

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE TOWN MEETING 2024**

Date of meeting Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 7 p.m.

Place of Meeting NWBC Meeting Chamber, Civic Suite
South Street, Atherstone CV9 1DE

Present:

Atherstone Town Council (ATC) Councillors: S Bishop (Chair), K Barnett, J Chambers, C Evans, C Jones, G Short, M Short, D Wilkinson & D Wright

North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) Deputy Mayor, Councillor D Bates and Consort, Miss C Bates. Councillors: R Jarvis & R Taylor

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Councillor Mejar Singh

Warwickshire Police PC Steve Taylor

Warwickshire Community & Voluntary Action (WCAVA): David Simkins & Ellen Alcock

Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative (WRCI): Jared Seal

Atherstone Partnership (AP): Laura Donnelly, Malcolm Ward

Public: 46 members of the public were in attendance.

Chair: Town Mayor, Councillor Sara Bishop

Clerks: Town Clerk, Kate Clover (minutes)
Deputy Town Clerk, Sally Oldham

The Town Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

1. To receive the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 24th May 2023.

The minutes of the 24th of May 2023 were approved.

Matters Arising: None

2. Honorary Citizen 2024

Chris Jones (ATC) introduced the Honorary Citizen 2024, Jayne Collins.

Jayne is a local person whose qualities of dependability, leadership and friendliness shone through from a young age whilst at school.

Jayne was a volunteer in the Women Against State Pension Injustice (WASPI) attending rallies and being dedicated to a strong sense of right and wrong through peaceful protest.

Jayne was on the committee of the TNT Atherstone Social Club for 30 years and also organised Social Events in her spare time whilst working at Racemeadow School. Jayne also volunteered at Town events such as Dickens (2015-2021) and Atherstone Motor Show and Summer in the Square and Beer Festivals.

In 2020 Jayne began her fund raising firstly raising £910 for her great nephew Artie who is enjoying life with Downs Syndrome.

As both a supporter and patient of Myleoma UK Jayne has raised £5,504.34 through two coffee mornings to raise awareness of the disease and bring local patients together.

Cllr Chris Jones concluded the nomination for Honorary Citizen with the following:

“Finally, if the mark of a person is counted by their friends then Jayne is a perfect example of an Atherstonian. She always makes time to chat to everyone and anyone. Just walking down Long Street can take her an hour because she is happy to spend time talking with the army of friends she has easily made over the years”.

The Town Mayor presented Jayne with her certificate and Honorary Citizen Badge.

Jayne Collins thanked the Town Council for this award and those who had nominated her and supported her over the years.

3. Ruby Chambers Young Person's Sports Award 2023

Jill Thomas of Atherstone Adders Hockey Club introduced this award.

The Hockey Club are celebrating their 70th Birthday this year.

Ruadhan (Rory) Taylor was nominated for the Ruby Chambers Award as he has volunteered as a Junior Leader for Atherstone Adders Hockey Club Junior section at our training sessions since April 2021.

He is keen and enthusiastic and engages well with children of varying abilities. He has developed good relationships with the junior hockey players, the other young leaders and also the senior coaches. He has planned and led warm up sessions, helped to coach set drills, assisted with coaching, and umpiring mini games and helped at tournaments.

Rory has taken part in a Young Leader's course and assisted at a junior hockey camp. To further develop his umpiring skills he completed an on line introduction to umpiring course, as well as other England Hockey courses all in his own time.

Rory has a mature and sociable attitude, is always punctual, helpful and follows instructions well. He arrives early to help us set up equipment for the sessions.

For the last two hockey seasons he was awarded our 'Young Club Person of the Year' and this year the 'Player's Player Men's 4th Team' which shows the esteem held for him within the club.

In addition to this, outside of hockey he is a keen churchgoer, achieved his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award and the King's Scout award, the top achievement for explorer scouts. Rory is the first Scout in the Atherstone District for over 50 years to achieve this award (known as the Queen's Scout Award throughout the reign of Elizabeth II)

Rory raised funds to enable him to go to 'Camp Kenya' where he worked to support local communities. Rory is currently fund raising for a scout trip, another trip to Africa and vaccinations.

The Town Mayor presented Rory with his certificate and the Ruby Chamber's trophy.

Rory thanked his parents for their support and thanked his fellow members of the hockey club for their support and encouragement in the sport and at the club.

4. Atherstone Town Council's Annual Report

The Town Mayor presented the Annual Report of the Town Council 2023-24 (appendix 1)

5. Warwickshire Community and Volunteer Action

Dave Simkins & Ellen Alcock provided an overview of WCAVA to the assembly.

They provide support to volunteers, groups, organisations, enterprises, and charities. WCAVA provide information on potential funding opportunities and support in setting up & developing organisations offering governance advice, template structures & policies.

They also offer many training opportunities, such as safeguarding, bid writing and support for various roles such as chair, secretary and treasurer. Networks & Forums are also held throughout the year and are a great opportunity for various organisations and authorities to meet.

There is a Bid Writing Workshop due to be held on 2nd July at Mancetter Memorial Hall. This event is free of charge, for more information visit the WCAVA website.

WCAVA engage with various authorities such as Warwickshire County Council and the Heart of England Community Foundation and link organisations with relevant contacts.

Warwickshire County Council have recently released Councillor Grant Funding, the deadline for the first round is 30th June. Local Organisations were encouraged to contact their County Councillor for further information.

Ellen Alcock is the volunteer co-ordinator at WCAVA and works with organisations and is looking to strengthen the sector, she helps with policies, guidance, advertising volunteer roles and helps organisations with the practicalities of recruiting and retaining volunteers and helps to promote volunteering opportunities via the WCAVA website and social media. Potential volunteers can search for suitable volunteer positions on their website. In addition WCAVA conduct outreach work in various places such as at the job centre, schools and local libraries.

As part of volunteer's week, a volunteer event is being held at Atherstone Memorial Hall on Friday 7th June, spaces for stall holders are limited but interested parties should contact WCAVA for further information.

WCAVA are a not-for-profit organisation and make no charge for the services they provide.

6. Atherstone Partnership

The Chair of Atherstone Partnership, Laura Donnelly provided a presentation to the assembly (Appendix 2).

The partnership committee is made up of residents and business owners, who work together to preserve our local history and celebrate Atherstone.

1200 people attended the heritage events last September.

Uplighters are currently being replaced outside St Mary's Church, grant funding for these was provided by WCC.

The partnership have also secured UKSPF funding of £18,000 which will be used to support events in the Town and they will have physical items that they can loan out free of charge to voluntary organisations for their own community events.

They have analysed the Institute of place management report and applied for grants for projects developed from suggestions made by the community at partnership meetings and events.

The Heritage Centre, Civic Society & Atherstone Partnership are working together to hold a Heritage Week in September 2024 following the success of last year's events.

A Job Fair was held earlier this month in conjunction with Craig Tracey MP.

Atherstone Big Weekender 1st & 2nd June – A teen market is being held in conjunction with NWBC. The church will be open, arts & crafts activities outside the church, musical entertainment and a dog show. A full event plan is on their website including a Town Map showing all that is happening.

7. Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative

Jared Seal provided an overview of the WRCI, a county-wide initiative for pubs and shops to reduce retail crime. Also known as Townwatch. The membership fees from retailers & pubs across the county enables them to employ two administrators for the scheme, they run a website and an app which contains details of local offenders, as they have data sharing agreements in place with local authorities and Warwickshire Police which can help shops and pubs be safer for their workers & visitors.

To protect victims of crime, known offenders are banned from pubs and shops throughout the county who are members of the scheme. Although this is not aimed to be a punishment for the perpetrators it is a strong deterrent as the ban will often be for a period of two years.

8. First Responders:

Sam Leeke had provided some information for the Town Mayor to convey as unfortunately they were unable to attend this evening.

The first responders cover around 35 calls each month (they are expected to provide volunteer cover for 20 hours per month, however many months can be 30+ hours)

They have secured funding from County Cllr Singh & Borough Cllr Jarvis for a new defibrillator at the bus station and this will soon be in place.

The first responders can provide first aid services for events in return for a donation to the organisation. They will have a stall at the Atherstone Big Weekender where interested parties can find out more information.

They are currently seeking volunteer first aiders and volunteers to carry out admin roles within the organisation.

9. Atherstone Motor Show

Mark Jordan spoke to thank the Town Council for their continued support of this event via the Community Grants Scheme. They are hoping to expand the Motor Show into the Memorial Hall this September.

10. Army Cadets

A representative of the Army Cadets spoke to advise they are struggling to find a suitable training facility.

If anyone knows of a suitable facility for the cadets to use on Monday and Thursday evenings (they require a facility with both indoor and outdoor areas) or can help with volunteering or fundraising for the cadets please do get in touch.

PC Steve Taylor suggested a potential opportunity in Mancetter (Church Walk) on the ground of a disused primary school, he would try and

obtain information as to who may own this land. Other suggestions were made of Mancetter Scout Hut and the Polesworth Air Cadet Building.

The meeting closed at 20:15pm

Date of the next meeting: 21st May 2025

DRAFT

Atherstone Town Council



Annual Report 2023 / 2024



Town Council Office

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday: 9:30am - 2.30pm*

Visit (by prior appointment): Atherstone Town Council

The Council House

South Street

Atherstone

CV9 1DE

Telephone: 01827 720829

Email: clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Write to: Atherstone Town Council,

P.O. Box 2000,

Atherstone,

CV9 1YN.

**Subject to availability due to the nature of our small team and prior engagements.*

Town Council meetings are held monthly in the Committee Room, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Civic Suite, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone, CV9 IDE.

The calendar of meetings is published on the website and the noticeboard in Market Square.

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend Town Council meetings. A public participation session is held at each meeting where the public can comment on agenda items.

For 2023-24, the Chair of the Town Council was Cllr Keith Barnett and the vice-chair was Cllr Derek Pickard until February 2024, and Cllr Jake Braithwaite from, February 2024 onwards.

During 2023-24 the Town Mayor was Cllr Ashley Wickham-Young, and the Deputy Mayor was Cllr Chris Jones.

Town Councillors

Central Ward



Councillor Keith Barnett

Tel: 01827 230703

Email: keithbarnett@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Address: 28 Mancetter Road Mancetter CV9 1NZ



Councillor Jake Braithwaite

Tel: 07850 266022

Email: jakebraithwaite@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Address: 41 Ambien Road, Atherstone, CV9 2AT



Councillor Jacky Chambers

Tel: 07966 425052

Email: jackychambers@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Address: Green Farm Main Rd, Baxterley, CV9 2LW



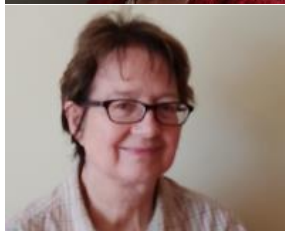
Councillor Richard Collins

Email: richardcollins@atherstone-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Anne Forwood

Email: anneforwood@atherstone-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Gwyn Short

Email: gwynshort@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

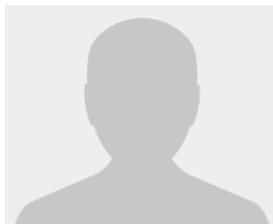
North Ward



Councillor Chris Jones

Tel: 07984 160667

Email: chrisjones@atherstone-tc.gov.uk



Casual Vacancy



Councillor Martin Short

Email: martinshort@atherstone-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Joshua Smith

Email: joshuasmith@atherstone-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Dawn Wilkinson

Email: dawnwilkinson@atherstone-tc.gov.uk



Councillor David A Wright

Tel: 01827 714885

Email: davidwright@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

Address: 3 Simmonds Way, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 3AX

South Ward



Councillor Sara Bishop

Tel: 07885 420129

Email: sarabishop@atherstone-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Carol Evans

Email: carolevans@atherstone-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Ashley Wickham-Young

Email: ashleywickham-young@atherstone-tc.gov.uk

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Elections were held in May 2023, the council said farewell to retiring members: Sara Bishop, Denise Clews, Tony Clews, Pauline Gurney, Ray Jarvis, Mark Jordan, Mejar Singh, Angie Spencer & Stacey Wightman.

The Council welcomed new Town Councillors: Jake Braithwaite, Richard Collins, Carol Evans, Anne Forwood, Gwyn Short, Martin Short, Joshua Smith, Ashley Wickham-Young & Dawn Wilkinson.

In June 2023 we welcomed back Councillor Sara Bishop who was co-opted to a vacancy in the South Ward.

In February 2024 after many years of service we said goodbye to Derek Pickard, the casual vacancy will be filled via co-option.

This year, the Council also said goodbye to the Town Clerk Odette Ghent and welcomed Kate Clover to this role from September 2023.

Finance

In 2023-24 the Town Council have appointed a new internal auditor and carried out a review of its financial position.

The level of reserves has improved through the sale of the Old Mortuary (previous Town Council Offices) £96,196.40 and UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) of £59,055 towards CCTV active monitoring for 2023-2025.

In addition to this the council have secured funding towards two projects for 2024-25

- UKSPF grant of £18,500 for a feasibility study on an open spaces project regarding footpaths at the River Anker. (payment due in 2024-25)
- Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) grant funding of £4,232 via North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) towards the Townwatch Radio Scheme project (received 2023/24)

*Please note the financial information below are from accounts which have not yet been audited.

Balance Sheet 2023-24

Current Assets

Debtors	£	38,642.36	
Deposits and Cash	£	1,388.50	
Bank Account	£	244,404.34	
VAT Liability	£	3,236.25	
			£ 287,671.45

Current Liabilities

Creditors : Short Term	£	63,733.70	
Payroll Taxation	£	5,889.63	
			£ 69,623.33

Current Assets less Current Liabilities:

£ 218,048.12

Total Assets less Current Liabilities:

£ 218,048.12

Capital & Reserves

Reserves (Balance Brought Forward)	£	68,995.60	
Current Year Surplus / (Loss)	£	149,052.52	
			£ 218,048.12

Income & Expenditure 2023-24

	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Budget</u>		<u>Variance</u>	
Income						
Precept	£	175,298.00	£	175,298.00	£	-
Arcade Rent	£	44,178.00	£	47,020.00	-£	2,842.00
Cemetery	£	53,740.00	£	44,850.00	£	8,890.00
Allotments	£	4,102.50	£	4,428.00	-£	325.50
Allotment Lease Gypsy Lane	£	1,317.22	£	1,200.00	£	117.22
Market Traders	£	6,138.00	£	4,740.00	£	1,398.00
Donations	£	64,222.18	£	-	£	64,222.18
Misc Income	£	836.72	£	-	£	836.72
Common Rights	£	263.00	£	250.00	£	13.00
OSCA Lease	£	100.00	£	100.00	£	-
Bank Interest	£	4,380.62	£	600.00	£	3,780.62
Sale of Assets	£	96,196.40	£	-	£	96,196.40
	£	450,772.64	£	278,486.00	£	172,286.64
Expenditure						
Salaries	£	85,568.48	£	85,023.00	-£	545.48
Associated Expenditure	£	14,356.21	£	12,925.00	-£	1,431.21
Office Expenditure	£	20,894.01	£	16,959.00	-£	3,935.01
Open Spaces & Play Areas	£	9,344.39	£	10,450.00	£	1,105.61
Tree Maintenance	£	9,437.45	£	2,900.00	-£	6,537.45
Cemetery & Old allotments	£	36,760.04	£	39,280.00	£	2,519.96
CCTV Costs	£	79,067.61	£	59,074.00	-£	19,993.61
Allotments	£	3,117.17	£	3,600.00	£	482.83
Arcade	£	10,487.13	£	14,300.00	£	3,812.87
Misc Expenditure	£	29,321.63	£	23,975.00	-£	5,346.63
Grants & Donations	£	3,366.00	£	10,000.00	£	6,634.00
Bad Debt	£	-	£	-	£	-
	£	301,720.12	£	278,486.00	-£	23,234.12
Net Profit (Loss) Before Tax:	£	149,052.52	£	0.00	£	149,052.52

Precept 2024/25

To meet its budget requirements the Town Council have increased their precept from £175,298 in 2023/24 to £193,707 in 2024/25. The increase has affected your annual council tax as follows:

Council Tax Band	2023-24	2024-25	Increase (per annum)
Band: A/AR	£ 42.25	£ 46.47	£ 4.22
Band: B	£ 49.30	£ 54.22	£ 4.92
Band: C	£ 56.34	£ 61.96	£ 5.62
Band: D	£ 63.38	£ 69.71	£ 6.33
Band: E	£ 77.46	£ 85.20	£ 7.74
Band: F	£ 91.55	£ 100.69	£ 9.14
Band: G	£ 105.63	£ 116.18	£ 10.55
Band: H	£ 126.76	£ 139.42	£ 12.66

Budget 2024/25

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Arcade	£ 52,099
Precept	£ 193,707
Cemetery	£ 47,385
Allotments	£ 5,405
Allotment assoc lease	£ 1,200
Market Traders	£ 8,500
Grants & Donations	£ 33,183
Misc	£ -
Common Rights	£ 250
OSCA Lease	£ 100
Bank interest	£ 2,000
Sale of assets	£ -
Taken from Reserves	£ -
	£ 343,829
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Staffing	£ 96,659
Associated	£ 13,330
Office	£ 12,410
Open spaces & Play Areas	£ 16,900
Allotments	£ 4,900
Cemetery Extension	£ -
Cemetery	£ 41,915
CCTV (including Active Monitoring)	£ 85,320
Arcade	£ 16,514
Floral Displays	£ 6,600
Xmas Lights	£ 13,000
Annual Assembly / Honorary Citizen	£ 500
Market Square	£ 500
Community Grant Scheme (& other donations)	£ 12,656
Misc Civic duties	£ 150
Old Mortuary Refurb	£ -
Bank charges	£ 450
Community events	£ 2,025
Pop-Up Storage Container	£ -
Transfers to earmarked reserves	£ 20,000
	£ 323,829
<u>Transfers to earmarked reserves</u>	
Cemetery Extension (Capital Expenditure Only)	£ 10,000
Asset Replacement Fund (Capital Expenditure only)	£ 10,000
Elections	£ -
	£ 20,000
Total Expenditure (Including transfers to earmarked reserves)	£ 343,829

What has the Town Council achieved in 2023/24

Town Council Administration and Governance

The Town Council recruited & trained a new Town Clerk enabling the Council to continue to operate effectively and in line with legislative requirements and recommended best practice.

The Town Council provided training for new Town Councillors elected in May 2023, and refresher training for existing members.

The Town Council adopted new and revised existing policies: Financial regulations, Complaints Policy, Risk Management, Reserves Policy, Council Structure & Working Parties Terms of Reference.

Allotments

The Town Council provides allotments for rent. There are two sites, Merevale and Gypsy Lane.

Both sites are almost fully occupied, anyone requiring a plot should register at the Town Council offices.

The Town Council also owns the neighbouring Atherstone Allotment Association site, in Gypsy Lane.

The Town Council works with the Associations, and tenants, at the sites for their general improvement.

There was allotment judging and awards given out in the summer of 2023 at both sites.

Cemetery

The Town Council maintains the cemetery at Sheepy Road and is also responsible for the maintenance of burial and memorial records for the cemetery.

The Town Council continue to engage with the Community Payback team, who now provide additional help maintaining Atherstone Cemetery.

As a Burial Authority the Town Council arranged and attended 53 interments, 1 scattering and authorised 70+ memorials, deed transfers and other administrative duties.

Atherstone Town Council now have responsibility for the event management for the Remembrance Day Parade & War Memorial Service (previously run by Royal British Legion – Atherstone Branch) which takes place at St Mary's Church and the War Memorial in Atherstone Cemetery.

Old Allotment Gardens

The land between the Cemetery and the A5, which runs from Sheepy Road through to the brook at Abeles Way, now known as The Old Allotment Gardens.

In early 2021 work began here on the future extension of the cemetery with investigation and survey works carried out working alongside a consultant. This work continues.

CCTV

The CCTV cameras and ducting in the town centre are owned and maintained by the Town Council who are also responsible for the staffing costs for monitoring the screens by dedicated CCTV operatives.

The live monitoring of the CCTV provides a proactive approach and active monitoring staff work closely with the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Town Council works in partnership with North Warwickshire Borough Council and Warwickshire Police.

The CCTV system includes a direct link to Police Headquarters at Leek Wootton.

An upgrade to the CCTV camera system was completed in 2022 with new modern panoramic cameras and monitoring equipment.

From 2023-24 the Town Council are solely responsible for meeting the costs of the active monitoring service. The Town Council secured UKSPF grant funding of £59,055 to cover approximately 50% of the staffing costs from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025.

The Town Council will be consulting with our residents and key stakeholders regarding the future funding of the active monitoring service.

The Town Council supports the retail radio system, for the town, known as Town watch. Subsidies are given towards the cost of the radios, for those taking part. £2404.19 was contributed to the Townwatch Radio scheme in 2023-24.

Play Areas

There are two Play Areas managed and maintained by the Town Council: St Mary's Road, which is owned outright, and Westwood Road, which is leased.

Because there have been several instances of damage, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour at both play areas they are now covered by CCTV.

Planning

The Town Council is a Statutory Planning Consultee, and comments on planning applications in Atherstone, and those which would affect Atherstone.

Planning applications to be considered can be found on the monthly Town Council agenda and responses on the website.

The Town Council considered 65 planning applications and consulted on the proposed Public Space Protection Order – Alcohol for Atherstone Town.

Christmas Lights

The Town Council owns the Christmas lights in the Long Street, Church Street and Market Street areas and outside St Mary's Church, and is totally responsible for the purchase, testing, maintenance, erection and dismantling of the lights.

Also, there are some pole mounted displays installed in Station Street.

Support for Local Community Events held in the Market Square

The Car Show 2023, Beer Festival (August 2023) and Dickens 2023 and Christmas Market went ahead as usual, plus the special King's Coronation Celebrations in May 2023.

In September 2023 the market square was used for a special Graham Beale Celebration Event and the popular Sheepy Tractor Run visited in December 2023.

There were also a few smaller events such as Outwoods Primary School Summer Carnival (June 2023) plus visits from the First-Class Stamp Dancers (June 2023)

A World AIDs Day Service and vigil was held in December 2023 attended by civic heads from around Warwickshire in conjunction with St Mary's Church.

Support for Local Community Groups

The Town Council can make small grants to assist local community groups. Details of these can be found on the website.

During 2023/24 the Town Council awarded community grants to:

- Atherstone Beer Festival £1,000
- Atherstone Motor Show £500
- Atherstone Ball Game (road closures) £1,841

In addition to this, the Council continue to support the social supermarket in Unit 7, The Arcade (Ediblelinks) by providing this Unit free of charge and meeting their service charges. (This equates to approximately £5,500)

The Town Council supported four local volunteers to attend LANTRA road closure training in September 2023 at a cost of £368.33.

The Council also purchase a Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Day for a donation of £25 to the Royal British Legion.

Civic Role

The Town Mayor attended 23 official events throughout Warwickshire and the surrounding areas, raising the profile of Atherstone and the Town Council.

Honorary Citizen and Ruby Chambers Award

Each year the Town Council debates the choice of Honorary Citizen, an award made to a person(s) who, in the opinion of the Town Council, has made an outstanding contribution to the life of the town.

For 2024, the title of Honorary Citizen has been awarded to Jayne Collins in recognition of her commendable contributions and many years of service to the community of Atherstone.

The Ruby Chambers Sports Award 2023 was awarded to Ruadhan (Rory) Taylor of Atherstone Adders Hockey Club.

Both of these awards will be presented at the Annual Parish Assembly in May 2024.

Floral Displays

The Town Council maintains the floral displays in the town centre during the year with summer and winter plantings.

Website

The Town Council has its own website which is maintained by the clerks and gives up to date information of Council activities, local news, and documentation.

The Town Council refreshed and updated the Council website www.atherstone-tc.gov.uk in 2023.

The Town Council improved transparency by amending the Town Council Meeting page to ensure that the public can now access all public meeting papers alongside the agendas and minutes.

The Town Council intend to continue to improve communications throughout the coming year and further improvements to the website and social media channels is anticipated.

Local Council Award Scheme (formerly Quality Council)

The Town Council currently holds the Foundation Level, as part of the Town Council Action Plan 2024-26 the Council are working towards the next level of the Local Council Award Scheme.

Market Square

The Town Council has an agreement with North Warwickshire Borough Council, to manage events on the Market Square. The Town Council continued to manage the twice weekly markets.

The Town Council owns pop-up stalls, tables and a canopy which cover most of the Square. These are available for the use of community groups, and events.

Details and costs can be obtained from the Town Council office.

During the Summer months the local publicans serve drinks outside on the Market Square in a Café Culture style.

A monthly Farmers Market that began in February 2022 has been well received and continues to expand.

Arcade Shops

The Town Council owns and operates the Arcade Shops, in Long Street. This complex provides a mixture of retail, commercial and community use.

The Town Council have been in consultation with community groups and commercial organisations to assess the demand for the upstairs space.

During 2023/24 there has been some movement within the Arcade, with businesses expanding onto the High Street and into larger units, we have also welcomed a new business into Unit 5 Fieldview Plastics.

Unit 1	Brown Bear Design
Unit 2	Becca Kim Aesthetics and Skin Clinic
Unit 3	Currently Vacant
Unit 4	BFH Bargains
Unit 5	Fieldview Plastics
Unit 6	Currently Vacant
Unit 7	Edible Links – social supermarket
Unit 8	Make and Made in Style
Unit 9	Arcade Carpets
Upstairs front	Nail Bar

You can apply for a vacant unit or join our waiting list by contacting the Town Council Office.

Owen Street Community Arts Centre

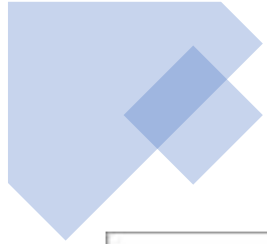
The Town Council owns The Arts Centre, Owen Street, Atherstone, CV9 1DG.

This was purchased to retain and protect this important community asset for the people of Atherstone and the surrounding area.

All covenants restricting the future use of the building as a community resource remain in place.

The building has been leased back to the Owen Street Community Arts Centre whose Board of Directors are fully responsible for running the facility, including bookings and items such as maintenance, insurance and running costs. The Board are keen to promote wider community use of the building.

DRAFT



The Who

A brand-new committee made up of residents, business owners and passionate Atherstone people.

We are not for profit and work closely with NWBC, Atherstone Town and County Councils

We are all volunteers and give up our free time free of charge.

Our Aim

To work closely with Atherstone people and businesses to help promote Atherstone as a place to visit, place to shop, and maybe even move to. Help preserve our history and celebrate our heritage whilst looking to sustain and promote our present and protect our future.

The How

We can't do everything, we want to focus on the things that people have told us mean the most, gaining input and support from the local community to ensure the plans represent the majority.

Who are we?

Chairperson: Laura Donnelly

Secretary: Jackie Reading

Treasurer: Malcolm Ward

Vice Chairperson – Events: Sarah Chetwynd


Vice Chairperson – Heritage: Angie Spencer

Community Liaison: Claire Cairns

Partnership Support: Neil Dirveiks

Associate Members: Chris, Pete, Harry, Brian, Abbey

Did you know that we have a Facebook Group?
Atherstone Partnership
And a Facebook Page?
Atherstone Partnership – Visit Atherstone



Business Networking Event

Thursday 25th April
4.30pm - 6.30pm
The Red Lion Hotel

Learn how to utilise digital marketing and social media in an easy step by step guide.

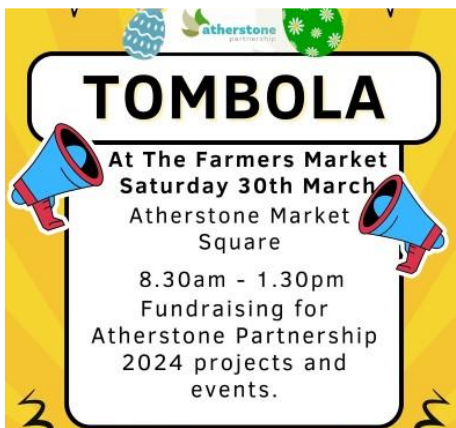
Meet fellow local business owners & start to help each other.

Get your business noticed in the digital world of advertising!

Complimentary refreshments provided.

atherstone
partnership

Presented by: For more information visit:



TOMBOLA

At The Farmers Market
Saturday 30th March
Atherstone Market Square

8.30am - 1.30pm
Fundraising for
Atherstone Partnership
2024 projects and events.



Graham BEALE
CELEBRATION EVENT

Saturday 23rd September
Atherstone Market Square
5.00pm till 10.30pm

5.00pm - 5.30pm
A-TOWN SOUND

5.30pm - 6.30pm
NOT THE BEES

6.30pm - 8.30pm
CAITLIN

8.30pm - 10.30pm
FINNEGAN'S REVIVAL

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD AND DRINK ALL EVENING




Hats to off our Joseph!

At St Mary's Church

Sunday 3rd December
12.30pm - 2.30pm

FREE EVENT

Join us for the first viewing of a brand new locally produced

What have we been up to?

- September 2023 – Graham Beale Celebration Event – held in the Market Square
- September 2023 – Atherstone Festival of History – over 1200 people attended around 30 different events
- November 2023 – Supported Dickens Event
- November 2023 – We held a fundraising tombola in conjunction with The Farmers Market
- November 2023 – We installed the nutcracker decorations along Long Street
- December 2023 – We held a fundraising tombola at Smithy Farm Shop – raising £205
- December 2023 – We joined forces with Councillors Wickham-Young and Jarvis to host a meet Father Christmas and raffle to raise money for Ediblelinks – raising £155
- December 2023 – FINALLY launched the world premiere of Hats off to our Joseph in St Mary's Church
- January 2024 – We were awarded a councillor grant by Councillor Singh to help restore the upright on St Mary's Church
- February 2024 – Held our first open meeting of the year and welcomed a wonderful amount of residents and businesses
- Launched our year long plan
- March 2024 – We submitted a UKSPF application and have been awarded £18,000 for event support collateral, physical items, insurance and advertising
- March 2024 – Held a fundraising tombola in conjunction with The Farmers Market – raising £319
- April 2024 – Held our first Business Networking Event in The Red Lion
- May 2024 – Held a fundraising quiz at Church End Brewery – raising £351.70
- May 2024 – Held our second Atherstone Job Fair in conjunction with Craig Tracey and Job Centre Plus

Important Information

- We have taken onboard the feedback from businesses, residents and the institute of Place Management report – Vital & Viable Atherstone
- We have chosen to support 4 charities throughout the 2024 year – every time we host a fundraising event 10% will be put aside and split equally between the 4.
 - Cohort 4
 - White Hart Community Fridge
 - Beeline Community Transport
 - North Warwickshire First Responders
- We are actively trying to build the online presence of visitsatherstone.com to help support our town
- We have 3 funding applications in with Atherstone Town Council including 2 that cover requests that came from our Open Meeting
 - Wayfinding at the bottom of Long Street to tempt TESCO customers up the street
 - Empty window dressing to support local shops
- We have brought together the Civic Society, Atherstone Heritage and ourselves to create an Atherstone Plaque trail and information boards project to support the history and heritage of the town (as well as tempt in visitors)
- We are submitting a funding application to run a local high street business programme for local businesses to join and help them succeed
- We will help showcase and advertise the funding available under the High Street Grant Funding

Just Happened – Friday 17th May

Atherstone
2024 JOBS FAIR

Friday 17th May
10.00AM – 2.00PM

ATHERSTONE MEMORIAL HALL
LONG STREET
ATHERSTONE CV9 1AX

For More Information

Website
WWW.VISITATHERSTONE.COM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
CRAIG TRACEY
Member of parliament for North
Warwickshire & Bedworth

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

atherstone partnership **jobcentreplus** Department for Work & Pensions

OVER 20 REGIONAL & NATIONAL EMPLOYERS
Offering full time and flexible work options, along with apprenticeships. Including...

Warwickshire County Council **brose** North Warwickshire Borough Council **MCS** INDUSTRIES

BELFOR **pst** **x1**

QUESTIONS?
CALL: 01827 715243
EMAIL: CRAIG.TRACEY.MP@PARLIAMENT.UK

- Around 32 employers and training providers
 - Over 300 attendees looking for work
 - Including 100 QEA students
 - A 67% turn out rate for JobCentre clients
- Fun Fact**
An employer called Nortec brought with them an employee who found their job there by attending Atherstone Job Fair 2023, applying and being successful!

Still To Come – 1st & 2nd June

SATURDAY 1ST & SUNDAY 2ND JUNE

ATHERSTONE BIG WEEKENDER

SATURDAY 1ST JUNE MARKET SQUARE

8.30AM - 1.00PM
ATHERSTONE TEEN MARKET WITH LUV2DISCO

3.00PM - 10.30PM
LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES

3.00PM: POWERPOINT
4.00PM: MATILDA PRATT
5.00PM: WHITE HART BAND
6.30PM: NOT THE BEES
8.30PM: THREE TIMES SCARLETT

FOOD FROM CARVERY KITCHEN, DRINKS FROM THE AMAZING SQUARE PUBS = FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

SUNDAY 2ND JUNE FULL TOWN

10.00AM - 3.00PM
MARKET STALLS, FUN FAIR, MAGICIAN, STILT WALKER, FOOD STALLS, BUSKERS, CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOPS, CLASSIC CARS, FACE PAINTING, HAVE A GO CLUBS, KIDS CRAFTS, ART CLUB IN ST MARY'S CHURCH. AND SO MUCH MORE...

11.00AM - 1.00PM IN THE LIBRARY - KIDS CRAFTS & A TIGER GAME TO TEA
12.00PM - 2.00PM RIVERSMEET VETS - DOG SHOW
12.30PM - LEADING PLAYERS FILM IN ST MARY'S CHURCH

LUV2DISCO ALL DAY

MARKET SQUARE PERFORMANCES

11.00AM COLESHILL BRASS BAND
11.30AM MEET ARTHUR STONE
12.00PM COLESHILL BRASS BAND
1.00PM ATOWN SOUND
1.30PM MEET BLUEY & BINGO
2.00PM NUNEATON UKULELE BAND

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY, LOTS OF HAVE A GO ACTIVITIES AND THINGS TO DO FOR ALL AGES.

SPONSORED BY: North Warwickshire Borough Council, CELEBRATE & ENJOY CENTRE, Rivermeet Vets, COMMUNITY FUND, atherstone

WWW.VISITATHERSTONE.COM

ATHERSTONE BIG WEEKENDER PRESENTS

ATHERSTONE DOG SHOW

SUNDAY 2ND JUNE

CAR PARK OF RIVERSMEET VETS

12.00PM - 2.00PM

£2.50 PER DOG, PER CLASS - CASH PAYMENTS ONLY

Sponsored by Riversmeet Vets with kind permission from MG Evans for use of the land.

Enter any class for £2.50 per dog per class (Cash payments only)

Registration opens on Saturday 1st June in Atherstone Market Square 10am - 2pm And Sunday 2nd June Riversmeet Vets Carpark 11am

Animals at home will be in attendance on the day to offer canine refreshments and shade. All dogs MUST be registered before the class to be entered. Class prizes consist of rosette and doggy treats, toys and accessories. The judges decision will be final.

CLASSES INCLUDE:

- 12.00pm: Most Gorgeous Puppy (12 months & younger)
- 12.15pm: Best Child Handler & Dog (children under 16 years)
- 12.30pm: Most Handsome Male (of the 4 paw variety)
- 12.45pm: Best Ears
- 1.00pm: Prettiest Female
- 1.15pm: Loveliest Rescue Dog
- 1.30pm: Dog the judges would take home
- 1.45pm: Golden Oldie
- 2.00pm: Ultimate Best in Show (first place winning dogs from previous categories)

ALL PROCEEDS RAISED ON THE DAY FROM ENTRANCE FEES WILL BE DONATED TO RUFF LUCK RESCUE

SPONSORED BY: Rivermeet Vets, atherstone

WWW.VISITATHERSTONE.COM

We want to work with you, help the town look and feel better, support our businesses by bringing in visitors to help increase footfall and generally continue to provide pride in our local community

If you'd like to be involved in any of our plans, please reach out to a member of our committee. You are more than welcome to be part of these exciting plans.

Chairperson – Laura Donnelly chairman@atherstone-partnership.co.uk

Events Vice Chair – Sarah Chetwynd events@atherstone-partnership.co.uk



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YOUR LOCAL
Volunteer Group

WHAT WE DO

- ✔ Job Fairs
- ✔ Town Wide Events
- ✔ Local History & Heritage
- ✔ Regeneration Projects
- ✔ Business Networking
- ✔ Town Footfall Support
- ✔ Local Fundraising

ATHERSTONE PARTNERSHIP

A local group of volunteers, made up of residents and business owners who care about our town. Our not for profit group looks for involvement from any local people. Most importantly, our meetings are proactive and full of positivity and energy.

We have numerous projects and events being planned and there really is a job for everyone.

We also run the local website Visit Atherstone and want to support local businesses with their advertising.

GET INVOLVED

Want to find out more?
Chairman@atherstone-partnership.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook
Atherstone Partnership

More information
www.visitatherstone.com

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