**SHUTTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 2018-2019**

Welcome and thank you all for coming to our Annual Open Meeting.

I would like to thank the many people who support the role of the Parish Council and who serve on the Parish Council. Firstly, former Cllr Jayne Cooper who has sadly had to stand down due to pressures of work. She represented Alvecote and ran the Friends of Alvecote meetings to raise money for the revamped play area which is now nearing completion. She will be sadly missed by the residents of Alvecote in particular. Cllr Gary Hope who is Vice Chairman and is always ready to step in to help when needed. He is unable to be with us today. Cllr Brian Frost continues to take a very active part on the Parish Council and is also Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee. Cllr Michael Smith continues to support the Parish Council with his many years’ experience. For most of the year we had a vacancy and I am pleased to say that Nigel O’Mara has agreed to come on to the Parish Council and he was co-opted on as a Cllr at the last meeting. I am pleased to report that all 5 Cllrs are standing for re-election on May 2, so we still have one vacancy for Alvecote, due to the loss of Cllr Jayne Cooper.

Lastly, I would like to thank Anita for all the hard work she has done as Clerk to the Parish Council and particularly, her work in supporting Cllr Jayne Cooper on the play area and the Friends of Alvecote. My wife Lynda Kovach continues to maintain the Parish web site, which seems to get a regular following. Finally, Nick Thomas continues to carry out mowing and other support work at both Alvecote Play Area and Shuttington Playing fields.

We are also very fortunate to have the support of 2 active Borough Councillors in David and Marian Humphreys, who have supported many of our campaigns over the year. They are also standing in the May 2 elections. Our thanks too to Dave Parsons, our County Councillor who has supported our Cohesion Meetings and been active in the many village initiatives. Lastly, we are very fortunate to have the active support of our MP (Craig Tracey MP). Victoria Stapleton, a member of his office staff, is with us today. All of these representatives have played a part in our attempts to resolve the problems we have experienced in Alvecote.

**FINANCIAL**

Despite the costs of the upgrade to the Alvecote Play Area and the Leader grant application, we have decided to keep the precept at the same value (£6000). We do not anticipate the play area costing the Parish Council any extra initially, although we may need to pay more in insurance and maintenance in the future as well as inspections. We are pleased that the Archery Club is moving to Shuttington as this will provide some extra income in the future. The Whippets continue to provide a good income.

**PARISH HALL**

Thanks to Cllr Brian Frost and former Cllr Jayne Cooper and the rest of the committee for their work on the Hall. The committee room is now finished and provides an ideal meeting room for small meetings.

**PLANNING**

Planning continues to be a major concern in the Parish and surrounding area. While we are happy to see small scale developments within the Parish, we do feel the infrastructure within the villages is not sufficient to see anything much over the 10 houses shown in the core strategy. Despite this we did not oppose the application for 24 houses south of the Parish Hall. A presentation was held in the village hall in January and a planning application followed soon after.

A major application for a huge industrial park by IM Properties at Junction 11 on the M42 was made in November. The site would cover 240 acres of farmland and create 3000 jobs. The Parish Council objected on the grounds that we deplored the loss of so much farmland, there were already far too many industrial parks in the area and we were concerned at the traffic which would be drawn to and from the site via our villages.

We expect the Arkall Farm development to go ahead, though again this is likely to impact on our villages with traffic using our roads as short cuts to avoid Tamworth.

We have attended a number of HS2 presentations. One of these was organised by our MP Craig Tracey and the other by HS2 themselves. We have responded to their planning application. While we do not expect the operation to affect our villages, the construction phase will have a massive impact. The construction will take place on the far side of M42, but that means the displaced traffic will all be on our side. Many major roads are likely to be closed for months, so this will be a repeat of the chaos we experienced when the Ashby Road was closed or when M42 was closed due to an accident.

We still experience some heavy lorries coming through the village of Shuttington, despite the 7.5 tonne weight restriction. The police are not really interested and suggest we report them to Highways. The most effective course seems to be to phone the companies directly and talk to the transport manager, but this all takes time.

Finally, just after the New Year the Alvecote Place application was submitted with roughly 200 documents. Initially these were in the wrong format, so we could not access them online. The application for 1540 houses and a care home for 100 people and a school in our Parish is likely to have a huge impact on both Alvecote and Shuttington. The problem is neither Highways nor Hallam Development seem to think any extra traffic will come north. Our aim is to get them to admit that it will and then to suggest what they will do about this. This is ongoing. We have submitted our objections and support Steven Briggs in his concerns about Alvecote Woods. We are hoping to arrange meetings with Warwickshire Highways and Geoff Brown at the Borough Council to express our views.

**ALVECOTE**

Dave Parsons was able to secure another defibrillator for Alvecote and we arranged for it to be put in the Sam Barlow public house. We arranged training on 5/7/19 which was run by Cllr Gary Hope. Keith Barlow carried out the training and special thanks to Alison Burge from the Sam Barlow.

A grant for almost £40,000 has been approved for the play area and the work is now almost complete, with the zip wire being the final piece of equipment to be installed. This is a tremendous achievement and a credit to Jayne Cooper and our clerk Anita Allsopp for all their efforts. We also have to thank the many volunteers in Alvecote who have carried out work over the years. It is a tribute to them all.

Despite this we continue to have many problems in the village and so much of our meetings are focussed on these issues. We have had children using the play area as a toilet, and more recently adults using the ash path behind the play area. We have had problems with children using catapults on the play area site against a Cllr and people coming to quote for work. The PC notice board was smashed and had to be repaired. Following Halloween, we had numerous residents complaining about children from the site being aggressive, asking for money for trick or treat and kicking doors. We have repeatedly tried to get regular Cohesion meetings, but these have proved difficult. We finally achieved a meeting on 8/1/19 after help from the two Borough Councillors, the County Councillor and the MP. This was very constructive. It resulted in further CCTV cameras and the promise for County members to attend regular PC meetings. Following this I attended the site with Dave Parsons County Councillor and met with Paul Gibbs and two other people responsible for the site. We sincerely hope that this continues to improve so that we see a reduction in anti-social behaviour and hopefully the new play area being used by all residents of Alvecote.

**SHUTTINGTON**

At a meeting of the PC in September, we expressed an interest in Speed Aware training. A number of residents of both Shuttington and Alvecote expressed an interest in this and the police took details. PCSO Sarah Fretter has details of all the volunteers. PCSO Ali Adnam has been to the villages on 8/1/19 to fix the site where we will carry out the checks and we now have a speed gun purchased for £1,198.80 with a grant. We are still waiting for a date for the training to take place.

We had a very successful Neighbourhood Watch Meeting in the Parish Hall 8/1/19 to showcase all the many products available to protect our property. We understand the parish is now able to obtain packs for use by residents who are away on holiday.

We arranged a second litter pick in Shuttington on Saturday 30 March beginning at 10am. 15 people turned up and we collected 30 bags of rubbish. We picked from the bridge up the hill and down New Road. Two people also picked on Sunday. We also cleaned several of the road signs that were covered in green slime. A big thank you to all the people who turned out; we had two children and several dogs helping. Despite this effort, new rubbish is already being deposited. We are hoping to have our own pickers and vests etc, so that we can arrange further impromptu picks as we can. The Borough Council are buying more equipment to facilitate this.

Cllr Gary Hope has obtained 4 signs detailing Shuttington’s mention in the Domesday Book. One is near the Church, two are on the pub and one is on the hall. They cost £18 each.

The PC has received £75 from BARC Products as a fee for releasing a helium balloon from the field. This is to send someone’s ashes into space.

Following a meeting in September when we discussed the fly tipping up Laundry Lane, the police are now monitoring this on a regular basis and we understand they are also erecting CCTV cameras to assist with this.

The PC is issuing a survey to ask people’s view over a need for play equipment in Shuttington. We will then apply for grant funding for this.

We now have two clubs using the field on a regular basis. The Whippet Club and an Archery Club. This is a valuable income to the village and helps us maintain the field for local residents.

The Village Voice continues to keep residents informed and our thanks for this are extended to Claire Holloway. We are also grateful to the residents of Shuttington and Alvecote who use the Facebook Shuttington Informed website to publicise local events, road closures, floods etc.

The Parish Council continue to work closely with the Village Hall Committee and social gatherings are arranged particularly on a monthly basis in the form of a coffee morning for the local residents.

Finally, we as a PC would encourage residents to become more involved within the community and look forward to any constructive feedback however small or large. Shuttington Parish Council has a long and proud history of service to the community. Long may this continue into the future.