

## Annual Full Council Report

### Summary

- Six new councillors
- First anniversary of new office team
- Sun Lane outline planning permission has been decided

### Key Achievements

- Working through the legacy issues and files
- Set up a coherent policy portfolio
- Reduced the number of committees
- Set up of Action Tracker to monitor progress of resolutions through to completion
- Councillors and Staff are encouraged to attend training sessions.
- Charged the focus toward increase interaction with the Town and the Environment
- Introduction of Working Groups to increase efficiency/effectiveness
- Huge input by the Clerk & the office to keep the office operational whilst addressing past issues.

### Ongoing Actions

- Remedial work on Arlebury Park building
- Improvements to Stratton Bates
- Parking and Access Strategy for New Alresford
- Review of all legal Agreements/Leases/Licences

### The Future

- Applied to CIL Funding Bids for financial assistance with four projects
- Possibility of a multi-use facility on Sun Lane
- Local Plan Review 2020
- Council Strategy

## Annual Finance & Facilities Committee Report

### Committee Summary

- Merged Facilities and other responsibilities with Finance Committee.

### Key Achievements

- Undertook a bottom up financial review
- Five-year financial plan in place
- Introduced a written internal control policy with detailed program
- Agreed that the level of reserves was sufficient to realise £200,000 to spend in 20/21

### Ongoing Actions

- Focus on reducing the ongoing running costs to allow more funding for community initiatives.
- Completion of legal review and policy portfolio.
- Undertaking a utility and building review

### The Future

- Further Health and Safety developments
- Negotiate Arlebury Car Parking agreement with WCC
- Ensuring the External Audits are finished in a timely manor

## **Annual report of the Planning Committee NATC**

1. This year was a little reminiscent of the film 'Ground Hog Day' as once more the Sun Hill outline planning application was discussed, 18 months on from the last one. The outcome was a letter expressing fourteen points of concern, that the committee agreed on. This letter formed the basis of a comment made at the WCC planning committee on 18<sup>th</sup> February, although as in the previous application it was passed. The purpose of the repeat application was to sort out the issue of nitrates and to correct various anomalies, such as the phasing of construction and detailed applications. The new application has of course, various conditions attached, notably the requirement that the A31 roundabout has to be built before any houses are constructed, as does the haul road connecting the different parts of the site. The committee will push to have the concerns we raised met at every stage of the detailed applications.
2. Everyone in the town recognises the problems that there are with parking, particularly in the old part of the town. There is a shortage of parking and apart from a proposed new site of some 47 spaces in the Dean, there is no likelihood of any more car parks. The only solution is to develop a fair system of apportioning this limited resource, to try to meet the conflicting demand of residents, shoppers, visitors and local employees that commute in. Possible solutions are not under the direct control of the town council, highway matters such as yellow lines and signage are a county council responsibility, as such they are a long way from being under NATC control. Parking policy is under review by Winchester City Council at the moment. The NATC has been worried that the City would pay little heed to the special conditions that exist, not only in the market towns in general in the district, but in Alresford itself. Alresford is smaller and more compact than the others, such as Bishops Waltham, but also more frequently visited. Due to this worry some efforts have been made to utilise the skills of specialist parking consultants. A recent meeting with WCC officers and city council members gave the feeling that the Winchester did in fact recognise the particular circumstances and problems of the town. Winchester City Council, in line with their declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' is looking at a range of options to reduce the demand for parking and car transport. The debate goes on.
3. The planning committee is also working towards a revised New Alresford Design Statement. This document was produced in 2008 and although useful, it is now dated. This revised document will deal with changed circumstances and conditions within the town and also respond to new legislation. The Design Statement is accepted as a Supplementary Planning Document, which carries a legal value in planning issues, so it is essential that this new version is progressed. In a planning application submitted 6 weeks ago the committee was able to make a useful reference to reinforce their comments submitted to Winchester.
4. The committee continues to attend to their more mundane task of commenting on individual applications. At a rough count there are at least six applications, every month, often up to ten. Many of these are for small extensions and can be dealt with quickly. The committee has developed experience and some confidence in their judgements. As a result, the planners in Winchester seem to have taking rather more regard of our opinions.

# Recreation & Environment Committee

## Annual Report – 2019/20

<b>Committee Summary</b>
<p>It has been another busy year for this committee, with an equal emphasis on both the recreation and the environmental side of our brief. We have progressed our major playpark project to consultation phase and the finishing touches will be put to the skatepark improvements once the ground dries out.</p> <p>The environmental statement we proposed was accepted by Council and we have followed up with action on the practical measures the statement sets out. In particular, we have made significant improvements to the environment of Arlebury Park by planting a wildflower area, reinstating a long-lost hedgerow and planting ten new trees for the future. There will be more to follow.</p>
<b>Key Achievements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental statement recommended to and approved by Council</li><li>• Alrebury Park skatepark extension and remodelling almost complete</li><li>• Wildflower area planted between ARC and tennis courts at Arlebury Park</li><li>• Tree working group established, leading to new hedgerow and tree planting at Arlebury Park</li><li>• New grounds maintenance contract – including provision for some softer fringes to grass areas in order to encourage wildflower growth and wildlife habitat</li><li>• Continuation of the town litter pick – well over 100 residents were involved last year – this year’s event will be on Saturday 21 March</li><li>• New speed limit reminder sign showing actual vehicle speed brought into service around the town – this brief has since moved to the Planning Committee</li></ul>
<b>Ongoing Actions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We intend to complete the Stratton Bates playpark in the next 12 – 18 months</li><li>• Stratton Bates carpark extension to protect tree roots in overflow parking area</li><li>• Recommendation that Council reviews its potential to reduce its carbon footprint through energy supply and production</li><li>• Further cooperation with community groups</li><li>• Search for new allotment land and review of allotment provision</li><li>• Introduction of ‘adopt a street’ litter scheme for residents</li><li>• Improve the pathway from the carpark to the rugby pitches at Arlebury Park</li></ul>
<b>The Future</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete the ongoing actions set out above as a priority</li><li>• Continuing to review the practical measures taken in line with the Council’s environmental statement</li><li>• Review facilities at Arlebury Park and Sun Hill Park</li><li>• The potential transfer to the Town Council of a significant area of public open space at the Sun Lane development site provides, us with a fantastic opportunity to provide a legacy for our community’s future</li></ul>

## Annual Community & Tourism Committee Report

### TOWN ASSEMBLY 2020

#### Committee Summary

This Committee newly renamed mid last year covers a wide range of activities that support and promote the Town and its public facing activities.

We discuss new ideas at almost every meeting and have a rolling list of projects and Alresford based groups that we work with. Having a 5 year Budget in place for some time now, we look to ensure that everything we do has a sound financial plan to back it up.

#### Key Achievements

- Silver Gilt Award in the South & South East in Bloom competition 2019
- issued water refill stickers to shops and businesses in the town that are agreeable. Refill.org.uk promote this campaign to help prevent plastic pollution
- Ran a New Alresford Summer Photographic Competition. It was open to children and adults to produce either a print, the winning photograph was judged by NATC Cllrs and the Winners were presented with awards
- Budgeted and planned a renewed Town Benchmarking Survey for 2020
- Successful purchase of the Telephone Box in West Street

#### Ongoing Actions

- working more closely with our colleagues at Mid Hants Railway, Alresford Chamber of Commerce and Winchester City Council.
- Setting up a Working Group, to determine if and how the Council take the lead in VE Day celebrations
- to implement 16 trader parking spaces scheme at ARC car park for a one-year trial. This is a joint scheme with WCC and COC.
- creating a sound background case for each project to ensure the decisions/actions on Agendas are timely and accurate.

#### The Future

This Committee will continue to focus its efforts on ensuring that Alresford remains a great place to live and work.

## Annual STAFFING Committee Report

### Committee Summary

This Committee is responsible for providing oversight and recommendations to the Town Council regarding its staff and Councillors.

Key subjects on our Agendas focus on staff training, staff appraisals, the daily management of NATC Staff, plus planning working practices and the all-important setting of key work objectives.

### Key Achievements

NATC has recruited 4 new members to the team over the past 17 months, so this has been a time of huge change and learning for the Staffing Committee.

All members of staff have been on various training courses to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to do their jobs to the best of their ability. Our greatest achievement this year is to have helped our new team members to settle in and to work closely with them on their ideas as to how we can all continue to improve the function of this council.

### Ongoing Actions

The Town Clerk has achieved the ILCA Clerk Qualification and is now studying for the next level CILCA Qualification.

We have issued several Policy Documents that will be reviewed annually to ensure they are accurate and up to date.

The appraisal process is an annual rolling programme where we talk candidly with our team to ensure we reward our staff and ensure they are happy on their employment course.

Using the experience of our Committee Clerk Frances to continually learn and grow from our interaction with the public.

### The Future

We have created a Staffing Development Objectives Plan so that all the team members will receive the best training in a timely manner. Our aim is to ensure a high level of staff retention and to ensure our staff enjoy their jobs.

Our team at NATC are highly valued and we thank them for their determination and dedication to their work.