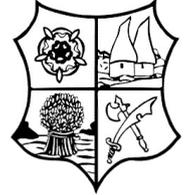


ALTON Town Council



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Town Hall
Market Square
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 1HD

Town Clerk: Mrs Leah Coney

9th September 2021

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the **COMMUNITY COMMITTEE** on **Wednesday 15th September at 7.00pm** when the under mentioned business will be transacted.

Yours sincerely

LConey

Mrs Leah Coney
Town Clerk

To: **Members of the Community Committee**

Councillor Ginny Boxall (Chair)
Councillor Gideon Cristofoli
Councillor Richard Platt
Councillor Graham Titterington
Councillor Amanda Durley
Councillor Pam Jones
Councillor Matthew Bayliss

Copied to: All other Councillors for information

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL, MARKET SQUARE, ALTON**

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2021

AGENDA

- 1 Chairman's announcements
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of previous meeting of the Community Committee held on the 2nd June 2021
- 4 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations. Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest. You must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.
- 5 Questions to the Committee (including those received in writing).
- 6 Alton Community Hospital – update from Rebecca Housley
- 7 Alton Town Council events programme for 2021 and 2022.
- 8 Plastic Free Alton
- 9 Alton Ambassadors.
- 10 To receive notes from the Community Safety Partnership Meeting (August 2021)

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

REPORTS BY THE TOWN CLERK

ITEM 7 EVENTS PROGRAMME 2021 and 2022

FOR DECISION

The summer events programme was very well received this year, with BioBlitz, LNOTP, EcoFair, the Beer Mile and Market, Themed markets, the Big Dig and Fun Fridays all proving popular. All events were well attended and with the odd rare exception events were held in good weather. We have also received some lovely feedback in relation to the two bands that played in the bandstand on Sunday afternoons

We have seen the cancellation of a number of third-party events this summer, citing covid, including Regency Week, The Bus Rally, Silent Cinema, A Taste of AODS, The Hillman Imp Rally and the French Market but a number of these have already confirmed for 2022 so it may well be a bumper year!

There was some push back on social media in respect of the LNOTP being held for the last time due to the Dave's retirement and no replacement to provide the very technical sound system and engineering works to produce the sound. In advance of this year's event social media users put forward a couple of suggestions which were followed up. One was a local group who were keen to consider the event as a fundraiser but as the event does not make a profit this was not tenable. The other was from a local events and music organiser. Unfortunately, with Alton Concert Orchestra needing certainty so they could set their programme for 2022 during August this year, the deadline passed for agreement – the local music organiser was unable to attend this year's LNOTP due to other commitments and reported that trying to get equipment hiring costs and engineers booked during the summer was proving difficult. An e-mail was subsequently received from Alton Concert Orchestra in early September to say that they have made the decision to continue with LNOTP away from Alton to another local town as a chargeable, ticketed event.

Remaining events for 2021

Autumn 4-day Walking Festival

Returning for a second year, with walkers keen to not have to wait a full year until May, this 4 day "mini" festival was launched this week – the poster is included in Members bundles. This event is the foundation for the Walkers are Welcome Annual Conference which will be held in Alton next October (2022)

Remembrance Sunday.

The plan at the moment is to proceed with the Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cairn, hopefully with a live stream option for anyone who prefer not to attend in person but to cancel the parade for a second year. Whilst the event is outdoors, given the increasing numbers of cases of covid and the demographic of those participating in the parade, it would be appropriate to act on the side of caution as we go into the winter.

Christmas

Please be advised that officers are seeking financial support for this Christmas from the Welcome Back Fund. This is funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and is being administered by East Hampshire District Council, with whom we are in discussion with over opportunities this Yuletide season.

This year we will be having 4 mini-Yuletide markets, hosted by the Town Council in Market Square starting on Saturday 20th November. (Two markets are already full booked with stallholders) Again, given concerns over crowding in a relatively small space, officers have amended the programme and will not have a

Christmas Light switch on in the Square on the 20th November but instead are proposing " A Marmot Family Christmas" on the evening of Friday 19th November from 5pm to 7pm in the High Street. With characters, entertainment, mini fun fair, street food and booths for activities such as writing to Santa, the idea is to provide a free to attend family friendly event. We have contacted the King's Arms to ask their young people to help give us ideas and maybe provide a fundraising opportunity for the Mayor's Charity. There will be a traditional tree in Market Square and some new tree lighting this year. At the last meeting a concept of having live trees decorated and then replanted by local groups was discussed but there has been very little traction getting this going and with St Lawrence Church confirming that they will be having their Christmas Tree exhibition, we didn't want to be competing for entrants!

There will also be a best dressed window competition voted for through social media and a "name the baby Marmots". We are also hoping to work with Luke and Elliot to create some additional Shop Local videos with a focus this year on professional services such as insurance, legal, accountancy etc..

There will be also be an exhibition of photographs at the Allen Gallery for Go Wild in Alton! the charity calendar for Hart Wildlife as the commemorate their 25th anniversary. The exhibition will launch on the morning of the final Saturday of the Yuletide Markets on Saturday 11th December with a meet the photographers' session and will run until the 9th January. Calendars will be available for sale from the Allen Gallery, the Curtis Museum and the Alton Creatives Emporium.

Proposed Events for 2022

The programme is subject to alteration the events programme is suggested as per the list below.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| May | - Battle of Alton Civil War re-enactment (1 st & 2 nd May)
- Walking and Cycling Festival (various dates all month)
- All Things Outdoors – themed market (14 th May) |
| June | - The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee (2nd - 5 th June) <i>Four days of national celebrations to include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen’s 70 years of service.</i>
The ‘Big Jubilee Lunch’ will be taking place around the country on Sunday 5 th June, to include a community picnic in the Public Gardens with entertainment from the Alton Concert Band.
- Alton Literary Festival Week (18 th – 26 th June)
<i>in association with Regency Week</i>
- Live from the Bandstand (various dates over the summer)
- Live from the Square (various dates over the summer) |
| July/August | - All Things Nature – themed market (16 th July)
- Live from series continues (various dates over the summer)
- Fun Fridays 2-3pm in the Public Gardens (29 th July – 26 th August) |
| September | - All Things Local – themed market (3 rd September)
<i>to include: Mayor’s Civic Reception and Alton in Bloom Awards</i>
- Classic Car Show (17 th September) |
| November | - Alton and Holybourne Remembrance Services |
| December | - Christmas Events. |

Proposed Events for 2023

The return of the Eco-Fair in collaboration with ACAN.

A Flood Meadows Bio-Blitz.

A Science Fair to stimulate and sustain the interest of our community and in particular Alton's youth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) by organising a compelling, exciting, and educational STEM event.

A few of the events for 2022 have explanatory notes below.

Walking and Cycling Festival.

In the quest to continue to improve and enhance the Walking and Cycling Festival, for 2022 we are looking at introducing some new walks including longer training sessions for people looking to take on Ultra challenges in the summer, possibly walks including meditation and weekend walks, with part 1 Saturday and part 2 Sunday so people stay overnight in Alton. The target is to try for three walks a day on some days, one short, less than 3 miles, one medium 4 - 9 miles and one 10mile+. We are also exploring possibilities for foraging walks and Nordic walking...the timetable will be finalised early in the New Year. The Clerk has also applied to MHCLG for funding for marketing advice to help widen the reach of Walking Festival. The plan is to build on last year's Cycling events at the Festival and this will include an "All Things Outdoor" Market in May with Walking and Cycling one of the key focuses for the event.

Themed Markets.

The theme markets were very well received in 2021 so there is a plan to continue them in 2022 but with one a month rather than two and omitting August as this proved to be the hardest month for booking stallholders. The theme, as seen above, is "All Things...." Outdoor, Nature, Local and Community

Beer Festival.

No date has been determined for this event as yet, but following the success of the inaugural Beer Mile and Market in the Square in July this year the Alton Beer Festival are keen to have another event in partnership with ATC.

We are also looking to run a "**Live From...**" series of musical offerings. These are:

Live from the Bandstand - Sunday afternoons once a month from June to September (or more if we get sufficient interest) so people can come along and enjoy a picnic and live music. Discussions are already in progress with Alton Concert Orchestra for them to headline this series.

Live from the Square - using the seating area as a backdrop, busking sessions on a Saturday afternoon 2pm - 5pm once a month June to September to showcase local young talent. Slots will be available to book in advance for 1 hour (up to 3 live sessions per afternoon)

Queens Jubilee

This will be a relatively low-key offering, centred on the Jubilee Picnic, which will be a nationwide event on the Sunday of the four-day weekend in early June. Held in the public gardens the aim is to have live musical entertainment in the bandstand, with the public gardens decorated for a party! In discussion with the chair and vice chair, given that a number of staff would also like to enjoy this extended bank holiday there are no plans to have any formal Town Council events. Similar to the WW1 commemorations there is an option for beacon lighting but in our experience this needs a larger event around it and also it is unclear how it will look given the lighter evenings at this time of year. It is therefore not proposed to take part in this currently.

Alton Literary Festival

After a two-year hiatus, Regency Week is back for 2022. Having spoken to Pat Lerew there is support for linking Alton Literary Festival with Regency Week in June. In discussion with officers, it is proposed to start this as a modest event, likely based in the Public Gardens and held as a single day. You have heard of

- Explore use of Local radio and social media to promote Alton Ambassadors and get residents on side,
- Use of high viz tabards/ caps /sash? with ATC Crest and Alton Town Ambassador, colour to be discussed with Town Hall
- Engagement at key town events, Yuletide, Regency week, some markets

Time commitment, flexible to work around existing commitments, the role can be as little as an hour a week or more time permitting.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to consider their approval of the Alton Ambassadors concept and to consider next steps.