

Alvechurch Parish Council Newsletter Autumn 2019

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

Bromsgrove District Council is reviewing its District Plan, including a re-assessment of the green belt across the district because more land is needed for housing. The review started last year with an Issues and options paper which local people were able to comment on (3500 comments were received). A methodology for assessing the green belt was also agreed and in September 2019 this was considered by Bromsgrove Councillors, including the 3 “Independents” representing Alvechurch.

What does this mean for our Parish ? Green belt land around the district has been divided into 60 areas, several of which lie wholly or partly within Alvechurch Parish. Each of these land parcels, as they are called, has been assessed against its contribution to the aims of the green belt. Broadly those aims are to prevent urban sprawl, keep communities separated and maintain the openness of the rural environment.

What will happen next ? If Bromsgrove Councillors approve recent progress, there will be a “call for sites”, an opportunity for landowners and developers to tell the District Council that they would like a particular piece of land to be considered for development. Even if Bromsgrove DC decides that a piece of land could be developed in future, the usual planning procedures would have to be followed.

What is the Parish Council doing ? APC wants to be assured that Bromsgrove DC is not treating the Hearn report as evidence of “local” housing need. That report was a desk-top study of perceived regional housing need which recommended significant Birmingham “overspill” be located in north Worcestershire...and which led to the concept of a new settlement Barntchurch emerging. Using our Neighbourhood Plan, APC is working with our independent District Councillors to see what growth is sustainable here, and what isn't. Factors like improved rail services might appear to support housing growth but our current oversubscribed schools and medical centre ...and relatively poor road infrastructure, point to more substantial future growth being concentrated around Bromsgrove town.

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS COLLABORATING

Two new Parish Councillors have been co-opted recently ...our web site shows the full list. It also shows our 3 District Councillors and our County Councillor. Meetings have taken place between Parish and District Cllrs to plan how best to work together, especially in taking the Neighbourhood Plan forward. Meetings are planned soon to look at highways issues across the Parish.

PARISH PLAYING FIELDS

The Finlay Church Memorial Garden at The Meadows is complete as low safety fencing now protects small children from the recently-installed “lovelock tree. Further tree pruning has been carried out in line with the Council's tree management surveys and better signage will soon be installed. New Homes Bonus funding was recently approved by Bromsgrove DC to install a storage facility for sports equipment owned by football teams using the pitch. Future car parking options at Rowney Green playing fields are being discussed with local residents and the football teams that use that pitch. This is the beginning of Council work on a Parish-wide sports and recreational strategy, on which there will be wide consultations..

In brief....

- Mayfield “Farm”...in August a Public Inquiry led to the Traffic Commissioner imposing more restrictions on vehicle movements to the business and requested a noise reduction plan to reduce the impact on local residents.
- Parish Councillors are considering the best way to support the Cleaner Greener Alvechurch initiative, set up by our independent District Councillors and prominent on social media.
- The bus shelter on Birmingham Road has been repaired....please let the Parish Office know if you see examples of similar vandalism so APC can resolve them quickly.

You can contact the Parish Council on 0121 447 8016 or email clerk@alvechurch.gov.uk. The minutes of recent PC meetings appear on our website www.alvechurch.gov.uk and you can find us on Facebook under Alvechurch Parish Council.