

**April 2007**

### **Alcester Hospital**

The council is writing to the Secretary of State for Health Patricia Hewitt expressing its dismay at the news that a further delay has occurred for the redevelopment of Alcester Hospital, the District Council support the residents of Alcester and the surrounding villages in their desire to see Alcester Hospital is redeveloped so that it has a long term future as a community hospital.

Cllr. Kim James said at the full council meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

“There is a strong affection that the residents of Alcester and the surrounding villages have about the local hospital; it is part of the fabric of the community, and passions about its future run high.

Without a community hospital, the quality of care will deteriorate, particularly for the frail.

In a rural area with poor road infrastructure, poor local transport facilities and an older-than-average population, this issue is of the greatest consequence.

Alcester hospital contributes enormously to the quality of life of local people.

It is close to people's homes, Dunnington, Salford Priors, Bidford on Avon, Wixford and patients enjoy the continuation of care provided by their own general practitioner or by the local primary care team.

The low-technology environment in a community hospital generally proves more reassuring, especially to elderly patients”.

### **British Forces Postage**

The District Council has given its support to a request from Tewkesbury Borough Council for the reinstatement of the free parcel delivery service to British Forces and their families stationed overseas, The council believes that the situation is both an appalling and disgraceful way to treat our dedicated and hardworking troops and their families given the hardships that they face in the worlds hotspots and war zones and therefore asks the Government reinstates this service as a matter of urgency.

In addition the District Council calls upon:

Each of its Town and Parish Councils to offer their support to the Motion.

### **Easter Holiday Play & Activity Schemes**

This year the scheme included eight days of activities delivered during the school holiday, such as Street Dance, Multi Sport & Swim, Hi5's and TUFFS (Turn Up For Free Sports).

Results included:-

- 13 young people trained and employed as Activity Leaders to deliver activity programme.
- 21 different venues used across the District to deliver the activity programme.
- 1,050 contacts during the 8 days (569 individual young people) taking part in the activity programme.

Feedback from parents and young people suggests that the activity programme was a great success!

## Recycling

Early indications are that the Council has achieved its 40% *recycling target* a year ahead of schedule. The final result is as yet unaudited, but based on our calculations it will be between 40.1% and 40.2%. To achieve this with increasing general waste and a contract not geared to achieving waste recycling targets is all the more pleasing for the Council.

## Royal Shakespeare Theatre

The Council's West Area Planning Committee considered and approved this application. The application now has to be considered by the Secretary of State in respect of the implications for a listed building, before the District Council can issue a consent. This has been an exceptional piece of work by the planning team involved in assessing the application,

## Working with our Partners

As part of the work on engagement of Parishes and Partners, *an electronic newsletter* is being produced probably every one or two months

The first edition of a new electronic Parish newsletter **Parish Talk** has now been circulated.

### 2006/2007 Ward Councillors Attendance – Full Council

#### Ward Councillor's Attendance

Meeting	James	Pemberton	Slaughter
Annual Council 24/05/06	✓	✓	✓
Special Council 12/06/06	✓	✓	✓
Council 24/07/06	✓	X	✓
Council 13/11/06	✓	X	✓
Special Council 8/12/06	X	✓	✓
Special Council 22/01/07	✓	✓	✓
Council 26/02/07	✓	✓	✓
Council 23/04/07	✓	X	✓
	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

## Public Toilets – High Street

Following a complaint from a local resident to the Clerk of the Parish Council concerning banging of cubical doors and disturbance to neighbours maintenance officers have inspected the toilets and confirmed that when the doors are slammed shut, they do make an awful noise. The solution they have suggested is to cut a small rebate in the door frames and install rubber stoppers which should go some way to deadening the noise if anyone chooses to slam the doors shut.

All being well (subject to the maintenance officers not being called to any emergency works in the meantime) the work will be taking place this week, hopefully on either Wednesday 2nd/Thursday 3rd May. It will be interesting to see if the residents notice the difference after the works are completed.

## **Planning Enforcement – River Meadows – Bottom of Marriage Hill**

The Riverside Shooting Grounds site was subject of an enforcement investigation relating to unauthorised development and change of use.

The operator is now going to submit a planning application for the development and change of use 07/01143/FUL.

## **New Bylaws Local Government Act 2003: Cosmetic Piercing and Semi Permanent Skin Colouring.**

The Council supported the adoption of new bylaws relating to the business of cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin-colouring, that are essential to protect customers from the risk of various infectious diseases. The bylaws will specify standards of cleanliness of premises, fittings and operators, together with the appropriate cleaning arrangements for instruments, materials and equipment.

So that protection already offered to those receiving a tattoo or electrolysis treatment will be extended to those undergoing cosmetic piercing or semi-permanent skin-coloring.

## **Former United Carriers Depot Waterloo Road Bidford on Avon.**

Requested that Enforcement offices investigate, to, pursue a Section 215 notice on the owners of the site - a legal notice that can be used to require improvement to the appearance or condition of land.

Redevelopment of this site for non commercial use could be pursued by the owners under existing planning policies.

If homes would be more in keeping with the rest of the community then **Policy COM 1** could be used. A small scale scheme, houses that meets a genuine local housing need, this would have to be supported by a housing needs survey.

It would also require the full local support of the Parish Council and residents for a development to go ahead, if that means the removal of the commercial aspect of the site.

Any scheme should be more favourable in the use of the site, in keeping with the semi-rural and residential character of the surrounding area. It is an important gateway to the village.

**Policy PR.11** the reuse of a bad neighbour site for appropriate alternative development may be permitted.

To be acceptable it would be necessary for the owners/developers to prove that:

- The present use of the site has been the cause of prolonged environmental conflict; and
- Demonstrable environmental benefit will result from the re-development and re-use of the site.

## **A Cleaner Greener Safer District? – Work So Far**

- The council has achieved a top quartile performance in the national indicator measuring the cleanliness of the district.
- The council have introduced a graffiti removal service to support the need to keep our district clean.
- The council continue to be the leading recycler in the county and ranked 32nd nationally.
- The council has agreed a Green Space Strategy (GSS) and we secured a Green Flag Award for Arrow Nature Reserve.
- The council have set aside funds specifically for the maintenance of all trees on SDC land which has brought about significant improvements to the safety of many of these mature trees and will help to sustain their growth for many years.
- The council has contributed funds to the installation of Ground Source Heat Pumps to 22 new affordable homes in Lighthorne health where there is no gas supply and the only other alternative would have been to install expensive and fossil fuel reliant electric storage heaters. This site will act as a demonstration site for other developers to view and hopefully adopt a similar approach.
- Working with Warwickshire energy efficiency advice centre, energy efficiently in homes has increased by 26.13% which is the highest rate of improvement for home energy conservation of any council in Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.
- Investment in the Licensing service allowed the effective introduction of the Licensing Act 2003 with effective conditions that have reduced the number of incidents of late night drunken incidents in the District.
- The operation of an out of hours noise service during the summer months has helped to reduce the impact to residents from late night noise.

**Councillor Kim James**  
**Councillor Daren Pemberton**  
**Councillor Brian Slaughter**