Parish and Partners Briefing

Issue 55 - December 2025 - page 1

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Chief Executive

Welcome to our end of year festive edition of Parish and Partners in where we look back over the previous year and look forward to what will face us in the New Year.

It has been a momentous year in relation to the Council as we come to terms with the Government decision that through local government reorganisation, Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be abolished in April 2028. On local government reorganisation I will return to this issue and the next steps later in this column, however, I did want to pull out first some of the achievements of the Council over the last year.

Firstly, in relation to planning the Council is working in partnership with Warwick District Council on the joint South Warwickshire Local Plan. This plan will, when adopted, help shape the future housing development across our area. Good progress has been made in this area over the last year and in 2026 we plan to come forward with further proposals for consultation.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has a good track record of delivering housing, however, during the last year the Government has changed the method by which housing need is calculated. The result of these changes has meant that more housing will be needed from our area than previously required. We are working with our partners to ensure that this additional development is properly considered, further updates on this will be provided during the coming year.

Addressing Climate Change has been an important issue for the Council last year. In February the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Strategy was adopted, which has led to several initiatives such as installing solar panels on the roofs of the leisure centres and providing grants to schemes across the whole of the district.

We are particularly proud of the heath screening programme that has been launched in partnership with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust at our leisure centres in Stratford, Southam, Studley, and Alcester, with a further events being held in Shipston and Henley. Almost 1,000 tests were conducted focusing on prostrate cancer, diabetes, and high cholesterol. These tests have been successful in almost 400 referrals for these conditions. Thank you to everyone who took part.

The year has been dominated however with discussions surrounding the future of the Council through local government reorganisation. At the meeting of Council on 17 November 2025, in response to the invitation from the Minister for Local Government, Stratford-on-Avon District Council has decided to support the implementation of a South Warwickshire Unitary Council when the District Council is abolished.

It is expected that early in the new year the Government will formally consult on both a single unitary Warwickshire, based on the existing County Council boundary and a two unitary Warwickshire based in on North/South split. Following the consultation the Government is then expected to announce their decision in the Summer of next year. As we have been, we will keep you up to date of developments in this area.

Finally, thank you again for all 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

Cost of Living Support available

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is committed to helping residents access the right information and services. There is lots of information available on our website: Cost of Living Support | Stratford-on-Avon District Council or please fill in the Customer Referral Form to get the right help and support you need.

2025 Year Review

January

- Phase Two of SDC's Community Climate and Nature Fund opens for applications.
- SDC and WDC launch joint 8-week consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options.
- SDC supports Free Trees for Farmers scheme again.

- SDC adopts Moreton Morrell Parish Plan.
- SDC consults on budget proposals.
- Work begins installing solar panels on Stratford Leisure Centre.
- Visitor Information Centre temporarily relocates to Elizabeth House during refurbishment project.

Febuary

- SDC's Cabinet approves grant of £738,000 for a local needs housing scheme in Claverdon.
- SDC holds Extraordinary Full Council meeting on the Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation and supports Devolution Notice of Motion.
- SDC's Rural Crime Advisors participate in 'Operation Recall', a national initiative to raise awareness of livestock worrying.
- SDC's Noticeboard Grant opens for applications - Parish and Town Councils, community venues and local groups invited to apply for funding for new community noticeboards.
- Everyone Active launch Sporting Champions scheme.
- Supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Paint Stratford unveil new murals at Fred Winter Centre.

- Council Tax set for 2025/26 – ***all services provided by SDC cost £3.25 a week for a Band D household (£169.12 a year) – 18th lowest out of 164 District Councils across the country.***
  Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent, it only receives 7.1% of Council Tax paid by residents, retaining 7.1p of every £1 paid. WCC receives 76%, the Police 12.8% and Towns/Parishes 3.5%.
- SDC presented with a certificate of merit from the Order of St Pantalaimon in Ukraine in thanks for the ongoing support given to help Ukrainian Medical Charity with the war in Ukraine.

2025 Year Review

March

- Three new CCTV cameras installed at Meon Vale to help prevent and detect crime, funded by local developers.

- SDC's Cabinet supports new Honeybourne rail study.
- SDC's Cabinet approves new approach for Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy.
- SDC successfully delivers Home Upgrade Grant scheme.

- New low sensory activity sessions for children launched at Stratford Leisure Centre.
- SDC supports interim plan for local government reorganisation in Warwickshire at Full Council meeting.
- SDC launches the 'Community Infrastructure Investment Fund' to help local community venues, community centres and village halls apply for funding to make much-needed repairs, renovations and improvements.
- Work begins installing solar panels on Shipston Leisure Centre.
- Visitor Information Centre in Stratford-upon-Avon reopens following refurbishment.

- Figures published by Defra show SDC had the third highest household recycling rate in England last year (2023/24) with 61.0%.

April

- For the fourth year, SDC's leisure centres offer free memberships for those living with Parkinson's.
- SDC's Cabinet approves £150,000 for the next round of the Community Climate and Nature Fund.
- SDC's recycling service expands for the collection of plastic bags and wrapping.

- SDC Chief Executive joins Growth Hub's board of directors.

2025 Year Review

May

- SDC participates in No Mow May.
- Elections for Warwickshire County Council. - Declaration of results WCC.pdf
- VE Day celebrations.
- Councillor Kate Rolfe elected as new Chair of SDC.
- SDC together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) host health screening event at Stratford Leisure Centre.
- Jointly with Warwick District Council, The South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme relaunched to support rural communities to tackle climate change and restore nature.
- Round three of the Community Climate and Nature Fund opens for applications

June

- SDC rates second best in Warwickshire for Climate Action.

  SDC scored 42% overall, a 12% improvement from the 2023 score and rose by 12 places in 2025, compared to 2023.
- SDC launches consultation on draft Licensing Policy 2026-31.
- 17,000 registered postal voters contacted to reapply for their postal vote, following changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022.
- SDC together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) host health screening event at Studley Leisure Centre.
- SDC raises the flag for Armed Forces Day.

July

- SDC publishes interim update to 5-year Housing Land Supply Position, to reflect recent changes to national planning policy and a significant increase in Local Housing Need (LHN).
- SDC's CCTV system receives the British Standard Accreditation which recognises good management and practice for an eighteenth consecutive year.
- SDC's Cabinet endorses new Play Pitch Strategy.
- SDC's Cabinet agrees major overhaul of housing register system.
- SDC's Cabinet allocates additional funding to continue support for the Warm Homes: Local Grant (WHLG) programme.
- SDC together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) host health screening event at Southam Leisure Centre.
- Annual canvass begins.
- SDC agrees two unitary model as preferred option for Local Government Reorganisation.

2025 Year Review

July *continued*

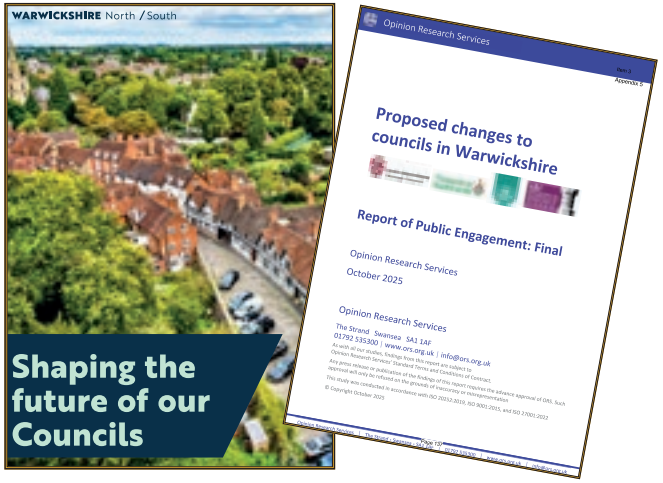
- SDC's Bancroft Gardens secures prestigious Green Flag Award.

- SDC receives Silver Employer Award from Ministry of Defence.
- SDC supports Keep Britian Tidy annual campaign 'Love Parks'
- SDC launches new Warm Homes Local Grant to help District residents to stay warm and cut energy costs.

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

August

- SDC together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) host health screening event at The Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester.
- Redevelopment plans underway to transform One Evesham Place into a supportive living environment as part of the District Council's housing pathway.
- Public engagement exercise starts for Local Government Reorganisation.



September

- SDC's Cabinet approves a new Affordable Housing Standing Advice Note (SAN), marking a significant step forward in supporting the delivery of affordable housing across the District.
- SDC's Cabinet approves significant investment of £250,000 to enhance the Recreation Ground Play area in Stratford-upon-Avon.
- New projects funded from SDC's Community Climate and Nature Fund:
  - £750 to Alcester Town Council to deliver low-cost, nature-based interventions to support habitat recovery along the River Arrow.
  - £3,900 to Ilmington Parish Council to deliver a pond restoration project.
  - £8,000 to Compton Verney House Charity to install a large air source heat pump at Compton Verney's Learning Centre.
  - £2,400 to Pillerton Priors Village Hall to install a battery storage system to complement their existing solar panels.
  - £1,234 to Bearley Parish Council to finish the upgrade of their village streetlighting to LED.
    CCNF case study - LED streetlighting installation in Bearley
  - £4,715 to Tysoe Village Hall to install a battery storage system to complement their existing solar panels.

2025 Year Review

September *continued*

- £10,000 to Alcester Town Council to fund a number of biodiversity related initiatives, including the rewilding of community green spaces, the enhancement of hedgehog habitats, and community engagement events.
- £7,600 to Bidford Parish Council to enable the continued provision of the Bidford Community Fridge and Café.

- Warwickshire hosts stage four of the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men – starting from Atherstone and culminating in a hilltop finish at Burton Dassett Hills Country Park.

- SDC together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) host health 2nd screening event at Stratford Leisure Centre.
- SDC promotes innovative virtual reality knife crime programme in local schools, colleges and youth organisations.
- SDC loses planning appeal to grant outline permission for up to 130 homes at Bordon Hill, Stratford-upon-Avon.
- SDC's Rural Crime Advisors support Rural Crime Action Week 2025 – raising awareness of the work they do across the District.
- SDC's contractor Biffa trial internet-connected food waste bin collections.

October

- SDC attends WMJobs Career Expo 2025 in Birmingham connected councils, employers and jobseekers across the West Midlands with over 20 exhibitors showcased 1,000+ public sector roles, from teaching to finance.
- SDC's Cabinet approves the revocation of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Stratford-upon-Avon and Studley, which were introduced in 2006 and 2010, respectively.
- SDC's Cabinet approves a new £350,000 Community Grant Scheme aimed at enhancing community infrastructure across the District - designed to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ Days, with a vision to transform community spaces into living memorials that honour the sacrifice and spirit of past generations.
- SDC's Cabinet endorses action plan to boost housing land supply.
- SDC supports domestic abuse awareness month highlighting the work of the schools' healthy relationships programme by The Safe and Sound Theatre in Education – delivered to 1,945 young people in secondary schools and 931 primary school pupils.
- Initial findings of the joint engagement exercise shows 73% of residents confirm preference for two new unitary Councils.
- SDC together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) host health screening event in Shipston.

2025 Year Review

October *continued*

- SDC together with its leisure contractor, Everyone Active, encourages over 60s to become physically and mentally active there Age is Just a Number campaign.
- SDC's community safety team shortlisted for a national award in the category of 'local authority of the year'. The award recognises their outstanding commitment to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and promote safer communities.
- SDC's E-cargo bikes used by two community-based South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust staff to travel to patient houses.

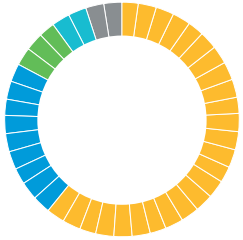
- SDC unveils two new community climate change schemes - Free Trees for Town and Parish Councils and the Wilder Communities Project, in partnership with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

November

- SDC's Cabinet allocates over £1.85 Million in funding to key infrastructure projects:
  - £60,000 for Natural Flood Management Advanced in Shipston-on-Stour
  - £45,000 for Natural Flood Management Advanced in Wellesbourne.
  - £90,882 for the Crossroads Alcester Academy.
  - £280,000 for Natural Flood Risk Management-Alcester Catchment.
  - £33,577 for Improvement and Safety Enhancements to the entrance and Cricket facilities at Stratford Sports Club, Stratford.
  - £102,248 for Top sporting fields improvements – Alcester Academy.
  - £660,000 for Stratford Greenway resurfacing Phase 2
  - £350,000 for Broom to Bidford Health Centre Two Shires Greenway
  - £234,500 for an extension to Cemetery Provision, Evesham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon
- SDC endorses two-unitary model for Warwickshire's future governance.

- By elections in Quinton and Salford Priors and Alcester Rural ward following resignations.
  - **Quinton ward** - Paul Harrison – Liberal Democrats – 437 Elected
  - **Salford Priors and Alcester Rural ward** - Ashley Jones – Reform UK – 272 Elected

  The current political make-up of the District Council's 41 seats is now:
  - Liberal Democrats – 25 seats
  - Conservatives – 9 seats
  - Green – 3 seats
  - Reform UK – 2 seats
  - Independent – 2 seats



- SDC together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) host health screening event in Henely-in-Arden.
- Local Government Reorganisation plan for Warwickshire submitted to Government - Our Submission Document - Shaping the future of our Councils

- Christmas Market weekend – 29 and 30 November

2025 Year Review

December

- Christmas Market weekend – 6 and 7 December.

- SDC's Land Charges Team achieves Gold Standard.
- £1,000 raised through app's recycling feature for Chair's charity, Eco Work-Shop CIC.
- New CCTV cameras installed as part of Safer Streets Scheme.
- 6-week consultation started on second homes premium.

Things to look out for in 2026

February	SDC to host Stratford Business Conference.
	Council Tax set for 2026/27.
March	Covid-19 Day of Reflection.
Spring	Statutory Government public consultation on Local Government Reorganisation options for Warwickshire.
April	Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations 2026.
December	Christmas Markets.

Council Plan Priority Achievements - Economic Support

- Local company, The Pinwheel Patisserie from Chesterton Fields Farm received help on marketing and financial planning through the Business Resilience and Growth programme, which forms part of the Business Growth Warwickshire programme.
- Warwickshire's Business Energy and Advice Service (WBEAS) supported Sheldon's Wine Cellars in Shipston to access grants helping to improve their energy performance and efficiency and potentially save over £2,500 per year on their energy costs.
- Local Warwickshire business, Spotty Pots, in Studley benefited from a Warwickshire Business Energy Advice Service (WBEAS) grant to improve their energy efficiency and reduce energy bills.
- SDC Chief Executive joins Growth Hub's board of directors.
- Hall Reynolds LLP solicitors from Bidford expands into Stratford town centre with support provided through the Business Resilience and Growth Programme.
- The District Council was also the headline sponsor of the 2025 Stratford Herald Business & Tourism Awards in October.

Council Plan Priority Achievements - Environmental Support

SDC rates second best in Warwickshire Climate Action

Some highlights of progress achieved so far this year include:

- February 2025: Adopted a Climate Change and Nature Recovery Strategy.
- March 2025: 13 projects awarded funding in the second round of the Community Climate and Nature Fund.
- March 2025: Installed solar panels on Shipston and Stratford leisure centres.
- May 2025: Relaunched the LCE programme.
- May 2025: Opened round three of the Community Climate and Nature Fund, with £150,000 of funding being available for the 25/26 financial year.
- June 2025: Secured £20,000 for the delivery of the "Wilder Communities" project in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust.
- June 2025: Secured a further £35,000 for the delivery of the third round of the Free Trees for Farmers scheme.
- November 2025: Six projects awarded funding in the third round of the Community Climate and Nature Fund.

The Trees Call for Action Project (TCAP) was launched by the Heart of England Forest in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council and Wychavon District Council in 2022, thanks to a grant of £499,446 from the Trees Call to Action Fund.

This initiative lead to 41,734 trees being planted across Stratford-on-Avon District.

- In April, approximately 400 panels were installed at Stratford Leisure Centre followed by 168 panels installed at Shipston Leisure Centre.

  Actual Performance (Since April 2025):
  - Stratford Leisure Centre has already generated 89,300 KWh of clean electricity, saving 17.3 tonnes of CO2. PIC
  - Shipston Leisure Centre has generated 42,700 KWh, resulting in a CO2 saving of 8.26 tonnes.

  Projections for the first 12 months (subject to seasonal weather and fluctuations through autumn and winter) are:
  - Projected electricity generation: in the region of 200,000 – 220000Kwh
  - Projected CO2 savings: annual savings of approximately 40-45 tonnes of CO2

Environmental Support *continued*

- Home Upgrade Grant scheme - home energy upgrades delivered to over 110 properties through the second phase of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2), with energy efficiency measures such as loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, high heat retention electric storage heaters and solar photovoltaic power systems successfully installed.
- Second round of the Community Climate and Nature Fund supported 8 projects with £150,000 of funding - Case study - CCNF case study - LED streetlighting installation in Bearley
  (See page 5 - September for full listings.)

- Recycling service expands for the collection of plastic bags and wrapping.
- Two new community climate change projects unveiled: Free Trees for Town and Parish Councils and the Wilder Communities Project, in partnership with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.
- SDC attends inaugural South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme (LCEP) event at the Royal Leamington Spa Town Hall - a collaborative day focused on accelerating locally led climate and nature action across the region and helping to build a cleaner, greener, fairer future for all.
- Third round of the Community Climate and Nature Fund supported a further six projects:
  - £10,000 to Welford-on-Avon Bowls Club to install 60 solar panels on their club roof, as well as the installation of battery storage.
  - £4,033 to Hoppers Lane Wood Trust to restore and plant on the 0.6ha Hoppers Lane Wood site.
  - £5,530 to Henley-in-Arden Parish Council to deliver their project titled: 'Henley Buzz and Bloom - Creating Colour, Habitat, and Heritage for Henley'.
  - £3,104 to Tysoe Tennis Club to upgrade the club's floodlighting to LED.
  - £6,000 to Henley Memorial Hall to install 3 air source heat pumps throughout the Hall.
  - £6,000 to Kineton Village Hall Association to install 2 air source heat pumps in their Hall.

Apply for the Community Climate and Nature Fund today!

Have you been inspired by the local projects that have already received funding through the Community Climate and Nature Fund?

Do you know of a project in your parish that could benefit from funding?

Round three of the CCNF is open until April 2026, offering vital support for projects that tackle climate change and enhance nature in our communities. Whether it's creating wildlife habitats, improving energy efficiency, or promoting sustainable practices, your ideas can help shape a better tomorrow.

Key dates to remember:

- **14 January 2026** - Next appraisal date
  Submit your application by 5pm on Monday 12 January to be considered.
- **15 April 2026** - Final appraisal date for Round Three

Don't miss this opportunity to make a lasting impact.
Apply now and help your community thrive!

For full details on how to apply, visit:
Community Climate and Nature Fund | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Have any questions?
Email: **climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk**

Together, we can create a cleaner, greener future.
Your project could be next!

Council Plan Priority Achievements - Health and Wellbeing

- **Health screening events**

  A total of seven events took place across the District in Stratford (two), Studley, Southam, Alcester, Shipston and Henley-in-Arden. These sessions gave residents across the district the chance to access vital blood tests at a concessionary rate, focusing on the early detection of prostate cancer, diabetes, and high cholesterol, conditions where early intervention can save lives.

  In total, 1,137 tests were carried out (this includes all tests (PSA, GHB and LIPP)), and the results speak volumes:

- **Prostate Cancer Screening:**

  663 men took part, with 156 (24%) referred for further tests via their GP, a crucial step toward early diagnosis and treatment.

  From these referrals, early figures show that there have been 3 cases of confirmed cancer, but these results are just from the first event back in May as there is a time delay while further tests are completed.

  However, it is well known that identifying the disease at an early stage significantly improves treatment options and outcomes, increasing the chances of survival, allowing individuals to take control of their health, enabling timely intervention and reducing the risk of advanced disease.

- **Diabetes and Cholesterol Checks:**

  A total of 204 diabetes and 270 cholesterol tests were carried out.

  The findings were significant:

  - 11% of participants showed blood sugar levels outside the normal range.
  - A striking 80% had cholesterol readings that warranted follow-up with their GP.

- Free memberships at District Leisure Centres for those living with Parkinson's.
- SDC supports Everyone Active's Age is Just a Number campaign by encouraging over 60s to become physically and mentally active.
- Stratford Leisure Centre together with Stratford Hospital NHS Physiotherapist department hosts fitness classes created to prevent falls among older people.

Changes to refuse and recycling collections over the festive period

Stratford & Warwick Districts recycle

1 2 3 + Collection Service

Working together to deliver Waste Services

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

There will be no refuse, recycling or food waste collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.
Your collections will be affected by the following changes:

Normal collection date		NEW collection date over Christmas
Thursday 25 December 2025	→	Saturday 27 December 2025
Friday 26 December 2025	→	Monday 29 December 2025
Monday 29 December 2025	→	Tuesday 30 December 2025
Tuesday 30 December 2025	→	Wednesday 31 December 2025
Wednesday 31 December 2025	→	Friday 2 January 2026
Thursday 1 January 2026	→	Saturday 3 January 2026
Friday 2 January 2026	→	Monday 5 January 2026
Monday 5 January 2026	→	Tuesday 6 January 2026
Tuesday 6 January 2026	→	Wednesday 7 January 2026
Wednesday 7 January 2026	→	Thursday 8 January 2026
Thursday 8 January 2026	→	Friday 9 January 2026
Friday 9 January 2026	→	Saturday 10 January 2026

Normal collections will resume on Monday 12 January 2026.

Please ensure your bins are presented at the edge of your property by 6am on your new collection day.

Please ensure that your bins are presented at the edge of your property by 6am on your new collection date.

Stratford & Warwick Districts recycle

Garden waste collections

There will be **NO** garden waste collections from Saturday 27 December 2025 through to Thursday 8 January 2026 inclusive.

Garden waste collections will resume as normal on Friday 9 January 2026.

Christmas tree recycling

We'll be collecting real Christmas trees from 9 to 23 January 2026 inclusive, and you don't need to have a garden waste permit subscription. Please ensure that all lights and decorations have been removed from the tree. Any tree that is over 5ft tall must be cut in half.

Leave your tree outside in a place that's not obstructing the public highway, and we'll collect it for you.

If you're subscribed to the garden waste service, you can chop it up and put it in your green bin.

Waste Collections

There will be no garden waste collections from Saturday 27 December 2025 through to Thursday 8 January 2026. Please take any garden waste to your local recycling centre.

Extra waste
Please note that no additional general waste (refuse) placed by or on top of your grey refuse bin will be collected.

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 flatten or cut cardboard pieces no larger than 1 metre x 1 metre.

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).

Click here to find out more information about what we collect. What We Collect | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Visit our Christmas Recycling Page for more information Christmas Recycling and Rubbish Collections | Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

You can also download our app Waste and recycling app | Stratford-on-Avon District Council and use it to look up what items can be recycled.

In the event of adverse weather affecting collections, please check the District Council's website at www.stratford.gov.uk, download the District Council's app at www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/waste-and-recycling-app.cfm and follow us on our social media channels at www.stratford.gov.uk/communications/communications.cfm

Download our app 'Stratford District Council'

Find out which day you need to put your bin out, where and how to recycle different materials and report a missed collection to us all in one place!

Google Play App Store

SCAN ME

1 2 3 + Collection Service

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

The subscriptions for 2026/27 (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027) open on Tuesday 13 January 2026

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

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting updates

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has held four meetings since the last update in August.

27 August 2025

On 27 August 2025, South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (SWUFT) attended to provide an update regarding the Ellen Badger Hospital in Shipston-on-Stour. Clarification was given around the services which would be provided at the hospital, the integrated care model, and the development and funding of the renovations to the hospital. SWUFT made commitments to provide additional information following the meeting, including details of a community engagement event.

Also at this meeting, the Task and Finish Group on privately managed public open space was established. The Group has met on a fortnightly basis ever since, with updates being provided at each meeting of the OSC and is expected to report back to OSC and The Cabinet in the new year.

1 October 2025

On 1 October 2025, the Committee held a discussion on Economy and Tourism. Representatives from both Shakespeare's England and Stratford-upon-Avon Business Improvement District were in attendance. Topics discussed included empty shops, changes to the tourism industry, employment, transport links and opportunities to advertise Stratford-on-Avon as a tourist destination.

The OSC also considered Cabinet reports on the Scrutiny Protocol (which it recommended by deferred for further consideration by members), Options for Boosting the Supply of Housing Land, the IndieGo Plus (formerly UBUS) Demand Responsive Transport, and the Fred Winter Centre Review.

Local government reorganisation updates have continued to be provided at each meeting, in the run-up to the Council's final submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 28 November.

All minutes, agendas and meeting dates can be viewed on the Council's website,
and all livestreams and recordings are available on the Council's YouTube channel.

30 October 2025

On 30 October 2025, the Warwickshire County Council Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety was in attendance, primarily to discuss the County Council's Safe Accommodation Strategy. Members discussed the implementation of the Strategy, particularly across the District of Stratford-on-Avon, the support available to residents and families affected by domestic abuse, the importance of reporting domestic abuse and noticing the signs, and prevention work being carried out in communities.

The OSC also considered a number of Cabinet reports. The Scrutiny Protocol was reconsidered, with a recommendation being made to amend the Protocol to increase transparency regarding the Cabinet item prioritisation process. The Cabinet endorsed the Protocol with this amendment on 3 November 2025, and the final decision regarding its adoption is to be made by the Council on 8 December 2025.

The following reports were also considered:

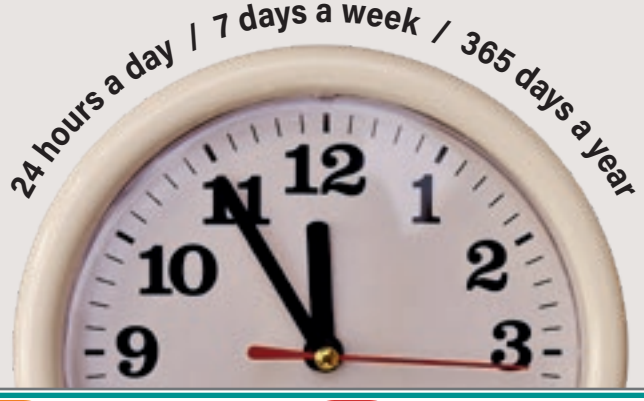
- CIL Spend Allocations
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council Prevent Policy
- Enforcement Policy
- Strategic Risk Register
- Revenue Budget Monitoring Period 1 - 6 2025/26
- Capital Budget Monitoring Period 1 - 6 2025/26

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
- other kinds of dementia
- a learning disability
- 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

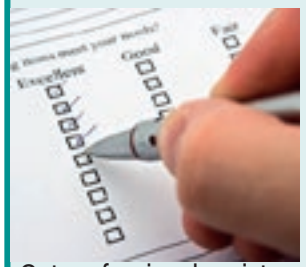
Need HELP... with the survey for your Plan?

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

Want to receive regular news and updates from your District Council directly to your email inbox?

Then sign up now to The Online View – Stratford District Newsletter: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/communications/email-newsletter.cfm

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Want reminders of your collection days, recycling information, news and much more?

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Our residents' magazine

Due for distribution from 19 January 2026

SDC MEETING DATES

Date	Time	Meeting
Tuesday 6 January	4.00pm	Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 14 January	10.00am	Overview & Scrutiny
Wednesday 14 January	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 19 January	10.00am	The Cabinet
Wednesday 28 January	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 4 February	10.00am	Overview & Scrutiny
Monday 9 February	10.00am	The Cabinet
Wednesday 11 February	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 23 February	10.00am	Extraordinary Cabinet
Monday 23 February	2.00pm	Council
Wednesday 25 February	6.00pm	Planning
Tuesday 3 March	4.00pm	Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 4 March	10.00am	Overview & Scrutiny
Monday 9 March	10.00am	The Cabinet
Wednesday 11 March	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 25 March	6.00pm	Planning

Go to: Monthly meetings calendar - January 2026 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council to see the District Council meeting calendar

Webcast of Meetings

All District Council meetings are streamed live, recorded and loaded onto the District Council's YouTube channel - https://www.youtube.com/user/StratfordDC

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Warwickshire County Council

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

Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be closed from Wednesday 24 December 2025 and will reopen on Friday 2 January 2026

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

The online 'report it' forms will still be available and actioned on missed bins and street cleansing issues.

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