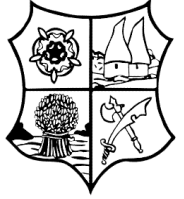


ALTON Town Council



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Town Clerk: Mr Tom Horwood

Town Hall
Market Square
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 1HD

15th July 2025

Dear Councillor,

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to a meeting of the **CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE** which will be held on **Wednesday, 23rd July at 9.30AM** when the under mentioned business will be transacted.

Yours faithfully

Tom Horwood
Town Clerk

To: Councillor Barbara Tansey (Chair)
Councillor Don Hammond
Councillor Janice Treacher

ACAN: Rod Painell
Energy Alton: Kevin Ray
Energy Alton: John Hubbard
Active Travel representative: Chris Chappell
EHDC Representative – Pennie Brown
Scott Gudrich – Youth Representative

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY 2025
HARRY BAKER PAVILLION, JUBILEE FIELDS, ALTON GU34 1RQ AT 9.30AM
AGENDA

1. **Chairman's Announcements.**

- Introduce Scott Gudrich as the new Youth Representative.
- Update on Business Representative.
- John Hubbard – “Just a note to say that following the AGM I am no longer a Trustee of Energy Alton. I will be an energy surveyor and a volunteer but not involved in the organising of things. So please accept my resignation from the ATC Climate Emergency sub-Committee. You are doing a great job with the climate emergency action agenda at ATC and I am sure that EA will continue to support you.”
Kevin represents Energy Alton as part of the Climate Change Committee.

2. **Apologies for absence**

3. **Minutes** - to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd April 2025

4. **Declarations of Interests & 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 from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.

5. **Questions/Representations to the Committee** including those received in writing (Public Speaking).
Treloar's grant application for solar panels.
ACAN grant application for a survey of small businesses to assess ways they can reduce their carbon footprint.

6. **Actions on Climate Change Action Plan - SECTION ONE (Alton Town Council)**

- 1.1 Review carbon use against baseline. – DH
- 1.2 ATCs transport and carbon emissions – Report on electric tools for Grounds Team – DH
- 1.3 Replace insulation for door, 16 Market Square – WS
- 1.3 Energy survey for Assembly Room (attached) – Energy Alton
- 1.4 Retrofitting existing council owned properties – DH & KR
 - Challenge Statement for replacement boiler plan for Town Hall - DH
 - Refurbishment of Town Hall project including secondary glazing – WS
 - Insulation at Jubilee Bungalows – WS
- 1.4 Jubilee Pavilions project – DH
- 1.4 Explore further renewable energy sources for Alton Town Council's premises
 - Solar Panel and water heating for showers for Finimore Pavilion - KR
 - Solar panels for Energique through Energise South Downs proposal – DH
- 1.4 Produce a detailed record of solar status on ATC owned buildings and circulate
- 1.5 Jubilee Pavilions project – DH
- 1.6 Explore with Energise South Downs solar provision for the remaining ATC tenanted properties – KR/WS/DH/BT
- 1.7 Carbon sequestration from planting and feedback on hedge and tree planting – JT

- 1.7 Replacement of existing 'in bloom' schemes with environmentally sustainable alternatives around the town.
- 1.10 Update cycle map/signage for walking and cycling. Replace cycle planters and missing/broken cycle stands with more secure cycle parking - CC

7. **Updates on Climate Change Action Plan SECTION TWO (Community)**

- 2.2 Reduce waste ACAN report – SG & RP
- 2.3 EV Updates. – PB/BT
- 2.6 Reduce purchase of water in plastic bottles by Alton retailers and Alton Community groups and businesses. RP & SG
- 2.7 Support climate and nature action by young people. Young ACAN report and update – SG
- 2.8 Future/ongoing Energy Alton initiatives – KR

8. **Updates on Climate Change Action Plan SECTION THREE (Working with decision makers.)**

- 3.1 Cycle Alton - Led Cycle Sessions (feedback) – CC
- 3.4 Review of 20 mph limits in Alton – BT
- 3.5 Commercial developers. Influence on the developing neighbourhood plan by ensuring that clean energy, active travel and biodiversity groups representatives are fully included in the new ANP Steering Group.
- 3.6 LCWIP, the two routes through Alton – CC

9. **District Council update** - PB

10. **ACAN Update**

Date of Next Meeting: 22nd October 2025 at 9.30am

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY 2025
REPORTS

1.2 Report on electric tools for Grounds Team

Cllr Hammond and the Head Groundsman met and agreed on the following items as a trial to be used in the Public Gardens:

- 2.00 Stihl AR3000 1148Wh Li-Ion Backpack
- 2.00 Stihl AR Backpack battery carrying system
- 2.00 Connecting cable for AR battery
- Stihl FSA135 36v Li-Ion Brushcutter Cowhorn
- Stihl FSA135R 36v Li-Ion Brushcutter 26cm Cut Loop Handle
- 2.00 Stihl 36v Li-Ion Cordless Hedge Trimmer 75cm Cut HSA130R-30
- 2.00 Stihl BGA200 Blower

A quote has been obtained from Mid Hants Mowers for £5,341.44 plus VAT.

Haynes Agricultural Ltd quoted 5,230 but this includes 2 charges at £105 each.

The Assistant to Town Clerk to get a third quote as required under the Financial Regulations.

The Assistant to the Town Clerk has looked at hiring pieces of machinery to allow a trial to be completed. Several local hire companies hire battery-operated equipment but do not supply the backpack battery which extends the running time of the equipment to 6-7 hours. Haynes Agricultural reported that they have supplied this equipment to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, so the Assistant to the Town Clerk has put in a request to speak to the Head Groundsman about borrowing the items.

1.3 Replace insulation for door, 16 Market Square

This has been completed.

1.4 Challenge Statement for replacement boiler plan for Town Hall

The summary of the 13 submission is included in the papers attached. It has been agreed that the following designs be asked to present on Thursday 24th July:

- NexGen Carbon Zero Ltd
- Eluxevo Limited
- Tepeo Ltd
- Eskimo Products Ltd

The presentations will be held in 16 Market Square and Cllr Hammond, Cllr Tansey and Kevin Ray from Energy Alton along with the Town Clerk and the Assistant to the Town Clerk.

Once a suitable solution is found then quotes can be identified to be included at Budget Workshop later in the year for inclusion in the 2026.27 budget.

1.4 Refurbishment of Town Hall project including secondary glazing

Mitchell and Dickinson are due to start work on the secondary glazing at the Town Hall on Tuesday 15th July and it is predicted to take 8 weeks to complete (2nd September). The chamber is being used as the workroom, hence the relocation of this meeting to the Harry Baker Pavilion.

Whilst the scaffolding is up, maintenance work will be carried out on the roof and guttering. The exterior paintwork will also be completed after the work on the windows has been completed.

The quote for the motorised thermal hive blinds has been updated at £13,225.40. The blinds for the office will be standard daylight versions and will provide shade when needed but will also retain the heat overnight. The blinds for the chamber will provide blackout ability as well as retaining heat when needed. These will be installed after the windows have been completed. Westbrook Interiors will also replace the cords on the curtains as these have perished.

Quotes have been requested for the replacement of the carpets throughout the offices and chamber (the stairs and landing were done more recently and are in good order). Internal decoration is also planned but both these activities will be held until a decision is made about the heating system.

1.4 Insulation at Jubilee Bungalows

This is being installed week beginning 21st July. In addition to the upgrade of loft insulation an area of decking is being created for both tenants to allow them to store items in the lofts.

1.4 Jubilee Pavilions project

The Climate Change meeting is being held at the Harry Baker Pavilion so Richard, Chairman of the Cricket Club, will be able to talk the Committee through the plans. The Deputy Clerk has applied for a grant to support the work, but the application may not be decided at the time of the meeting.

1.5 Solar Panel and water heating for showers for Finnimore Pavilion

Cllr Tansey and Kevin Ray are meeting Catriona Cockburn from Energise South Downs on Friday 18th July on to look at the building owned by the Town Council and their suitability for solar panels. The Finnimore Pavilion will be one of the buildings visited.

1.5 Solar panels for Energique through Energise South Downs proposal

The lease between Energise South Downs and Alton Tow Council was approved at the 9th July Full Council meeting. Energise South Downs is now proceeding with planning permission and structural surveys. The full proposal is included with the papers for the meeting.

1.7 Carbon sequestration from planting and feedback on hedge and tree planting

The Assistant to the Clerk has been contacted by both the Woodland Trust and Hampshire Forest Partnership about the health of the trees and hedges planting in late 2024/early 2025. Both have asked if supplies were available later in 2025, if the Town Council would be interested, the Assistant to the Town Clerk has indicated to both groups that the Town Council would be interested.

Cllr Treacher and Cllr Tansey visited the following sites to identify opportunities for additional planting; the results are as follows:

1. ANSTEY PARK

TREES - there is space for 2 or 3 more trees on the north side open space and 2 trees on the south side. The internal avenue/road has space for a few more trees to enhance the entrance.

HEDGING - the tennis courts would be improved by natural hedging on 2 sides

Hedging could also be used to mask the green electric sub -station on the London Roadside. The sub -station needs the graffiti to be painted over also some screening from the park area.

SEATING - more picnic benches are needed under the trees, 2 on the north side of the open space and one on the south side. More seating is required, 2 benches on the north side and one more on the south side.

2. WILL HALL MEADOW.

Entering at the Brick Kiln Lane there needs to be better signage and one open passage for joggers.

TREES - on the north side of the path there is room for 3 more trees, willows would be very attractive.

PATH - the ancient oak tree on the south side of the path would be of interest. A gravel path leading to the tree would be an asset.

HEDGE - planted by voluntary group along the road and path side needs attention.

RIVER - from the bridge leading to the houses on the north side the riverbed appears very overgrown and clogged up. Is it the Residents Association of the adjacent housing development who have responsibility for the river?

MEADOW - Is there a cutting plan for the meadow grasses?

3. ALTON GATEWAY

The space is impressive, benches of very good quality!

The space will look very good once the meadows are planted.

TREES - there is room for a few more trees on the north side to mask the houses. A few trees to provide shade at the benches would be appreciated.

MILITARY SITE - the information is minimal and could be expanded and the information about the concrete obstructions included. The sign for the blocks is not safely accessible.

A concern the grass turfs are drying out and shrinking . Will the grass borders survive?

1.8 Replacement of existing 'in bloom' schemes with environmentally sustainable alternatives around the town.

A replacement for Emily has not yet been made but the Deputy Clerk asked that the Committee give a list of the types of plants which would meet the criteria.

1.9 Improving accessibility to walking routes, through clear mapping, signage, and publicity.

See report on 2.1, 3.1 and 3.6 below.

2.1 Installation of wayfinding in key locations across the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists

Cycle Alton obtained a grant of £6,478 from EHDC Climate Change Action fund (CCAF) to install signs to encourage local people to walk or cycle into town from new housing developments. The project is in liaison with Walk Alton. Streetlamp numbers have been identified, and Hayley Carter is identifying ownership. EHDC has recently forwarded land ownership of other locations from screen shots and permissions will be sought.

The grant also covers the updating of the Cycling in Alton map, in liaison with Walk Alton, with a map of walking routes on the reverse. This is progressing as planned.

3.1 Reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change

Cycle Alton took five nervous cyclists around town on their Confidence Building Rides over four Saturday mornings in March. Another set of led rides are planned for September

3.6 Contribute towards and assist in delivery of the EHDC LWCIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)

This short report follows two meetings addressing part of the LCWIP route through Alton.

The first meeting was a TEAMS meeting with Cycle Alton and Pennie Brown EHDC, and Wendy Simson on Thursday 26th June 2025. Pennie had suggested applying for a Cycle Path grant with very specific requirements, if we had a suitable route. The meeting was to ascertain whether the proposed clearance of the originally Lottery funded cycle path along the Basingstoke Road, which is now part of the official LCWIP desired route through Alton, would be eligible for the grant money.

The second meeting between Angus Berry and Colin March of Cycle Alton, Barbara Tansey and Wendy Simson took place in the council chambers on Monday 7th July 2025. To decide whether we could apply for the grant to progress that route, and if not what the next steps were.

We concluded that:

1. The proposal for cycle path clearance along the stretch of the Basingstoke Road is not appropriate, nor sufficiently progressed, to apply for the £25,000 grant Pennie Brown alerted us to.
2. In the longer term the housing development proposal from developers Hallam for the Brick Kiln Lane site 'Will Hall Two' addresses Active Travel requirements, including a full cycle path along that stretch of the Basingstoke Road, and junction improvements at the junction with Pertuis Avenue. With stakeholder input from the early planning stages, Alton Town Council working with Cycle Alton could recommend that the Hallam proposal provide good, safe cycling infrastructure from the Junction with Medstead Road into Beech along the Basingstoke Road, through Will Hall Meadows, and into Flood Meadows. We discussed the idea of getting permission from SE Water to extend the cycle path through their land into Flood Meadows. This could potentially provide a

safe cycle route for from Beech (and possibly Medstead) to Amery School and Alton College, and into the town centre.

3. In the short term Cycle Alton working with Alton Town council will go back to 'plan A' and ask HCC to clear the existing cycle path and put signs up all along from the junction with Medstead Road to Brick Kiln Lane.
4. It made sense for Cycle Alton to start to progress towards a 'shovel ready' cycle path project which will benefit Alton, so that funding can be applied for when it arises as time scales tend to be very short! The relatively short section of the NCN route through Chawton Park Farm which is impassible in the winter is the next obvious route as it will link Four Marks with Alton and the huge Active Travel benefits ensuing. Angus and Colin will discuss this with the landowners, and then the next step will be costing it.
5. The next step for the LCWIP cycle path section, is to arrange a meeting on Site with Hampshire Highways, Cycle Alton and members of the Climate Change Committee, to discuss permission from HCC for clearing and signposting of the section of the Basingstoke Road from Beech to Brick Kiln Lane. This section is part of the LCWIP.

10 ACAN Update

* ACAN have applied for funding from the Climate Change Small Grant. We hope you will look on this application favourably.

* ACAN are developing a new updated strategy document. The trustees believe this is necessary due to the changing demands on our organisation and proposed Unitary Council reorganisation. We propose to have a community consultation on this document at a public open meeting. (See below)

* We are proposing to organise an ACAN public open meeting in October to promote the important work we are engaged with in the local community. This will include our partners AVLAN , repair Cafe, young ACAN etc. Our strategy document will also be available for the public to comment on.