

# View

Stratford

Summer 2016

**Spotlight on Harbury**

**Bike safety**

**Summer fun!**

**Affordable  
home ownership**





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**Welcome** to the summer issue of Stratford-on-Avon District Council's magazine Stratford View. This magazine is produced twice a year to keep you informed about Your District Council services. You'll be pleased to hear that the cost of producing the magazine has been covered by advertising income and only a small amount of money has been spent on distribution. We are keen to receive ideas for content in future issues and receive feedback on the magazine, contact us at [corporate.communications@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:corporate.communications@stratford-dc.gov.uk).

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# News in Brief

## Get ready to Z-App fraud

Your District Council is calling on residents to help tackle fraud following the introduction of a new anti-fraud app for smartphones.

Clear and concise, the App carries authentic Stratford District Council branding, allowing the public to report concerns faster than ever before.

Residents will be able to use the Stratford-on-Avon Fraud Reporter to report any instance where they suspect fraud is being committed in relation to Council Tax, Business Rates, Corruption,

Payments, Insurance, Employment, Grants or any other suspicion, completely confidentially.

The App is free to download and is designed to be easy to use and is available for both Apple and Android devices. To download the App, simply visit the App Store or Google Play or visit the Council website at [www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk).

Fraud can still be reported on the Fraud Hotline by calling 01789 260486 - Housing Benefit Fraud can be reported to the Department of Work and Pensions directly on 0800 854 440.

## Information on Dementia

Your District Council has produced a leaflet detailing all the dementia cafes, day care and other activity groups which are available across the district for those living with dementia.

The leaflet also gives information on support groups available for carers.

Many organisations, which support people with dementia or their carers have their own leaflet but this is the first time that all the services in the district have been detailed in one place.

The leaflet has been distributed to all GP surgeries, so anyone receiving a diagnosis can pick up the leaflet and find out what local activities and support is available.

The leaflet can also be found on Your District Council's website at [www.stratford.gov.uk/healthcare/dementia-friendly](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/healthcare/dementia-friendly)

For further information please contact Marie Darwen, Policy Officer at Stratford-on-Avon District Council on 01789 260108





## Did you know:

Residents can now apply for a permit to park overnight in one of Your District Council's car parks in Stratford-upon-Avon. Please contact [parking@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:parking@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or telephone 01789 260691 for more information.



## Did you know:

If you are having a 'spring clean' at home, clearing your shed or garden, you can now lease a large 1,100 litre wheeled bin to get anything you no longer need taken away. Don't forget to consider reuse options if any items might be useful to someone else.

For more information please contact [Streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or telephone 01789 260616.

# Planning on form

Your District Council's Planning service has again exceeded national planning performance targets for the speed of decision-making in each category and the figures even outperform the best year's results from 2 years ago.

### Planning Performance

Application Type	2013-14	2015-16	National Target
Major	76.7%	84.2%	60%
Minors	72.3%	80.5%	65%
Householders	88.6%	92.8%	80%
Others	83.5%	88.6%	80%

# Ground-breaking housing scheme gets the go-ahead

Warwickshire Rural Housing Association (WRHA) has been given the green light for a ground-breaking project, as planning permission has been granted for Warwickshire's first ever Passivhaus scheme.

The development in Wootton Wawen will comprise 12 properties for affordable rent and two for shared ownership, all designed and built to the rigorous Passivhaus standard for ultra-low energy buildings.

Developed in Germany in the early 1990s, Passivhaus meaning 'passive house' focuses on creating a building which is as energy efficient as possible to reduce its ecological footprint.

Funding of £460,000 has been agreed with Your District Council for the new development, along with £350,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency, and WRHA is working closely with Wootton Wawen Parish Council to bring the plans to fruition.

The 14 new properties, seven of which will be bungalows, are being developed in partnership with Waterloo Housing Group and will be sited on land owned by Allens Caravans adjacent to the A3400.



# Rural Crime Matters

Your District Council's Rural Crime Coordinators, who are funded by the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, have been working with the Police and other organisations, individuals and communities across the district over the last year to raise awareness and help individuals and communities to protect themselves against crime in rural areas.

They have been:

- Working with schools and clubs, cyclists, allotments and anglers providing security marking for property and advice on how to stay safe.
- Working with older peoples groups, dementia sufferers and their carers to raise awareness of how to look after yourself and your property, how to look out for scams, home security and providing security marking of property.
- Working with local communities providing property marking at over 70 village events and giving crime prevention advice.
- Working with vulnerable individuals who have been a victim of crime giving advice on changes to make and loaning crime prevention equipment where appropriate.
- Encouraging residents to report suspicious activity to the Police - you may have that little bit of information that completes the jigsaw. Launching an 'Eyes and Paws' initiative to encourage dog walkers who see something suspicious when out and about to report it. Call the Police on 101 (non emergency) or 999 (emergency).



## Limited Offer

Your District Council's Rural Crime Coordinators want to help you to protect your property. They have a limited number of 'Property Marking Packs' to give away so you can mark your property with your postcode to help deter thieves.

Whether you are a residents association, Parish Council, allotment group, school, club or can encourage others in your street to mark a number of items then do get in touch, contact [lucy.lambert@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.lambert@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

Hurry stocks won't last!



# Did you know Your District Council works to reduce anti-social behaviour in the District?

Here are some hints and tips that could help you through the coming season to reduce anti-social behaviour:

- In summer doors and windows are often left open but noise travels, please be a considerate neighbour. Be a bit more tolerant too. (Beware of thieves - don't forget to close doors and windows if you go out.)

Neighbour disputes can cause long-standing feuds, which could cost you emotionally and financially...

- To resolve any neighbour disputes that may arise in an amicable manner, without involving external third parties, try to negotiate a resolution with your neighbour in the first instance. This can help to prevent minor issues from escalating and keep the peace.
- Think about where you're putting your refuse bin - noxious smells can drift into neighbouring homes, sometimes causing disputes with others.
- Anti-Social Behaviour increases during the holidays - ensure your kids have activities to keep them busy and fill their time constructively.

## STAMPING OUT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



## CCTV

Your District Council operates CCTV across the district in Alcester, Bidford, Henley-in-Arden, Shipston-on-Stour, Southam, Stratford, Studley and Wellesbourne.

Your District Council's CCTV service is one of the first in the country to have achieved certification against the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice. The Council also holds British Standard BS7958 for CCTV Management and Operation.

To keep up to date on Your District Council's Community Safety Team and events follow us on Twitter @SDC\_Safer

### Did you know:

Your District Council's CCTV achieves Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Certificate ensuring a balance between protecting the public and upholding civil liberties

### Did you know:

Evidence gathered using CCTV cameras is one of the most successful ways of securing convictions in court.





# Summer Fun!

## Hi-5



Your District Council will be running a number of free and affordable holiday activities for children and young people, throughout five weeks of the school summer holidays.

Hi-5 Day Camps are for children aged 5 to 11 years and cover elements of Sport, Art and Play throughout the day. The cost is £12 a day or £50 a week

Hi-5 Multi-Sport & Swim Camps are for children aged 8 to 15 years and include multi-sport sessions including swimming, football, tennis, hockey, basketball, badminton and lots more. The cost is £12 a day or £50 a week.

Hi-5 TUFFS sessions are free of charge and open to any age (under 8's must be accompanied by an adult). The sessions will be run on an open access policy where children can come and go as they please. Two activity leaders will be at each session to give guidance and instruction where required. The session will be held at a number of green spaces and fields across the district

For more information on the location, dates and times or booking of any of the Hi-5 activities please visit [www.stratford.gov.uk/holidayactivities](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/holidayactivities) or call 01789 260643

Places are limited on Hi-5 Days Camps and Multi-Sport & Swim so please book early to avoid disappointment.

## Discover a new way to get active

For many people those first initial steps to becoming more physically active can be the hardest. Outdoor activity can create the gateway to a healthier lifestyle for people of all ages. Being free, convenient and accessible to all, it removes many of the barriers that might otherwise prevent people from taking those first steps. Well-documented research has shown that even small amounts of regular exercise have measurable benefits towards physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Why not visit one of the Outdoor Gyms located in Stratford District?

- Recreation Ground, Stratford-upon-Avon
- Orrian Close, Stratford-upon-Avon
- Jubilee Fields, Alcester
- Sports Club, Shipston-on-Stour

Alternatively, why not walk a mile around the Stratford Recreation Ground along the Measured Mile route starting at the Outdoor Gym?

Or have a game of table tennis on our brand new table at the Stratford Recreation Ground by the Pavilion.

For more details contact the Active Communities Team on 01789 260115 or 260638 or email [leisure@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@stratford-dc.gov.uk)





# Keeping your bike safe



Each year over around half a million bikes are being stolen in the UK and locally cycle theft was voted as a community priority. So Your District Council has teamed up with Warwickshire Police in launching a new Bike Register scheme.

The scheme was launched at the Stratford River Festival last year where PCSO's Dominic Bes-Jeary and Barney Tandy (pictured) from Stratford Police Safer Neighbourhood Team marked over 100 bikes. Safer Neighbourhood Teams from across South

Warwickshire are currently offering this service free of charge at Property Marking events which are being held across the district.

Details of events in your local area can be found on the events section on the Warwickshire Rural Watch website at [www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk) and on the 'My Area' section of the Warwickshire Police website at [www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk)

## Tips on keeping your bike safe:

### At home

- Keep your bike in a secure garage or shed.
- Keep it out of view, away from prying eyes.
- Secure it to an immovable object such as a ground anchor.
- Use good quality locks and chains which meet the 'Sold Secure' standard.
- Overtly mark your bike; there are many products on the market from straight forward labels using post codes or schemes such as Bike Register, a national database set up just to deal with bikes. [www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com)
- You could include bikes when you register other items on Immobilise. [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

### Out and about

- Thieves do not like to be seen! Where possible lock your bike in a well-lit, busy area and look for CCTV coverage.
- Lock both wheels and the frame to a bike stand or strong immovable object.
- Lock 'tight' so your bike is hard to manoeuvre when parked.
- Use good quality locks and chains which meet the 'Sold Secure' standard.

Also make a record of a full description of your bike to include make, model, serial number, marks, features and accessories and take pictures of your bike.

Check to make sure your bike is covered by your house contents insurance or for more expensive bikes specific insurance cover may be more appropriate.

Photo courtesy of Mark Williamson/Stratford Herald





# Discover Harbury

Harbury is a large parish and village in the centre of the county, about 5 miles south-east of Leamington and 3 miles south-west of Southam. The parish includes Deppers Bridge and outlying farms, and has a population of approximately 2,500 residents.

People have been living in Harbury for more than 3,000 years and the village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The main village of Harbury stands on a hill of over 400ft above sea level and more than 100ft above the surrounding landscape, Harbury was readily defensible, and the original hill fort was located near Harbury House to the east of the church. The name of the village derives from Hereburgh's Byrig - 'byrig' being an Anglo-Saxon term meaning a fortified village or settlement. Hereburgh (or Heber) is presumed to be the female leader of an Iron Age tribe who settled at the site c.500BC.

The oldest building in the parish is All Saints Church, which was built in the late 13th century, but there are several private homes in the village which date back to the 15th and 16th centuries including the first school, the Wagstaffe School, founded in 1611. Two non-conformist chapels also date from the 19th century (both are private dwellings today) as does the Wight School which opened in 1856 and served as the village school until the mid-20th century.

In 1847 the railway came to Harbury with the construction of the main Oxford to Birmingham GWR line. Harbury cutting,

to the north of the village, was a significant engineering feat. At over 100ft deep it was, at the time, the largest man-made cutting in the world - entirely dug by hand. The workers employed to build the line required housing which was constructed in the village, and increased the demand for local services.

The village is a thriving and busy community which boasts a Church of England Primary School which includes a Heritage Room dedicated to the history of the village, nursery school, pre-school, Doctor's Surgery, four public houses, a village club, a Post Office, two general stores, a chemist, a greengrocers, and a hairdressers.

A number of other successful businesses operate within the centre of the village or on the small Industrial Estate 'Churchlands' on the site of the former water tower. There is a well-used Village Hall, an active church community, and a large number of vibrant and successful community groups.

Village events such as the Carnival and the Bonfire all contribute to the sense of living in a real community.





# Spotlight on Harbury Village Community Library & Cafe



Harbury's original Victorian school (the Wight School) is home the Village Community Library. Whilst the library is associated with Warwickshire County Libraries, it is operated entirely by volunteers. This hardworking team of over 100 volunteers, managed by a small Steering Committee, run both the Library and its cafe, known as Biblio's.

Their efforts keep the Library open as a thriving village hub from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 12noon Saturdays - longer opening times than many city libraries. Harbury Village Library has full

access to County and National books, materials and wide-ranging online resources, as well as its own excellent book collection, and free online use of Ancestry and British Newspaper Archive. It offers a car park, free computers, free WiFi, ongoing art exhibitions, and regularly updated pop-up displays of local interest.



## Every library should have a cat, and Biblio is Harbury Library's cat - he even has his own poem.

Biblio the Harbury Library cat  
Who isn't very long,  
And isn't very fat,  
And who likes to lie in sunshine  
On a brightly coloured mat,  
Is fast asleep right now,  
So let's leave him just like that.





# Introducing Venture House your District Council's New Business Centre

# Venture

HOUSE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



The new business centre opened its doors in April. Located at Avenue Farm Industrial Estate just off the Birmingham Road in Stratford-upon-Avon, the centre aims to create a friendly business family community environment that supports and develops new and small businesses, helping them to grow and move on.

Venture House provides 2,500 square feet of business space over two floors offering hot-desking, co-working space, self-contained offices, reception meet & greet, broadband, WiFi, business support, photocopying, on-site parking, cycle shed, indoor & outdoor chill-out zones, refreshment facilities, meeting space, small conferencing facilities, competitive rates and flexible easy in easy out terms.

The centre particularly welcomes home based business in rural areas who often feel isolated or distracted, to access a flexible friendly informal working environment. Taking a hot

desk space at Venture House, allows businesses to explore and share ideas with like-minded people, make new contacts and grow business.

A Hot desk consists of a desk space, access to WiFi and Broadband, lockers, business support, on-site parking and secure cycle shed.

No need to book just pop in, you can either take up a desk space or have a look round.

For more information please visit [www.venturehousestratford.co.uk](http://www.venturehousestratford.co.uk) or call 01789 207500. Venture House Business Centre, Avenue Farm Industrial Estate, Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 OHR

We look forward to welcoming you to Venture House.



# Affordable home ownership scheme



Shared Ownership is a Government scheme to help people get on the property ladder. Ownership is shared with a local housing association and you usually can buy between 25% to 75% share of a home and then pay the rent on the remaining share with only a smaller deposit of the share you buy required than if you were to buy outright.

## Who is eligible?

- People who can't afford to buy a home on the open market in Stratford-on-Avon District.
- Households with a household income of less than £80,000 a year.
- First time buyers and, in some cases, home owners who are assessed as having a housing need can qualify.
- People who are 18 years of age or older.
- People who satisfy the specific local connection criteria.

## It may be suitable for you if...

- You can't afford a large deposit on a property and then maintain a mortgage on the remaining cost.
- You anticipate staying in the same house for the longer term.
- You are renting your current home - once everything is set up, your monthly payments could be similar to the rent for a similar home.
- Your earnings/savings may increase in future enough to buy the whole of the property

For more information about Shared Ownership, visit [www.stratford.gov.uk/sharedownership](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/sharedownership)

To talk to someone about whether shared ownership is right for you, contact Your District Council's Housing Advice team on 01789 260861/2/4 or email [housingadviceteam@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:housingadviceteam@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



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# Working for you

Your District Council is committed to meeting the needs of all its communities and the Corporate Strategy sets out 3 main objectives to achieve this:

**Objective 1:**  
A flourishing local economy

**Objective 2:**  
People and their environment

**Objective 3:**  
Responsible community leadership



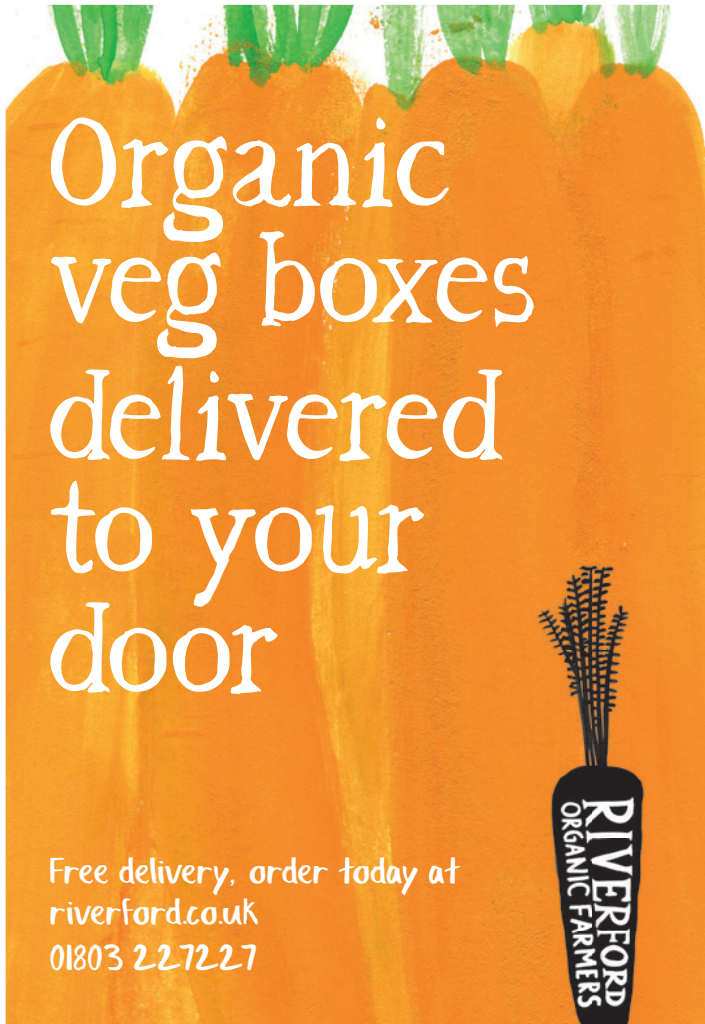
The first year of Your District Council's new Corporate Strategy (2015-2019) has been completed.

Key results include:

- Delivered over **240 affordable houses** - exceeding the target of 160.
- **Opened Venture House** the new business centre located in Stratford-upon-Avon for new and small businesses.
- Agreed to provide financial support of £475,000 in order to **increase broadband coverage** across the district to 98%.
- Completed the **refurbishment of Stratford Leisure Centre** with new facilities including a Clip 'N Climb Wall and Virtual studio.
- Secured **more funding for CCTV cameras** at Meon Vale, Long Marston, Wellesbourne and Bell Court developments to help support community safety.
- **Installed Customer Access Terminals (CATs)** across a number of locations in the district, with new additional access points installed in Tysoe and Wellesbourne, bringing the total number of Customer Access Terminals installed to nine. Two more Customer Access Terminals are planned to be installed in Kineton and Long Compton.








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# Council digital inclusion grants to help district's organisations get online



Getting online will now be much easier for a number of voluntary and community organisations across the district.

Alcester Town Council, Bearley Village Hall Trust, Bidford Community Library, and Heart of England Mencap are among seven groups chosen to receive a digital inclusion grant of between £2,800 and £4,000 from Your District Council.

Long Compton Parish Council and Village Hall Committee, Southam Church and Community Project and Warwickshire Vision Support make up the remaining three organisations set to be given a helping hand.

The cash injections will allow the groups to take advantage of superfast broadband as well as increasing access to WiFi in community venues, and funding training to help people use technology such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops.

Grants of £5,000 have also been awarded to more deprived parts of the district – including the Maybird and Bishopton areas of Stratford and Lighthorne Heath - which will allow residents to increase their digital skills.

Support will be available for vulnerable adults and visually-impaired residents.

In addition, the initiative is seeking to enable households without access to use price comparison sites to reduce utility costs, video call distant relatives, access job opportunities and provide online homework resources for youngsters.

The grants programme was made possible thanks to £40,000 of funding from Orbit Heart of England and applicants were supported in their bids by Voluntary Action Stratford-upon-Avon.

If you would like any further information please contact Carol Roberts, Policy Officer at Stratford District Council on 01789 260112 or email [carol.roberts@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:carol.roberts@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



Bottom two images courtesy of The Stratford Observer



# Keeping the community healthy



To support small, local, health-focused community projects in south Warwickshire Your District Council has teamed up with Public Health Warwickshire, South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group to provide funding to a number of diverse organisations.

## Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs (WAYC) - Stratford Sharp Minds.

This is a project for young people aged between 14 and 21 with mild-to-moderate mental health problems, aiming to reduce social isolation and improve emotional health.

## Valley House - Unwind

Unwind will use social media to target isolated and vulnerable young people who are experiencing poor mental health. Unwind sessions which will run once every fortnight in Lighthorne Heath and will involve a two hour group activity followed by refreshments with an opportunity to attend one-to-one support sessions with Valley House staff to address specific issues in greater depth and confidentially.

## Friends of Shipston Primary - Step It Up!

Step It Up is a steps distance challenge using wristband pedometers for children, teachers and teaching assistants at Shipston Primary School. They will be split into teams with the winners getting the chance to try the climbing wall at Stratford Leisure Centre. The pupils will also take part in a Step It Up badge challenge based on a 15 question health quiz and offered sugar swaps at breakfast club. Healthy cooking sessions will also be run as an after school club, allowing pupils to cook and bring home a meal they have made.

## Shakespeare Hospice - Life after Treatment Cancer Survivorship Group

Shakespeare Hospice will set up a pilot cancer survival group to help those adjusting to life after treatment with the opportunity to share experiences and discuss concerns with people in a similar situation. Hospice staff including Day Hospice nurses and an occupational therapist will run two hour sessions covering different topics such as body image and relationships, nutrition, relaxation and stress management techniques, and planning new aspirations.

## Heart of England Mencap - Feeling Healthy

The 'Feeling Healthy' project supports adults with a learning disability in Stratford and Warwick districts to raise awareness about the importance of having a healthy mind, a healthy body, and a good diet to remain healthy! The project involves a combination of diet advice, dance and active movement, mindfulness, sports and outdoor use. PHOTOGRAPH

## Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - Nuts about Nature

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will set up a local nature club in two local special schools; Welcombe Hills in Stratford and the Ridgeway School in Warwick. The project will set up a regular group, supported by school staff and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and will focus on outdoor play; increasing children's levels of physical activity, imagination, leadership and problem solving, whilst also improving levels of mental wellbeing.

