



ALBRIGHTON & DISTRICT **CIVIC SOCIETY**

(Albrighton, Boningale, Donington-with-Boscobel & Tong)

Main Aim: To improve the appearance of our villages and the quality of life.

Crown Car Park

We were made aware that the brewery proposed to introduce parking charges. As many residents and traders had raised concerns, the Civic Society Committee held a special meeting on 27th March and we were pleased that Shropshire Cllr Nigel Lumby joined us to review the matter. We understood that Marstons had asked Shropshire Council (SC) to end their lease of the eastern half of the car park which had been in place for many years to provide the village car park. SC had considered objecting to the change but were advised that as the area concerned would still remain a car park such an objection was unlikely to succeed. We understood that Marstons were intending to allow the first 20 minute period free and a charge made after that. We are sympathetic to the brewery which sees the adverse effect of some train users parking all day at the Crown. At the same time many people from both Albrighton and surrounding villages regularly use the village centre shops and amenities but require more than the 1 hour along the High Street/Station Road and therefore use the Crown car park. It is feared that this charging system is likely to reduce the number of people coming to shop in the village with this then affecting businesses' viability and consequently harming the nature of the village.

We have already seen some shops and businesses close and we don't want to be a village of just houses. Indeed, Shropshire Council's Local Plan states: "*Albrighton will act as a Key Centre and contribute towards strategic growth objectives in the east of the County.....and will provide an appropriate mix of housing, employment, local services and facilities and infrastructure*".

Cllr Lumby had already made contact with Marstons and we encouraged our committee members who are also parish councillors to encourage Albrighton Parish Council to also write to the brewery to see if a compromise solution, which would satisfy all parties, could be found.

As the implementation of the charging infrastructure was planned for 4th April the Civic Society committee decided to immediately write directly to the Chief Executive Officer of Marstons to firstly ask if they would meet us before work started to discuss the issues to try to find a good outcome for all. We also suggested that if the first free period was increased from 20 minutes to 1 hour then that would help. Marstons did not take up our offer of a meeting but they did agree to our suggestion of the 1 hour free period.

West Midland Trains started charging for parking at the Station against all local objections by the Civic Society and APC made well before they implemented it. This now seems to have adversely affected the Crown car park & in turn the future of some village businesses.

Front Garden / Hanging Basket / Window Box Competition

The competition will be to find the best presented **front garden** with flower beds & trees/shrubs OR a **window box** OR a **hanging basket/container** OR a **combination of any of these**.

*There will be Certificates and Prizes for best in each class and the **Bulmer Cup** for best overall winner*

The **Judging Team**, led by John Bulmer, will tour all four villages to **choose the best** gardens & window boxes & hanging basket/container **in the second half of June**

There is no need to formally enter but to make sure the judges don't miss your efforts please let us know your name and address by 10th June 2023:-

- by post to 31/32 High Street, Albrighton or phone to Phyl at 01902 372225 (next to Balance Shop, Millers Green)
- or by email to peterbwoodman@hotmail.com

We are grateful to our **Sponsors** who have donated prizes:-

Albrighton Garden Centre, David Austin Roses & Kingswood Rd Nurseries

It is free to take part in the Competition & we hope as many residents as possible will support the initiative,so please get gardening so your flower display is looking good by June.

For more information please see www.AlbrightonAndDistrictCivicSociety.co.uk or contact:
Peter Woodman – Chairman (T: 372225) 31/32 High St or Rod Smith - Secretary (T: 372765)

