

## Alsager Town Council Budget 2009/10

### PRESS RELEASE

The total Budget of £192,000 is £56,000 more than at present and requires an increase in your Council Tax of £12.40 per annum equivalent to an extra 24p per week on the average bill.

Councillor Mrs. Shirley Jones Chairman of Alsager Town Council says “Deciding the Town Council’s Budget for 2009/10 has involved difficult choices especially in the current economic climate about what we do and about the right priorities in the Town on which to spend your money”

### What the Town Council did in 2008/09.

- Commenced negotiations to take over the Civic Hall from Cheshire East
- Worked in partnership with Congleton Borough Council on the plan for the Town Centre
- Worked in partnership with Groundwork Cheshire and Congleton Borough Council to extend the skate park and provide the new children’s play area in Milton Park which opened in December
- Opened offices in the town centre to provide public access to Town Council staff and services
- Supported local organisations and groups with financial grants
- Provided finance to the In Bloom Group and their excellent achievement of winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Alsager in the North West in Bloom Competition
- Worked in partnership with Alsager Partnership, Round Table and Chamber of Trade for the excellent Big Turn On of the Christmas Lights and the Christmas Market event in November

The Town Council is committed to building on its success and improving services to local residents and the key services on which the Town Council will be spending in 2009/10 are as follows:

1. Civic Hall – provision for taking over the Civic Hall	£30,000
2. Introduction of Town Handyperson service to enhance the local environment	£ 9,000
3. To extend One Stop Shop opening hours for public access	£ 3,000
4. Milton Park – Sunken Garden Project and improvement to flower beds and paths	£10,000
5. Christmas Lights/Market/In Bloom	£ 7,000
6. Grants to local organisations and groups	£16,500
7. PCSO’s – to improve community safety	£16,500
8. Alsager Partnership	£13,000
9. Alsager Institute – Major structural and repair work	£19,000

10. Activities for young people

£ 1,000

The Town Council is also trying to help small businesses and residents through this time of economic uncertainty.

Interest rate cuts and tax incentives will help businesses and residents but the Town Council intends to:

- Source as much as possible of its expenditure to local businesses in the Town
- Pay its invoices within 7 working days to help businesses with cash flow
- Help individuals and businesses who experience economic problems to find the services that they require from Cheshire East and other governmental bodies
- Our staff will give advice where possible to any resident of the Town who experiences difficulties during this current situation

The centralised location of our offices at 3 Lawton Road (The One Stop Shop) now means that our staff are accessible to customers from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday.

“The future looks bright for residents of Alsager”, says Councillor Shirley Jones, “and the Town will have an important role to play in the new Cheshire East Council. The Town Council remains committed to improving the quality of life of the village and making it cleaner, greener and safer”

Full details of the Budget can be viewed on the Town Council’s website  
[www.alsagertowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.alsagertowncouncil.org.uk)

**End of Press Release**  
**For immediate release**