

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – MARCH 2025

Actions/Issues arising from Full Council

- Response submitted to MHCLG on consultation on Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities.
- Notified SDC of the resignation of Cllr Vaughan Blake.
- Posted Notice of Vacancy for a councillor for Alcester West Ward.
- Advised Moor Fields charity of resignation of Cllr Blake.
- Thank you email to Cllr Blake.
- Uploaded Community Grants policy, Flexible Working Policy and Sexual Harassment Policy to website.
- Congratulations email to Sarah Mellors at Alcester Academy to which she replied: “Thank you for taking the time to write to me. And thanks to the Mayor and councillors for this also. We were absolutely thrilled, and I hope to maintain the excellent education for our children for many years to come.”

ATC Operations

- Burials/interments in February 2025 – none
- Income from EPCC in February 2025 - £1415 plus VAT.
- Events Forum meeting held 7th February. Discussed road closures, upcoming events, Martyn’s Law.
- Very successful Grand Days Out trips to RAF Cosford Museum on 4th and 11th February.
- Meetings with task group to prepare response to the South Warwickshire Local Plan.
- Draft response to SWLP sent to Kinwarton PC/Great Alne PC/Wixford PC/Arrow & Weethley PC for agreement.
- Quarterly newsletter completed and sent to print.
- Complaints received about piles of rubbish outside flats on Kingley Avenue. Reported to SDC Streetscene, Cllr Juned and Orbit.
- Complaints regarding tree work undertaken on large oak tree behind Kingley Avenue. Investigated and established that this was a crown lift and dead wood removal by Orbit’s contractors.
- Concerns raised by residents on whether various trees on Conway Estate are protected by TPO’s. Following this up with SDC.
- Community Grants scheme for 2025-26 to launch on March 3rd.
- Meeting with Cash Access UK’s temporary banking hub team on 13th February. In person meeting scheduled in Alcester for 19th March to look at potential locations. Cllr Mills is now working with me on this.

- Vandalism of a piece of play equipment in Jubilee Fields – replacement parts sourced at a cost of over £600.
- We have submitted ongoing requests for drains in Alcester to be jetted. Thanks to the persistence of the staff team, these have now been prioritised by a senior surveyor at WCC and should be done soon!

External meetings attended

- NALC/SLCC Martyn’s Law Steering Group meeting - 4th February.
- Meeting with WCC Towns team and Vicky Griffith, Rural Enterprise Hub – 12th February.
- NALC Smaller Councils Committee meeting – 13th February.
- WALC webinar on devolution to unitary authorities – 17th February.
- Meeting with Arrow & Weethley PC re SWLP – 20th February.
- NALC webinar “Is the fight for Standards a losing battle?” – 26th February
- Warwickshire Towns Network meeting – 27th February.
- Rural Enterprise Hub monthly meeting – 27th February.

Former Library, Priory Road

Just by way of update, Councillors will be aware that terms have been agreed for well over a year between Warwickshire County Council and FACES for All CIC for a 15-year lease of the former library. FACES will be renovating the building to create a day centre for adults with profound disabilities.

The negotiations on the lease documentation have been protracted and complicated by the fact that this transaction needs to extract the former library and its services to create a separate property from the main WCC ownership of this site.

The paperwork is now all agreed and completion is expected imminently.

Preparation work for the renovation work is well underway and as soon as the lease is completed, work will start immediately.

Vanessa Lowe

Town Clerk

25th February 2025