

Alvington News

Published by the Alvington Parish Council

NDP Steering Group update

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is making very good progress. The theme is Past, Present and Future, of which Past and Present are now complete! This now leaves Future!

The Steering Group are currently working on policies and preparing a draft document in preparation for an open day for public consultation during September. A summary of the business survey can be found on pages 2 & 3 of this newsletter. A large portion of the work is done, but there is more to do!

If anyone would like to become a member of the Steering Group, volunteer to help with the open day or deliver newsletters and flyers, **you would be made most welcome.**

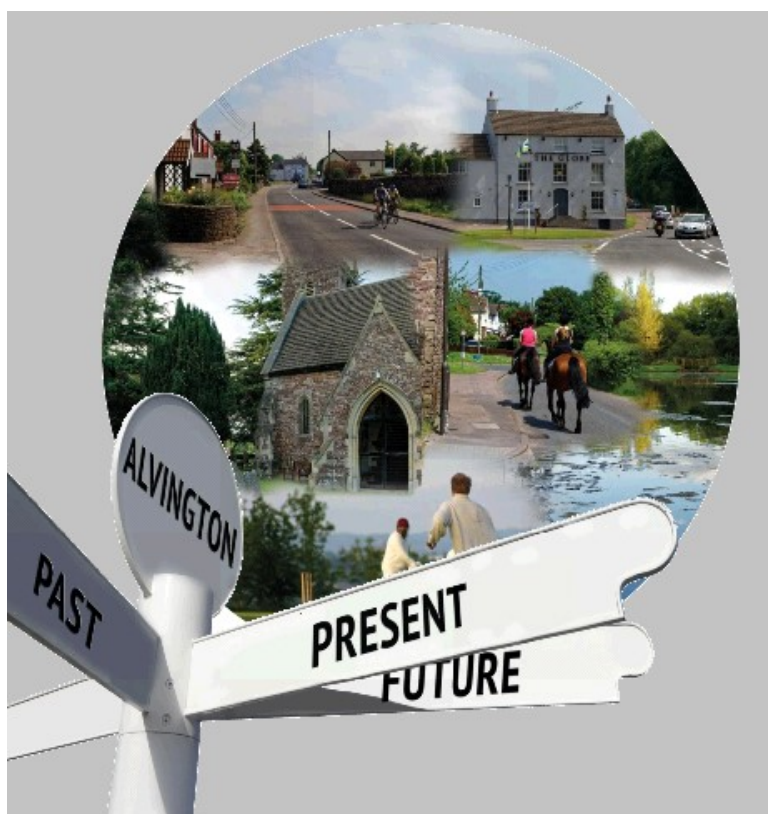
Please contact Alan Haslam, his details are on page 8, Chairman Parish Council and NDP.

Parish Council News

There have been a number of changes to the Parish Council recently. Many thanks to past councillors for their valuable contributions and a very big welcome to all the new members. Meg Humphries is the new Parish Council Clerk, she replaces Emma Money who has new employment.

Contact details for all Parish Council members can be found on page eight.

Plans are under way to install a defibrillator in the old telephone kiosk (more information in future newsletters) and we have also made progress on plans for a new pavilion on the playing field, see pages 5 & 6 for more information.



Coffee Morning

A coffee morning is held at the Globe Inn at 11:00 am every Tuesday. All will be welcome.

Walking Group

Alvington Walkers meet at the Globe Inn at 09:30 am every Tuesday. All will be welcome.

Bellringers wanted!

If you'd like to learn a new skill and make music with Alvington's new band, please contact Sue at suerickards@hotmail.co.uk

Preparing for an Emergency

The response team comprises of:
Coordinator: Alan Haslam, 01594 529837
Deputy: John Wintour, 01594 529234.
If anyone (should an emergency arise) be willing to give support and help in any way please give your details to Alan or John.

Date for your Diary

Laraine George at 11 Clanna Lane will be holding a coffee and cake day on **Friday 16th November 10:00am—5:00pm**. Andrew, our local postman will be bringing his selection of cards. Michelle will also be there with her glassware and glass Christmas decorations.

All proceeds will go to the FOREST AND GLOUCESTER MS SOCIETY.

All welcome!

Andrew will also be at the Globe with his cards on: 12th June, 24th July, 4th September, 16th October and 27th November.

You can also visit our website at www.alvingtonvillage.org

ALVINGTON NDP

BUSINESS SURVEY ANALYSIS SUMMARY

Businesses were identified through websites, local knowledge and phone directory. Members of the Steering Group contacted businesses by phone, email, hard copy personally posted or face to face. The hard copy questionnaire was collected by the Steering Group members and also filled in during phone and face to face interviews.

The questionnaire was designed to find out:

1. The business information

Ownership of premises; length of time operating; number of employees and mode of transport to work.

2. Infrastructure

Was the infrastructure adequate to run the business, specifically broadband, mobile phone, transport and roads?

There were also questions relating to how the infrastructure impacts on the business and plans for future expansion. There was also an opportunity for further comment.

Not all the questions were answered as some were not applicable or were left blank.

1. The business information

Of the 92 businesses identified, 10 had closed; 3 were outside parish boundary; 4 were identified as dormant and 1 had moved outside the parish.

The majority are small businesses employing under 5 employees and sole traders offering a variety of services and trades e.g. Theatre Production Carpenter, Bespoke Catering, Special Effects Makeup (International). One pub has 13 employees.

In total there were 73 businesses who responded to the questionnaire.

Of the 73 respondents who answered the questions about their business:

53% own their premises while 22% have a lease. 3% have been operational for 1 year, 18% for 2-5 years, 15% for 6-10 years and 37% for more than 10 years.

Of the questions answered: 64 people are employed, 8 employees lived in Alvington, 14 employees travel 0-5miles, 7 employees travel 6-10 miles, 3 employees travel over 10 miles. 8 walk to work, 13 use a vehicle and 2 use public transport.

2. Infrastructure

All 73 respondents replied to Infrastructure questions:

45% said broadband was adequate and 53% inadequate.

34% said that mobile phone coverage was adequate and 66% inadequate.

A variety of mobile phone providers are used including BT, O2, Vodafone, EE, Tesco, Orange and THREE. The majority of respondents used Vodafone (16) and EE (28)

Comments regarding Broadband stated that it was very slow and often intermittent. Generally businesses need high speed broadband while comments state download speed is around 5mpbs. Where the business relied on technology this has had a negative effect with one respondent reporting they were changing their business model.

Residents are welcome to contribute articles, letters and opinions to the newsletter.

ALVINGTON NDP continued...

Mobile phone comments stated that poor, or in some cases no, signal had affected business calls; different providers appeared to make no difference.

Comments regarding transport mainly concern the amount of traffic on the A48, especially at rush hours, and the poor state of the road making their business less accessible.

Some examples of the comments which illustrate the effect on their business:

"Mobile Phone - very poor, have to go up the hill to get a good reception. This makes communication with clients and workers difficult, land line too expensive".

"Broad band poor - drops out. We sell by online website so broadband is essential. Re: plans to change business model - perhaps".

"Broadband - loads of problems regularly goes down. Mobile phones - not very good".

"Wi-Fi is crucial to pub business - it makes our customers think about returning".

"There is a Pay point, Lotto and a cash machine on site which all rely on internet signal to work. Sometimes the signal strength is too weak for these machines to operate meaning we therefore lose trade. We have tried various network providers for the sites internet service but still have problems and have regular visits from engineers to try and improve this. Mobile phone reception on all major networks is a problem, most of the time there is not a strong enough signal to even make a call let alone pick up 3G which seems non existent in this area! Can't easily keep up with business emails. No phone calls and text."

"Slow internet access sometimes unable to access bank and websites, emails etc."

"Broadband service is very poor. BT say we can get up to 8 Mb download but most of the time this is closer to 5 Mb. Upload around 0.7 Mb. Mobile signal is also very bad."

"Public transport available is virtually none."

"A48, if you wish to get to Gloucester or get passed Chepstow in the morning, forget it!"

"Transport and road issues affects business - 'difficult in sales'"

"Roads - A48 has become much worse over the last 7 years. More commercial vehicles and they now start at 3 am whereas used to be 5 am."

Ref: Alvington NDP business analysis 2018

Alvington Business survey summary 2017 prepared by Kate Baugh GRCC Community Adviser

Zumba & Belly Dancing at the Memorial Hall

Monday	6:15 pm to 7:15 pm	Zumba - Jo	
	8:00 pm to 9:15 pm	Belly Dancing - Rikki	Tel: 845573
Wednesday	9:30 am to 10:30 am	Zumba - Jane	Tel: 564305
Thursday	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Belly Dancing - Rikki	
Friday	9:30 am to 10:30 am	Zumba - Jane	
	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Zumba - Jo	

Have you a business or enterprise that you would like to advertise in our newsletter?

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www.resilientenergy.co.uk/REACR T: 01594 529688

Resilient Energy Alvington Court Renewables is a Community Benefit Society registered with the FCA

Shareholders must be 16 yrs or over

To find out the latest news on the Alvington Turbine Community Resilience Fund allocations, as well as details of the Fund Criteria and an Application Form, visit the dedicated website www.resilientenergy.co.uk/REACR.

There are two funding rounds a year with application deadlines on 30th July and 31st January.

Bream Voluntary Car Service deliver an excellent service, totally volunteer run, but it is becoming increasingly more difficult to keep up with demand. Over the last four years they have taken people and their carers on nearly 8000 journeys to medical appointments both locally and out of the district e.g. to hospitals in Gloucestershire, Oxford, Bristol, Birmingham. Drivers provide a door-to-door service, ensuring that you are booked in for your appointment and waiting until you are ready to return home however long the appointment takes.

"Beneficiaries' would struggle to go on public transport so it takes the stress out of their day. It is very much about relationships, trust and social care." (trustee)

Some drivers like to stay local and take people to the dentist, opticians or the surgery. Others like to go further afield. If you have time to give to make sure everyone gets to their appointment please contact Brian on 01594 560257. Mileage is paid, bridge tolls and parking if necessary. Please could you support BVCS by asking those people you know if they would be willing to be a volunteer driver?

If you want to see more watch the two short films and share the links.

[Bream Voluntary car service](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ihk4pGmKrOU&feature=youtu.be) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ihk4pGmKrOU&feature=youtu.be>

[Bream Voluntary Car Service in the Forest of Dean](https://www.dropbox.com/s/czctkyjs4va9cu6/bream%20video.mp4?dl=0) <https://www.dropbox.com/s/czctkyjs4va9cu6/bream%20video.mp4?dl=0>

Are you one of the hidden gems who has a car and can volunteer?



"I have used Bream voluntary car service for seven years and they are excellent" (passenger)

**BREAM
VOLUNTARY
CAR SERVICE**

Please phone:
01594 560257

Email:
bvcs@btconnect.com



Some drivers like 'short and local'
Others like longer distances
Can you help any of the passengers in the Forest of Dean district who need to travel by car to medical appointments
Locally or further to Oxford Bristol Gloucester Abergavenny Birmingham Hereford Cheltenham

Residents are welcome to contribute articles, letters and opinions to the newsletter.

PAVILION - PLAYING FIELD FEEDBACK

The Playing Field Committee attended the Village Development Plan open day 23/10/16 to seek guidance on the future development of the Alvington Playing Field in order to benefit the village as a whole.

This was well attended and gave many of the villagers, of all ages, the opportunity to express their opinions on how the playing field could be developed.

In order to gather as much information as possible a questionnaire was available for all to complete.

The information from this was then correlated in order to gain an overview of opinions of which many were duplicated and the numbers of the same proposal were then identified presenting a common opinion.

There were 20 responses as well as many verbal comments, which were recorded also.

Pavilion style

There were 3 styles of building raised, consisting of a wooden design with a veranda of the classical style, an all brick version and a more radical approach. This was of the farm barn style with a metal frame and an infill of brick with an upper floor.

All of the buildings were defined as having changing rooms, showers with toilets and a recreation area for after match and social events.

Several brochures were available for viewing and the prices quoted ranged from a basic £35,000 to £250,000.

The wooden building attracted the most attention and further information as to weatherproofing and fireproofing qualities are being sought.

Example of most popular type—go to link

<http://www.hodgson-timber-buildings.co.uk/subpage.asp?subpageid=17>

Location

It was agreed that a pavilion would be a popular asset to the playing field as the views are superb.

The obvious site would be adjacent to the car park area for easy access by all users, including anyone who is infirm or disabled and therefore wheel chair access is vital.

The alternative is the area occupied by the containers. However, this would require quite a substantial footpath to be constructed along the edge of the football field. Both options are being considered and we are attempting to understand fully the costs of each.

Fund raising

There was a great deal of interest shown in the methods of raising the finance necessary. Some of the ideas are controversial but all agreed it would need the involvement of the village generally to drive these forward and not just verbal promises. With this in mind it is hoped that the Playing Field Committee will receive some active positive support.

The suggestions are listed here with numbers alongside to show commonality of support.

1. Sell the Parish Hall (5)

This proposal included selling the Memorial Hall, whilst retaining some space for church parking and using the money raised towards building a new Hall/Pavillion on the Playing Field. This option has been discussed by the Parish Council and the Memorial Hall Trustees and in the first instance put aside. It is important that the village has continuous access to a hall and both the Parish Council and the Memorial Hall Trustees were uncomfortable with the idea of a gap in provision between one closing and the other opening. It was agreed to review this decision after any new hall/pavilion was built.

2. Income from the Wind Turbine (6)

This is an obvious approach and one the Council have actively pursued. A grant of £5,000 has been received from REACR (Wind Turbine) to enable plans to be prepared and an architect has been appointed to prepare initial drawings in line with the recommendations of the Playing Field committee and the feedback received from villagers. Further grant applications are being prepared to enable continued work on this exciting possibility and there have been some very positive responses to enquiries.

PAVILION PLAYING FIELD FEEDBACK continued..

3. Annual Fete and BBQ (3)

This a common theme and sadly despite several attempts to support previous requests for a Fete and village Carnival there has been no offers from the village to become involved apart from verbal support. However, I do believe that as this would be held for a worthy cause then more support would be forthcoming.

4. Sponsor a Brick (2)

This would obviously only work if the building was brick however there could be other methods of sponsorship and these should be explored.

5. Sponsors/Heritage fund (4)

Nick the cricket captain spent 4 hours at a very involved and fruitful meeting to discuss various avenues to approach in order to raise charity donations. The Playing Field has already benefitted on 2 occasions from approaches made to the Active Together scheme supported by Patrick Molyneux and more approaches can be made to the various sport sponsors including Gloucester Cricket. The Dog-Training Group has also raised funding which was donated to the Playing Field Fund which is ring fenced for specific use of the Playing Field. There is currently an expectation from most sponsors that the applicants will demonstrate their willing participation and raise between 5 & 10 percent of the funding applied for. Any funding applied for should cover all costs such as the installation of services, footpath and disposal of waste, etc.

6. External team users (8)

Encourage more events on the field, including teams from outside the village, as an income generator for the benefit of the village as a whole. This would generate an interest for the use of the pavilion and would be an income generator and reduce the cost of maintenance. There is sometimes an impression that the field is for the benefit of parishioners only which would restrict the possibility of increased income and limit grant potential.

For example the cricket team has players from as far a field as Cheltenham and Chepstow and so in the bid for funding the entire population of these two areas are considered as potential users and so this would "demonstrate" the popularity of the field and generate more interest leading to a more generous offer with the subsequent benefit to the village.

farOpen Studios

After our successful events in 2017, farOpen studios return in July 2018, including a Taster Exhibition at Taurus Craft from **29th June - 15th July** and an exhibition from **7th July - 22nd July** at the Dean Heritage Museum.

From mid May pick up one of our brochures from public libraries, tourist information in and around the Forest of Dean, or check our website for studio locations and an interactive map.

Look out for our banners and flags

www.faropen.co.uk

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Bonnie at Tropic

You can also visit our website at www.alvingtonvillage.org

Parish Council

www.alvingtonvillage.org

The council meets at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall on the first Wednesday of every month but not in January and August. Members of the public are always very welcome to attend.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Chairman

Alan Haslam Tel: 01594 529837 E-mail: haslamhazelwood@btinternet.com

Vice Chairman

Richard Heys Tel: 07967 709722 E-mail: richard.veys3@gmail.com

Parish Clerk

Meg Humphries Tel: 01594 719245 E-mail: alvingtonclerk@outlook.com

Councillors

Lisa Chidley Tel: 07496 127117 E-mail: lisaichidley@gmail.com

Gail Thompson Tel: 01594 529708 Email: gail@xsound.demon.co.uk

Chris Miles Tel: 07787 472656 Email: chris.miles@icloud.com

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Frankie Evans Tel: 07951 125597 E-mail: Frankie.Evans@fdean.gov.uk

Jim Simpson Tel: 07747 048976 E-mail: jim.simpson@fdean.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL

Patrick Molyneux Tel: 01594 529174 or 07802 269057.

Email: patrick.molyneux@gloucestershire.gov.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MP)

Mark Harper Tel: 01594 823482 E-mail: mark.harper.mp@parliament.uk

GLoucestershire POLICE & COMMUNITY OFFICERS

Non Emergency Number: 101

Street Wardens:

Tel: 01594 810000

Neighbourhood Watch:

Forest of Dean: Chrissie Parkes.

Tel: 01452 753784

Snow Wardens:

John Wintour Tel: 01594 529234

&

Roger Lewis Tel: 01594 529422

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS:

Terry Jones (Treasurer)

Tel: 01594 529287

Some useful Telephone Numbers

National Rail Enquiries: 0345 7484950
Travel Line: 0871 2002233

Airports:

Bristol: 0871 3344444

Cardiff: 01446 711111

Gatwick: 0844 8920322

Heathrow: 0844 3351801

Bonfire/Noise/Nuisance Complaints:

F. of Dean District Council 01594 810000

Gloucestershire County Council:

01452 425000

Forest of Dean District Council:

01594 810000

NHS Dentists: 0300 3301348

NHS Direct/Out of Hours Tel: 111

Lydney Doctors:

Severnbank Surgery 01594 845715

The Lydney Practice 01594 842167

Hospitals:

Lydney: 0300 4218722

Dilke: 0300 4218640

Gloucestershire Royal: 0300 4222222

Pharmacists/Chemists:

Lloyds Lydney: 01594 842847

Lydney Co-Op: 01594 843443

All Emergency Services:

Western Power (enquiries) 0800 404090

Western Power (power cuts) 105

Severn Trent Water 0800 7834444

Dial A Ride

01594 843809

Cinemas:

Coleford Studio Cinema 01594 833331

Cinderford Palace Cinema 01594 822555

Freedom Leisure Centre: 01594 842383

Libraries:

Lydney: 01594 842769

Chepstow: 01291 635730

ALVINGTON PLAYING FIELD AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Visit:

www.alvingtonvillage.org

For rates contact::

Meg Humphries: 01594 719 245

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Contact:

Terry Jones, Tel: **01594 529287**



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4.30pm-6.30pm
Newnham Mon/Wed/Fri 7pm-7.30pm,
Tue/Thu 12.30pm-1pm

 @severnsidevetgroup

Have you a business or enterprise that you would like to advertise in our newsletter?