

## ALDBURY SUSTAINABILITY CLUB



**This Meeting** - Thursday 8th September 2022 at The Greyhound, 7:30pm

**Next Meeting** - Thursday 1st December 2022 at The Greyhound, 7.30pm

### Attendees:

Jont Cole	Sheila Work	Jo Horder	Tim French
Sue Justice	Felicity Aris	Paul Barritt	Ted Bianco

**Apologies:** Lucy Carmody, Duncan Eggar, Annie Eggar, Michelle Singleton, Jill Timms

Around 24% of our newsletter list attended or sent apologies. Add: sheilawork16@gmail.com

### General

- It was great to meet up again to hear updates on projects. Each of the subgroup's updates are detailed below. Please join us for the next one!
- We have secured £20,000 for the path feasibility study from the Department for Transportation; further funding through Dacorum's Green Community Grants is also being explored for this project
- Playground refurbishments are underway by the *Aldbury Playground Working Group*; new timber posts have already been installed and the first Working Party ran on Sat 24th September. All rubbish material will be recycled or repurposed. More info. on this project, please contact David Demmery, [aviddemme@gmail.com](mailto:aviddemme@gmail.com)
- The Sustainable Tring Thing, a new group in Tring focussing on building up sustainability projects in the Tring community, shared an invitation to their meeting on 20th September - this was raised to the group present and opened up to anyone interested in attending. Felicity is in contact with Anna Hirst, a member of this group, for cross-promotion opportunities
- *Friends of Tring Station* has received £500 for its activities however this group still doesn't have a project lead; the position is still open to those interested in helping look after the communal spaces and improve the site's biodiversity, please contact [aldburyvillage@gmail.com](mailto:aldburyvillage@gmail.com) for more information
- The Tidy and Plant Working Party event at Tring Station ran on Oct 2nd at Tring Station. Moira Freeman Lea and Margaret McHugh have been very active sowing seeds on the bank and tidying up the planters - a big thank you to them and all the volunteers who joined the working party to clear and plant on the day.
- The **Annual Aldbury Sustainability Club Awards** (to be awarded at the next meeting on Dec 1st) was not discussed.
- Following the meeting, Lucy passed on the current ASC mailing list to Felicity ahead of her departure to Singapore. All emails and details have been added to the [Members Page](#) - please consult this excel sheet if you need to contact a member of ASC or want to add more contact information for local contacts of similar organisations, eg. Tring in Transition
- Minutes and updates will be sent by email and uploaded to the [aldburyvillage.org](http://aldburyvillage.org) website; subgroups will continue to use Whatsapp to plan projects (if anyone wants to join, please

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contact the WG leaders (Tim French - Transport, Jemima French - Buildings, Nature - Jont Cole, Waste Reduction - Annie Eggar)

- Each working group will meet when it needs to, while the next general meeting will be held Thursday 1st December, 2022
  - Our outreach over the last quarter included:
    - Aug/Sept - Pond tracker article (Paul Barritt + Ted Bianco); Recycling plastic at home (Felicity Aris)
  - Upcoming articles include:
    - Oct - Soft plastic recycling (**Sue Justice**)
- Email [aldbury.outlook@gmail.com](mailto:aldbury.outlook@gmail.com) by the 14th of the month before for all articles
- Online:
    - Village website [www.aldburyvillage.com/sustainability](http://www.aldburyvillage.com/sustainability)
      - needs SEO **Felicity**
    - Facebook - Everything Aldbury, Everything Tring Station
  - Offline:

Share articles via Aldbury Outlook	Run educational sharing events at
Announcement/discussion at	the Memorial Hall
Monday lunch club	Show short films at a Film Club
Run 'Open House' events	viewing

### Built Environment (Jo Horder)

- This group has set up an information resource hub to encourage sustainable building options (retrofit, energy, fuel poverty, etc...) in the following categories:
    - High level advice
    - Local help
    - Advisors
    - Tradespeople
    - Resident's own experiences
    - Further book/article material
- Please contact Jemima French at [jemimafrench17@gmail.com](mailto:jemimafrench17@gmail.com) to access the [information resource hub excel sheet](#) to add your own advice/recommendations
- Additional material raised during the meeting to be added to the resource:
    - [Dacorum Solar Together](#): new group-buying solar scheme
    - [Sustainable Wigginton](#) - local Wigginton group
    - Tim French - resident experience getting permission for solar panels on listed building property
    - Ted Bianco - resident experience sorting out loft insulation for a listed building
    - Thermal imaging camera can tell you how well insulated your walls are; needs to be done in the winter
  - The group will also focus on the potential for:
    - Sharing the information they have compiled together with a focus on connecting sustainability to heating and financial concerns; i.e. writing an article about turning down the temperature of the water tank, or what to do when you have a cavity wall or what insulation projects can you start doing now

### Action Items

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- Set up an event to share information from resource hub
- Share material in article form; i.e. Do you have a cavity wall? Here's what you can do...; article on 5 things you can do at home to reduce energy costs
- Set up resource page on Aldbury Village website - **Felicity**

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### TRANSPORT (Tim French)

#### Priorities:

1. Feasibility of improving the footpath to Tring Station
2. Promoting cycling and walking
3. EV infrastructure (domestic + public)

#### Footpath to the Station:

The [frequently used route is shown here](#)

- The team have engaged with Clayton Rae, Dacorum Expert on Public Rights of Way officer in Herts Council, along with meetings with Sally Symington (Herts County Council) and Graham Juniper (Parish Council)
- Currently no formal discussions with the landowner have been conducted
- Alex Irwin consulted with Peter Vallis, former owner of the fields between the village and the station; Peter explained that there is no legal right of way and during his period of ownership every 8 years he would send a written lease/permission document to the council to give local people the right to use the pathway
- Funding options:
  - Access to [Dacorum CIL money](#); possibly sitting on £18 million
  - Dacorum is leading an impact assessment around Ashridge re. parking + reducing no. of cars in Ashridge + preventing further damage to the woodland area; this is an opportunity to prioritise and promote sustainable transport options (the footpath fits into potential investment in cycling/train/walking transport routes in the area)
- Next steps:
  - Step 1: Paying someone to do a feasibility study (location of footpath, what type of construction, environmental impact assessment and promoting biodiversity)  
Any recommendations for a consultant who has expertise in footpath design is welcome
  - Step 2: Formulate a proposal for Dacorum highlighting long-term maintenance considerations and how we would be engaging with the landowner (buying or leasing the land)
- Considerations:
  - There are several stakeholders involved; incl. Dacorum, Sustrans, Public Rights of Way, etc. – need to be conscious of how we work together on this
  - Safety concerns: cycling along the current route is hazardous, a member of the group cited the section from the station to Beggars lane, in particular the bridge over the canal

#### Promoting cycling and walking:

- Sally Symington highlighted that the Highway's Locality Budget or the Member's Locality Budget would be suitable for funding cycle racks in the village; ASC or the Parish Council could make an application; Sally needs an estimated cost for the project + a site in mind for the cycle racks which she can then review

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### EV infrastructure:

- The transport team have reviewed the potential charging needs in the village (using a desk review survey of the houses in the village and how many could have at-home charged, conducted by Graham Juniper); the geographic is split into 3 main areas:
  - Recreation Grounds
  - South of the village (nr Valiant Trooper)
  - Centre of the village
- Public EV charging option – next steps:
  - Discuss with the landlord of the recreation grounds (the Church) and apply to the grid for costs
  - Tim has access to a charging company (possible upfront costs: £6000-£8000; running costs?); this either becomes a community owned asset (which would require fundraising in the community) or if the charging company thinks there will be enough footfall, they will fund it
  - Funding is also potentially available through Dacorum or Herts County Council
- Alternative options:
  - Encouraging peer-to-peer charging (possible quick win)
- At-home charging option – next steps:
  - It is likely that a few houses in the village would need some support to coordinate with their current supply networks to facilitate at-home charging; Dacorum could possibly advise on this

### Parking:

- Parking was raised again at the recent Parish Council meeting; next steps would include reviewing the possibility of liaising with the Church to help extend parking at the Recreation Grounds or creating a residents/visitors car park in the village

### Friends of Tring Station:

#### Friends of Tring Station



Friends of Tring Station do not have a project lead despite promotion across local networks. We are **seeking an active Chairperson** for this group who will liaise with the Railway and organise the funding and volunteers for work parties. This would include:

1. Acting as liaison between Rail Operator and passengers
2. Keeping planters healthy and thriving
3. Improving biodiversity – in line with Tring being a Bee Friendly Town – sow wild areas
4. Improving passenger experience with
  - Shoe lockers in car park
  - Electric chargers
  - Bike racks on car park side
  - Seating by the taxi stand

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- Signage to walking paths to Aldbury, Canal and Tring

Berkhamsted Adopt a Station group are already quite established and it would be helpful to get in touch to find out what is involved with looking after the station so that there are clearer guidelines for the project lead at Tring Station

### TRANSPORT ACTIONS

**Tim** - Add **Alex** and **Jill** to the WhatsApp group

**Jont** – contact Good Energy

**Ian** to review cycle rack strategy (incl. reviewing initial costs and maintenance for 8-10 cycle racks)

**Sally** to review bike rack proposal when received

**All** - Please let **Tim French** know directly if you have any concerns or ideas as we progress towards a project implementation plan for the footpath from Aldbury to Tring Station

**Felicity** to promote EV peer-to-peer option through ASC mailing list + aldburyvillage website

**Felicity** to promote Friends of Tring Station tidy and planting day – Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sue to contact Susie Stretton re. Berkhamsted Adopt a Station group

All – Please put Oct 2nd in your diaries for the whole day of action including planting wildflowers

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### WASTE REDUCTION (Sue Justice)

#### Priorities

- This subgroup used to be called 'Circularity' however the name has been changed to help with clarity
- Promote the food sharing app, Olio, amongst ASC members and local networks; this app encourages people to share their excess food as well as lend tools/equipment); a few food sharing initiatives were suggested, including a community fridge, however Olio is a simple to use and inexpensive option; Jo Stone and Sue Justice have joined to test out the app; Kate Kelland is a local Olio contact for supermarket excess food; if more people actively use this app in the village, a community fridge would not be needed. Afterthought (to be addressed): what do local cafes and the Greyhound do with left-over food?
- The 'Sharing Table' at Jo Stone's allotments is functioning well with several residents passing on produce and plants this way; people who pick anything up are invited to make a donation to Friends of Aldbury School; it could be expanded so anyone in the village can leave or take fruit or vegetables there. Clean plants pots can also be swapped there. Plants too, but these should be in clean compost, not garden soil which may harbour unwanted weeds or pests.
- Recycling
  - Informing residents (and offering help if required); Sue Justice will be writing an article for the Aldbury Outlook to raise awareness of recycling bins at supermarkets + what can be recycled in them
  - G Grace & Son is also a local favourite; people can take containers and fill up on soap, shampoos, conditioners; they are also happy for people to take their wooden pallets to reuse; Puddingstone Distillery in Tring also offer's £3 off their Campfire gin when you take the empty bottle back
- Instead of setting up our own repair café, the team have found a number of cafés that are already established in neighbouring villages and towns which can be promoted among Aldbury and Tring Station residents; these cafés already have resources, volunteers and expertise to help with repairs, including:
  - [Men's Shed groups](#) in Hemel Hempstead
  - [Open Door](#) in Berkhamsted (contact Richard at [repaircafe@opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk](mailto:repaircafe@opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk) for more info)
  - Tring Repairs (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month)
  - Other repair cafes are also run in [Aston Clinton](#) and [Chesham](#)

Sue Justice is collating details about the repair cafes in the area and will help publicise them for our parish.

- Ted Bianco is keen to reuse pots for his sapling project; Tess Alps receives old pots to pass on to allotment holders  
Any polythene pots headed for the bin are welcome; please collect and pass on to Ted
- Felicity is collecting coffee grounds for compost from Musette Café and distributing around the village  
Anyone interested in receiving coffee grounds for their compost heap, please contact Felicity at [felicityaris@gmail.com](mailto:felicityaris@gmail.com)
- Annie Eggar has taken on role of liaison with the village shop. She will discuss with Sunny and Daisy about having a battery recycling facility there. Shops which sell more than 32kg per annum (about one 4-pack of AAs per day) are obliged to have this but we think our shop sells less than that (if any?)
- Annie Eggar said the baby and toddler group already operates the selling, donating and

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lending of baby and child equipment informally on WhatsApp (find out more on the village website at <https://www.aldburyvillage.org/reduce-waste>). She will look into expanding this more widely in the parish.

- You can recycle just about all soft plastics now in Tesco and M&S. Sue Justice has written an article for the October Outlook about this and reiterated what can go in blue bins. A flexible plastic recycling bin outside the shop was considered but it seems companies are only interested in placing them in bigger stores at present.
- The team agreed that it is important to develop a few ideas at a time. Other ideas mentioned previously include a clothes swap (there is one in Berkhamsted Civic Centre on Sept 25), upcycling shed for unwanted equipment, bulky item pick up monthly, more composting. These will be shelved for now but kept in mind.

### CIRCULARITY ACTIONS

Set up a subgroup meeting – **all**

Promote Olio within ASC circles – **Sue/Felicity**

Put up repair café information on website – **Felicity**

Collect pots for sapling project - **Ted**



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### NATURE (Jont Cole)

**Objective:** To raise awareness of our natural assets and to improve biodiversity in the parish.

**Target:** To be the most biodiverse parish in Hertfordshire by 2030 – an 8 year goal!

This would involve doing baseline readings (air, water, bioacoustics, etc.) every few years to monitor changes in biodiversity and committing to biodiversity improvement projects. This received unanimous agreement amongst the convening group.

### Priorities:

- Ted Bianco and Paul Barritt's pond survey has received 13 responses so far; it would be helpful to put a reminder of the approaching survey deadline
  - Next steps include mapping where the ponds are and promoting further interest in getting a pond (ie. Writing another article highlighting other reasons why ponds are a good idea such as engaging children, supporting other wildlife); this would be good to promote in the Spring in particular when amphibians are coming out
  - Also useful to consider approaching the golf courses in the area which have ponds
- Tess Alps and Tim are writing an article on bee-friendly plants
- Allotment Seedling Project (aims: promoting tree cover and more wildlife)
  - The Parish Council have agreed a contract for allotment space
  - The plan is to prepare the soil at the end of September and renovate the allotment space (e.g. building a shelter out of packing case wood/other repurposed material)
  - Ted has started collecting seed and is looking for pots to get ready for planting at the end of the year
  - The aim is to provide a biodiverse collection of species to optimise environmental impact and accommodate people's tree preferences (i.e. providing species suitable for small to large gardens, options for replacing fences with hedges); Ted has collected 11 species so far and aims to cultivate about 30 species)
  - No solid distribution plans as of yet
- Teresa Inglis raised a concern on Everything Aldbury about a local farmer cutting back the hedge between Brightwood and Staul Balk; Jont said he would discuss this with Teresa in person

### Other activities:

- Partnership with Wigginton:
  - David Wilde, ex Parish Council Chair of Wigginton, is keen to get involved and do projects together; has run his own rewilding scheme and set up thermal imaging in Wigginton to monitor biodiversity in the area

### NATURE Actions

**Ted** – collecting pots and putting up a poster about the pond survey in the village shop

**All** - Volunteers will be needed for sapling project to help share watering duties and soil preparation

**Felicity** - Advertise for volunteers in the Outlook/village website/Facebook when Ted needs them