

CURRENT CIVIC SOCIETY PROJECTS **AND MAIN WORK ITEMS**

The Society listened to the many and various comments and suggestions to improve the appearance of the district and to encourage a greater interest in our villages. We also received advice from two wise residents who counselled that it would be better to work on and complete a few projects at any one time rather than starting many and not finishing them. This was good advice but which was difficult to take as there are so many items crying out for attention as there is a backlog of maintenance postponed by various authorities. However we have heeded this advice and we have had to put off some items until these first projects are completed – we hope you will understand and bear with us on this AND that you will join us and help improve our villages.

Projects completed (and being maintained)

We are grateful to Malcolm Pate who started the Society website within a few weeks of the founding of the Society and enabled us to provide an immediate platform for providing the news about our existence and for recruiting. We are also pleased to have the support of Dennis Wesley, a member who joined the Society in February 2010, who has developed the site further. We are hoping to do two things with our website; firstly of course to provide information for our



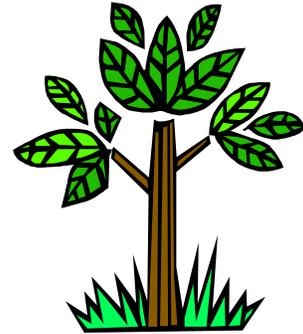
members and residents on what we are doing and when meetings will be held and to allow members to suggest items for action. Secondly we see a need for a single website where residents can go to find information about our district - such as all the voluntary organisations and clubs and their contact details, aims and their programme of events and also details about the four Parish Councils (of Albrighton, Boningale, Donington-with-Boscobel and Tong) and Shropshire Council. The site will also provide access to various local organisations such as Albrighton Traders Association, Red House Village Hall, Shropshire Local Joint Committee No. 18, Albrighton Churches Together and many more. Those clubs which do not have their own website may have a page on the Society website which will allow them to publicise their aims, contacts and programme of events.

Please could all Clubs send us a page or two of their information, ideally in Word format, and we will create a page for you on our website or a link to your website.
– please send to secretary@AlbrightonandDistrictCivicSociety (T: 01902 372765)

Projects underway

Villages Entrance Scheme

For some time people have seen the dozen or more entrances as rather scruffy and not giving the first good impression on arrival in our district, which we would have liked. We are grateful to have secured funding of £2,500 as a contribution from Shropshire Council LJC No. 18 and also to have received offers of materials and labour to undertake the work from many local firms and individuals and RAF Cosford. We decided to tackle the work in stages with the first five entrances at Patshull Road/A464, Station Rd/A41, Kingswood Rd/A41, Rectory Rd/High St and Bowling Green Lane/A464 being completed now before starting a second stage of more locations. This work is lead by John Bulmer (01902 372291) who will be pleased to receive offers of help or materials etc.



Civic Society Awards Scheme for Schools (Albrighton County Primary, St Mary's Primary, Birchfield and Idsall).

To encourage a sense of civic responsibility and care for the environment, awards will be made for two categories of under and over 12 years.

Joint Parish Plan

(Albrighton and Donington-with-Boscobel Parishes)

Albrighton Parish Council had suggested that the Society should carry out the work of updating the Plan with help from others (Donington Parish Council is yet to formally agree). The task is being undertaken by a sub-committee of the Society led by Paul Joseland (T:01902 372888) who may be contacted for information or to make suggestions for items to be included in the report.



Improvement to Albrighton Station



This is an issue specifically being tackled by Albrighton Parish Council who are lobbying Network Rail and London Midland Trains to repair & paint the rail bridge and footbridge and to generally improve the appearance of the overall fabric of the station. They are also pressing for action from the private owner of the deteriorating station building. The Civic Society is now providing support to the Albrighton PC and will participate in

forthcoming meetings with NR and LMT. The Society is also concerned that unless parking provision is increased at the station its viability is threatened and so we have

drafted a possible plan to widen the access ramp to allow more car places but the cost of this work is far beyond what could be funded by the Society and the authorities are the only ones able to carry out such project – this will take more lobbying by us and our partners in this venture.

Improvement of provision of car parking in Albrighton

The Shropshire Core Strategy plans 200 to 500 new houses in Albrighton by 2026. The siting of these houses will be beyond normal walking distances from the services provided in the main streets. **Shropshire's Strategy, also states that Albrighton is to become a "Small Market Town"** - as opposed to its status 50 years ago as a commuter village feeding initially the West Midlands conurbation, and later Telford New Town.



To become a "Small Market Town", Albrighton has to attract custom from surrounding villages, and this can only be done by having high quality shops and businesses in the main streets, **with adequate public parking.**

Albrighton businesses already suffer because there is already insufficient public parking. It is only going to get worse. That is why urgent discussion and consultation should be carried out as soon as possible to find ways to resolve the situation. Peter Leigh, a Society committee member, is leading action on this issue and a consultation document with proposals is being prepared for discussion with Shropshire Council and Albrighton Parish Council

Various maintenance work to street furniture, pavements etc

We have not forgotten the amount of repair and maintenance work identified in all four parishes by the survey which sparked off the creation of the Civic Society. We are continuing to encourage the councils responsible to meet their obligations to keep the street assets in good repair. Some items have been dealt with but many remain and we will continue to press for action.



We are pleased to have been promised help by Albrighton Scouts, Cubs and Beavers to carry out litter collections beginning on Newport Rd opposite the Fire Station and for this we are very grateful.

Future Projects

Further stages of the Entrance Scheme

As explained above these will be tackled once phase 1 is completed.

OTHER PROJECTS AS SUGGESTED BY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Please let us know your views.

For more information please contact Rod Smith, Secretary Albrighton & District Civic Society on 01902 372765 or Secretary@AlbrightonandDistrictCivicSociety.co.uk