

Alcester SCAN report on meeting held Thursday July 14th

Your signature matters!

The six SCAN 'Save the Cheque' petitions went to AGE UK as part of the national campaign resulting in.....

The Payments Council have announced that cheques will stay for as long as customers need them. This is great news for the three quarters of people over 65 who use them. Age UK's Policy and Campaigns Teams have been working closely with older people, partners and forums to ratchet up pressure on the banks and we are pleased that we have achieved such a positive result.

Now we wait to see what results will come from our part in the "Hands off Winter Fuel Allowance" Campaign!

Our keynote speaker was **David Webb** from **Stratford District Council (SDC)**. From his position as Head of Business, Housing and Revenues, which also covers tourism, David gave an overview of the council's response to an increasing population and needs at a time of financial challenge. While forward planning had laid a sound foundation, of equal importance was dialogue and input from SCAN, he also highlighted SDC involvement with provision of Extra Care Housing support for residents facing challenges caused by fuel poverty and needing help to access home improvement grants.

Members raised specific issues about transport, new home planning and provision of various district services. David responded and said he would take our comments back to the council. David updated us on progress with the Library consultation and how working together with the Town Council and volunteers, services were being maintained at Globe house.

Carole Zambonini asked members for help in setting up an Alzheimer's Cafe drop-in centre in Alcester possibly to be based at the new Pavilion Centre. Carole is linked to the Stratford Cafe and the Alzheimer's Society Warwickshire. Initially the centre would open once a month. If you would like further information contact Jan Roberts on **01789 260108**.

Our next meeting will be held on 8th September at 10.30am at the Greig Lounge.