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Albrighton Parking Action Group (APAG)

The first meeting of the Albrighton Parking Action Group

Tuesday 30th January 2024, at **6.30pm** in the Library, Parish Meeting Room, Station Road, Albrighton, WV7 3QH.

APAG 24 01 Welcome by the Chair of the Working Group - Cllr David Meyrick. (DM)

Cllr Meyrick thanked and welcomed everyone for attending. He explained all the information around safety and no fire drills were expected so if the alarm was heard to leave by the exit as stated. Cllr Meyrick continued to ask everyone to complete the sheet which was being passed around regarding contact details for GDPR purposes. The working group is a mix of councillors, traders and members of the public.

Cllr Meyrick, then explained to the group the reason for group being formed and hoped that the actions from the meetings could be carried to result in positive outcomes.

APAG 24 02 Apologies for absence

None received.

APAG 24 03 Minutes of Previous Meeting.

First meeting held no previous minutes.

APAG 24 04 Members Introductions

All those in attendance introduced themselves and explained the impact on businesses with the limited free parking and that of residents with commuters parking outside properties.

Members present. David Meyrick, Bill Wilkinson, Colin Noakes, Amanda Potter, Rachel Wild, Beth Coles, Roger Teecey and Mike Bolton, Sue Sutherland. (9)

APAG 24 05 Parking Action Group – Scope of Work

A general discussion took place between all members regarding general concerns about parking within the village and general thoughts and concerns.

It was felt that the parking was the final straw which seems to have had an impact on various problems for the village. Solutions are required for residents and businesses.

Car's parking along Station Road is very dangerous for residents for those wishing to leave driveways and for passing pedestrians with those walking with prams and pushchairs they can not always get passed as parked over the footpaths. A resident had been around the area handing out a survey to gather thoughts most stated something needed to be done.

A member stated that he is a member of the walker's health group and members are dwindling due to the parking restrictions now on the Crown carpark.

APAG 24 06 Action Group Topics of Discussion

A The Crown Car-park

A meeting is scheduled with Marston's for February 13th the meeting will take place with the area manager Paul Gill. He has stated in feedback that he wishes to help the residents of the village with the issues of parking, nothing at this stage has been stated as a resolution. Ideally the parking would be returned to 3-4 hours parking moving forward.

Background information was shared to how the Crown carpark was given back to Marston's it was not Shropshire Council offering, it was a request from Marston's that the carpark ended the sub-lease for their own purpose.

What would be the best outcome from Marston's?

- a) Return to free parking.?
- b) Return the lease to SC or APC (Albrighton Parish Council)
- c) 4 hours free parking great for shops? but not helpful for the shop owners who travel to work here who still struggle to park their cars.?
- d) Reduced costs for people working within the village to use a space?
- e) Could the Parish Council support with the parking fees?

It was discussed that a potential petition should be pulled together to pass onto Marston's, agreed to do this post meeting with the area manager.

Action – BC Gather costs for survey monkey poll and potentially pull together in readiness of next meeting.

B Time Limited Parking in and around the High Street.

There is currently limited time parking within the village High Street and surrounding roads. Increasing the time limit on the roads would depend on the outcome of the meeting with Paul Gill planned for the 13^{th of} Feb.

If increased time was granted, would this have a detrimental impact on more people passing through the High Street ie short time grab groceries and go the turn around of more people visiting may not help if increased time granted.

Outcome – Defer until after meeting with Marston's

A handout was given to all members to gather their thoughts to take around a survey of some sort for residents to complete. It was felt a poll on survey monkey could be published and gather information better. Deferred for further thoughts.

C Discussions to eradicate the parking congestion around the village station with respect to Station Road and Shaw Lane.

- Yellow Lines in Station Road / Shaw Lane are illegal, they are not the correct thickness.
- Markings outside St Mary's require repainting.
- Station carpark is now being used to full potential.
- Station road is full of people parking causing additional issues.

ACTION – DM with Highways conversation to investigate further.

D Explore other areas within the village that may accommodate additional parking.

- Wood Yard Station Road
 - Access would not be granted from Highways.
- Vacant land adjacent to the train station
 Footings have already been dug so this is not an option.
- Waste land in front of the industrial unit Not available.

E Any other suggestions or solutions

St Cuthberts Church in Donington has a large carpark and they need funds could this be offered.

'Thompsons' field at the top of The High Street could be a possible solution.

Action – RW contact owner of field to see if would lease for parking.

Action – SS contact Margaret regarding the Parish Magazine information sharing re group

Next meeting arranged Monday 19th February at 6.00pm Library meeting room.