



# FOCUS

Alcester and  
Kinwarton

October 2021

From your local Liberal Democrat team

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

**Dear Resident,**

The past eighteen months have been difficult for many people but, as we look forward hopefully to a more positive time, we want to hear about what matters most to you and your family.

COVID has meant that there are many issues facing our local area and it's important that our councils address them in a way that has the support of residents. And of course we must make sure that the community spirit that has been so evident during the pandemic is not lost.

On the back of this leaflet is a short survey. It would be very helpful if you could complete this, to let us know your views, so that we can focus our efforts on what is important to you.

**Best wishes,  
Susan Juned, District Councillor, Alcester Town**

## LOCAL SERVICES UNDER THREAT

It sometimes appears as though every time there are cuts in public services to be made, Stratford district becomes the target. The latest concerns are around ambulance services and local hospital beds.

The local Hospital Trust is carrying out a review of hospital beds at Stratford and Shipston Hospitals. Cllr Susan Juned proposed a motion at the district council, asking the authority to help publicise the consultation on any proposals, expected later this year, whilst also supporting the retention of the beds at both hospitals, where they can be easily accessed by local people. Unfortunately the Conservatives refused to agree to the motion.

Susan said, 'In Alcester we lost our community hospital, so I know how highly rated these services are by residents. This district is a rural area with poor public transport, so I regard keeping these beds in our local hospitals as important for both patients and those who wish to visit them in hospital'.

### AMBULANCE STATION THREAT

At the same time the West Midlands Ambulance Service has announced that a number of Community Ambulance Stations are under review, including the station in Stratford. Cllr Susan Juned has highlighted the contribution the service has made during the pandemic and stressed again the rural nature of this district, which she thinks doesn't always get taken fully into account when services are reviewed.

### Marle Hall outdoor education centre

The Conservatives running the county council have decided to close Marle Hall, a residential outdoor education centre in north Wales, close to the Snowdonia National park.

For many years schoolchildren from Warwickshire have been attending courses at the centre and for many it proved a life changing experience. With over 100 beds, residential courses included learning outside the classroom either through adventurous outdoor activities or environmental studies. A petition launched to save the centre from closure estimated that over 60,000 young people have benefited from attending the centre. Liberal Democrat councillors on the county council believed that this was a valuable facility that ought to have been retained.

## PLAYGROUND SUCCESS



Thanks to the hard work of the members of Alcester Youth Project, the playground at the Hopkins Precinct is being replaced and refurbished.

Over two years, AYP members surveyed parents about the equipment they wanted and then worked hard to raise the funds to match funds from Stratford on Avon District Council. Work has started to clear the old equipment and surfacing. The slide will be refurbished but a host of new equipment is to be installed.

### Support for education

The Lib Dem Leader Ed Davey is calling for a national education catch-up programme to help children whose schooling was affected by Covid-19 restrictions. The proposal, originally put forward by the government's education recovery commissioner, calls for extra money to go directly to schools, with some money available to parents through a voucher system to be spent on extra tuition run by schools, tutors or clubs approved to take part in the scheme. The activities could cover a range of subjects from reading, writing or maths, to music lessons.

## COUNCIL MERGER CONSULTATION

**A public consultation is under way on the future of your district council.**

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are considering a proposal to merge, creating a new District Council covering the whole of South Warwickshire (the areas currently covered by Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils).

Sharing services with other councils is a way of saving money and the merger is forecast to do that.

To have your say please respond to the consultation - open until October 24<sup>th</sup> on: <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swc/>

Paper questionnaires can be requested by emailing: [swconsultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:swconsultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or calling 01789 267575. The paper questionnaires use a FREE POST address.

## CARE COSTS PACKAGE

There have been mixed reactions to the recent announcement by the Prime Minister on care costs. Whilst it is at least an attempt to consider the problem, it only looks at the care cost element of care homes and not the cost of accommodation, meals, cleaning etc, which aren't included in the government's package. This could still result in long term residents having extremely high costs.



# RESIDENTS' SURVEY

## ABOUT ALCESTER...

What would make the town centre even more attractive?

- |   | Yes                      | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Better plants, lights, more attractive walkways and outdoor seating | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Make the centre more pedestrian friendly                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| More council support for small businesses and independent retailers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Better pavements, including access for those with mobility issues   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Choose your top three priorities for Alcester

- |   |  |                                   |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bin collections  | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools             | <input type="checkbox"/> Litter   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pavement repairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks/ green spaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Speeding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |  |                                   |

### Choose your top three priorities for our district

- |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health services  | <input type="checkbox"/> Economy / jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime / ASB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing        | <input type="checkbox"/> Social care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |   |                                      |

You can expand on your views here:

### LOCAL PROBLEMS THAT WE CAN HELP YOU WITH

What can we help you with? (tick as many as apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potholes             | <b>Please let us know where the problems are (ideally - road and nearest house number)</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broken street lights |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blocked drains       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned vehicles   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broken pavements     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fly tipping          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graffiti             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____          |  |

### Please return this survey by:

- filling it in online at:  
<https://www.stratfordlibdems.org.uk/alcester>
- Posting it to the Liberal Democrat office marked - Freepost, Stratford Liberal Democrats

## CLIMATE CHANGE...

At Stratford District Council Susan Juned presented a paper on climate change to the council in 2003.

In 2019, the Lib Dems were responsible for moving an emergency motion asking for the council to do whatever was within its power and influence to take action. Recent revisions to the planning system at Stratford now makes applicants for planning think about possible measures to improve the environment.

Where should tackling climate change rank for our local councils?

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| The very highest priority | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Important                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not important             | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## TACKLING CRIME...

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 is not safe at all, 5 is very safe) how safe do you feel living in Alcester?

1  2  3  4  5

Have you been the victim of crime in the last 12 months?  YES  NO

Do you believe enough resources are put into preventing crime and making sure there is enough community policing in our town?

YES  NO



What would make Alcester a better place to live?

## ABOUT YOU (OPTIONAL) ...

If you would like us to come back to you on any of the points raised, please give your preferred contact details:

Name  
Address  
Postcode  
Email  
Telephone

The Liberal Democrats will use any personal data we collect for the purpose for which it was collected in accordance with our privacy policy at: [libdems.org.uk/privacy](http://libdems.org.uk/privacy). To exercise your legal data rights, email: [data.protection@libdems.org.uk](mailto:data.protection@libdems.org.uk). Printed by WRBT90 Ltd and published and promoted by Richard Vos on behalf of Susan Juned (Liberal Democrats), all at 55 Ely Street, Stratford CV37 6LN.

# HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD