



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Chief Executive

Welcome to our end of year edition of Parish and Partners in which we traditionally look back over the previous 12-months and look forward to new challenges in the New Year.

As you will be aware this has been a year of political change at the Council following the elections in May. For the first time in the history of the Council there is a clear majority for the Liberal Democrat party.

Since May one of the priorities for the Council has been the development of several policies and strategies which will guide the Council's priorities until the next election in 2027.

The most significant of these strategies is the Council Plan 2023-2027, this document sets out the direction of the Council and identifies the Council's key objectives. Thank you so much to everybody that was involved in helping to develop this document either by participating in one of the many focus groups or stakeholder sessions or by responding to the consultation exercise (this generated over 400 responses). The Council Plan was approved by Council at its meeting on 11 December and later in this newsletter there are further details about what the Council will be concentrating on over the next four years, however, the overriding key priorities for the Council will be as follows:

- Residents and Communities
- Delivery of Service
- Local Economy
- Housing
- Climate Change
- Health and Wellbeing

The action plan to support the implementation of the Council will now be developed alongside the budget proposals. The budget will be approved by Council on 26 February 2024, and the action plans at The Cabinet a week later.

In addition to the Council Plan, at the Council meeting on 11 December the South Warwickshire Economic Development Strategy and the Growing Opportunities Plan were also approved.

The vision of the South Warwickshire Economic Development Strategy is: ***"Our vision for South Warwickshire is that by 2028, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils will have contributed to the creation of a larger, stronger, greener and more inclusive economy."*** The priorities within this joint strategy relate to People, Productivity and Place. It is a very ambitious document which seeks to support the existing businesses in the area and attract new sectors whilst also seeking to de-carbonise the existing economy.

The Growing Opportunities Plan compliments the County Council's Levelling Up which was approved last year. Whilst compared to national statistics the Stratford-on-Avon area is perceived to be an affluent area there are pockets of deprivation across the whole district. The key themes within this Plan are:

- Reducing rural inequalities
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Empowering & strengthening local communities
- Improving education & Skills and increasing financial resilience

Again, an action plan to support these areas will be considered by The Cabinet in the New Year.

As you may be aware the Council has recently invited a review of our Planning Service through the Planning Advisory Service. The draft report is currently being finalised, again I would like to thank everybody who took part in this review. There will be some valuable findings in this report which will hopefully help in the way that we work together on this function. In addition to this review the Council has agreed to a Local Government Association Corporate Peer Review. The Corporate Peer Review will consider how the Council operates; however, the core focus of the review will cover leadership, governance, corporate capacity and financial resilience.

Finally, this has been a very busy and challenging year, thank you again for all of your support. I hope that you all manage to get some down time over the Christmas period and I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Best Wishes

David



2023 Year Review

January

- Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Additional Restrictions Grant helps Studley Bakery buy six state-of-the-art ovens as they move to bigger premises.



Bruno's Bakery

- SDC and WDC celebrate success of new separate food waste collection service – with a total of 4,412.48 tonnes collected since August 2022.
- SDC's 24th neighbourhood plan referendum takes place for Bishop's Itchington – 274 vote yes.
- SDC's 25th neighbourhood plan referendum takes place for Quinton – 267 vote yes.

February

- SDC's Cabinet approves consultation of the draft Wellesbourne University Innovation campus Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).
- SDC & WDC launch public consultation on a draft Economic Strategy for South Warwickshire.
- Over 70 businesses attend inaugural Driving Innovation and Growth Summit at the University of Warwick Wellesbourne Campus Conference Centre.
- SDC helps District charities secure over half a million in funding.



- 13 community projects in the District receive a combined total of nearly £2.7m from the District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy.
- SDC issues warning on unlicensed puppy breeders after joint operation with Warwickshire Police and the RSCPA in Bidford.
- Council Tax set for 2023/24 – all services provided by SDC cost £3.06 a week for a Band D household.
- Bishop's Itchington and Quinton Neighbourhood Development Plans adopted.

March

- Taxi driver issued with fixed penalty notice for smoking in vehicle.
- SDC's 26th neighbourhood plan referendum takes place for Fenny Compton – 134 vote yes.
- SDC's 27th neighbourhood plan referendum takes place for Long Itchington – 360 vote yes.
- SDC allocates £2.35m of support for its refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine from the Government's £500m Local Authority Housing Fund providing an additional 17 homes in the District.
- SDC secures wildlife haven in Tiddington.
- SDC appoints Community Builder for Clopton and Bishopton.



Community Builder



2023 Year Review

March continued

- Cabinet approves funding for a feasibility study in partnership with Warwick District Council to help inform the future infrastructure for Electric Vehicle charging.
- New veterans contact point – South Warwickshire Hub launched.
- Cabinet agrees £100k funding to support local economy.
- Licensing Panel revoke taxi driver's licence for refusing to take a disabled passenger.
- SDC approves the first allocations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – totalling over £406K for 13 separate initiatives across the District.

April

- Fenny Compton and Long Itchington Development Plans adopted.
- SDC receives funding boost to support rural businesses following successful bids to get an allocation of the Rural England Prosperity Fund.



Driving Innovation and Growth

May

- Local elections take place for Stratford-on-Avon District - 151 candidates contested all 41 seats in 39 wards.
Overall turnout: 39.29%
Liberal Democrats - 25 seats
Conservatives - 12 seats
Green - 3 seats
Independent - 1 seat
- Residents offered free swim at District Council leisure centres during Dementia Action Week.
- Formal consultation starts for the Long Marston Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- Rural communities of Marston Sicca, Henley-in-Arden and Alcester unite to tackle climate change and hold events.
- New Leader and Cabinet for SDC announced at Annual Council meeting.
- Councillor Victoria Alcock elected as new Chair of SDC.
- Stratford Town Trust hold first Community Café at Venture House
- SDC hosts a roundtable event for the Driving Innovation and Growth programme.



Cllr Victoria Alcock

June

- SDC supports another bee-friendly space at Stratford Recreation Ground as part of 'We shadows' project, part of WCC's Our Spaces initiative to reinvigorate the town centres across Warwickshire.
- Businesses and communities invited to apply for UK Shared Prosperity Funding and Rural England Prosperity Funding.
- Applications open for Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Warning after disposable BBQ starts blaze in recycling lorry.



Blaze in recycling lorry

- SDC supports National Clean Air Day.



2023 Year Review

June continued

- Citizens Advice South Warwickshire moves into the District Council offices.



Citizens Advice

- Formal consultation starts for Hampton Lucy Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- SDC supports Refuge Week.
- SDC's free seated exercise classes praised.



Seated exercise class

- SDC's 28th neighbourhood plan referendum takes place for Southam – 705 vote yes.
- SDC's 29th neighbourhood plan referendum takes place for Tredington – 246 vote yes.

July

- SDC supports Plastic Free July.
- Cabinet makes changes to the Off-Street Parking Places Order.
- Cabinet agrees first stage to re-introduce Concessionary Permit for state pension aged District residents.
- Cabinet backs plan to support the long-term growth of the University of Warwick Innovation Campus Stratford-upon-Avon at Wellesbourne by approving Supplementary Planning Document.
- Annette Homer appointed to Head of Housing, Revenues and Customer Services.
- BBC Countryfile presenter, Tom Neap, attends Napton's Eco Fair.



Cllr Susan Juned, Tom Neap, Cllr Nigel Rock

July continued

- Carbon Trust Advisory Ltd appointed as District Heating Network for Canal Quarter Regeneration Zone in Stratford-upon-Avon.
- Southam and Tredington Development Plans adopted.
- SDC conducts joint compliance check on UBER drivers in the District.
- SDC starts 3-week consultation on the creation of a two-part Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register.
- SDC joins celebration for Love Park Week.

August

- One-year anniversary of the introduction of the new 123+ waste and recycling collection service.



In the first year of operation, figures show that 68% of the District's rubbish has been recycled and 26% less residual waste was collected.

The introduction of a separate weekly food waste collection service has seen 4,888 tonnes collected between August 2022 and July 2023.

- Marcia Eccleston appointed to Head of Law and Governance.



2023 Year Review

September

- Cabinet agrees to support the designation of Lench Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve.



Lench Meadows Local Nature Reserve

- SDC suspends taxi driver for failing to report driving convictions on his driver renewal application form.
- Consultation starts on the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement.
- Consultation starts on the new Council Plan.



October

- Concessionary parking permit for residents of state pension age re-introduced.
- Cabinet approves 37 projects for share of UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund.

- SDC conducts polling places review.

- SDC plants a Coronation Walkway of trees on the Welcombe Hills and Clopton Park Local Nature Reserve in Stratford-upon-Avon to mark the coronation of King Charles III.



Cllr Lorraine Grocott plants a tree in the Coronation Walkway

- Formal consultation starts for the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan.

- SDC adopts the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) 2022/23 after recommendation from The Cabinet.

The Coronation Walkway in Clopton Park

October continued

- Consultation starts on Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway Masterplan Framework - Supplementary Planning Document.

- Winter warmth grants available from the District Council.

- SDC announces a new partnership with the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce to deliver three programmes through the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

- Sherbourne Resource Park – the new state-of-the-art Material Recycling Facility hosts open day event for partners.



Cllr Susan Juned with Keely Hancox, Head of Operations at Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce



2023 Year Review

November

- Cabinet agrees to establish a Stratford-on-Avon Community Climate Change Fund.
- New kerbside coffee pod recycling service starts in Stratford-on-Avon District.



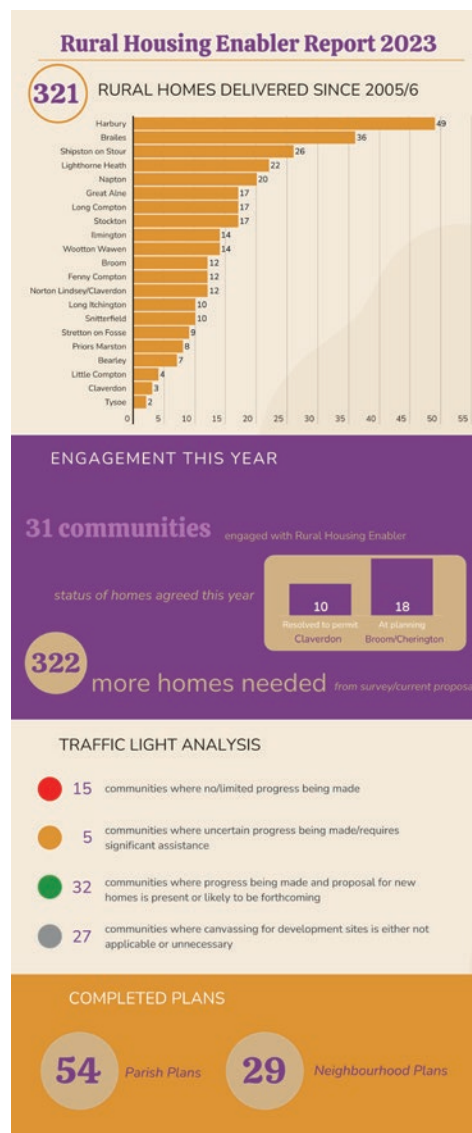
- Winter Warmth event held in Alcester.
- Four new CCTV cameras installed in Stratford-upon-Avon as a part of the Home Office Safer Streets Initiative.

December

- Stratford-upon-Avon's Victorian Christmas Market.



- Cabinet endorses Rural Housing Enabler Report
- Cabinet allocates over £2m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds to five projects across the District.
- Council approves new Council Plan 2024-2027.
- SDC approves joint South Warwickshire Economic Development Strategy with Warwick District Council.



Things to look out for in 2024

February

Council Tax set for 2024/25

April

Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations 2024

May

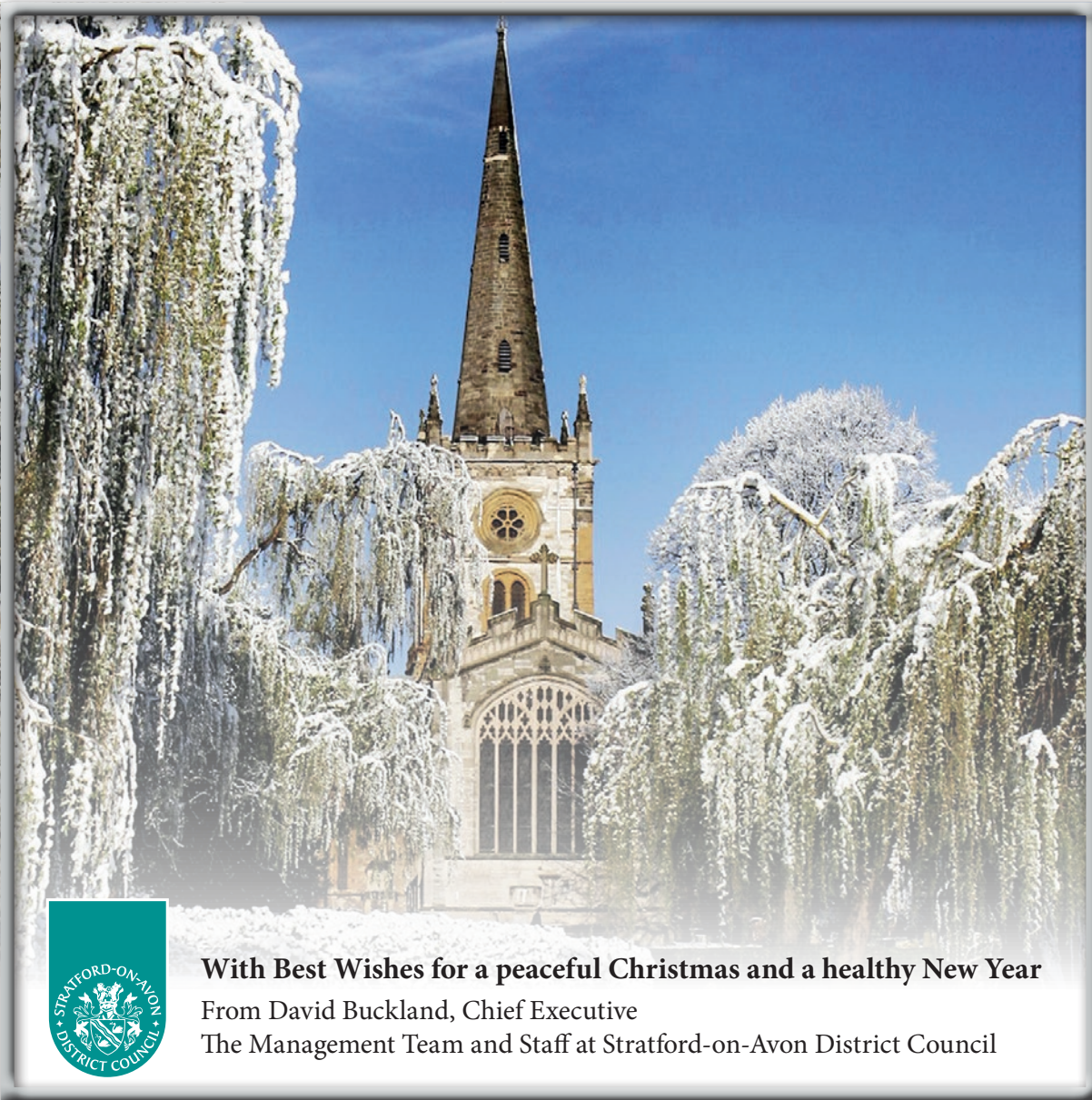
Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

December

Victorian Christmas Market



Cllr Kate Rolfe and Cllr Victoria Alcock at the Stratford Victorian Market.



With Best Wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year
From David Buckland, Chief Executive
The Management Team and Staff at Stratford-on-Avon District Council



Community
Food Fleet
Meals on a Mission™

Introducing the new Meals-on-Wheels service in Warwickshire



Delivering daily hot meals
365 days a year

cff@wrccrural.org.uk
01926 800915
communityfoodfleet.org.uk



- Drivers DBS checked
- Flexible meal plan
- Varied menu
- Caring staff
- Peace of mind



WRCC is a registered charity No.1081017



www.stratford.gov.uk



info@stratford-dc.gov.uk



www.facebook.com/StratfordDC



twitter.com/StratfordDC



www.linkedin.com/company/stratford-on-avon-district-council



VISION STATEMENT

We are an ambitious, fair, inclusive, and responsible organisation which will put our communities at the heart of everything we do.

The Council will be recognised as a leader for supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents, protecting our environment, delivering sustainability, and innovation.

By proactively working with our partners the Council will strive to deliver cohesive communities that are well built, in the right place and served by appropriate infrastructure.

The Council will support existing business to thrive and seek to attract new businesses to create valued jobs and opportunities.

In developing this plan we have set ourselves realistic aims and objectives within six areas of focus.













OUR AIMS AND AREAS OF FOCUS

KEY	
AREAS OF FOCUS	
Residents and Communities	Health and Wellbeing
Delivery of Service	Affordable, Well Built and Maintained Homes
Climate Change	Local Economy

WE WILL LIVE BY







Be a transparent Council, fostering the levels of trust and understanding of responsibilities between the Council and the Public  

Making the best decisions in the public interest      



Holding ourselves and others providing public services to account more effectively for the benefit of the communities served      

WE WILL DELIVER






To improve access to Council services to those throughout the District   

To improve the effectiveness of the Council through innovation, engaging with our peers to improve service delivery      

To support the quality of our service by being a local employer of choice  

Increase and protect green spaces which positively affect nature recovery  



Be a Local Authority leader in the reduction of our own carbon footprint  



Build the relationship and proactively foster partnership working with others to influence areas where the Council cannot deliver success alone     

Support those most in need from inequality  

Make the most of Stratford District's rich cultural heritage as a national and international tourist destination   

WE WILL INFLUENCE



To improve the range and quality of social infrastructure e.g. town centres, health and social care, education, housing and transport within the District  





To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through the Community Safety Partnership  

To enable those living and working in the district to live more environmentally sustainable lifestyles  

Facilitate more opportunities for residents to use alternative modes of transport   

Ensure that development is meeting local needs, attractive, environmentally sustainable and fit for purpose    

To increase the levels of valued employment and training  

To support Parish Councils for the benefit of communities     

To support opportunities for our residents to develop skills for the future   



Changes to refuse and recycling collections over the festive period



Residents are advised to place their bins, boxes or sacks out for collection by 6am on their scheduled collection day during the festive period.

Extra waste

If you have any additional recycling, you can place it in a box or rigid container next to your blue-lidded wheeled bin for collection.

Please note: No additional general waste (refuse) placed by or on your grey wheeled bin will be collected.

Please remember to put all your food waste in your food caddies and do not dispose of any batteries or electrical waste in your grey bin (general waste).

To ensure that the crews can deal with the increased recycling generated at this time of year, **there will be no garden waste collections from Saturday 23 December 2023 through to Saturday 6 January 2024.**

Garden waste collections will resume from Monday 8 January 2024..

Real Christmas trees can be cut up and placed in or beside your green wheeled bin for collection, or if you don't subscribe to the garden waste service, it can be put out beside your blue-lidded recycling bin for collection from Monday 8 January until Friday 19 January 2024.

[Visit our Christmas Recycling Page](#) for more information.

The District Council offices are closed from 2pm on Friday 22 December 2023 and reopening on 2 January 2024. The online 'report it' forms will still be available and actioned on missed bins and street cleansing issues.

In the event of adverse weather affecting collections, please check the District Council's website at www.stratford.gov.uk or X (formerly Twitter) on @StratfordDC or the District Council's Facebook page for all the latest updates.

Your refuse, recycling and food waste collections will change over Christmas

Normal collection date		NEW collection date over Christmas
Mon 25 Dec 2023	→	Sat 23 Dec 2023
Tue 26 Dec 2023	→	Wed 27 Dec 2023
Wed 27 Dec 2023	→	Thurs 28 Dec 2023
Thurs 28 Dec 2023	→	Fri 29 Dec 2023
Fri 29 Dec 2023	→	Sat 30 Dec 2023
Mon 1 Jan 2024	→	Tue 2 Jan 2024
Tue 2 Jan 2024	→	Wed 3 Jan 2024
Wed 3 Jan 2024	→	Thurs 4 Jan 2024
Thurs 4 Jan 2024	→	Fri 5 Jan 2024
Fri 5 Jan 2024	→	Sat 6 Jan 2024

Normal collections will resume on Monday 8 January 2024

www.Stratford.gov.uk/christmasrecycling

Stratford District recycles



Working together to deliver Waste Services



www.stratford.gov.uk



info@stratford-dc.gov.uk



www.facebook.com/StratfordDC



twitter.com/StratfordDC



www.linkedin.com/company/stratford-on-avon-district-council

Staying safe this Christmas

The District Council's Rural Crime Advisors are issuing a reminder that, the Christmas holiday period can provide a particularly good opportunity for criminals.

Here are some of the things you can do to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of crime during the festive season.



What can I do to protect my home at Christmas?

- Always keep windows and doors secure.
- Keep presents and valuables out of sight of a window.
- Make your home look lived in when you are out. Consider external lighting, use of switch timers on lamps in different rooms of the house and a TV simulator, these all help to give the illusion that the home is occupied.
- Take care when disposing of wrapping and boxes, particularly from expensive presents, and do not leave them on show outside the house.
- You might also consider registering the items using the free service: [immobilise.com](https://www.immobilise.com). If items are then stolen and recovered, it will enable the Police to reunite the items with the owner.
- Avoid keeping large amounts of cash at home.
- Keep entrances of your home and dark corners well lit.
- Consider installing an alarm system / CCTV.
- Where possible, security mark gifts and valuables with your postcode and house number.



In addition you can review security advice on:

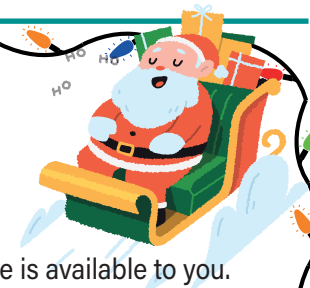
- [Rural Watch](#)
- [Neighbourhood Watch](#)
- [Horse Watch](#)
- [Business Watch](#)

Also, keep up to date with what's happening in your area by signing up to [Warwickshire Connected](#) a free messaging service brought to you by Warwickshire Police where you decide when and how you hear about the issues that matter most to you, whether that be getting regular crime updates, the latest information on ongoing incidents and emergencies or learning more about what your local police are doing.

This is also the place where you can get involved in helping to make your local area a safer place, tell the Police what they should be doing in your area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe and let the Police know what matters are causing your communities harm.

What about when I'm out shopping?

- Park in a secure car park if one is available to you.
- Park in a busy and well-lit area of the car park, where the view of the car is not obstructed eg by hedges.
- Close windows, sunroof, lock doors and activate security alarms when leaving your car.
- Take all valuables with you when you leave your car.
- Plan your shopping trip to avoid returning to your car to drop off gifts.
- If you have no choice but return to your car to unload, make sure valuables and shopping are locked in the boot; be observant to your surroundings to take care that no-one is watching you.
- Don't unlock your car until you have arrived at your vehicle.
- Always keep your bag and / or wallet with you - take care not to put them down whilst you load the car or rearrange your shopping bags.
- Carry your bag in front of you when shopping or if you have a wallet, carry it in a front pocket. Make sure bags and wallets are securely fastened.
- Don't leave your vehicle running if unattended.
- Consider using a faraday pouch for your car key if you have a car that has keyless entry. The code from the key is constantly transmitting, thieves can steal this code, and relay it to your car; once they have the code, they don't need your key.



Have yourself a safe and Merry Christmas





SAVE TIME

DO IT ONLINE

Did you know you can now claim Housing Benefit online. Go to www.stratford.gov.uk

If you want to make a payment for Council Tax or Business Rates use our dedicated payment line
0345 600 6956



Council Tax Help

**Are you,
or someone in your household,
living with:**

- a degenerative brain disorder such as Alzheimer's
- a learning disability
- other kinds of dementia
- a severe stroke
- severe or chronic mental illness

**and are entitled to one
of the following benefits:**

- Employment Support Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- increased Disability Pension
- Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- Income Support that includes a disability premium
- the care component of high or middle rate Disability Living Allowance
- Constant Attendance Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit

**then you may be entitled to
a Council Tax discount**



**and save money
off your Council Tax bill**

For more information please contact Revenues on

01789 260990

revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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

A personalised consultation service is available, totally independent from the Parish, Town or Neighbourhood Plan process in your area.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Consultation & Insight Unit offers you:

- > Pick and Mix flexible approach
- > Survey design from draft questionnaire to final report
- > Low cost one-stop shop for all your market research needs
- > Data processing via an unconnected, unbiased third party
- > Anonymity assured
- > Work carried out to Market Research Society guidelines

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

Contact Simon Purfield on

01789 260118

simon.purfield@stratford-dc.gov.uk

www.stratford.gov.uk





Stratford-on-Avon District Council offices will be closed between Christmas and the New Year

Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be closed from 2pm on Friday 22 December and will reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Office opening hours are:
8.45am - 5.15pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and
8.45am - 5.00pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

District Council services can still be accessed online at www.stratford.gov.uk

Emergency out-of-hours contact is available on 01789 267575.

SDC MEETING DATES

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

Date	Time	Meeting
Tuesday 9 January	4.00pm	Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 10 January	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 15 January	10.00am	The Cabinet
Wednesday 24 January	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 7 February	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 12 February	3.30pm	The Cabinet
Wednesday 21 February	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 26 February	2.00pm	Council
Monday 4 March	10.00am	The Cabinet
Tuesday 5 March	4.00pm	Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 6 March	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 20 March	6.00pm	Planning

Go to: [Monthly meetings calendar - January 2024](#) | [Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) to see the District Council meeting calendar

Webcast of Meetings

The Council, Cabinet and Planning Committee meetings are recorded and loaded onto the District Council's YouTube channel the following day for viewing - <https://www.youtube.com/user/StratfordDC>

You can access this from our website - <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/councilmeeting-webcasts.cfm>



Don't forget to renew your subscription for the garden waste collection service



The subscriptions for 2024/25 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025) open on 16 January 2024

You can pay for your subscription on our website <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-service.cfm>

Or call 01789 260628

For more information email streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk

