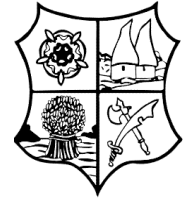


ALTON Town Council



Telephone (01420) 83986
www.alton.gov.uk
info@alton.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Pat Harris

Town Hall
Market Square
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 1HD

26th March 2024

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL** on **Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7.00pm** at the Town Hall when the under mentioned business will be transacted.

Yours faithfully

Patricia M Harris

Pat Harris
Interim Town Clerk

To: All Town Councillors

Councillor Annette Eyre
Councillor Graham Hill
Councillor Matthew Bayliss
Councillor John Chubb
Councillor Mark Boyce-Churn
Councillor Don Hammond
Councillor Matthew Kellermann
Councillor Nick O'Brien
Councillor Barbara Tansey
Councillor Janice Treacher
Councillor Peter Wadman
Councillor Jonathan Waugh

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL 2024
TOWN HALL, ALTON – AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Town Mayor's announcements
3. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 6th March 2024 for approval.
4. Declaration of Interest and Requests for 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 when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter
5. Correspondence received and Questions to the Council. Members of the public are invited to make representations.
6. Event Grant Applications: Alton Art Society
7. Alton Neighbourhood Plan – To approve the removal of site allocations from the Plan
8. Accounts to 31st March 2024
9. Draft Policy for Co-option to the Council
10. Fees & Charges for Hiring of sports facilities 2024/25 season
11. Landlords Consent: Landlords Consent: External & Internal Upgrades to the Alton Rugby Club Clubhouse in Anstey Park
12. To receive a report from and ask questions of the County Council and District Council representatives
13. Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation 2024 – To retrospectively endorse Alton Town Council's response
14. Kings Arms Report – to receive a report from the Kings Arms

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL – 3RD APRIL 2024**

ITEM 5 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

FOR INFORMATION

A joint letter from Jerry Janes & District Councillor Ginny Boxall in respect of item 7 on the Agenda: Alton Neighbourhood Plan – to approve the removal of site allocations from the Plan had been received and had been circulated to all councillors as requested.

ITEM 6 EVENT GRANT APPLICATIONS

FOR DECISION

Included in Members bundles is an Event Grant application from the Arts Society in the sum of £250 to be used to assist the Art Society in awarding prizes to children who exhibit at its annual Art Society Exhibition held in October each year at the Assembly Room. Full details of the categories and number of prizes given are contained in the application form.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to approve the Event Grant Application to the Art Society in the sum of £250

**ITEM 7 ALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF SITE
ALLOCATIONS FROM THE PLAN**

FOR DECISION

At the Extra-ordinary Full Council meeting held on 28th February, Members agreed to defer a decision on the Alton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (ANPSG) recommendation to Council to remove site allocations from the Alton Neighbourhood Plan. At that time Members felt that they were not sufficiently well informed and that they wished to gain a better understanding of how and why the Steering Group had reached their recommendation. Minute reference 102 refers. A briefing session was arranged for Monday, 11th March with Mike Heelis & David Allen (ANPSG) who gave a short presentation which was followed by an interactive question and answering sessions.

The recommendation from the Alton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (to not include site allocations in the Neighbourhood Plan) was made after consideration of the extensive feedback received from residents, District & Town Councillors and EHDC Officers, in that any pursuit of land at South Alton (Scenario 4) or Holybourne (Scenario 3) would seem to be unacceptable. The significant weight of pushback by means of e-mails, letters, social media and petitions to these potential site allocations was such that the Alton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were effectively boxed in on the decision-making process as the draft Neighbourhood Plan must:

- firstly, satisfy East Hampshire District Council
- secondly be acceptable to a majority of Altonians voting in a referendum (to adopt the Alton Neighbourhood Plan

Neither would be satisfied with site allocations included.

At the same Extra-ordinary meeting of Full Council on 28th February, Councillors Resolved to make a Statement of Principle that Alton Town Council objects to any further development of green fields (in and around the Parish) to meet the quotas handed down by EHDC (Minute reference 101 (ii) refers).

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to endorse the recommendation of the Alton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to remove site allocations from the Alton Neighbourhood Plan.

If there are any questions arising, please submit these to the Clerk in advance of Full Council to ensure answers are available at the meeting.

Please note that all supporting financial documentation will be forwarded to Councillors on 2nd April (the first working day after the Bank Holiday weekend).

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2024 for sign off by the Chairman of the Council and the RFO (Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Pat Harris – Interim Town Clerk).

Income & Expenditure as at 31st March 2024

The Income and Expenditure Report - this illustrates the Operating Income and Expenditure for the council to 31st March 2024 against the budget set by the Council.

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31st March 2024

The Bank Reconciliation Statements will be presented at the meeting which will include the closing balance of the Unity Bank Account together with the CCLA bank statement and Petty Cash holding. These will require signing off on behalf of the council that the figures presented reconcile with the original bank statement which will be given to the Chair on the evening.

Payments over £500

This report which includes all payments over £500, issued between 1st January – 31st March 2024 in respect of invoices and cheques will be presented at the meeting, again for sign off by the Chair.

Direct Debits

There has been one new Direct Debit request from Southern Communications Group in respect of the Council's mobile phones contract. By signing up to the variable direct debit, this saves the Council £13 per month against monthly invoicing. Should approval be granted, this direct debit will be added to the Bank Account with effect from April 2024.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to confirm their approval of:

1. The balance sheet dated 31st March 2024
2. The Income and Expenditure account to 31st March 2024
3. The bank reconciliations for the Unity Account and the CCLA Deposit Account
4. The Payments over £500 covering 1st January -31st March 2024
5. The variable Direct Debit in favour of Southern Communications Group for the Council's mobile phones

Included in Members bundles is a draft Co-option to the Council Policy. Members will be aware that over recent years Alton Town Council has seen more reliance placed on co-option to the Council when a vacancy arises. The ensuing process is that when a vacancy occurs on the Town Council it must be notified to Electoral Services at District Council and becomes the subject of a Public Notice of a Casual Vacancy. Once published (with a deadline for responses), electors in the Ward in which the vacancy has arisen can request a by-election subject to 10 registered electors from that Ward so calling. If no such request is received by Electoral Services by the published deadline, then the Town Council is permitted to exercise the power to co-opt a person on to the Council to fill a casual vacancy as the requirement to hold an election have not been met.

It, therefore, seems appropriate for the Council to have a Policy in place for Co-option. The Draft Policy being tabled sets out the process for co-opting to the council and includes a Co-option Eligibility Form which requires an applicant to sign to confirm their eligibility to apply for the vacancy. A template application form also forms part of the draft Policy for consideration and Members are requested to review the draft document as presented.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to approve the draft Co-option to the Council Policy as tabled.

ITEM 10 FEES & CHARGES FOR HIRING OF SPORTS FACILITIES 2024/25 SEASON FOR DECISION

Members will be aware of the high inflation figures over the last 2 years but may not be aware of the impact this has had in terms of the provision of sports pitches within the town. Alton Town Council has not been immune to such rises seeing double digit increases in the cost of fertiliser, weed control products, grass & top-dressing seed as well as line marking paint. In previous years the Council has been reticent in raising fees and has only imposed either minimal increases or kept prices on hold. However, given that raw material prices for fertilizer and grass seed have seen increases of 20/30% officers are recommending that the Council should be raising fees by 3% (still below inflation) for the 2024/25 season which will help to offset the increases the public purse has had to absorb.

Such proposed increases are still in line with pitch hire fees in the area and Alton Town Council remains competitive. The proposed increases are included in Members bundles.

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to endorse an increase of 3% in its pitch hire fees as per the charges table appended to this report.

ITEM 11 LANDLORDS CONSENT: EXTERNAL & INTERNAL UPGRADES TO THE ALTON RUGBY CLUB CLUBHOUSE IN ANSTEY PARK FOR DECISION

Alton Rugby Club have approached the Council for Landlords Consent to allow them to undertake upgrades to the clubhouse in Anstey Park with the installation of a new internal heating system (following the failure of their current system). The proposed new system will be in line with green guidance as they wish to install an air con (heat exchange) solution that will also comply with future legislation. At the same time, they are hoping to undertake external works by renewing soffits and guttering on the club house. The work will be carried out during the close season and whilst they have some funds available, they may well be seeking some assistance by applying for CIL grant funding to complete the work prior to the start of the new rugby season in August. The rugby club have confirmed that no planning permission is required for any of the works requested.

RECOMMENDATION: Councillors are requested to grant Landlords Consent to allow Alton Rugby Club to carry out the improvements requested by:

- (i) installing new heating and air conditioning units to the inside of the clubhouse**
- (ii) renewing the soffits and guttering on the clubhouse**

ITEM 12 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM AND ASK QUESTIONS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES FOR INFORMATION

No written reports have been received in advance of the meeting.

ITEM 13 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FUTURE SERVICES CONSULTATION 2024
FOR DECISION

Hampshire County Council published a *Future Services Consultation 2024* in January of this year, which is open for comment from 8th January until 11:59 p.m. on 31st March 2024 with responses being requested on the service change proposals outlined within the consultation which would contribute circa £17.5 million in total towards savings required of at least £132 million by April 2025. Full details of the Consultation was circulated to Councillors.

A draft response was prepared and circulated to all councillors for comment in time that a response could be submitted on behalf of the Town Council. However, not all councillors had provided their agreement to the draft response and, therefore, it was submitted only in the names of those councillors who had agreed to the draft prepared.

Accordingly, Full Council is being requested to formally endorse the response submitted to be amended to being on behalf of the Town Council.

RECOMMENDATION: Councillors are requested to formally endorse the response to the Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation 2024 as tabled being amended to being on behalf of the Town Council.

ITEM 14: KINGS ARMS REPORT
FOR NOTING

Members are requested to note the Kings Arms report as tabled.

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 2024 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

Present: **Councillor** **Annette Eyre (Town Mayor)**
 Matthew Bayliss
 Don Hammond
 Graham Hill
 Matthew Kellermann
 John Chubb
 Nick O'Brien
 Janice Treacher
 Peter Wadman

In attendance: **Pat Harris** - **Town Clerk**
 Hayley Carter - **Deputy Clerk**
 2 Members of the public
 County Councillor Andrew Joy
 Anthony Williams, Chairman of East Hampshire District Council

105 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Barbara Tansey, Jonathan Waugh and Mark Boyce-Churn

106 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor:

- i. Welcomed everyone to the meeting
- ii. Reminded everyone that next week is the Annual Elector's Meeting at 7pm in the Assembly Rooms, preceded by refreshments at 6.30pm. All are welcome.
- iii. Told the meeting of the two tree planting sessions she had attended in the last two weeks, planting community orchards at Hawthorns and Berley Fields. She said it was a pleasure to see so many people of different ages supporting the project and helping to plant the trees.

107 Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on 28th February 2024

Councillor Kellermann stated that he wanted the word 'lost' to be put in inverted commas in his proposed amendment regarding the election of a new Town Mayor. He also pointed out an error in that the recorded vote on the same item said, "All in Favour", despite being recorded 7-1. The Deputy Clerk agreed with the request and the amendments were made by the Chair.

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor O'Brien, it was

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 28th February 2024, with the amendments proposed

All in favour

108 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

No Declarations of Interest were noted.

109 **Questions to the Council**

109.1 Moira Howells indicated she was happy to answer any questions councillors had about the grant application for the Party in the Park.

110 **Response to Planning Applications 35940/003 and 35940/004**

On the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Wadman, it was

RESOLVED

To submit a response of No Objection to Full Planning Application 35940/003 and Application for Listed Building Consent 35940/004 for 4 High Street, Alton, GU34 1BU for conversion and change of use from offices to 5No. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments and remodelling of rear extension with terrace above and enclosed railings.

All in favour

111 **Landlord's Consent – Chawton Park Indoor Bowls Club**

On the proposal of Councillor Kellermann, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED

to grant Landlords approval to Chawton Park Indoors Bowls Club to enter into a Licence with South East Water for the purpose of providing space within their car park area for a works compound for a period of 2 months from 22nd April 2024 for a fee of £3,000.

All in favour

112 **Event Grant – Party in the Park**

On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED

to approve an Event Grant for the Party in the Park event in the sum of £500 (five hundred pounds)

All in favour

113 Re-instatement of Meet the Councillor Sessions

A proposed amendment was tabled that the sessions:

- i. be held for a trial period of two months with two sessions per month (one on a Saturday and one on a Tuesday)
- ii. each last one hour, with a degree of flexibility according to demand
- iii. are held in 16 Market Square (the middle unit below the Town Hall)
- iv. have two councillors present at each one
- v. are publicised in the Altonian and through social media once councillors have signed up for them

This was proposed by Councillor Hammond and seconded by Councillor O'Brien with all councillors in favour, therefore the amendment was carried.

On the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor O'Brien, it was

RESOLVED

to reinstate the Meet the Councillor sessions for a trial period of two months as detailed in the amendment above.

All in favour.

Councillors agreed to draw up a rota and advise dates they would be undertaking so that Town Hall Staff could publicise widely.

114 Internal Audit Report

On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Chubb, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Internal Audit Report as tabled.

All in favour.

115 Accounts to 29th February 2024

On the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Hammon, it was

RESOLVED

to confirm approval of:

1. **The balance sheet dated 29th February 2024**
2. **The Income and Expenditure account to 29th February 2024**
3. **The bank reconciliations for the Unity Account and the CCLA Deposit Account**
4. **The Payments over £500 covering 1st -29th February 2024**

All in favour.

116 **To receive a Report from and ask questions of the County Council and District Council Representatives**

The report submitted prior to the meeting by District Councillor Emily Young was noted.

County Councillor Andrew Joy offered his gratitude to the Town Clerk for sending through a guide template for reports. He then reminded councillors that the consultation on future services provided by the County Council is open until next month and invited any questions from the council.

The Town Clerk asked if he could clarify the County Council's position on potholes, given that there have been many complaints made to the Town Council about them recently. Councillor Joy replied that there is an enormous effort going on and more funds have been made available from reserves, but that it is impossible to make the repairs when they are so full of water. He said that Councillor Adams-King is really dynamic on this issue and is very pro-active and teams are out constantly trying to keep on top of them. Councillor Joy has already fed back to him that Alton is particularly bad at the moment.

Anyone can report potholes or other highways issues via the 'Ourhants' app or by emailing roads@hants.gov.uk.

The Town Clerk then asked Councillor Joy to confirm that the additional work which is having to be completed at the junction between Basingstoke Road and Pertuis Avenue would be at the cost of the contractor and not the public. Councillor Joy assured the meeting this was the case.

The Town Clerk went on to ask if the changes to the number 13 bus service within the town would be permanent as she had heard that they were. The route the service takes within the town centre has been reduced in order to mitigate the additional time it is taking to get from Bordon to Alton with its current diversion through Selborne, resulting from the SSE works on the B3004. The new route is affecting resident of Southview Rise and Greenfields who no longer have easy access to the service. Councillor Kellermann said he had been in touch with Stagecoach.

Councillor Bayliss asked again whether Hampshire County Council had thought about a referendum to raise council tax in order to reduce the need to cut services. Councillor Joy reminded the meeting that they could only raise it by a certain amount – if they wish to raise it by more they would need to get government approval to take it to a referendum. He said that because they had in the past frozen council tax, and then raised it by a very small amount, Hampshire now have the second lowest shire county tax in the country. This is now meaning that they are around 10-15% behind where they could be, even if they were in the middle range.

Councillor Bayliss went on to ask whether there was any benefit in ATC putting in a corporate response to the consultation. Councillor Joy replied that yes, any response would be considered with due weight. Councillor Williams said that Headley Parish Council (his parish) had decided to put in a response as a council. One councillor had led it and the rest had contributed by email, then it had gone to Full Council for approval. He suggested that it would be good if there were a councillor who could lead it.

Councillor Joy added that councillors could send their comments to the Town Clerk for her to pool together and create a response for Council to approve and submit.

Councillor Hill pointed out that while services such as waste disposal and potholes were very visible to the public, services such as adult social care have huge costs attached but are not necessarily visible to the public unless they are experiencing them first-hand. He asked Councillor Joy to clarify whether the huge amount of reserves held by HCC were being used for the purpose for which they were intended. Councillor Joy said that indeed they were and around £175 million had been drawn upon to meet the increase in need and the increase in the cost of delivery. However, those funds can only be used once.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm.

DRAFT

23 March 2024

We write to offer some assistance to Alton Town Council (ATC) and The Alton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (ANPSG) for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

We write as two former mayors of the town and community leaders of the Holybourne and South Alton areas of the town.

1. The ANPSG has considered options for housing allocation in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and decided it has no option other than to develop a Neighbourhood Plan with no site allocations.
2. This ANPSG's decision is understandable given the level of public opposition to the two proposed development scenarios: known as 'Scenario 3' (Holybourne - 220 homes) and 'Scenario 4' (South Alton/ Windmill Hill - 1000 homes).
3. The 'No Allocation' approach would pass back control of site allocations to EHDC, away from local people. Arguably, the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan is to give agency to local people of where and how development takes place. The 'No Allocation' option removes the ability of local people to influence the nature, scale and location of proposed developments; potentially leading to even more public discord.
4. We are writing to offer assistance that may help to resolve the dilemma facing ATC and ANPSG.
5. A major premise of the "No Allocation" decision is that the public will oppose development in either Scenario 3 (Holybourne) or Scenario 4 (South Alton) and the neighbourhood plan may be voted down at a referendum.
6. Our view is that this premise is based on objections to the current proposals for disproportionate levels of development in these two areas. The objections by residents have taken two forms:
 - a. Responses from 341 Holybourne residents during the Public Consultation in September 2023. Only 10 residents from South Alton attended this consultation, probably indicating a lack of awareness.
 - b. A subsequent social media campaign from residents in South Alton.
7. Crucially, the ANPSG has not directly tested whether there is support in these communities to explore a *compromise* solution based on acceptable and proportionate levels of development – "a line of best fit" approach.
8. There is evidence that local people *do* support the *exploration* of a compromise that might see *proportionate* amounts of development. Of course, at this stage, there is no guarantee that a compromise can be reached, but surely it would be in everyone's interests to ensure that all democratic options have been examined?
9. Our view is that the "No Allocation" option carries a risk of the Neighbourhood Plan being defeated at a referendum, being seen as the "hand back control to Petersfield" option, particularly if it appears that no attempt has been made to work with communities to find a workable compromise.
10. Given the delay to the EHDC local plan of at least six months, due to the significant level of public feedback, we see no downside to exploring this option, only upside. If it doesn't work, then the No-Allocation option is still available.
11. We propose that ATC and the ANPSTG take advantage of the extra time afforded by delays to the EHDC Local Plan process to explore whether a compromise can be found. This would involve direct engagement with these communities and their representatives.
12. We propose a meeting with The Mayor and The ANPSG lead as soon as possible to explore whether we can work together to find a solution.

Cllr. Ginny Boxall
Jerry M J Janes



ALTON TOWN COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION

PART 1 - YOUR ORGANISATION

5 MAR 2024

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Alton Art Society (AAS)

NAME OF CONTACT

Margaret Crowe

ADDRESS OF CONTACT



TELEPHONE NO:

DAYTIME

EVENING

EMAIL ADDRESS:

altonarttreasurer@gmail.com

PLEASE OUTLINE BRIEFLY THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION

The AAS was formed in 1923 to promote the practice of the creative arts in Alton & surrounding villages. There is a programme of talks & demonstrations given by professional artists in the winter, outdoor painting days in the summer, a weekly painting group throughout the year and at least one workshop a year. Exhibitions, open to all members, are also held. The largest event of the year is the Annual Exhibition held in the Assembly Rooms in October. This includes an extensive exhibition of children's work with over 500 entries.

PLEASE GIVE NUMBERS IN THE
ORGANISATION WHO ARE

A) PAID	None
B) VOLUNTEERS	

HOW MANY MEMBERS/BENEFICIARIES
LIVE WITHIN ALTON

130 live in Alton and the
surrounding villages

PART 2 – GRANT REQUEST

AMOUNT OF GRANT APPLIED FOR

£250.00

WHAT IS THE TOTAL COST OF THE
PROJECT/ITEM/SERVICE?

£250.00

HAS MATCHED FUNDING ALREADY
BEEN SECURED? IF SO, PLEASE STATE VALUE

£

WHAT IS THE GRANT TO BE USED FOR?

All of the local schools and pre-schools in the town and surrounding villages are invited to submit work. Children can also enter individually if they are home schooled or their school does not take up the invitation. The aim of this is to encourage young people's participation in the arts and give them a platform for their talent. A local headteacher has said this encourages art and increases the children's confidence, giving them an opportunity to show their work in a different arena to a wider range of people. Prizes are awarded by age group from pre-school to secondary. Up to 3 prizes in each of the 10-12 categories based on entries.

HAS YOUR ORGANISATION APPLIED FOR A
GRANT ELSEWHERE TOWARDS THIS PROJECT?

NO

IF YES, PLEASE
GIVE DETAILS

SECURED / PENDING
Not this year for 2024 exhibition

WHAT OTHER FUNDRAISING HAS BEEN DONE TOWARDS THIS ITEM/PROJECT?
EG CAKE STALL, COFFEE MORNING

Last year we had to pay for the children's prizes from funds as no sponsors were available.

YOU ARE INVITED TO GIVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT ASSIST THE
COUNCIL IN CONSIDERING YOUR APPLICATION

Although the full grant will be used for the children's prizes, the AAS has costs in mounting the exhibition which are fully funded by the society; hire of the Assembly Rooms, production of marketing maters (posters, catalogues, sales stationery etc) and in relation to the children's exhibition, marketing materials for schools and consumables for displaying the art works.

The members subscriptions pay for the demonstrations, hire of the Assembly Rooms and artist fees, and other activities except workshops and painting group for which members pay a fee to cover costs.

PART 3 – TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS

PLEASE STATE BALANCES IN HAND AT THE END OF LAST FINANCIAL YEAR

Current Account £657.66
Unallocated reserves £5135.93

LEVEL OF UNALLOCATED RESERVES

We hold £140 (incl. in above sum) given by a member for the public children's favourite exhibit.

HOW MUCH DID THE GROUP RAISE LAST YEAR (EG FUNDRAISING BY THE GROUP OTHER THAN BY GRANT APPLICATION)?

PLEASE ENSURE ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS APPLICATION

CHECKLIST

- ☒ X All relevant parts of the form completed
- ☒ X Form signed
- ☒ X Most recent accounts (Audited or draft)
- ☒ X Constitution/Rules
- ☐ Child Protection Policy (if applicable) no members under 18

Copies of this completed form and any supporting papers will appear on a Town Council Committee Agenda and will be discussed by the Committee in the presence of the Press and Public.

I DECLARE THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT. I ALSO DECLARE THAT ANY GRANT AWARDED WILL BE USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSES OUTLINED IN THIS APPLICATION AND I WILL COMPLETE A GRANT EVALUATION FORM WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF THE AWARD OF GRANT. I UNDERSTAND THAT ALTON TOWN COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RECLAIM THE GRANT IN THE EVENT OF IT NOT BEING USED FOR THE PURPOSE SPECIFIED.

NAME Margaret Crowe.....

SIGNATURE

POSITION Treasurer..... DATE...4/3/2024

Completed applications should be sent to: Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1HD

Applications are also available from our web site www.alton.gov.uk

Alton Art Society

Constitution



of such meeting shall be sent to all members. Fifteen members present in person shall constitute a quorum at the Annual General Meeting.

- (ii) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time by resolution of the Committee or on the written requisition of at least ten members of the Society. A meeting held on such requisition shall be held within twenty-one days of receipt of such requisition by the Honorary Secretary who shall give the other members fourteen days notice of such meeting. The quorum shall be the same as for the Annual General Meeting.

10. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

All matters not herein before provided for and not involving an amendment to this Constitution may be dealt with by the Committee.

11. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

Alterations to the Constitution shall require the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the Constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Society at least twenty-one days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least fourteen days notice of such meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed.

12. DISSOLUTION

The Society shall be dissolved by a resolution passed by two-thirds of those present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting of which twenty-one days notice shall have been given to members. Such a resolution may give instruction for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions which have purposes similar to some or all of the purposes of the Society as the Society may determine and if or in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

As amended and adopted at the AGM of 18th September 2021

1. NAME

The name shall be "Alton Art Society".

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society shall be to cultivate appreciation and enjoyment, including the education of the practical aspects, of the visual arts within the area of Alton in Hampshire and its surroundings.

In furtherance of the above purpose but not further or otherwise the Society through its Committee shall have the following powers:

- (i) To organise or assist in the organisation of regular programme of exhibitions, lectures, demonstrations, seminars, discussions and similar educational activities.
- (ii) To raise funds and receive contributions from person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation or otherwise.
- (iii) To borrow money or enter into contracts on behalf of the Society and subject to such consents as may be required by law, charge all or any of the property of the Society.
- (iv) To do all such other lawful things as shall further the object of the Society.

3. MANAGEMENT

- (i) The management of the Society shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and not more than nine other members.
- (ii) The before-named officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for one year. Each shall be eligible for re-election. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Honorary Secretary, shall not serve more than four consecutive years in post. Following the

expiration of that period, a member shall be eligible for re-election to the Committee in another capacity.

- (iii) The other members of the committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for one year. Each shall be eligible for re-election.
- (iv) Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- (v) All books, equipment and funds of the Society for the time being in the hands of any officer or other member shall be deemed the property of the Society and shall be promptly handed over to their respective successors or as ordered by the Committee.

4. **PRESIDENT**

A President may be appointed by invitation of the Committee. He or she shall be entitled to receive notice of and attend all meetings of the members or Committee and to speak but not to vote thereat.

5. **FINANCE**

- (i) The Honorary Treasurer shall keep accounts of all money received and expended on account of the Society and shall present such accounts at the Annual General Meeting. A bank account or accounts shall be held in the name of the Society and all cheques drawn thereon or instructions given to the bank in relation thereto shall require the signature of the Honorary Treasurer or one other signatory nominated for the purposes by the Committee. The treasurer and up to 2 other committee members shall be approved by the full committee to manage the accounts online. All online transactions to be reported to the treasurer promptly to ensure transparency. The Chairman and Committee shall approve all cheques drawn during the period between meetings at the next meeting and be advised of online activity. A listing to be shown in the Treasurer's report at each Committee meeting for this purpose.
- (ii) All sums of cash at any time standing to the credit of such bank accounts and not required as a working balance shall be put on deposit.
- (iii) The accounts of the Society shall be audited annually.

6. **MEMBERSHIP**

- (i) Membership of the Society shall be open to any person over 18 years of age who supports the Society's purpose.

- (ii) Membership shall not confer any right to have work included in the annual or other exhibitions of the Society, acceptance of works therefore being subject to such conditions (including evidence of paid up membership and the charging of commission on works sold) as the Committee may decide.
- (iii) The Committee may resolve to discontinue the membership of any member whose subscription shall be three months in arrear or for any other reason at the absolute discretion of the Committee.

7. **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

- (i) If the Society shall be desirous of conferring special honorary distinction upon any member or other person in consideration of exceptional services or benefits to the Society, the Society may offer such member or person Honorary Life Membership of the Society.
- (ii) No such appointment may be made except upon the recommendation of the Committee and by a resolution carried by at least three-quarters of the members present at a general meeting the notice of which shall have specified the resolution to be proposed.

8. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- (i) The annual subscriptions shall be such amounts in respect of membership as the Society at an Extraordinary General Meeting or Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the Committee may from time to time approve. The meeting majority required under this Rule shall be two thirds of the members attending the meeting the notice for which shall have duly stated the proposal to alter the subscriptions.
- (ii) Subscriptions shall be due on the 1st October each year. Persons accepted for membership after the 1st May in any year may pay one half of the appropriate annual subscription in respect of that financial year.

9. **MEETINGS**

- (i) The financial year of the Society shall end on the 31st December in each year and an Annual General Meeting of members shall be convened by the Committee at a convenient date thereafter and not later than the 30th June next following. The purpose of the meeting shall be receiving the reports of officers and the accounts; electing the officers and filling vacancies in the Committee for the ensuing year and to consider any other business as necessary. Fourteen days notice



2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

for the year to 31st December 2023

	Income	Expense	Subtotal	Subtotal	Total	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	
OCT EXHIBITION						
1 Exhibit Sales	3192.79					5359.35
2 Payments to Artists		-2408.00				-4223.00
3 Post Exhibition Commission	0.00					<u>53.00</u>
4 NET COMMISSION	3192.79	-2408.00	784.79			1189.35
5 Hanging Fees	861.50					753.00
6 EXHIBITION INCOME	4054.29	-2408.00	1646.29	1646.29	1646.29	1942.35
7 Hall Rental		-1774.41				-1771.02
8 Printing		-135.00				-235.07
9 Sundry Inc/Exp		-186.87				-138.13
Children's Prizes		-250.00				0.00
10 EXHIBITION EXPENSES		-2346.28	-2346.28		-2346.28	-2144.22
11 TOTAL EXHIBITION PROFIT/LOSS					-699.99	-201.87
OTHER ACTIVITIES						
12 Membership Subscriptions	2097.00					2198.50
13 Newsletter		-93.44				-74.72
14 Summer Programme		-15.00				0.00
15 Thursday Paint Group	1905.00	-1651.00	254.00			-125.99
16 Winter Programme	166.32	-1989.54	-1823.22			-1757.48
17 Workshop	540.00	-440.10	99.90			373.95
	4708.32	-4189.08	519.24			614.26
18 TOTAL OTHER ACTIVITIES					519.24	
19 Audit of Accounts		-174.00				-174.00
20 Liability Insurance		-249.63				-194.15
21 Committee meeting expenses		-38.00				-60.00
22 Admin Expenses/supplies		-104.98				-170.85
23 Expenses/Repairs		0.00				0.00
23 LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		-566.61				-599.00
24 EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		-4486.56				0.00
25 DONATIONS	1788.25					100.70
	1788.25	-5053.17	-3264.92		-3264.92	-498.30
26 NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR					-3445.67	-85.91
27 INTEREST ON DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	60.67				60.67	20.37
28 TOTAL FOR THE YEAR					-3385.00	-65.54

Bank Account Balances as 31st December

	2022	2023	Movement
30 Treasurer's	3103.33	657.66	-2445.67
31 Deposit	6075.26	5135.93	-939.33
32 Petty Cash	21.13	21.13	0.00
33 TOTAL	<u>9199.72</u>	<u>5814.72</u>	<u>-3385.00</u>

Submitted by Margaret Crowe, Treasurer

Audited by

Mrs Caroline Scull BA FCCA

Independent Examiner

slp24

Statement of Account

Mrs Harris
Alton Town Council
Markets Street
Alton
GU34 1HD

5 March 2024

Account name: **ALTON TOWN COUNCIL**
Account number: **PS3078535-001**
Statement period: **31/01/2024 to 29/02/2024**

Please find enclosed a statement of your account covering the period 31 January 2024 to 29 February 2024. This statement shows the value of your investments as at 29 February 2024.

Details of all transactions carried out on your account within the reporting period have been included for your reference.

Please keep all documents (including this statement) safe as you may need to refer to the information in the future.

If you would like to discuss any of the information on your statement please contact Client Services.

Account summary

Total valuation as at 29 February 2024	£1,451,676.80
Total valuation as at last statement at 31 January 2024	£1,445,211.25
Total income during the period	£6,465.55

Holdings as at 29 February 2024

Fund name	Unit/share holdings	Price per unit/share	Value
The Public Sector Deposit Fund SC4 GB00B3LDFH01	1,451,676.8000	£1.00	£1,451,676.80
			Total value
			£1,451,676.80

Correspondence address: PO Box 12892, Dunmow, Essex CM6 9DL

clientservices@ccla.co.uk

Freephone 0800 022 3505

www.ccla.co.uk

Fund documentation is available at www.ccla.co.uk/investments, or may be requested from our Client Services team. Telephone calls are recorded.
CCLA Investment Management Limited (registered in England & Wales, No. 2183088) is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
Registered address: One Angel Lane, London EC4R 3AB.

Transactions for the period from 31 January 2024 to 29 February 2024

The Public Sector Deposit Fund SC4

Transaction date	Transaction type	Unit/shares	Price per unit/share	Amount (GBP)
02/02/2024	Income Reinvestment	6,465.5500	£1.0000	£6,465.55

The average Fund yield for this period was 5.25% p.a.

Income for the period is as follows:

Month	Date paid	Method	Amount (£)	Destination
Jan 2024	02/02/2024	Reinvestment	£6,465.55	PS3078535-001

Glossary

Terms explained

Acc	Accumulation units/shares. Any income due is retained within the fund, and reflected in the price of each unit/share.
Buy	Units/shares you have purchased.
Conversion in/ Conversion out	The movement of your investment from one share class to another share class within the same fund.
Inc	Income units/shares. Any income due is paid out to you as a dividend payment.
Paid to nominated bank details	The transaction type 'paid to nominated bank details' applies to income earned and subsequently paid to the nominated bank account.
Price per unit/share	The price used for a transaction or valuation.
Reinvest	Reinvestment of income to purchase additional units/shares.
Sell	Units/shares you have sold.
Switch in	The movement of units/shares to you from an account held in another CCLA fund.
Switch out	The movement of units/shares from you to an account held in another CCLA fund.
Transfer	Income paid to another CCLA account.
Transfer in	Units/shares transferred to you from another account in the same CCLA fund.
Transfer out	Units/shares transferred by you to another account in the same CCLA fund.



Alton Town Council Procedure for the Co-option of a Councillor

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This procedure is based on the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Legal Briefing L15-08 – Good practice for selection of candidates for co-option to local Councils.
- 1.2 Parish Councils are permitted to exercise the power to co-opt a person on to the Council to fill a casual vacancy when the requirements to hold an election have not been met (i.e. the vacancy was the subject of a public notice and less than 10 registered electors requested a by-election by the published deadline).

2. Advertisements

- 2.1 NALC recommends that Councils always give public notice of vacancies because this makes the process of co-option open and transparent and should attract more potential candidates.
- 2.2 Alton Town Council will advertise a vacancy in the Alton Herald, on its noticeboards, on its website www.alton.gov.uk and through social media, with an application form and closing date for applications.

3. Application Process

- 3.1 All potential candidates should put their application in writing (an application form is published on the website or available by other means on request) and provide the following information to assist Council in making its decision:-
 - i. Name, address and contact details.
 - ii. Reason for wishing to be co-opted as a Councillor.
 - iii. Confirmation of eligibility to become a Councillor.
- 3.2 Prior to the next available Full Council meeting:
 - i) The Town Clerk will check that each candidate is qualified to become a Councillor and is not disqualified from being a Councillor as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 s79 and s80;
 - ii) The completed application forms will be circulated to Councillors with the agenda for the meeting. All such documents will be treated by the Clerk and Councillors as strictly private and confidential apart from the name of the candidate and the accompanying reason for wishing to be co-opted.
- 3.3 At the next Full Council meeting:
 - i. The election of the councillor will be an agenda item on the public part of the agenda. Candidates will be invited to speak for three minutes in support of their statement of why they would like to be co-opted. Councillors may ask questions of each candidate for a further three minutes.

ii. If a Councillor is a relative of or has connections with any candidate which may be perceived as prejudicial, that Councillor should declare an interest and withdraw from the meeting and will not be allowed to vote.

iii. Voting is in accordance with standing orders and will be in public. A voting form may be produced depending on the number of candidates.

iv. The successful candidate should receive an absolute majority vote of those present and voting. So if there are more than two candidates for the vacancy and none of them at the first count has an overall majority, the candidate with the fewest votes should be eliminated and the remainder put to the vote again. The process should be repeated as necessary until one candidate has an overall majority. The Mayor has a second and casting vote in the event of a tie.

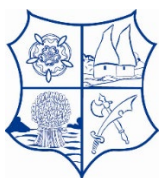
v. The successfully co-opted candidate will become a Councillor in his/her own right, with immediate effect once the Declaration of Acceptance of Office has been signed. The successful candidate will also need confirm that they will comply with and abide by the Town Council's Code of Conduct, The Registration of Interests Form must be completed within 28 calendar days of appointment.

vi. The co-opted Councillor is no different to any other Councillor and will serve until the next normal election.

4. Date of Adoption

4.1 This Procedure for the Co-option of a Councillor was adopted by Council in on 3rd April 2024

4.2 Review Date – April 2026



Alton Town Council

Co-option of a Town Councillor the _____ Ward

Application Form

Full Name:	
Address:	
Telephone: Home	Mobile:
Email:	
I confirm I am over 18 years old?	

Please say why you would like to be co-opted as the Town Councillor for the _____ ward and include any relevant skills, knowledge or experience (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

DRAFT

DRAFT

Signed:

Dated:

Please return your completed application form, together with the co-option eligibility form to the Town Clerk by email to town.clerk@alton.gov.uk or by post to Alton Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Alton, Hants. GU34 1HD

Applicants will be invited to the Council meeting on _____ to make a statement in support of their application when the co-opted councillor will be elected.

Please complete and sign this eligibility form.



Alton Town Council

Co-option Eligibility Form

To qualify as a Parish or Town Councillor, and to hold this position, an applicant must be:

- A British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union and on the relevant day (the day of nomination or election) have reached 18 years of age or over.
- They must also meet at least one of these four qualifications:
 - on the relevant day and thereafter they continue to be on the electoral register for Alton
 - during the whole of the twelve months before that day, they have owned or tenanted land or premises in the parish of Alton
 - during the whole of the twelve months before that day their principal or only place of work has been in the parish of Alton
 - during the whole of the twelve months before that day, they have lived in the Alton Town Council area or within 4.8km (3 miles) of the Town boundary.

Under the Local Government Act 1972, an applicant may be disqualified from standing (or being co-opted), if they are employed by the council, have had bankruptcy restriction orders made against them or they have a previous criminal conviction with a prison sentence of three months or more or are otherwise disqualified under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983 for corrupt or illegal practices. If you are in any doubt whether you would be able to stand for election please contact East Hampshire District Council Electoral Services on Electoral Services T: 01730 234350 or see the Electoral Commission website <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales>

I (insert full name)
hereby confirm that I am eligible to apply for the vacancy of Alton Town Councillor and that the information provided on this form is a true and accurate record of my circumstances.

SignedDated

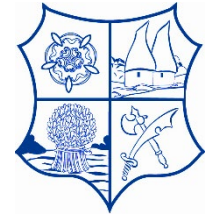
All completed applications must be received by the Town Clerk by _____

Please note it is a condition of being a Councillor that a means of contact by telephone and/or e-mail will be published as public information. A declaration of interests form will also need to be completed.

	<u>2022</u> <u>Charge</u>	*2023/24 charges 1st April	2024/25 Charges 1st April 3%
<u>ANSTEY PARK</u>			
<u>RUGBY</u>			
Adult Match			
Pitch charge	£ 40.23	£ 42.24	£ 43.51
Changing Room charge (exc VAT)	£ 19.67	£ 21.05	£ 21.68
Changing Room charge (inc VAT)	£ 23.60		£ -
			£ -
Junior Match			
Pitch charge	£ 20.12	£ 21.13	£ 21.76
Changing Room charge (exc VAT)	£ 9.83	£ 10.32	£ 10.63
Changing Room charge (inc VAT)	£ 11.80		£ -
			£ -
Adult Training session			
Changing Room charge (exc VAT)	£ 39.34	£ 41.31	£ 42.55
Changing Room charge (inc VAT)	£ 19.67	£ 20.65	£ 21.27
	£ 23.60		£ -
			£ -
Junior Training session			
Changing Room charge (exc VAT)	£ 19.67	£ 20.65	£ 21.27
Changing Room charge (inc VAT)	£ 9.83	£ 10.32	£ 10.63
	£ 11.80		£ -
			£ -
			£ -
			£ -
<u>FOOTBALL</u>			
Junior match	£ 34.43	£ 36.15	£ 37.24
			£ -
			£ -
			£ -
<u>MUGA</u>			
Adult court - per hour (exc VAT)	£ 20.50	£ 21.53	£ 22.17
Adult court - per hour (inc VAT)	£ 28.80		£ -
Junior court - per hour (exc VAT)	£ 15.50	£ 16.28	£ 16.76
Junior court - per hour (inc VAT)	£ 21.60		£ -
			£ -
			£ -
<u>BALLOON LAUNCHES</u>			
Fee per launch	£ 38.25	£ 40.16	£ 41.37
Minimum annual fee	£ 377.10	£ 395.96	£ 407.83
Maximum annual fee	£ 1,257.00	£ 1,319.85	£ 1,359.45
			£ -
			£ -
			£ -
			£ -
<u>JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS</u>			
<u>FOOTBALL</u>			
Adult Match (exc VAT)	£ 72.10	£ 75.71	£ 77.98
Adult Match (inc VAT)	£ 86.52		£ -
Junior Match	£ 34.43	£ 36.15	£ 37.24
			£ -
			£ -
			£ -
<u>CRICKET</u>			
<u>Adult</u>			
1st Team (including changing facilities)	£ 109.30	£ 114.77	£ 118.21
2nd Team (including changing facilities)	£ 109.30	£ 114.77	£ 118.21
3rd Team (including changing facilities)	£ 85.73	£ 90.02	£ 92.72
4th Team (including changing facilities)	£ 85.73	£ 90.02	£ 92.72
			£ -
			£ -
1st Team (without changing facilities)	£ 48.09	£ 50.49	£ 52.01
2nd Team (without changing facilities)	£ 48.09	£ 50.49	£ 52.01
3rd Team (without changing facilities)	£ 48.09	£ 50.49	£ 52.01
4th Team (without changing facilities)	£ 48.09	£ 50.49	£ 52.01
			£ -
			£ -
<u>Junior</u>			
Junior Team (including changing facilities)	£ 44.60	£ 46.83	£ 48.23
Junior Team (without changing facilities)	£ 24.52	£ 25.75	£ 26.52
			£ -
			£ -
<u>Tea Room/Kitchen</u>			
Per session	£ 18.60	£ 19.90	£ 20.50
			£ -
			£ -
<u>Practice Nets</u>			
Adult	£ 22.77	£ 23.91	£ 24.63
Junior	£ 11.38	£ 11.95	£ 12.31

* HMRC advised no VAT is chargeable with effect from 1st April 2023 on sports facilities

ALTON Town Council



27th March 2024

Insight & Engagement Unit
Hampshire County Council
Elizabeth II Court South,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
SO23 8UJ

Telephone (01420) 83986
www.alton.gov.uk
info@alton.gov.uk

Town Clerk - Mrs Pat Harris

Town Hall
Market Square
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 1HD

Submitted by e-mail to: insight@hants.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

Response to Hampshire County Council Consultation on proposals to deliver budgetary savings for 2025

Please accept this response on behalf of the under-named serving Councillors of Alton Town Council who are pleased to be able to provide comment on the above Consultation:

Overview:

It is genuinely acknowledged that virtually every local authority with responsibility for social care both adult and children's services are having to carefully consider the impact of rising costs in these two sectors specifically when looking to raise council tax by the maximum 4.99% this April (i.e. for the 2024/25 financial year), stating that such rises are necessary to ensure their finances are sustainable in the long-term.

We believe that HCC should be seriously considering seeking permission to holding a referendum given the enormous pressures on them in providing social & adult care services to the residents of Hampshire to increase council tax by more than the current ceiling of 4.99%. to protect the other services that it currently provides. Whilst appreciating the difficult circumstances in which the public finds itself with inflation pressures already hitting hard on family finances, it is our belief that an application to apply a higher percentage increase in its element of the Council Tax would be appropriate to safeguard its services. However, we also understand that some services will need to be rationalised and that a fee or an increase in current charges may be appropriate.

We, therefore, submit this response to the Consultation across the 13 identified areas where there is a consideration of either increasing income, delivering services differently and, in some cases, reducing services.

Adult social care charges:

We support in principle the proposals to change the way contributions towards non-residential social care costs are calculated, so that the amount someone pays is fair and equitable in terms of the service being provided and that such calculations are proportionate in terms of evaluation of individuals assessable income.

Based on the calculations provided by County it is stated that 67.5% of the 4,025 people affected could be asked to make an additional weekly contribution of between £0.01 to £4.00 a week with a further 1,186 people being asked to contribute between £4.01 to £10.00 per week this gives a mean of £3.4. Looking at the way available funds are calculated it appears a fair calculation. With inflation predicted to fall over the coming 12 months (as already evidenced by the current Government trend analysis data which for February saw a further drop to 3.4%) it would appear that the proposed increases from 95% to 100% of any assessable income seems a little excessive and should be reduced to a more palatable 2% maximum increase (from 95% to 97%) of remaining funds once standard outgoings are paid for and an allowance is made for general living costs such as food, utility bills and clothing.

However, as should always be the case, this must be done in such a way that calculations for available income must be retrospective ensuring that no resident in need of financial support is left in a position whereby they are exposed to having to pay more for the service provision due to the increased percentage which leaves them in a poorer position as residents must not be adversely affected.

Adult social care grant schemes: *A complete withdrawal of funding for three Adult Social Care grant programmes that assist voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations in Hampshire, namely the Council for Voluntary Services Infrastructure Grant, the Citizens Advice Infrastructure Grant and the Local Solutions Grant is not supported.*

We would rather see a tapered approach to such an initiative in as much as perhaps consideration should be given to reducing grant support by 30% in the first year, rising to 50% in the second year, 75% in its third year with full removal in year 4. This would provide a timeline whereby the benefactors of such grant support programs have sufficient time to investigate other avenues available to them for grant funding but to withdraw in totality would present intolerable pressure on those organisations who assist those in need in our society and who require such support in the first instance. A rationalisation of those organisations would need to be part of the solution given that without doubt there will be duplication and a more efficient sign posting of services would be more applicable.

It is imperative that in Hampshire County Council providing those services mandated under the Care Act 2014 that it looks more intensively in ensuring that those monies expensed are providing the best possible care at the best possible price.

Hampshire County Council will also need to be cognisant of the knock-on effect that withdrawing support for those services which are supported at District level, especially if agreements are in place for a longer term than 2025. There is no obvious evaluation of such an impact having been undertaken and it would seem appropriate that by withdrawing funding in totality to such organisations that a wider impact on service

provision will be inevitable. We would also add that in withdrawing funding at County level impacts on District level support it cannot be seen the town and parish councils can act as a safety blanket for a “catch all” situation to arise.

In terms of the Citizens Advice Bureau, Alton Town Council supports the Alton branch by providing rent free office accommodation at this time to the organisation. It is acutely aware of the level of support the CAB provides to the residents of both the town and the surrounding villages and especially to the most vulnerable residents within our community. Whilst there is no indication at all that Alton Town Council would withdraw such support to the CAB, in fact it would wish to not only retain that funding but also look to provide additional support when it can in providing additional office accommodation as and where it can, the work of the CAB is not only invaluable but is viewed by the Council as essential and given the low level of support provided at County level it appears that given the benefits of the service far outweigh such a small saving so the cost benefit ratio is seen as much higher and beneficial to the community.

Competitive (one-off) grant schemes: *To withdraw three competitive grant schemes which provide one-off grants to a range of community groups and organisations; namely the Leader's Community Grants, the Rural Communities Fund (including country shows) and the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund.*

We reluctantly agree that this is one area that the County Council could save money and trim its budgetary commitment and it would appear prudent for Hampshire County Council to withdraw such one-off grants given the financial pressures that it is faced with.

Hampshire Cultural Trust grant: *To reduce the amount of grant given to Hampshire Cultural Trust to manage and deliver arts and museums services.*

We are very concerned to learn that the Curtis Museum could be under threat of funding being withdrawn from 2025 and believe that Hampshire County Council should investigate further the management structure within Hampshire Cultural Trust itself as the services provided in Alton are heavily supported by “community volunteers”. As such the withdrawal of such grant funding would in our opinion have a negative impact on the ability to promote culture it is broadest form.

Highways maintenance: *To reduce planned highways maintenance activities, incorporating larger-scale structural repairs, surface treatments on roads, and drainage improvements.*

We are strongly against any reduction in the budget for highways maintenance and that given the current poor state of the roads not only in the town itself but the surrounding area and as such would not be supported in any shape or form. This is the number one area in which the Town Council receives the highest number of complaints from residents, whether that be for potholes, irregular and broken paving leading to trips and falls or the time that it currently takes to undertake any remedial works. It is viewed as extremely detrimental and a false economy to even consider reducing this vital area of public spending. Hampshire County Council has not, for whatever reason, covered itself in glory in the maintenance of its highway network across the County and this should be resisted.

Highways winter service: *To comprehensively review and revise the criteria used to determine which roads should be treated as part of our Priority One network to better*

align with current national guidance and reflect changes in travelling and commuting patterns, and to update the routes accordingly.

We believe that with the warmer winters evident under global warming/climate change together with the projected increase in winter temperatures a comprehensive review is an absolute necessity and must be considered in line with weather trends. In appreciating that the current latent use of stockpiles must be a consideration for the council, it surely must be that a review will lead to better management of materials, machinery and labour hours which should be supported.

Homelessness Support Services: To stop funding services that the County Council does not have a legal requirement to provide, that support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

We would suggest it is irresponsible for Hampshire County Council to withdraw services for the most vulnerable within our society. Having said that, it is incumbent upon the County Council to rationalise those services that do support genuine homelessness but to remove funding of such services is tantamount to neglecting its duties and must be resisted.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs): To provide a sustainable, cost-effective and fit for purpose Household Waste Recycling service within a reduced budget. This might involve introducing charging for discretionary services, implementing alternative delivery models, reducing opening days and/or hours or reducing the number of HWRCs.

Although Alton itself would not be directly impacted as it is now one of the sites under consideration of closure, we would point out that it would appear irresponsible to withdraw recycling centre in neighbouring communities. HCC itself declared a climate change emergency yet it seems to be recommending closing those facilities which directly have an impact on the climate by suggesting firstly, household waste recycling centres are “surplus to requirements”; secondly it seems that HCC are quite happy to promote the use of cars to travel much further distances to the nearest centre (a minimum of a 20-mile round trip) raising emission and pollution levels and thirdly what consideration has it given (or not) to the fact that fly-tipping would increase if HWRCs are closed and at what cost to the District Council in having to spend money from their budgets to clear.

Library stock: To reduce how much is spent on new library stock, such as books and digital resources, each year.

We are of the opinion that there should be no expectation of new library stock and, therefore, the fact that libraries are seen to be of community value the loss of new library stock for a period of time is not viewed as particularly detrimental to the overall service provided.

Passenger transport: To reduce the amount of money spent on passenger transport by withdrawing all remaining funding that the County Council is not legally required to provide. This includes funding for community transport services (incorporating Dial-a-Ride, Call and Go, Taxi Shares, Group Hire Services, and Wheels to Work), subsidies for bus routes that are not commercially viable, additional funding to extend the Concessionary Travel Scheme (older and disabled persons bus passes) and a review of the potential impact of reductions on the school transport service and social care budgets.

We acknowledge that whilst this may be a targeted saving for HCC, it has to be investigated fully especially in terms of where there are no bus services at all and such communities would be at risk of complete isolation. There is no doubt that rationalisation of the services currently providing under the umbrella of passenger transport needs to be undertaken as, undoubtedly there are savings that can be made.

However, due to the district's rural nature and ageing population, community travel options are a lifeline within Hampshire and more often than not these services are critical due to the relatively poor public transport network in the district. Access to basic services provided by the NHS (GPs, hospitals, dentists) will just not be available to those living in outlying rural areas which are not supported by national bus companies and without a support network of provision by councils will mean that travel for some parts of the community will just not be feasible and could have wide-reaching implications in terms of poorer health and well-being, putting even more strain on services with communities becoming even less resilient and more vulnerable.

The contentious issues associated with Concessionary Travel Scheme, school transport and social care budgets is not one that is easily solvable, but a consolidation of provision could realise savings without adversely affecting provision of services in rural areas.

Rural countryside parking: *To introduce car parking charges at rural countryside car parks (such as nature reserves and conservation sites) that the County Council manages, where it is expected that doing so would be commercially viable.*

Sadly, it is inevitable that charges will need to be introduced and we would support such an initiative although it acknowledges that it is not directly impacted.

School Crossing Patrols: *To review the School Crossing Patrols (SCP) service by looking at each SCP site to decide if alternative safety measures exist or could be put in place that would enable the SCP to be safely withdrawn or be funded by other organisations.*

We understand the importance of the provision of school crossing patrols, it we can only speak for those that are provided within the town itself which has seen a gradual reduction in such provision over the past 10 years.

Street lighting: *To reduce the brightness of streetlights further and to extend the periods that streetlights are switched off during the night (by 2 hours) – where it is considered safe and appropriate to do so.*

We would support extending the periods that streetlights are switch off during the night by 2 hours but would insist that town centres retain the hours that they are currently programmed to ensure that there cannot be any evidence of an increase in the number of incidents recorded by police of anti-social behaviour and vandalism in areas where groups congregate and it is well known and acknowledged that street lighting whilst not eradicating incidents does provide protection to some extent.

We would take this opportunity to thank Hampshire County Council for providing the opportunity to respond to its Future Services Consultation in seeking views from across the whole Hampshire community.

Response to Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation 2024:

Yours faithfully,

Councillors:

Annette Eyre (Amery Ward & Town Mayor of Alton)

Matthew Bayliss (Westbrooke Ward)

Graham Hill (Holybourne Ward & Deputy Town Mayor of Alton)

Don Hammond (Holybourne Ward)

John Chubb (Whitedown Ward)

Janice Treacher (Whitedown Ward)

Report to Alton Full Town Council Meeting: 1st January 2024 – 31st March 2024

We are pleased to provide the Council with the following information regarding KA youth work for Alton-area young people during the period stated above.

After School (Monday-Friday 3-4.30pm), at the Alton KA Youth Centre

Programme Manager: Dominic Clarke

Number of sessions: 45

Number of different young people: 51

Number of attendances: 472

After School has continued to be a vitally important part of The King's Arms work and is often the way in which we first engage with young people. This term we have continued to make every session open and available for all year groups and this has been very successful with most sessions full. To ease the use of the building (and the noise!) we have made more extensive use of our upstairs youth area this term, allowing trusted young people to use that space when they would prefer a quieter environment to hang out in. Each session includes organised games, video consoles, the opportunity to do a craft and plenty of time to hang out and chat. Our two junior volunteers, now in college, have continued to grow in confidence and skill throughout the year and have been taking an even greater responsibility during sessions, often leading games or initiating conversations with young people.

Despite it being the colder months of the year, we have managed to keep the youth centre warm and welcoming but can't wait to finally get proper heating fitted soon with many thanks for the support of Alton Town Council in achieving that.

Our volunteer base for after-school provision has remained the same from last term but we continue to advertise and promote the opportunity of volunteering with us.

Mentoring Programmes – Spring 2024

Programme Manager: Jen Hammersley

Total of all mentoring programmes:

Total number of sessions: 86

Total number of young people reached: 44

Total number of attendances: 275 (plus numbers from final week)

Breaking this down:

- Well-Being/Thrive (3 groups)
 - o Total number of sessions: 23
 - o Total number of young people reached: 26
 - o Total number of attendances: 138

- Aspire Groups (1 group)
 - o Total number of sessions: 9
 - o Total number of young people reached: 6
 - o Total number of attendances: 41

- Believe (1 group)
 - o Total number of sessions: 12
 - o Total number of young people reached: 6
 - o Total number of attendances: 44

- 1:1 Mentoring
 - o Total number of sessions: 42
 - o Total number of young people reached: 6
 - o Total number of attendances: 52 – we are doing a 2:1 session.

We've had a lovely Spring term with the young people. We were sad to say goodbye to our youth worker Ali, but the young people have handled the transition well which shows the depth of their belonging and trust in The King's Arms.

In Aspire (making positive choices and growing aspirations) our young people baked flapjacks that were served at our AGM, reviewed their goals for the year, assessed risk level and consequences and looked at the importance of sleep to be able to function and control our emotions. They continue to amaze us with their bravery, respect and trust of one another and of us when they are discussing personal topics and emotions.

In Believe (building self-esteem and finding our own path) our young people have been creative with cooking, string art and canvasses. They have also completed their table upcycling which are now on display in the KA centre. In addition, they were a valuable part of the recruitment process for our new youth worker.

We now have 3 Thrive well-being groups – a daytime one, which is a mix of young people from Amery and Eggars' and two Monday twilight sessions - rotating every other week – one for school year group 9-11 and one for college age young people. Topics we've covered this term include trust, sleep, feeling emotionally safe, overwhelming emotions and negative thoughts. We have made fruit kebabs, looked at how full our bottle is and surfed our emotions to the soundtrack of the Beach Boys!

Our 1:1 sessions have been varied but have covered topics such as going into care, death of a parent, risky behaviours, consequences, being a young carer, struggling with emotions, goals and aspirations and believing in yourself.

This term we have asked the young people to create a canvas to express how they feel about KA or what comes into their head when they think about us. This picture shows a handful of those.



Target Work at the Alton KA Youth Centre and for Alton-area young people at the Petersfield KA Youth Centre

Programme Manager: [Mandy May-Martin](#)

Supersonics

Autumn Term Report – Alton

Number of sessions: 11

Number of attendances: 96

Number of different persons: 10

Trip:1

Over this period in Alton, we have had one young people finish on the program, due to moving house. We ran a trip to the Panto in Petersfield for all of our Target work Young People, the Supersonics were invited to attend with their families, 5 of our Alton Supersonic families attended. At the end of this period Ali has changed jobs and left us, but has stayed on the program as a volunteer, which is great for consistency. Each session includes games and lots of craft activities, which the young people really like. We have been lucky enough to continue to have two volunteers who have been a consistent help to the program.

Young Carers

Programme Manager: Mandy May-Martin

Total number of different young carers: 23
Number of Club nights: 11
Number of attendances at club nights: 32
Number of 1-1/Lunch Club sessions: 16
Number of different young carers at 1-1/Lunch Clubs: 6
Trips: 1
Event: 1
Number of attendances on the Trip and at the Event: 9

Over this term we have seen a few young carers moving on for various reasons, leaving spaces for more young carers to join the program, we continue to receive referrals. We ran a Target work Trip to the Petersfield Panto, which was great fun, and we hosted an Event with HYCA where the Young Carers gave feedback on the services across Hampshire, 5 Alton Young Carers attended this event, along with other carers from across Hampshire. The young people continue to access support in both Eggars and Amery, either through 1-1 services or Lunch Clubs, where they have access to a young carers youth worker and peer support.

Journey Programme – faith development.

Programme Manager: Dom Clarke

Number of sessions: 19
Number of different young people: 17
Number of attendances: 55

Our new Unite programme has continued to be well attended by a range of young people, some connected to local churches, and others who have asked to join Unite from other programmes. Each session includes a time to share the weeks highs and lows, to pray together, eat together and then to spend some time exploring a question of faith. This term we have looked (amongst other things) at creation and our place in the universe, why and how we can have faith in God, prayer, worship and we have also explored some well-known celebrities' own faiths to discuss what we could learn from them.

Our lunch club at Eggar's school also meets weekly and is well attended by an enthusiastic group of motivated young people. We run this club in collaboration with the school and one of the maths teachers there. We use the time to pray together for the school and for each other and to support and encourage a deeper understanding of the faith of those who come.

We continue to be supported in the Journey Programme by a volunteer from a local parish church.

Youthlink

Programme Manager: Lisa Hillan

The King's Arms Youth Project is a charity that has been working with young people for over 23 years. It is a unique provider in East Hampshire, running four different streams of programmes for young people. Over the past 12 years, The King's Arms has extended its reach across East Hants and built a wide range of relationships

that it has been able to utilise for the benefit of young people. In 2018, it was asked to develop youth work in Alton by the Town Council.

Youthlink started officially in 2017 when The King's Arms received one year's funding to develop a forum for practitioners and a directory for young people. In September 2019, The King's Arms received five years of funding from The National Lottery Community Fund to continue and extend this project.

Now in its final months of funding, The Kings Arms Youthlink project will leave a clear legacy of cohesion across delivery partnerships, together with a district wide commitment to strategic planning and action.

PURPOSE AND MISSION OF YOUTHLINK

Youthlink is about connecting different components together with the central theme of 'Young People.' The primary purposes of Youthlink are:

1. Supporting young people:

- a. Giving young people a voice and resources*
- b. Improving accessibility to those most in need*

2. Supporting practitioners:

- a. Providing practical input, training, sharing of best practice, networking*
- b. Improving communication and information*

3. Supporting the wider youth community:

- a. Providing district-wide youth strategy*
- b. Accessing County level input and resources*
- c. Connecting agencies, funders, and providers*

The Key Objectives for this final year of funding include the following:

- Alton Volunteers: To recruit more volunteers to increase the number of young people KA can support
- Alton Fundraising: To highlight funding opportunities to sustain services provided by KA to young people
- Specialist Providers: To find support services as identified by youth workers to enhance their programmes to young people
- Training Opportunities: To identify free training opportunities for the team that support KA services to young people
- Best Practice: To facilitate opportunities for sharing best practice to improve services offered to KA young people

- Development and Innovation: To research areas for development to increase and improve services offered to KA young people

We are keenly and painfully aware that the funding landscape has changed over the last few years, and a “same again please” grant request to continue Youthlink as is will be unlikely to succeed. Strategic planning is ongoing at this time, and our current thinking is to explore separate grants in the areas of

- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Fundraising
- Innovation, Training and Development

Youthlink Highlights over the last twelve months:

- In her capacity as Chair of the East Hampshire Local Children’s Partnership (LCP) alongside her role as Youthlink Manager, Lisa has
 - Continued efforts to support Ukrainian young people in this area through LCP grant funding, the 16th May EHDC event at the Alton Maltings, referral to the Alton Community Centre as a venue for upcoming Epiphany social event, and ongoing host-parent-youth networking
 - Signposted young people and their families to funding opportunities and resources through The Alton & District Community Relief Foundation (previously the A&DC Resilience Fund), Alton Rotary, the Alton Lions Santa drive, and the Alton Food Bank.
 - Secured funding for twelve East Hampshire head teachers, including several in the Alton area, led by St Mary’s Bentworth Head Teacher Jo Ayers, to develop materials to support the Back to Basics programme. These resources have been shared across Hampshire.
 - Supported Cllr Ben Hamlin, Mayor of Alton, with plans to involve young people from The King’s Arms and area schools in an art competition/showcase/fundraiser in April to benefit his designated charity, The Woodland Trust.
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) sessions have been developed for delivery to groups from one secondary school at a time. Successfully delivered at our Petersfield Centre last summer, we are offering to conduct these sessions in Alton through the local schools.
- Valuable staff training through the Youthlink programme included:
 - “Leading People” leadership training, multiple sessions in March and April for KA managers
 - “County Lines—Preventing Exploitation”, all staff, 26th April
 - “Youth Mental Health First Aid”, Matt from Alton, 5th and 6th June
 - “Managing Challenging Behaviour”, all staff, 7th July
 - Internship Training: An Alton-based intern completed their Level 1 Certificate in Youth Work
- On 9th February, in collaboration with Relational Hub, we hosted another Community Youth Workers’ Summit at the Alton Maltings. As part of the Youthlink programme, this second annual summit brought together over 120 youth workers, whether staff or volunteers, as well as trustees, managers

and school leaders, to share ideas and best practices. The keynote speaker was Steve Chalke, well-known author, minister and founder of the Oasis group of charities. The diverse workshop topics were also popular, providing networking and best-practice sharing opportunities.

- On 29th February, Lisa and Jen attended the Children's Mental Health Forum organised by A31 PCN Social Prescriber Chrissy Humphrey. Stalls: KA, CAMHS, school nurses, Alton-area schools (heads took 30-minute shifts), Barnardo's, Bushy Leaze, Everyone Active, and more. Event name in future will be "Children and Young People's Mental Health & Wellbeing Day". At least half of attendees involved secondary-age concerns. Parent quote: "I wish my son would smile".
- At the most recent East Hampshire Local Children's Partnership meeting on 6th March, senior leaders from East Hants secondary schools shared the following current issues and concerns:
 - An increase in self-harming among Year 7s
 - A continuing decline in mental health among students
 - An increase in sexual assault on girls [LCP discussion included sharing intervention resources and expanding existing collaborations to include all East Hants secondary schools.]
- Pastoral staff from HSDC Alton reported similar trends at the 6th March LCP meeting with:
 - 30 students have been offered six weekly counselling sessions; 20 have accessed this so far.
 - They are also seeing students unmotivated and dropping off courses, analysing reasons why, seems to be a national issue.
 - Another issue is social media, relationships on-line, inappropriate activity.
- Ongoing areas of focus and concern among 11-18 year olds, as reported through the various Youthlink forums and networks, include the following:
 - Focus on school absenteeism and Emotionally Based School Avoidance
 - Neurodiversity as the top-requested subject for continuing professional development

Additional Information

Our work to improve the energy efficiency and warmth in the Alton youth centre continues and we are currently waiting for planning permission to begin work on installing a ground source heat pump system in the centre – a project which is now funded.

In January we held our usual A.G.M. with a number of stakeholders attending for an opportunity to see the centre and learn more about our work and achievement over the past year.

We sadly said farewell this term to Ali Vaughan, one of our youth workers, but am pleased to report that after a successful recruitment campaign we are currently looking forward to welcoming, Naomi Corlett to replace her after Easter.

