

Annual Town Council Report 2020/21

Committee Summary

- The year of Covid 19
- An interesting year fraught with changes and challenges
- Working from home/Virtual committee meetings
- Street coordinator support scheme and 24 hour support line

Key Achievements

- Throughout 2020 we had a fully functioning office with 3 out of 4 staff working from home
- Setting up of a Street Coordinator support scheme
- Implemented a 24 hour telephone Covid support line manned by dedicated volunteers
- Suspension of financial regulations to allow residents cheques to be cashed
- Support for residents and businesses in preparing the town for social distancing
- Support for Food Bank to have a base in Arlebury Park
- Continuation of council business - all committees meeting virtually throughout the year

Ongoing Actions

- Continuation of the Street Coordinator support scheme for the foreseeable future
- Food Bank to continue to operate from Arlebury Park
- Continued support for businesses and residents as the 3rd lockdown comes to an end

The Future

- Staff to return to the office as soon as government guidance allows
- Committees to meet in person following government guidance on the timing of such a change
- The council will continue to respond to the ever changing Covid 19 situation and keep residents abreast of developments

Annual Community & Tourism Committee Report 2020/21

Committee Summary
We are positive Committee which discusses a wide variety of ideas, tasks, aims and plans. Working with individuals, voluntary and community groups, Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council to promote the vitality of the town for residents an visitors.
Key Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The creation of an Information Kiosk in the site of an old BT Phonebox in West Street.- Awarded a Gold Medal for our participation in the UK Parish in Bloom scheme.- As the Covid 19 pandemic evolved, we repurposed budgeted money to manage key tasks on the town centre.- The creation the New Alresford Automotive Show, an NATC event to be held at the Alrebury Park site.- We have reduced the number of outstanding tasks on the Action Tracker to ensure we are an effective Committee.- Successfully supported the Alresford Chamber of Commerce in received Grant money for the annual Christmas Trees project.
Ongoing Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Working with our new committee Clerk to achieve our set aims.- Continued management and improvement of the Information Box.- Managing ongoing tasks that have been on hold due to the Covid19 situation.- A fluid and open dialogue amongst all Cllrs to ensure everyone has the opportunity to do their best.- Aiming for a higher award at the 2021 Parish in Bloom awards.- Continual management and pleasure in enabling the Hangings Baskets project to continue to thrive.
The Future
<p>We have created a budget for the 2021/22 year which includes some ambitious aims, such as an annual Communication plan, New Alresford Automotive Show, the creation of a town volunteer task force and design of a local Walking Guide for the town. We look forward to completing these new tasks over the year ahead.</p>

Committee Members:

Ann Bean, Sarah Jane Cavell, Keith Divall, Simon Evans (Chair), Sally Holmes, Jay Jones (Vice Chair)
Marilyn Weston,

Annual Finance & Facilities Committee Report 2020/21

Committee Summary

We continued into the second year of uncovering and addressing legacy issues from previous councils, and worked to refocus the budget away from Sports Clubs and towards the Community

Key Achievements

- Put in new heating and electrical systems on the top floor to enable us to meet our lease commitments to the Arlebury.
- Rectified the drainage in the Arlebury car park
- Refocused the 21/22 budget to double the C&T and P&H budgets
- Worked with our legacy pension scheme to establish the amount of our potential liability for the underfunding - £90,000

Ongoing Actions

- Commissioned a roof survey that says the roofs were wrongly specified and have been leaking from day one – working to establish the costs of replacing the roof in 2021.
- Working on a planned maintenance program
- Working on a complete Health and Safety review
- Working to complete the 17/18, 18/19 and 20/21 external audits shortly

The Future

- We will need to replace the boiler that feeds the sports shower after the end of the season
- Finishing external and internal repairs so the Arlebury can reopen in May
- Discussing improvements to Arlebury Park to offer more storage and improve the access.
- Discussing with WCC upgrading the Vehicle Electric charging points

Planning Committee Report 2020/21

Committee Summary

As with all committees, an unprecedented year, with many challenges!

Key Achievements

The installation of 12 Sheffield bike racks in Broad Street and Arlebury Park, at no direct cost to NATC.

Submitting a successful bid for CIL funding to widen the West Street pavement, a project that has been rumbling on for 25 years.

The appointment of Troy Design to update and formulate a current Design Statement for New Alresford.

The purchase of a new SLR and a successful application for 11 lamp post licences.

Ongoing Actions

Discussing the merits of all planning applications individually. NATC's response to WCC references current planning regulations and design statement guidelines.

To use a rota for the three SLRs, analyse the data provided and liaise with other groups to move forward with traffic calming measures.

HCC survey has started in West Street.

The Future

Ensure that NATC have a dialogue and a good working relationship with WCC Planning and Taylor Wimpey with regard to Sun Lane. Communication with the town is key.

To work with HCC and WCC to formulate a parking strategy that encompasses the demands and needs of the triumvirate of residents/retail/visitors that are the beating heart of New Alresford.

To investigate the possibility of making the temporary pedestrianising of the sidings in Broad Street a permanent feature.

Recreation & Environment Committee

Annual Report – 2019/21

Committee Summary

It has been a busy couple of years for this committee, with an equal emphasis on both the recreation and the environmental side of our brief. We have progressed the Stratton Bates playground project beyond the consultation phase. A firm consensus amongst residents was for a 'wild adventure' themed park to incorporate some element of large play equipment. We will soon be approaching contractors to tender for the work.

We have followed up on the Council's Environmental Statement with action on the practical measures the statement sets out. In particular, we have made significant improvements to the environment of Arlebury Park. To encourage biodiversity we have planted a wildflower area, allowed grass fringes to grow uncut throughout the season, reinstated a long-lost hedgerow and in each of the past two years we have planted ten new trees for the future. There will be more to follow.

We have responded to the unmet demand for allotments by planning to develop a new site.

It has been a difficult period for the town's independent sports clubs that use our facilities, but the continued engagement of over 400 youngsters in junior coaching and growing representation for women's teams in each of the clubs is much welcomed and appreciated.

Key Achievements

- Our Stratton Bates playground consultation contacted the schools and every household in the town to give everyone an opportunity to shape the new facility
- Arlebury Park skatepark extension and remodelling successfully completed
- Tree working group established, leading to new hedgerow and planting of 20 standard trees at Arlebury Park and further planting at Stratton Bates
- Professional tree survey commissioned for all existing trees on the Council's land
- New grounds maintenance contract negotiated – including provision for some softer fringes to grass areas in order to encourage wildflower growth and wildlife habitat
- Wildflower area planted between the ARC and tennis courts at Arlebury Park
- Potential new allotment plot identified and ecological assessment completed
- Improved pathway from the carpark to the rugby pitches at Arlebury Park
- Growing engagement in the annual litter pick – well over 100 residents at last event

Ongoing Actions

- Completion of the new Stratton Bates playground in the next 12 – 18 months
- Development of new allotment land including mitigation of any ecological impacts
- Consideration of the effectiveness of current measures at Stratton Bates carpark to protect tree roots in overflow parking area and potential further measures if required
- Investigate traffic calming measures at Stratton Bates car park
- Redesign of the Memorial Gardens to take better advantage of its riverside location
- Investigate the potential for installing outdoor gym equipment at Arlebury Park
- Ongoing review of the existing agreements with sports clubs using Council facilities
- Refurbishment of existing play areas at Arlebury Park and Sun Hill, to include reuse of any salvageable equipment from the remodelled Stratton Bates playground
- Introduction of 'adopt a street' litter scheme for residents
- Bulb planting in coming months and further wildflower sowing scheduled for autumn

The Future

- Complete the ongoing actions set out above as a priority
- Continuing to review the practical measures taken in line with the Council's Environmental Statement
- The scheduled transfer of a significant area of public open space to the Town Council at the Sun Lane development site offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to provide a legacy for our community's future