

Parish and Partners Foreword

Dear All,

Following a bit of a gap, I am pleased that we are able once more to produce our Parish and Partners newsletter. Personally, I find these publications helpful in updating you all on developments at the District Council and it is good to be back.

I will start this time with the District and Parish/Town Council elections which were held on 4 May 2023. Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to all my staff who conducted the elections. As you are probably aware, a huge amount of preparation goes on behind the scenes. The combined District and Parish elections are already the most complicated to administer; as well as the several boundary changes at parish level, these were the first elections with our new 39 wards, and finally on top of all of that we had the introduction of Voter ID for the first time.

As far as the results of the election, I am sure that you will be aware that there has been a change of political control at the District Council. Out of the 41 Councillors elected, 21 were not of the Council prior to the elections. The District Council has moved from Conservative control to Liberal Democrat taking the District Council. Whilst the Lib Dems have run the District Council in the past this was in a coalition, this is the first time in the history of the District Council that they have had an outright majority. The result of the election was as follows:

Liberal Democrats:	25 Councillors
Conservatives:	12 Councillors
Green Party:	3 Councillors
Independent:	1 Councillor

The Leader of the Council was confirmed at the Annual Meeting of Council meeting, which was held on 24 May, and Cllr Susan Juned was appointed for the next four years. The Leader of the Conservative Group is Cllr Sarah Whalley-Hoggins, and the Leader of the Green Party on the District Council is Cllr Dave Passingham.

Susan has appointed her Cabinet, and this is shown later in this newsletter. One of the first tasks for the new District Council is to set its priorities for the next four years through the new Council Plan. Work has already started on reviewing the Plan, in the first instance this will be undertaken through the elected members, however, there will be plenty of opportunity for stakeholders to be involved and there will also be a formal period of consultation. It is expected that the Council Plan will be approved by the District Council at the meeting in December 2023.

As well as changes in the political side, there are also some changes to report on the District Council's Management Team. Phil Grafton who is the District Council's Head of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer is retiring as is David Platts who is the District Council's Head of Housing and Customer Services.

Phil is leaving the District Council after over a decade, and he is being replaced by Marcia Eccleston in early August. Marcia is currently the Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer at Oxford City Council. Marcia is very experienced and has previously held the role of Head of Service – Legal, Governance and risk for the collaboration between West Mercia and Warwickshire Police.

David has been with the District Council for over seven years, and he is being replaced by Annette Homer in early July. Annette is currently the Head of Governance at the Extracare Charitable Trust. Annette has previously held the role of the Executive Director for Bournville Village trust, and before that worked for Bromford Housing, Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council.

I will personally miss both Phil and David greatly, their input into the work of the District Council has been extremely valuable. I am sure that any of you that have worked with them could agree what assets they have been to the District Council. We are however, thrilled with the appointments of Annette and Marcia and hope that you will make them feel very welcomed. Included later in this newsletter is a structure chart which provides more detail of the range of services which all the Management Team is responsible for.

Thank you again for all of your support, will catch up later in the year with more updates.

Best Wishes

David



Parish and Partners Briefing

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Stratford-on-Avon
District Council
**Cabinet Structure
and Contact Details**
May 2023



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Deputy Leader

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Democratic Services
Information Governance
Joint Legal Service



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Environmental Health and Licensing
Green Spaces – Development
Markets and Events
Parking Services
Sports and Leisure



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Community Leadership,
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Print and Design Team
Revenues and Benefits
Safeguarding



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CIL/S106
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Economic Development and Tourism
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Physical Infrastructure
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Planning Policy
Strategic Housing



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Parish and Partners Briefing



Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Management Arrangements - from 3 July 2023



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Personal Assistant Team
Sports and Leisure
Streetscene



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Economic Development & Tourism
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Local Plans & Planning Policy
Strategic Housing & Housing Enabling
Street Naming and Numbering



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Finance
ICT
Internal Audit



Introducing Stratford-on-Avon District Council's new Cabinet.

At the Annual Council meeting on Wednesday 24 May, Cllr Susan Juned was voted as the new Leader of the District Council and formed a new Cabinet.

Leader- Strategic Leadership
Cllr Susan Juned

Deputy Leader
Cllr Nigel Rock

Law and Governance Portfolio
Cllr Natalie Gist

Environmental and Neighbourhood Service Portfolio
Cllr Lorraine Grocott

Development Portfolio
Cllr George Cowcher

Resources Portfolio
Cllr David Curtis

Housing and Customer Services Portfolio
Cllr Liz Coles

Cllr Susan Juned, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council says: *"I am delighted that I am able to announce a strong team to lead the District Council. We have some key priorities, as set out in our Manifesto, and we look forward to starting on this agenda."*

New Chair for Stratford District Council

At the Annual Council meeting, Councillor Mark Cargill also handed over the chain of office to Councillor Victoria Alcock

During his term of office (May 2022 - May 2023) Councillor Mark Cargill (Alcester and Rural) nominated the invaluable work of Dementia support organisations within the District and the RNLI, following on from his time as an officer in the Merchant Navy as his Chairman's charities and raised a total of £4,888 to be split between the two charities.

Cllr Alcock (Stratford Bishopton), one of the youngest female Chairs in the District Council's history has chosen the Sea Cadets and Youth Collective as her charities and she will also be looking to help support local community groups across the District with the running costs of defibrillators.

Her husband Gary Alcock will be her Consort during her term of office and Dr Rev Roy Lodge MBE will be her Chaplin.

Cllr Alcock said of her appointment: *"Becoming Chair of the District Council is a huge honour. Not just because it's been seven years since we had a female Chair, but also because at 44 I believe I am the youngest female Chair in the history."*



Applications open for UK Shared Prosperity Funding and Rural England Prosperity Funding

**LEVELLING
— UP —**

Businesses and communities in Stratford-on-Avon District are set to benefit again from funding secured by Stratford-on-Avon District Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

The District Council is inviting eligible local organisations to submit expressions of interest for the second round of funding allocation, which will help support the delivery of projects and programmes that help to build pride in place, provide high quality skills training and increase life chances across the District.

£3.6million was awarded to Stratford-on-Avon District Council by the Government through the UKSPF, with a further £1,015,143 for two years available through the REPF, a separate fund focused on addressing the specific challenges faced by rural areas. All the funding must be invested by 31 March 2025.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK.

The fund is part of a suite of funding which begins to replace the previous European Structural Funds and aims to empower local lead authorities to identify opportunities to build pride in place, improve the places in which people live and supporting individuals and businesses to thrive, by:

- Boosting productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spreading opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empowering local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

The Rural England Productivity Fund (REPF) provides small scale capital funding specifically in support of:

- New and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy; this includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.
- New and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

The fund is administered by the District Council, with the decision-making process supported by the Local Prosperity Advisory Group (LPAG), established to evaluate the projects received and make recommendations on which schemes should be supported.

LPAG has representation from a number of local organisations and businesses including, Warwickshire Association of Local Councils, Shakespeare's England, Federation of Small Business, Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and Warwickshire & Solihull Community, Warwick University and Voluntary Action.

Eligible local organisations are able to submit their expressions of interest to the District Council using the [online application form](#)

Documentation and guidance required to complete the application can be found at:

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\) | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

[Rural England Prosperity Fund - Call for projects | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

The deadline for this round of applications is 5pm on Friday 14 July

Applications are expected to come from statutory infrastructure providers and not-for-profit organisations such as state schools, community groups and registered charities for projects that demonstrate a wider community benefit.



HM Government



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Applications for Prosperity Funding continued

Councillor George Cowcher, Development Portfolio said: *"I am delighted that we are able to offer this funding opportunity in Stratford-on-Avon District, and have the opportunity to work with and support local organisations, including parish councils, to make a real difference to our residents, employees and businesses.*

"I am looking forward to seeing some innovative and ambitious new projects and programmes getting underway over the next few years, and to witnessing the lasting impact they are able to make for our communities and economy, particularly those that address the infrastructure problems that we have in the District."

In the first round of funding allocation in March 2023, awards totalling just over £406,000 were agreed, supporting 13 separate initiatives across the District, including: £25,000 for Great Alne Parish Council to upgrade the streetlights; £25,000 for Stockton and £2,500 for Snitterfield Playing fields to upgrade and extend the play facilities; £20,000 for Wixford Village Hall to help replace the Village Hall and £25,000 for Volunteer It Yourself CIC to improve Temple Grafton Community Hall.

If you would like further guidance, please contact: UKSPF@stratford-dc.gov.uk

The UK Shared Prosperity fund (UKSPF) is a £2.6 billion funding pot, announced as part of the Government's Levelling Up programme, to be invested in communities by March 2025. Each area of the UK has received an allocation from the fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.

The UKSPF will be mix of revenue and capital funding that can be used to support a wide range of interventions to build pride in place and improve life chances.

Further information regarding the UKSPF can be found here:

- [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\) | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

New tenant at SDC



Citizens Advice South Warwickshire has moved into the District Council offices, allowing them to see more clients and reduce appointment waiting times.

Julie Robinson, Chief Officer at Citizens Advice South Warwickshire said: *"I am delighted to work with Stratford District Council to enable our clients to get the advice they need, when they need it, right in the heart of Stratford Town Centre. Closing our Meer Street office premises has created opportunities for us to work closely with our partners in the town, and we have been really pleased with the space available, and the commitment demonstrated by the District Council, who are one of our valued funders.*

"Citizens Advice is first and foremost a charity, offering free, confidential and impartial advice to anyone who needs it. To do that effectively, especially in this time of crisis for many Stratford residents, we need to be accessible, and open across the week. This partnership enables us to do just that."

Staff from Citizens Advice South Warwickshire together with a team of volunteers are on hand each weekday, Monday to Friday at Elizabeth House from 10am to 2pm. CAB advisers can meet clients face-to-face in the dedicated booths in the main reception area as well as the option of private meeting rooms.

Cllr Liz Coles, Housing and Customer Services Portfolio at Stratford District Council said: *"With the current cost-of-living crisis this is a much-needed addition to the services available from our headquarters.*

"Historically, clients who visit the District Council would be directed to seek further assistance from Citizens Advice South Warwickshire located in another part of town, so it's beneficial to those clients to have this advice service readily available to them in the same place. I would like to thank Cllr Kate Rolfe for her help in organising this."

In addition, a new Citizens Advice County telephone line, funded in part by Warwickshire County Council, launched in April and offers the opportunity for clients to receive telephone advice for any issue they may face. Delivered in partnership with Bedworth Rugby and Nuneaton Citizens Advice and North Warwickshire Citizens Advice, it offers advice across the whole of Warwickshire every day 9am to 5pm on 0808 250 5715 or on Mondays between 5pm and 7pm call 0800 995 6047 (Warwickshire Out of Hours Service).

Call for projects for Community Infrastructure Levy Funding

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Round for Stratford-on-Avon District is now open for applications for funding towards infrastructure projects and improvements.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is looking for projects to be considered as part of this year's 2022/23 Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) and subsequent funding allocations.

CIL is a planning charge on certain new development, introduced as a tool for local authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area.

The IFS includes a list of the infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure that the District Council intends to fund, either wholly or partly, by its CIL funds.

Previous projects in the District that have benefited from over £3.7 million of CIL funding including the refurbishment of Greig Hall in Alcester and Community Garden at Glebe Road, Bishopton.

The deadline for this round of applications is Friday 14 July



Criteria for the projects

Projects must meet all the mandatory criteria below:

- Is the infrastructure essential or important to support new development within the District?
- Is the infrastructure of District-wide importance and/or deliver District-wide objectives?
- Does the infrastructure contribute to climate change adaptation and/or mitigation?
- Is the infrastructure project consistent with the delivery of the Development Plan?
- Does the infrastructure align with other Council strategies and partner investment plans?
- Are there any constraints to delivery of the infrastructure?

If the project meets the mandatory criteria, then they will be put on the infrastructure list. Once a project is put on the infrastructure list, it will be assessed by a second set of criteria to identify if it is a 'High Priority' to receive CIL funding. Only projects that are deemed to be a high priority will then be put to Councillors for them to decide which projects will be allocated with the available CIL funds.

Councillor George Cowcher, Development Portfolio says: *"This is money generated by existing developments. I would encourage all community groups to consider projects which address infrastructure issues that we have in the District."*

Left: [The Youth Shelter in Moreton Morrell](#)



[The Greig Hall in Alcester](#)



How to put your project forward

If you would like to submit your project for consideration for CIL funding, please complete the [online form](#) by Friday 14 July.

More information on CIL funding can be found [here](#).

If you would like further guidance, please contact planning.policy@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Venture House welcomes community hub

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has provided a lifeline for Stratford Town Trust's community hub by offering it a new temporary home at Venture House.

The future of the community hub was uncertain after the Trust were given notice to leave Foundation House on Masons Road in June.

Foundation House had established itself as a place for charities, groups and local people to come together in Stratford to learn, share, meet and the offer of ground floor space at Stratford District Council's Business Centre at Avenue Farm Industrial Estate off the Birmingham Road in Stratford-upon-Avon, means the community hub can continue while it looks for permanent accommodation.

The Trust will host a regular Community Café and Warm Hub from Venture House, as well as offering meeting space and hot desks for local charities and voluntary groups.



Tony Perks, Deputy Chief Executive at Stratford-on-Avon District says: *"We are very pleased to have been able to offer this support to Stratford Town Trust and the community. This arrangement also gives the District Council a chance to develop its business strategy and carry out a review that will look at Venture House Business Centre and the District Council's business support programme as a whole."*

"The first floor at Venture House continues to offer serviced offices to small and new businesses. These offices give small business owners the rare opportunity to occupy affordable and flexible workspace alongside other friendly and supportive small businesses."



Mary Lee, Community Hub Manager said: *"Foundation House, our community hub, helps us to deliver our vision to create a vibrant and connected community and we know it has played a pivotal role in bringing people together since it opened in 2018."*

"Although we are sad that we won't be able to offer our full range of events and activities at Venture House, we're grateful to Stratford District Council for stepping in to help at short notice. We will be taking the ethos of Foundation House with us and are pleased we can still provide a warm, accessible and friendly space for our local community to come together whilst we look for long-term premises."

"Our first Community Café at Venture House took place on Friday 26 June, and it was good to welcome everyone to our temporary home."

For more information, please visit:

www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk

 Stratford
Town Trust
at the heart of our community

Photos from the Community Café



Scaling up challenges discussed at Stratford event

Innovative and high-growth businesses in South Warwickshire came together at a roundtable event to discuss the challenges and barriers to scaling up in the area.



The event was part of the established Driving Innovation and Growth programme, designed to inform the economic growth agenda in South Warwickshire.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council, the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub and the University of Warwick invited companies to debate the difficulties to building high-growth businesses, the opportunities for scale-up and the support available in the area.

Currently, there are around 30,000 scale-up businesses generating £1.2trn for the UK economy which represents 50 per cent of the small and medium enterprises across the UK economy.

Irene Graham OBE, CEO at the ScaleUp Institute, led the session at Stratford-on-Avon District Council alongside CW Growth Hub Chief Executive Officer Craig Humphrey following the success of the first Driving Innovation & Growth Summit in February.

They were joined by Cllr Susan Juned, the new leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council; Peter Husband, Chief Operating Officer and Group Principal at WCG; and Ian Sterritt from InnovateUK Edge, along with a range of businesses from South Warwickshire.

The roundtable on Scaling Up focused on the specific challenges to encourage growth which had been identified at the inaugural Summit and the expert advice that is needed to take companies to the next level.

Skills and access to finance were amongst the most critical issues raised. However, businesses also highlighted the complexity of the support eco-system for SMEs and stressed the importance of a single point of contact – such as the CW Growth Hub – to help navigate it.

Cllr Susan Juned, who is also Liberal Democrat leader at Stratford-on-Avon District Council, said it had been an interesting and informative session.

She said: *"There was a great response from over 70 businesses who attended the Driving Innovation & Growth Summit earlier this year and it was felt it was vital to carry on the conversations as well as provide practical, high-level advice on supporting high-growth businesses in South Warwickshire."*

"There were really important discussions at the roundtable from businesses in different sectors throughout South Warwickshire who gave an honest appraisal of the barriers which are preventing their further growth."

"Skills was a major area of concern which could be addressed by joining up with education providers such as WCG to equip students with the skills that businesses need, along with the importance of having a single point of contact in our area to navigate a complex eco-system to highlight the business support that is available."

"Local authorities need to look into the future, at issues such as Net Zero, as well as manage the present but there were some key points which we will now go away and hold further discussions on so that we can help companies in South Warwickshire expand and grow."

Craig Humphrey, Chief Executive Officer at the CW Growth Hub, said it had been fantastic to have Irene Graham OBE attend the roundtable to give her expert advice to help South Warwickshire businesses put their high-growth plans into action.

He said: *"The roundtable event highlighted that support for scale-ups has to happen at a local level because of the local expertise and knowledge that is required for owners and senior managers to easily access. We have some brilliant innovative businesses in the sub-region and at the Growth Hub we want to know what we can do to support the ambitions of companies to realise their full potential."*

"That's why it is vital to host events such as this to talk to businesses to help them plan for their future because of the benefit it brings to them and their employees but also the wider economy."

"There are still far too many businesses across our region that are not aware of who we are and what we do and therefore a key theme for me from the session is that we need to signpost businesses to our one-stop-shop for business support and ensure that new innovative businesses coming to our area are made aware of the fantastic support that is available."

Watch the event video at <https://vimeo.com>



Update on Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act of 2011. A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is designed to help establish a vision and planning policies for an area as well as proposals for the future development and use of land.

The policies within an adopted or 'made' NDP are a significant consideration when the District Council makes decisions on planning applications within that area.

As the District of Stratford-on-Avon is a parished area, NDPs in the District are developed by communities in partnership with their town or parish council.

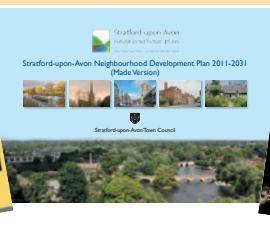
It is up to individual communities to decide whether they wish to produce an NDP or use other existing planning tools (such as Parish Plans or Village Design Statements) to achieve their aspirations.

Since 2012, a considerable amount of community work has taken place to produce NDPs. This continues with an ever-increasing number of additional plans now reaching the latter stages of the legislative process in addition to those that have previously been adopted.

27 Neighbourhood Plans have been 'made' to date, and these form part of the Development Plan for the District alongside the District Council's Core Strategy.

'Made' NDPs cover the following parishes :

- Alcester - adopted 12 July 2021
- Bearley - adopted 18 October 2021
- Bidford-on-Avon - adopted 17 July 2017
- Bishops Itchington - adopted 27 February 2023
- Brailes - adopted 16 December 2019
- Claverdon - adopted 16 December 2019
- Clifford Chambers & Milcote - adopted 12 July 2021
- Ettington & Fulready - adopted 17 December 2018
- Fenny Compton - adopted 24 April 2023
- Harbury - adopted 17 December 2018
- Ilmington - adopted 12 July 2021
- Kineton - adopted 24 October 2016
- Long Compton - adopted 25 April 2016
- Long Itchington - adopted 24 April 2023
- Loxley - adopted 13 July 2020
- Napton-on-the-Hill - adopted 12 July 2021
- Quinton - adopted 27 February 2023
- Salford Priors - adopted 17 July 2017
- Shipston-on-Stour - adopted 15 October 2018
- Snitterfield - adopted 24 April 2018
- Stratford-upon-Avon - adopted 17 December 2018
- Tanworth in Arden - adopted 12 December 2022
- Tysoe - adopted 21 February 2022
- Welford-on-Avon - adopted 27 November 2017
- Wellesbourne & Walton - adopted 17 December 2018
- Wilmcote & Pathlow - adopted 26 February 2018
- Wootton Wawen - adopted 26 February 2018



Parish Plans

Parish Plans differ from neighbourhood plans through a more 'holistic' approach to social, economic and environmental issues, and can focus on more than planning-related issues.

Adopted Parish Plans cover the following Parishes:

- Alcester, Kinwarton, Arrow with Weethley - adopted June 2008
- Aston Cantlow - adopted June 2018
- Avon Dassett - adopted May 2022
- Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden - adopted January 2005
- Binton - adopted December 2016
- Brailes and Winderton - adopted December 2012
- Combroke - adopted June 2007
- Coughton - adopted June 2010
- Temple Grafton and Exhall - adopted June 2021
- Farnborough - adopted August 2017
- Gaydon - adopted April 2013
- Great Alne - adopted August 2017
- Ilmington - adopted February 2006
- Kinwarton - adopted June 2018
- Ladbroke - adopted September 2010
- Langley - adopted June 2019
- Lighthorne Heath - adopted March 2005
- Loxley - adopted March 2007
- Luddington - adopted October 2006
- Moreton Morrell - adopted January 2007
- Napton-on-the-Hill - adopted May 2021
- Newbold Pacey and Ashnore - adopted January 2007
- Oxhill - adopted January 2014



Update on Neighbourhood Planning continued

Adopted Parish Plans continued

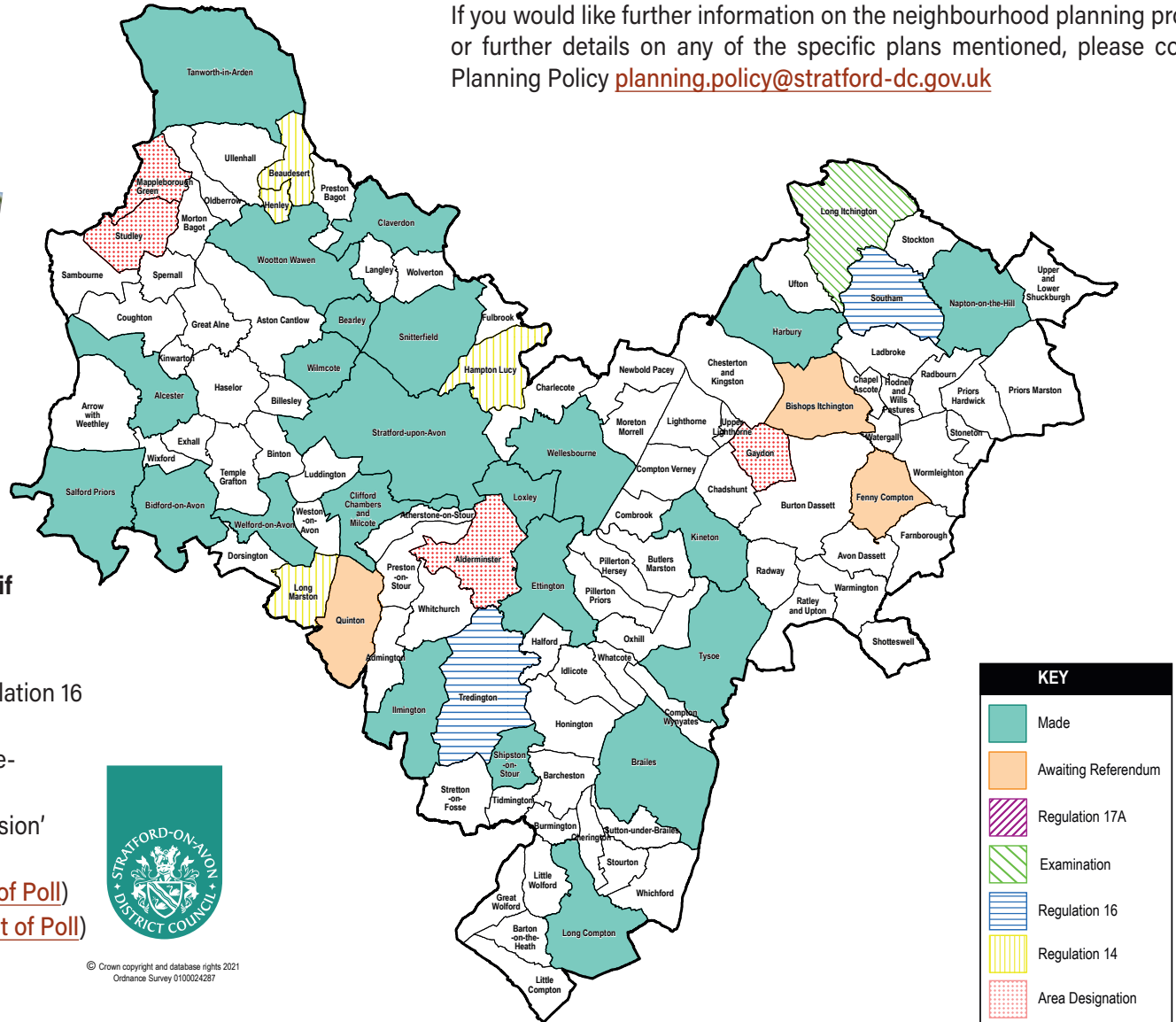
- Pillerton Priors - adopted April 2021
- Preston-on-Stour - adopted July 2014
- Priors Marston - adopted February 2019
- Radway - adopted March 2003
- Ratley and Upton - adopted January 2007
- Sambourne - adopted November 2014
- Shotteswell - adopted July 2018
- Stockton - adopted June 2006
- Studley - adopted February 2017
- Warmington and Arlescote - adopted April 2018
- Whichford and Ascott - adopted November 2010
- Wixford - adopted November 2015
- Wolverton - adopted August 2014



A number of other plans are continuing through the various statutory planning stages – culminating in referendum and, if approved, eventual adoption:

- Hampton Lucy - completed Regulation 14 'pre-submission' consultation September 2022 and currently undergoing Regulation 16 'formal submission' consultation
- Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden - completed Regulation 14 'pre-submission' consultation August 2020
- Marston Sicca (Long Marston) - Regulation 16 'formal submission' consultation
- Southam – Referendum held on 23 June 2023 ([see the result of Poll](#))
- Tredington – Referendum held on 23 June 2023 ([see the result of Poll](#))

If you would like further information on the neighbourhood planning process or further details on any of the specific plans mentioned, please contact Planning Policy planning.policy@stratford-dc.gov.uk



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Ordnance Survey 0100024287

Rural Crime Advisors Update

Alison Packer and Rebecca Jenkins are Stratford District Council's Rural Crime Advisors covering the rural areas of Stratford-on-Avon District and Warwick District and, along with their colleagues, work closely with the local policing teams and other partner agencies.

Victim Visits

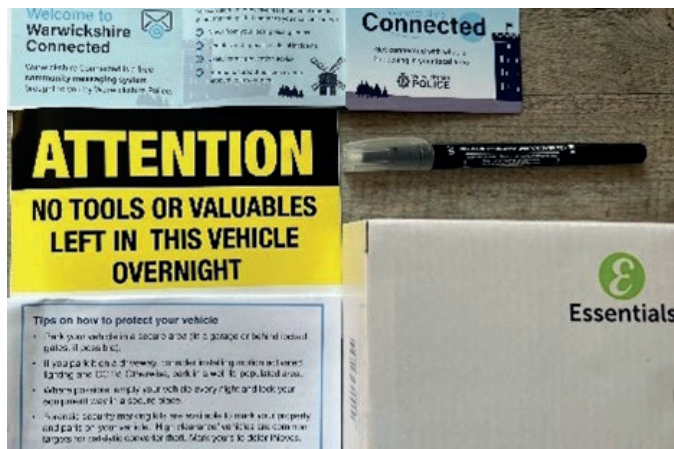
The team have been continuing to visit farmers and rural business owners who have been victims of crime. They take referrals from the Police and other partner agencies, as well as self-referrals. The team offer practical crime prevention advice and, where appropriate, they will loan equipment such as cameras and driveway alert systems.

Crime prevention information and advice can be found on the Warwickshire Rural Watch website: [Advice Sheets - Warwickshire Rural Watch](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk)

Vehicle Crime

For the last year, the team have been carrying out van and caravan crime prevention events in rural villages across the District and the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) rural areas of Warwick East and Warwick West.

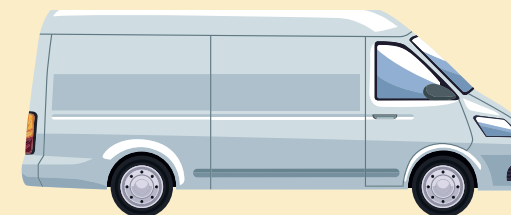
Event locations are based on the SNTs knowledge of vehicle crime trends, particularly relating to theft of tools from vans or theft of vans/caravans.



Visits are made to people in the villages with vans, caravans or motorhomes parked on driveways and given specific advice on the doorstep as well as providing them with alarm crime prevention packs which include: a leaflet, alarm, van sticker, property marking pen, Safe in Warwickshire cards and Warwickshire Police Connected z-cards.

These events are not advertised beforehand as they are not reliant on people attending a particular event as the team goes out to individuals, so if for any reason the event can't go ahead, people aren't disappointed.

Since April 2022, the team has provided 418 alarm crime prevention packs in 21 villages and a further 100 packs in another 5 villages since April 2023.



Tips to protect your van – sourced from: http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk/downloads/Van_Crime.pdf

- Park your vehicle in a secure area (in a garage or behind locked gates, if possible)
- If you park it on a driveway, consider installing motion activated lighting and CCTV. Otherwise, park in a well lit, populated area.
- Where possible, empty your vehicle every night and lock your equipment away in a secure place.
- Forensic security marking kits are available to mark your property and parts on your vehicle. 'High clearance' vehicles are common targets for catalytic converter theft. Mark yours to deter thieves.
- Fit vehicle security equipment within your vehicle.
- Use high visibility signage to deter thieves but stating that no valuables are stored in the van overnight.
- Be aware of people acting suspiciously nearby.

Useful links:

- [Caravan-Advice-New.pdf \(warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk\)](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk)
- [Van Crime.pdf \(warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk\)](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk)



Rural Crime Advisors Update continued



Community Crime Prevention Toolbox Events

These toolboxes are large boxes containing crime prevention equipment: window alarms, shed alarms, can hides, personal alarms, property marking kits, switch timers, faraday pouches, TV simulators, crime prevention information leaflets, Warwickshire Connected z-cards / Safe in Warwickshire cards.

The principle of a 'community crime prevention toolbox event' is to provide the equipment and home security advice to the public, then hand the box over to a 'custodian' for the villagers to use as they think best.

Some villages plan to loan the equipment for people to try, or alternatively give out contents to people to keep.

There is enough property marking equipment in the box to mark over 200 items, so some consider organising their own property marking events to invite the community along and have their tools etc marked.



Rural Crime Advisors
Rebecca Jenkins (left) and Alison Packer (right)

The events SDC's Community Safety team run are 'drop in' style, which usually work best if they piggy-back onto an existing event eg village hall coffee morning or similar.

So far, the team have delivered community crime prevention toolbox events in 9 villages across Stratford District.

They are steadily making their way through the villages in rural Stratford District and Warwick rural east and west. As you can appreciate, that's a huge area to cover, so it would be ideal to have a willing volunteer in each village to help progress this. If you are interested please contact the Community Safety team by emailing: community.safety@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Domestic Abuse hits closer to home

We know from reported incidents of domestic abuse in Stratford District, that there are women and men who are experiencing domestic abuse. We also know from national surveys that male victims and LGBTQ+ victims can be unsure about what support is available for them. Our Warwickshire Domestic Violence and Abuse Service is experienced at supporting all victims of domestic abuse and our trained workers understand the challenge and impact that abuse can have on an individual.

In addition to our local services, there are a range of national organisations that can assist. The breadth of local and national support available, can be found on www.talk2someone.org.uk/

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, please know, **#youarenotalone**. If you would like to see support or you are concerned about a family member, neighbour or friend, then please read on for signs of abuse and support services that you can share with them so they can get help and advice.

Advice

- If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, please dial 999.
- When accessing websites via a phone or website, remember to delete the browsing history so that the search trail can't be traced. For help go to www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk/browser-safety/
- Encourage the person you are worried about to keep a diary of events. The accounts listed can be used as evidence should the case go to court.
- Help the person you are worried about to draft an escape plan.
- Use codes to check in on one another i.e., two rings and silence could mean call 999.
- Have a bag of clothes, important documents and money stored away, ready for a quick exit.



Domestic Abuse services in Warwickshire

Warwickshire Domestic Violence and Abuse Service

Warwickshire Domestic Violence and Abuse Service is a countywide service offering help and support to women, men and children experiencing domestic violence in Warwickshire.

They have a 24-hour helpline, community-based support and advocacy and access to refuge accommodation. Drop-in sessions are also provided around the county. If you live in Warwickshire, you can call 0800 408 1552 to speak to a support worker.

To access the website please go to www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/our-services/refuge-warwickshire-domestic-violence-service/

Talk to Someone

Talk to Someone provides information and advice for victims of domestic violence and abuse, friends and family, young people, professionals and for those that may be concerned about their own behaviour. To access the website please go to www.talk2someone.org.uk/



Free seated exercise sessions across Stratford-on-Avon District described as 'irreplaceable'

Free activities across Stratford-on-Avon District to support older adults become more mobile have been described as 'irreplaceable'.

Attendees have described the half-hour seated exercise sessions as 'extremely beneficial' to both physical and mental health.

Everyone Active, the operator of Stratford-on-Avon District Council's five leisure centres, secured funding earlier this year from Sport England to deliver activities to support older adults across the community to become more mobile.

Sessions are delivered in community venues in a group setting and are designed to improve mobility, fitness and wellbeing as well as help prevent falls. One attendee, 78-year-old Linda, benefits from the class and said: "I have osteoarthritis and have found an improvement in my movements."

Classes involve gentle chair-based exercises that focus on strengthening different muscles and joints.

Sessions are weekly at each venue and led by Everyone Active instructor, Steve Blake.

Susan Leaman is a regular attendee at the Graham Adams Centre in Southam and praised the class. Describing it as an 'irreplaceable provision' Susan said that, "after a lifetime of disability, multiple joint pain and immobility, this class has enabled me to find and move my muscles again."

"It is the only movement class suitable for myself. In addition to the physical benefits, this class has supported me with my mental health disabilities as a result of head injuries and two small strokes."

Joe Warren, Everyone Active's contract manager, said: "Getting out, getting active and meeting people has life-changing benefits for older people. Our members tell us these sessions help them improve their physical health and stay fit, but more than that, attending the sessions help sustain social connections and improve mental health.

"Stratford-on-Avon District is particularly large and rural and this funding has enabled us to take sessions out into the community and use venues closer to older residents.

"We are thrilled that the sessions have proved such a big hit so far and are making a real difference to the lives of attendees. New attendees are always welcome and those interested can simply turn up or if you'd like more information, get in touch."

Cllr Lorraine Grocott, Environmental and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio at Stratford-on-Avon District Council says: "Regular physical activity in later life is important for so many reasons and can make us feel better in so many ways. Everyone Active's support of SDC's Active Communities Strategy 2019-2024 means that we are able to reach more people and provide opportunities more locally, so that more people can feel the benefits and keep active.

"Seated exercise classes are another way of making sure that we are inclusive of all our community and take into account all abilities. Exercise increases energy, improves memory and can be a great means through which to socialise it also helps people to maintain their independence."

Everyone Active's partner in the scheme, Think Active, administers the funding on behalf of Sport England to break barriers and create more inclusive opportunities for activity for everyone.



Instructor Steve Blake (front) leads a seated exercise class at Harbury Village Hall

Abi Dixon, Think Active's Senior Partnership Manager, said: "It's brilliant to be able to support Everyone Active to be able to deliver these sessions. Being active is one of the best things you can do for your health and these sessions are invaluable in enabling people to come together, be active within their own community and contribute positively to their own physical and mental wellbeing."

Sessions take place at the following locations:

- Mondays at 10am: Eric Payne Centre, Alcester
- Tuesdays at 10am: Harbury Village Hall
- Wednesdays at 2pm: Graham Adams Centre, Southam
- Thursdays at 1pm: Lighthorne Heath Village Hall
- Fridays at 3pm: Ken Kennett Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon

To find out more, contact instructor Steve Blake on: steveblake@everyoneactive.com

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- 24/7 mental health helpline providing low-level support and information – **0800 616171**
- One-to-one face-to-face support, offering a listening ear, signposting and practical problem solving
- Community links, offering one-to-one support to engage in the local community



0800 616171
[wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk](https://www.wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk)



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To register or for more information please

01789 264491

@UBUS@stratford-dc.gov.uk

If you live in an area with limited public transport or you struggle to use public transport because of mobility or health issues then **UBUS** could be for you.

UBUS is a dial-a-ride service for people of all ages in the **Stratford-on-Avon District**, operating between **9:30am and 7:00pm, Monday to Friday.**

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- a learning disability
- other kinds of dementia
- a severe stroke
- severe or chronic mental illness

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- Employment Support Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- increased Disability Pension
- Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
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- Constant Attendance Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit

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For more information please contact Revenues on

01789 260990

@revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk



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Stratford District Council meetings

District Council meetings can be accessed and viewed using the link from the front page of the agendas.

Date	Time	Meeting
Monday 3 July	10.00am	The Cabinet
Tuesday 4 July	4.00pm	Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 5 July	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 10 July	2.00pm	Council
Wednesday 19 July	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 2 August	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 16 August	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 30 August	6.00pm	Planning
Friday 1 September	10.00am	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 4 September	10.00am	The Cabinet
Tuesday 5 September	4.00pm	Public Participation Meeting Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 13 September	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 27 September	6.00pm	Planning
Friday 29 September	10.00am	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Go to <https://democracy.stratford.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1> to see the District Council meetings calendar.

Need HELP... with the survey for your Plan?

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Satisfied clients include Parish Councils from both within and outside Stratford-on-Avon District.



Feedback received includes:

"Just wanted to say a big thank you for doing a cracking job on our village survey"

"Again thanks to you and your staff for a professional job - and lots of patience!"

Get professional assistance for your consultation

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simon.purfield@stratford-dc.gov.uk



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