

GREEN VIEW

QUEEN'S PARK & CHARMINSTER



**Green Councillor
Alasdair Keddie**

QUEEN'S PARK ADVENTURE PLAY AREA TO BE RENEWED AFTER £73,000 GRANT SECURED

- **Cllr Alasdair Keddie's work helps win funds to replace condemned play equipment**
- **Successful collaboration will bring improved facilities and surrounding environment**

The **Woodpecker Play Area** in **Queen's Park** is set to be **renewed**, with a **£73,000 grant** secured from the **Veolia Environmental Trust**. The project will include **new play equipment, improved facilities**, and enhancements to the **surrounding environment** – making Queen's Park an **even better** place for **our community to come together**.

Hard-working local Green Councillor Alasdair Keddie identified a **suitable grant fund** to apply to, and **worked with** the **Queen's Park & Charminster Neighbourhood Charity** and **BCP Council's Greenspace Team** to **get the successful application in motion**. The **Neighbourhood Charity's survey to local residents** on the site's future received **200 responses within days**.

The existing wooden adventure play area installation has sadly **largely expired long before its intended use-by date**. Large parts of it are **boarded up** and **no longer safe**. The **impact has been deeply felt by families** in our local area.

This came after staff at **severely cash-strapped BCP Council** had indicated to Alasdair they **could not foot the entire cost** of renewing the playground at this time. However, **securing the grant will kickstart the project earlier**, with a **major financial contribution from the Council** as part of their **Plan for Play**.

Alasdair says: "The grant is a **great win for our community!**"



£73,000 won to renew the much loved play area



Much of the current playground has rotted



Alasdair at a prior site visit with BCP Council staff

ALASDAIR KEDDIE ELECTED CHAIR OF DORSET POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Role will hold Police & Crime Commissioner to account in meeting policing priorities

Alasdair Keddie commented: "Lines of enquiry at the **Dorset Police & Crime Panel** can lead to **real change for the whole county**. As its **Chair** I have called for:

- ✓ **Improved police reporting** for our communities.
- ✓ A clear roadmap for **dealing with the crack, heroin and opiate crisis** in BCP.
- ✓ A **Violence Reduction Unit** to **tackle knife crime** and **serious violence**.
- ✓ **Retaining daily visible policing patrols** at hotspots in the county – including in **Charminster** and **Winton**.
- ✓ A **fairer deal on police funding** for Dorset."



Cllr Alasdair Keddie with Police & Crime Commissioner David Sidwick

ALASDAIR KEDDIE: WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND GETTING THINGS DONE

NEW QUEEN'S PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN COMING INTO BLOOM

First project supported by relaunched community charity after Alasdair Keddie's groundwork

Last year, **local volunteers successfully took over the management** of an unloved patch of land near Queen's Park. They envisioned a haven for biodiversity and pollinators, and a facility for the whole community.

This Community Garden was the first project **supported by the newly relaunched** Queen's Park & Charminster **Neighbourhood Charity**, after new local trustees stepped up. Reviving the charity was **one of Alasdair Keddie's key goals** after being elected. **Alasdair also directly helped the Community Garden** get off the ground, by negotiating BCP Council's transfer of open space to **community ownership**.

Alasdair says: "We kickstarted the Garden with plants and flowers rescued from the sadly closed **King's Park Nursery**, with further **donations from the community**. As we go in to Spring, it's beginning to **burst with life**, with the first flush of **daffodils, tulips and bluebells** coming in to bloom. The garden continues to evolve with a **wildlife pond, bug hotels, a 'dead hedge' and other wildlife-friendly features.**"



Alasdair with the lead Community Garden volunteer, Karen



MAJOR PROGRESS IN REDUCING CHARMINSTER'S NIGHTLIFE VIOLENCE

- **Alasdair Keddie now BCP's Vice-Chair of Licensing**
- **Problem Charminster nightspot closed; hours reduced at two others**

Hard-working local Green councillor **Alasdair Keddie** has been **elected as Vice-Chair of BCP's decision-making councillors** for **venue licensing applications** and reviews.

Alasdair commented: "**The nighttime economy** has been an early priority for me. **In Charminster**, we've seen **anti-social behaviour escalating into serious violence**, with **irresponsibly run venues** and **breaches of licensing principles**."

"However, **a huge amount has been achieved in the last 18 months**. One Charminster venue has had its **licence revoked**. Another has voluntarily **reduced its hours**. A third has had **restrictions placed** on its hours. The net result is **reduced violence, and reduced impact on residents.**"

"**We want a thriving nighttime economy** in Charminster, but **not at the cost of public disorder** and disruption to residents. That **rebalancing is happening.**"



Alasdair Keddie chairing a Licensing meeting at BCP Civic Centre

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UNDERWAY TO GIVE COMMUNITY MORE CONTROL AND INVESTMENT

Queen's Park & Charminster **Neighbourhood Forum** has **started work on developing a Neighbourhood Plan**.

Alasdair Keddie says: "**A Neighbourhood Plan allows the community to take more control over planning decisions.**"

"We can set **local policies** saying we want to develop more affordable family homes, and fewer one-bedroom flats and Houses in Multiple Occupation. "It'll also unlock increases in the **levy** we can **charge developers** to fund local community infrastructure."



Get involved:

- 🌐 qpc.org.uk
- ✉ admin@qpc.org.uk
- 📱 [/queensparkforum](https://www.facebook.com/queensparkforum)

CAN ALASDAIR HELP?



Councillor Alasdair Keddie

Alasdair's door is always open for contact from local residents.

Get in touch in any of the following ways:

- ✉ alasdair.keddie@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
- ☎ 01202 128656
- 📱 /AlasdairKeddieBmth **[latest updates here]**
- 📺 @AlasdairKeddie
- 📖 **Newsletter archive:** bcp.greenparty.org.uk/queens-park-charminster

Could you help Alasdair keep all local residents informed, by delivering copies of future issues of this newsletter to your own street?

If you could help, please sign up at tiny.cc/qpchelp



ALASDAIR KEDDIE: WORKING HARD FOR QUEEN'S PARK & CHARMINSTER