

# Albury Matters



## The Albury Parish Council Newsletter

Serving Albury, Farley Green, Brook, Little London & Newlands Corner

## SPECIAL EDITION - October 2013

### What will Albury look like 10 years from now?

For the last two years an independent group of volunteers, representing a broad spectrum of our community and chaired by William Moorwood, consulted with the many associations, clubs and organisations in Albury, as well as all the local households to get views as to how the parish might positively develop during the next ten years. This resulted in a *Parish Needs Questionnaire*, the outcome of which was distributed to all households in the parish.

The Parish Needs Questionnaire highlighted a number of key areas that you would like us to focus on. The resultant '**Terms of Reference**' have now been formally adopted by the Parish Council and are summarised in this special edition of *Albury Matters*. There are some exciting items on the agenda, including the possibility of a new village shop, a local nursery, traffic calming in the village and affordable housing for the elderly.

The Localism Act received Royal Assent in November 2011 and gives new powers for parish councils that will help us to take these ideas forward.

The Act provides parish councils with the **General Power of Competence**, which enables them to do whatever local people think fit, provided that this does not clash with other laws. It also introduces the **Community Right to Challenge**, whereby parishes can bid to run services more effectively

than Guildford Borough or Surrey County Council, and a **Community Right to Bid** which allows parishes to stop the clock on the sale of assets of community value, giving them the time to get funding and a business plan in place to take over those assets.



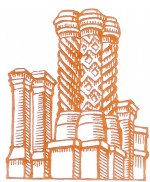
#### ALBURY PARISH – FINDING OUT WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Finally and perhaps most importantly, the Act also introduces *Neighbourhood Planning*, which empowers parishes to decide where they want new homes, shops and offices; what new developments should look like; and which green spaces they most want to protect.

A new parish council committee has been formed to produce a Parish Plan and consider how the Localism Act can help with our Vision and Objectives. It will comprise of five parish councillors plus a further five members of the public. **We are keen to involve as many parishioners as possible.**

We need active community involvement to deliver **your vision for our parish**. Please get involved and make a contribution to what Albury will look like in 10 years time.

**Nick Wenman, Chairman Albury Parish Council**



## Parish Plan Advisory Committee

### “Terms of Reference”



**Scope:** The committee will consider and work towards the realisation of the Vision and Objectives resulting from the *Parish Needs Questionnaire*.

**Vision Statement:** “Maintain and build a sustainable, vibrant, community that meets the needs of Parishioners whilst preserving the character and heritage of Albury Parish”.

#### Objectives:

- Create a Village Green in the heart of Albury.
- Improve and develop support for businesses and home workers in the community.
- Ensure the sustainability of a Village Shop.
- Meet the housing needs of the Parish with emphasis on affordable starter homes and housing for the elderly.
- Establish the feasibility and viability of providing local nursery and childcare facilities.
- Maintain the amenity of a community centre (currently provided by the Village Hall).
- Implement traffic calming measures through Albury Village.

*All decisions made by this advisory committee must be considered and ratified by the full Council before implementation.*

**Composition:** Five members, whose Chairman will be appointed by the Parish Council. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members. The committee will co-opt five members from the Parish and additional persons as necessary, where their knowledge and/or expertise will facilitate the committee’s work.

**Meetings:** Four per annum as a minimum.

#### Functions:

- To consider the **Vision** and associated **Objectives** raised by the *Parish Needs Questionnaire* and make recommendations to full Council on its feasibility.
- To identify those issues which can be brought to fruition and to draw up a plan on how this can be achieved for each objective.
- To take those plans forward, with full public consultation.
- To ensure that residents of the Parish of Albury receive full and regular reports on the actions and plans of the Committee.
- To liaise with the Parish Council, Borough and County Council, all outside agencies and grant making organisations in order to ensure that all plans are legal, feasible and funded.
- To report back to the Parish Council at all stages, by means of meeting minutes and verbal reports, and accept the decision of the Parish Council as final.

These Terms of Reference were unanimously adopted at the Parish Council Meeting that was held on Monday 2 September.

The five Members elected from the Parish Council are:

- Roy Hogben, (Albury Village).
- Grahame Robinson (Westonfields/ Village)
- John Brockwell (Little London)
- Peter Gellatly (Farley Green)
- Steve Scott (Farley Green)

***The inaugural open meeting of this Advisory Committee will be held in the Village Hall on 11 November at 7.30pm***

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?

The idea behind the Government’s Localism Act is that decision making is passed down to a more local level. Local communities are now much more empowered to lead and influence decisions as to the future direction that Albury takes.

If you have enthusiasm, and maybe practical experience in any of the **Objectives** listed above and would like to be involved in helping to shape Albury’s future well-being then please make contact with your **Parish Clerk, Joanna Cadman: [joanna@joannacadman.com](mailto:joanna@joannacadman.com) or phone: 01483 268 627**