



THE ALTONIAN WEEKLY

WEEK 42
16th November 2023

Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HD
www.alton.gov.uk 01420 83986

CIL And Community Grant Funding Now Open

On the 1st November, Alton Town Council launched two funding opportunities for local groups and organisations.

The first is the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund. This money comes from the levy charged to developers for residential and commercial property building that takes place in the town and is passed to the Town Council to administer.

The Town Council must use these Neighbourhood CIL receipts to support the development of the Town Council's area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.

Applications are welcome from community clubs, charities, groups or any organisation who have projects which fulfil the criteria. This can include social infrastructure schemes such as arts, sports, health and social care, emergency services and community centres as well as physical infrastructure projects including highways and transport, play areas and public open spaces. Applications will not be accepted for revenue funding including use of the funds for staff salaries.

There is no maximum or minimum amount which can be applied for from CIL. The fund, which has to be spent over the next five years, currently stands at £339,768. **Applications for this fund must be received by the 30th November 2023.**

The second fund which opens today is the Community Grant Fund which can receive applications from local groups and charities for either revenue funding or for capital projects to be carried out during the forthcoming financial year. **Applications for this fund must be submitted by the 31st December 2023.**

These grants are awarded to organisations which are judged to contribute to the whole community and may not be capable of covering their full running costs through their charitable endeavours. As such applications may include requests for revenue funding as well as capital costs. Grants may be awarded up to £10,000

Further details of the application process, guidance notes and application forms for both funds can be found on the Town Council website <https://www.alton.gov.uk/council-policies/>

Paper copies are also available from the Town Hall upon request. Please call 01420 83986.



Sponsored and supported by:



Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window

After the success of last year Alton Town Council is inviting local businesses to share the Christmas spirit around the town with a best dressed Christmas window competition. They are inviting local businesses and customers to submit their own images of local shop windows (you can also self-nominate as a business owner).

If you would like to enter your business or nominate a business, please email up to two landscape high-resolution digital photographs of the shop window, including the business details, by Sunday 3rd December 2023 to support@alton.gov.uk. The people's choice online vote will start on Monday 4th December and will close on Sunday 17th December.

Christmas Lights Switch-On and Market

This year Alton's Christmas Lights will be Switched-On by Alton's very own Masterchef 2023 winner Chariya Khattiyot at the Assembly Rooms on Friday 24th November at 5pm. Chariya will be joined by the cast from this year's Christmas Pantomime from Pumpkin Pantos, Beauty and the Beast. Everyone is invited to enjoy a lively Switch-On with music and festivities to keep the whole family entertained, including Father Christmas, sponsored by HSDC Alton College and an enchanting Ice Queen.

From 3:00pm - 7:00pm families will be able to enjoy Children's funfair rides, hot street food and sweet treats from Searle Family Funfairs, as well as plenty of commercial and charity stalls to visit which will be along the High Street and in the main hall and lower room of the Assembly Rooms.

Visitors will also be entertained with Live performances from:

Outside the Assembly Rooms:

3:30pm-4:30pm	Tilly Lukeman
5:00pm-5:45pm	Alton Rock Choir
6:00pm-6:45pm	King's Pond Shanty Men

High Street outside The Swan:

5:00pm-5:30pm	Alton Concert Band
6:00pm-7:00pm	Cactus Brass

Alton Town Council are excited to announce and would like to thank East Hampshire District Council for providing free parking during Christmas Lights Switch-On and Market.

All East Hampshire District Council pay and display car parks will be 'Free after 3' on Friday 24th November in Alton.

BIG NEWS FROM



We are constantly challenging ourselves to make sure the services we deliver meet the needs of our customers.

As result of the number of pest control services available on the open market we have taken the decision to stop offering a paid-for pest control treatment service.

We take an evidence-based approach to making decisions and when looking at this service we found that the number of customers is dwindling while the pest control industry has expanded to provide many competitive alternatives.

Councils have a statutory duty to keep the district free from rats and mice, and we will continue to ensure that this is the case, but will not provide a treatment service itself.

The service has been paid for by customers who choose to use it. In recent years there has been an expansion in the industry and the council no longer needs to provide a service that is being catered for by the market and does not want to compete with local businesses in this area.

Competition within the market is fierce and dedicated pest control companies offer very competitive prices alongside other services. EHDC's market share is small and should not compete with market leaders within the private sector.

On average, 400 pest control treatments are undertaken on an annual basis by EHDC (Jan 2021 to Jan 2022) and this number has been steadily dwindling, which means it is not financially viable to continue running it. So rather than support the service with funds taken from the taxpayer we have taken the decision to stop this service.

Cllr Angela Glass, EHDC's Portfolio Holder for Regulation & Enforcement, said: "We constantly review how we deliver our services and challenge what we're doing and why we're doing it.

"Our pest control service is not financially viable, and it can be delivered very effectively and at a lower cost by the market.

"We will obviously continue to uphold our statutory duty to keep the district free from rats and mice, but providing this service ourselves is not the solution."

The service will stop on 1 January 2024.

Station In Bloom



Paul Ebbutt, Adam Pettigrew and Bob Booker

The Adopt Alton Station group in partnership with the Alton Local Food Initiative won a Silver Award from the Station in Bloom competition.

This covers all stations in the SWR and Great Western Railways networks and includes stations such as Swanage and Hampshire stations. The commendation says :
"A really Good Community Project making a Difference."

Attached is a picture of station staff member Adam Pettigrew with Bob Booker and Paul Ebbutt from the community groups.

Alton Events

There are a lot of events happening in Alton leading up to Christmas. Make sure you keep an eye on the Altonian and also

www.altonevents.co.uk



Christmas In Alton 2023

Visit altonevents.co.uk for more details

Friday 24th November Christmas Lights Switch-On	Saturday 25th November Ethical Vegan Christmas Market
Sunday 3rd December Alton Community Centre Christmas Cracker	Saturday 9th December Hampshire Farmers Market and Alton Lions Craft Market

**Saturday
23rd December**
Carols Around The Tree

Nominate Your Favourite Shop Window

Nominations by Sunday 3rd December
Voting opens Monday 4th December
Voting closes Sunday 17th December

Follow Alton Town Council on Facebook, Instagram and website for more details



www.ethicalveganevents.com

**alton
vegan market**

come and visit us on
saturday 27 may
saturday 25 november

10.00 - 15.00
high street

ethical
vegan
events

ALTON
TOWN COUNCIL



**Alton
Concert
Orchestra**

**WINTER
WARMERS**

AN EVENING OF SEASONAL MUSIC
FROM COLERIDGE TAYLOR'S
CHRISTMAS OVERTURE TO ALAN
MENKEN'S ALADDIN SUITE WITH A
MUSICAL JOKE FROM MOZART AND A
WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2023
7.30PM ALTON MALTINGS CENTRE

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR BOX OFFICE OR TICKETS ON THE DOOR

ADULTS £10, STUDENTS £5

WWW.ALTONCONCERTORCHESTRA.ORG.UK



**ALTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
CHRISTMAS CRACKER**

Sunday 3rd December
10am - 2pm

**STALLS GALORE—LARGEST INDOOR
MARKET IN ALTON**

**FIND ALL YOUR GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS,
OR A TREAT FOR YOURSELF!**

FREE ADMISSION FREE MULLED WINE

**FREE MAKE A FESTIVE GIFT ACTIVITY WITH
Dementia FRIENDLY ALTON**

**HAMPER RAFFLE,
SANTA'S GROTTO &
CHILDRENS MOVIES & ACTIVITIES**

CHRISTMAS CHEER, and much more !

For more information ring
01420 85057



Christmas Tree Festival

We are pleased to say the beautiful St Lawrence Church Christmas Tree Festival is back again this year!

Come and visit St Lawrence Church, Alton on 9th and 10th December to see the pretty, festively decorated trees, enjoy festive music, have a tea and a festive treat and just get generally FESTIVE!

There will also be a tombola and local produce for sale. Free entry with donations to the Alton & District Community Relief Foundation and Homestart

Carols Around The Tree

The poster in the printed Altonian for 'Carols Around The Tree' was incorrect.

The music will be by Alton Concert Band not the Alton Salvation Army Band. We apologise for any confusion caused.

