Alsager Town Council

Welcome to Alsager Town Council's Newsletter

We have 15 Councillors, 6 in West Ward, 5 in East Ward and 4 in Central ward, where there is currently a vacancy. There are 3 Cheshire East Ward Councillors who all also sit on the Town Council; Councillor Brian Drake, Councillor Rod Fletcher and Councillor Reg Kain.

All Councillors are here to represent the town of Alsager and listen to your views. It has to be recognised that we are not responsible for everything in the town. We do not make financial commitments to roads, bin emptying, household waste disposal, libraries or the leisure centres, BUT we are here to help the town and make good decisions on your behalf. We know, as you do, that Cheshire East is facing huge financial pressures and they are approaching the Town Council for contributions towards their assets. The libraries are under pressure with reduced hours and in some areas closing. The Leisure Centres have shortfalls, the household waste sites are being reduced in numbers and the introduction of car parking charges poses lots of issues.

Cheshire East Responsibilities	
Refuse Collection	✓
Car Parking Charges	✓
Library	✓
Roads	✓
Leisure Centre	✓
Planning	✓
Grass Cutting	✓

Alsager Town Council	
Alsager Civic	✓
Crewe Road Public Toilets	✓
Allotments	✓
Alsager Institute	✓
Alsager Town Council Offices	✓
Neighbourhood Plan	✓
Horticultural Planters	✓
Grants to Alsager Community Groups	✓

The Town Council sets a precept every year. This year it is £608,070 which is a £107.19 cost to a Band D property. The Town Council has to set a budget every year and we begin this process in August in order to request the precept from Cheshire East in January. Please let us know your thoughts by emailing clerk@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk

Financial Pressures v Reduced Services v Rates

It is very well known that Cheshire East Council have financial challenges in trying to balance their budget against ever increasing costs.

This has led to changes in many of its non-essential services and the effects have been very clear on Alsager and its residents. Charges to empty the garden waste bins were introduced for the first time this year and you may have noticed that the maintenance of grass verges has been reduced, some becoming overgrown. From October, Alsager and other towns, will have car parking charges introduced, despite very strong objections from the Town Council, residents and business owners.

In addition to all of the above we are also faced with the potential of the Alsager Tip closing and a reduction in the times and services offered by our Leisure Centre and Sports Hub.

All of these actions by Cheshire East Council either reduce its costs or add to its revenues as ways to balancing their books.

These reductions in services are not new and, over the past years, Alsager Town Council in consultation with residents, has taken on responsibility for a number of facilities such as Alsager Civic and the Public Toilets which would otherwise have closed.

The Town Council feels that it is essential not to lose any of Alsager's facilities and to improve some of the reduced service levels and standards. In a short while, we will start the process of preparing for 2025/26, to help shape this the Town Council would welcome your views on where our spending should be focused.

Please address your views to the Town Clerk:

Email: clerk@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01270 876440

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Councillor Vacancy

Central Ward

Could you be a Town Councillor and make a difference to where you live?

Please contact the Town Clerk for more information.

Email
clerk@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk
or
Telephone: 01270 876440

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Community Grants Available!

Each year Alsager Town Council makes provision in its annual budget for grants to help voluntary bodies, local organisations and clubs in the Town.

During 2023-24 the Council supported a number of different organisations including Alsager Civic Lunch Club, Pride in Alsager, Alsager Round Table, Royal British Legion and Alsager Music Festival.

Who can apply?
Clubs, community groups and voluntary organisations who serve the residents of Alsager.

How to apply?
Visit our website www.alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk and download the grant application form and the Policy and Terms of Reference document or, alternatively call the Town Council offices on: **01270 876440.**

When to apply?
The Town Council's Grants Panel will meet twice during the year, in January and October, all applications must be submitted to the Town Council by 30th December or 30th September respectively in order to be considered for funding.

When will we know if we have been successful?
If the Grants Panel recommend the grant application for approval this will be considered by either the Town Council's Finance Committee or the Full Council at its next available meeting. And if successful, payment will be made after that meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan Review

Alsager Town Council is about to embark on the process of reviewing the Alsager Neighbourhood Plan.

The Alsager Neighbourhood Plan was approved by referendum in 2020 after being drafted by local councillors and residents. The plan sits as a 'third tier' of planning legislation alongside the Cheshire East Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Neighbourhood Plan is of vital importance. It contains policies on issues around development, the natural and built environment, the local economy, transport and local services. Cheshire East Council as the local planning authority must take each policy into account when considering new planning applications.

Cheshire East Council is currently undergoing a review of its own Local Plan, therefore there is a need to review our Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it is updated, strengthened and is equipped to help shape the development of Alsager up to 2040.

While Alsager Town Council owns and has responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan, the review must be community-led.

We are looking for people who are passionate in helping to review the Plan and have a part in helping to shape the future development of our town. We need people like you, who might have experience on issues such as planning, the environment, local services or just have views on what Alsager should look like in 2040. If you are interested in getting involved with helping to shape Alsager's future development, please do get in touch. We would love to hear from you. Please email:

Cllr Michael Unett, Chair of the Planning, Environment & Community Committee
michael.unett@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk

Julie Mason
Town Clerk
clerk@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk

For more information on the Alsager Neighbourhood Plan, please visit:
www.alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk/alsagerneighbourhoodplan/

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Alsager Mayor's Newsletter

Connecting the Community

Councillor Jane Hearne was unanimously chosen to lead the Council for another year, with Councillor Michael Unett as her Deputy. After 12 months as the Civic Head, it is the tradition for the role to be passed on to the Councillor who has been Deputy Mayor the previous year, but in departing from the old ways, Jane Hearne was re-elected in May this year. This is great news for the Mayor as Jane has many projects in the pipeline and would like to fulfil her duties whilst in her role. Along with all her charity work, Jane would like the residents of Alsager to get to know their Mayor.

2024/2025 Mayor Charities

STROKE SURVIVORS
Speech & Language Support Group

YOUNG CARERS

2023/2024 Events Attended

Alsager Civic Bigz Bonanza
Alsager Garden Association
Alsager Civic Service
Alsager Pride Event
Civic Awards
TWITTS Memorial Show
...and
many more!!

INVITATION TO UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ALL

15TH SEPTEMBER
CIVIC SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

24TH NOVEMBER
ALSAGER LIGHT SWITCH ON

8TH DECEMBER
MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT AT ALSAGER CIVIC

FEB/MARCH
MAYORS BALL

23RD MARCH 2025
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & AWARDS EVENING

Please follow The Mayor Jane Hearne on Facebook

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Alsager Civic Venue Hire

Alsager Civic is the perfect venue to host a bespoke Civil Ceremony, Wedding Breakfast and or Reception. As well as Birthday Parties, Charity Events or many other Celebrations. We offer exclusive use of the venue which can accommodate comfortably between 40 and 200 guests. The versatility of the building allows the use of a large main hall and two additional rooms either for smaller parties or great additional extras such as children's entertainment space, photo booths, quiet areas etc.

The impressive Robert Heap Hall has a fabulously large dance floor, stage area, access to our fully licensed bar, PA/ sound system and professional lighting.

The Lawton Suite is a more intimate room which can accommodate smaller Civil Ceremonies and Wedding Breakfast for around 40 guests.

We offer support with planning and coordination, and an event manager will be present on your special day to offer assistance.

Wedding and Party prices start from £250.00

For more information or to book an appointment, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01270 879711 or Email enquiries@alsagercivic.org.uk

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ALSAGER CIVIC
SUMMER HOLIDAYS

For more info call 01270 879711 or email enquiries@alsagercivic.org.uk

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Alsager Town Council Environmental and Open Spaces Working Group

The council's Environmental Working Group and Open Spaces Working Group merged in March 2023. The Council then hosted a Climate Action meeting on 11th October 2023 for Alsager residents to discuss how they can mitigate the effects of climate change.

Residents came up with 4 areas of focus; Housing, Transport, Trees and a Repair Cafe.

The Environmental and Open Spaces Working group (EOSWG to it's friends!) has met 3 times. Alsager is fortunate to have several residents with knowledge, skills and motivation to meet the challenges of climate change. So far, many topics have been discussed including Cheshire East Council's Highway Tree Planting policy, Himalayan Balsam Bashing, cycle parking and littering prevention.

EOSWG actions from November 2023 to March 2024 include planting trees (including 2 commemorated by Girl Guiding Alsager and Alsager Townswomen's Guild), autumn maintenance in Alsager Community Orchard, working with Alsager Fair Trade Steering Group to hold the Ethical Local Fairtrade Green Health and Wellbeing Fair in March 2024, and purchasing and distributing 50 native shrub saplings to Alsager residents for their front gardens.

There is also an Alsager Building Energy Group who are researching Community Energy schemes for Alsager.

With support from members of Alsager Urban Wildlife Initiative, saplings (donated by an Alsager resident and Trees for Congleton group) were planted on Cedar Avenue open space, with the permission and guidance of Cheshire East Council who own the land.

There is much to do. EOSWG welcome volunteers who can join their group and:

- **Be the Alsager Plastics Free Community lead**
- **Start an Alsager Repair Cafe**
- **Assist with maintenance of Alsager Community Orchard**
- **Help with Himalayan Balsam Bashing**
- **Identify sites for planting of trees and hedges**

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 18th July, 7pm in the Lawton Suite at Alsager Civic. All Alsager residents welcome!

Contact Cllr Rachel White for more details:
Email rachel.white@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk or call 07766 586740.

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Your Alsager

Future Vacancy - Part time Town Ranger

Part time Town Ranger (18.5 hours per week)
Actual Salary £12,351 per annum (£24,702 to £26,421 FTE)

At Alsager Town Council we are looking to increase our existing, highly popular Town Ranger service by appointing of a second, part-time Town Ranger.

You will be primarily working alone, outdoors, using your considerable DIY and communication skills to keep our town clean and our community engaged and safe.

A typical week would involve firstly looking at our communities requests, planning the works with colleagues and then undertaking the works on site. Finally providing feedback to our customers and community.

You could be using the Town Ranger van, therefore a full driving licence is essential.

As a Town Ranger, you will be representing the Council. It is therefore incredibly important that you have a caring, understanding and professional attitude towards your work and how you interact with the community. There are no second chances at a first impression.

We are anticipating that we will be advertising for this role in August 2024. If you are interested and would like to have an informal discussion please contact Simon Wootten (Facilities Manager) on 01270 876440 or for an information pack, please send an email to: admin@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk. As always, thank you for your interest.

Have a Bashing Summer!!

Alsager Balsam Bashing Again! (ABBA) is asking for YOUR help to get rid of Himalayan Balsam along riversides in Alsager. For four Sunday mornings we'll have group Bashing to really attack two areas! We start in the early cool but help is welcome whenever.

What to Wear

Balsam thrives in wet areas, with nettles and brambles, so to prevent stings & scratches, be fully covered, with waterproof footwear.

Group Bashing Agenda

Sunday 14th July
8am-11am
Hall Drive Bridge

Alsager - Fairtrade Town

Alsager was awarded Fairtrade Town status in 2007 and this was renewed in 2020.
This was the result of hard work and campaigning by the Alsager Fairtrade Steering Group.
The Fairtrade Steering Group have recently all stepped down due to longevity of service.
Alsager Town Council will now reapply for Fairtrade status.
Fairtrade Town status is on all our Welcome road signs.
Fairtrade Town status is now replaced by Fairtrade Community status.

Alsager Town Council is holding a one-off event to relaunch the Fairtrade Steering Group, to attract new Alsager resident volunteers to improve awareness of Fairtrade goals.

We need you!
Please support this venture by coming along to find out more and volunteering your time for this important cause.

Please email for more details: rachel.white@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk

Alsager Town Councillors

Julie Mason
Town Clerk
T: 01270 867440
E: admin@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillor / Ward	Councillor / Ward	Councillor / Ward
Councillor Stephen Butterfield (WEST) T: 01270 879028 E: stephen.butterfield@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Jane Hearne (CENTRAL) T: 07876 219558 E: jane.hearne@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Richard McCarthy (EAST) T: 01270 873381 E: richmccarthy@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk
Councillor Joe Davies (EAST) T: 07572 756273 E: joedavies@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Pauline Hubbard (WEST) T: 01270 879779 E: pauline.hubbard@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Michael Unett (EAST) T: 07729 506249 E: michael.unett@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk
Councillor Brian Drake (EAST) T: 07786 197303 E: brian.drake@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Reg Kain (CENTRAL) T: 01270 686474 E: reg.kain@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Chris Venables (WEST) T: 01270 878337 E: chris.venables@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk
Councillor Rod Fletcher (WEST) T: 01270 874578 E: rod.fletcher@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Jonathan Keane (EAST) T: 07540 721179 E: jonathan.keane@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Rachel White (EAST) T: 01270 884303 E: rachel.white@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk
Councillor Julian Goodrich (CENTRAL) T: 07876 763942 E: julian.goodrich@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Derek Longhurst (WEST) T: *Not available* E: derek.longhurst@alsagertowncouncil.gov.uk	Councillor Vacancy (CENTRAL) to co-opt.

OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 10.00AM - 12NOON

3 Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2AE.

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