidays. ATC can help with setting up the group constitution, continued free use of the Depot and help identifying potential sources of funding. Wendy will speak to Chris Freeman at CAVA for assistance seeking funding. **Action WSHE**

It was agreed that SEND parents are unlikely to be able to commit to being on the committee to run the group. We will publicise the need for local people willing and able to get involved. **Action ALL**

3. Ideas for Future Projects

Alison M suggested a possible initiative around Pride. Vanessa and Wendy will consider what ATC's potential role might be. **Action VLOW, WSHE**

4. Any Other Business

Alison M informed us that there were issues around the running of the Community Fridge and that a meeting of organisers, volunteers and users had been arranged to explore the problems.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday January 16th 2025, 1.30 pm at Globe House.

6. Update Notes

The following update notes from Wendy were circulated ahead of the meeting.

1. SEND Support Project

The SPEND support group has continued with monthly meetings and the focus recently has been around offering art and craft-based activities for the parents, including mindfulness etc. ILEAP delivered some SEN activities for children over the summer holidays. We took some children to Riding for the Disabled and we have been successful with our funding application to become a ND Friendly Town from Church Street Properties.

3. Youth Club

The additional session on a Thursday evening is continuing to go well and volunteers will be using the wellbeing room for confidential discussions/ condom distribution with the young people. Funding has been sought to continue both sessions.

4. Holiday Lunches

We have continued to deliver the free hot lunches during the children's holidays on a Wednesday. A successful funding application will enable us to continue this provision over the next few months at least. Next one is October 30th.

5. Alcester Community Shed

Two very successful open days have taken place in Sept and October with a grand opening on 25th October. There has been an immense amount of hard work and activity to get the Shed ready and this would not have been possible without the dedication of the volunteers involved.

6. Grand Days Out

Funding has been granted from Moor Fields Charity to continue taking older people on trips and we have visited Coventry Cathedral and Bourton on the Water so far with around 100 individual people enjoying different days out. We plan to go to Coventry Car Museum and a garden centre for Christmas shopping.

7. Bikeability

Bikeability sessions have been very successful, and they have booked more level 1, 2 and 3 sessions for October Half Term.

8. Repair Café

We have our 5th Birthday celebration on 19th October!!! We have invited our MP, Manuela Perteghella, and the press to attend, 2pm – 4pm. We'll be celebrating our own 5th Birthday as

well as International Repair Day (on the 19th) and the 15th anniversary of the first ever Repair Café! this is a brilliant opportunity to show (or remind) our newly elected MPs of the amazing work we're all doing in our local communities and encourage them to support repair and reuse.

9. Bee Squared

This new project involving the planting of wildflowers in gardens, allotments, schools and businesses in Alcester to encourage and help bees has been very successful after receiving funding from The Councillor Grant Funding pot. We have bid for more funding and, if successful, will run something similar again next year.

10. Good Days Farm

Visit is planned for Tuesday 22nd October where the mobile farm will visit The Depot and set up on Jubilee Fields (weather permitting). I have invited both primary schools, the Dementia Café, Cherry Trees Care Home plus residents from Jubilee Court, Malt Mill Lane, Oversley House and Malin Court. This is an intergenerational event with older and younger spending time together in the company of farm animals. 10am – 2pm

11. Talk Cancer Workshop planned for Tuesday 26th November at The Depot.