

Stratford View

News, stories and services for residents

- ▶ **We're No.1 in England for recycling**
- ▶ **Millions invested in local infrastructure**
- ▶ **New play areas and leisure upgrades**



Summer 2026

Sign up to our newsletter 'The Online View' for fortnightly updates!



Welcome to the Stratford View

Our District's magazine



Welcome to the latest issue of our residents' magazine. Inside, you'll find updates on Council activities, as well as information on the projects and initiatives we're delivering to support our communities.

Alongside this publication, we offer a range of channels so you can access updates in a way and at a time that suits you:

- **Fortnightly online newsletter**
Sign up to receive news straight to your inbox
- **Social media**
Follow us for daily updates and announcements.
- **Council website and app**
Your go-to for detailed information and services.
- **Annual Council Tax booklet**
Providing essential financial and service details.

Get in touch

We are keen to receive ideas for content in future issues and receive any feedback on the magazine, contact us at:
corporate.communications@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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If you find the text in this magazine difficult to read we can supply it in a format better suited to your needs. We try to write everything in plain English and want to make sure that everyone has access to the information they need.

All information correct at time of printing.



Sign up to My District



Scan the QR code or search **stratford.gov.uk/mydistrict** to access extra features such as postcode facilities and local service information

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Sign up to 'The Online View' for fortnightly updates



Scan the QR code or search **stratford.gov.uk/newsletter**



Our District tops England for recycling

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is proud to share outstanding news with residents across the District: we are officially **the top recycling authority in England**.

According to figures published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Stratford-on-Avon achieved a household recycling rate of 63.9% in 2024/2025 placing us firmly at number one nationally.

This achievement represents a 2.9% increase on the previous year and sees the District climb two places in the league table, highlighting our continued progress and commitment to protecting the environment.

“This is a huge success and it’s a testament to our residents and their commitment to recycling. It is an amazing achievement, and we would like to thank our residents and our continued successful partnership with waste collection contractor, Biffa Waste Services Ltd, alongside the hard work of our council officers for this milestone.”

Julie Lewis
Head of Environmental
and Neighbourhood Services



A success shared by the whole community

This milestone reflects a true partnership between residents, the District Council, and our service providers, Biffa. Every rinsed bottle, flattened cardboard box, and correctly sorted item has contributed to this success.

Julie Lewis highlighted the importance of Sherbourne Recycling, where all the District’s household recycling is processed:

“The facility is continually evolving and has the capability to adapt to new materials over time, helping to ensure our recycling services remain efficient and effective.”

Small actions, big impact

Every correctly recycled item helps reduce waste sent to landfill, conserve natural resources, and lower environmental impact. Across thousands of households, these small daily actions add up to something truly significant.

The dedication of Stratford-on-Avon District residents has made this achievement possible and together, we can continue to lead the way.



Scan to get the SDC app
Find out what can be recycled and
collection reminders via the app.

What goes in your bin?

Maintaining this top position depends on everyone continuing to recycle correctly. Knowing what can and cannot go in your recycling bin or box helps prevent contamination and ensures materials can be successfully processed.

✓ **Yes please**

You can place the following into your household recycling bin or box:

- ▶ Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- ▶ Glass bottles and jars
- ▶ Tins, cans, aerosols and clean foil
- ▶ Paper and cardboard (clean and dry)
- ▶ Cartons and Tetra Pak-style packaging
- ▶ All plastic bags
- ▶ Confectionary wrappers
- ▶ Foil lined packaging
- ▶ Cheese, fish and meat wrapping
- ▶ Outer layer bags and wrapping
- ▶ Plastic film and sleeves
- ▶ Bubble wrap and cling film
- ▶ Fruit and vegetable net bags

If in doubt, it’s always best to check before you throw.

You may put small electrical items and household batteries in a separate bag and leave them next to your bin for collection.

Top of the table

Stratford-on-Avon’s recycling rate places it ahead of all other English local authorities:

Stratford-on-Avon District Council	63.9%
Milton Keynes Council	63.2%
South Oxfordshire District Council	61.3%
Three Rivers District Council	61.1%
East Riding District Council	61.0%
East Devon District Council	60.3%
Dorset Council	60.2%
North Somerset Council	60.2%
Stockport Metro Borough Council	60.1%
St Albans City and District Council	60.0%

South Warwickshire local plan

Frequently asked questions

Since 2021, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils have been working together on a new South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) for the whole area.

What is the South Warwickshire Local Plan?

A Local Plan is a key planning document. It sets out how land should be used and guides decisions on homes, jobs, infrastructure and the environment over the years ahead. The South Warwickshire Local Plan will bring Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts together under one shared approach. It is the first plan of its kind for South Warwickshire and is intended to provide a more consistent framework for future development across both Districts.

What is the process for preparing the Plan?

Preparing a Local Plan involves a formal legal process, with several stages of evidence gathering, consultation and review.



All information correct at time of printing

Why are we writing a Local Plan?

Both Councils have a legal duty to keep their Local Plans up to date and to plan for future growth in the most sustainable way possible. That means planning for new homes and jobs, while also considering transport, schools, health services, green spaces, infrastructure and climate change. In drawing up the Plan, the Councils must consider:

- ▶ Legal requirements such as the Duty to Co-operate
- ▶ National planning policy and guidance
- ▶ Technical evidence
- ▶ The views of stakeholders, businesses and our communities

What is the role of elected councillors in developing and approving the Plan?

Because the Plan is being prepared jointly, Councillors from both authorities are involved throughout the process through the South Warwickshire Local Plan Advisory Group. Some major stages still need formal approval by each Council. A joint committee made up of Councillors from both authorities also oversees many decisions on the Plan as it progresses.

Why do we need to produce the Plan now and when will it be completed?

Local Plans must be reviewed regularly. Stratford-on-Avon's Core Strategy was adopted in 2016 and Warwick District's Local Plan in 2017, so both Councils now need updated planning policies for the years ahead.

Stay informed

For updates on the South Warwickshire Local Plan, register at southwarwickshire.oc2.uk/register

Why are Stratford and Warwick District Councils working together to produce a joint Plan?

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts are closely connected. They share important transport links, strong economic ties, commuting patterns, cultural attractions and valued natural assets such as the River Avon and canal network. Working together gives both Councils the opportunity to plan for these shared issues in a more joined-up way and create a stronger long-term strategy for South Warwickshire.

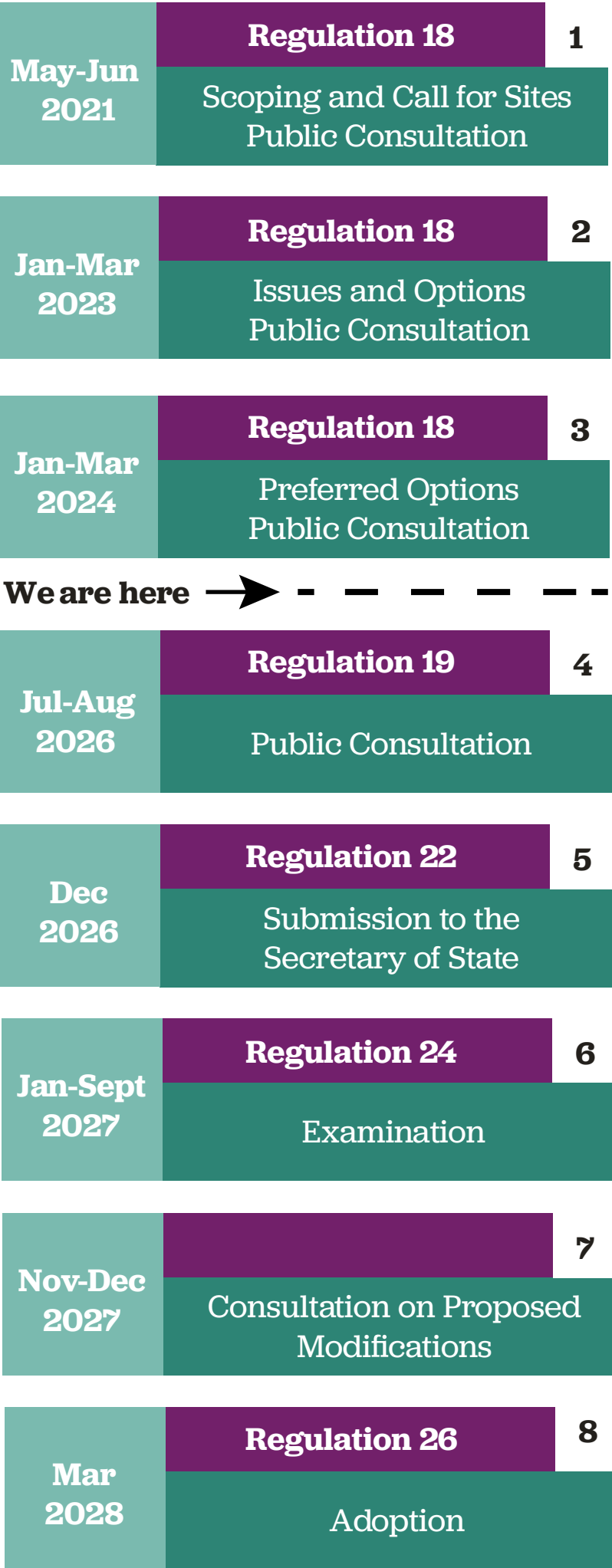
What happens next?

There has been extensive public engagement at every stage of the South Warwickshire Local Plan, with the 2025 Preferred Options consultation generating more than 22,000 responses.

The next stage is the Regulation 19 consultation. This is the final formal opportunity for residents, businesses and stakeholders to comment before the Plan is submitted to Government for independent examination.

At this stage, comments must focus on whether the Plan meets legal requirements, demonstrates effective joint working between the councils, and has been properly tested for soundness.

Scan the QR Code or search
www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/
 to find out more



Millions invested in District infrastructure



Over £5 million in infrastructure funding is currently supporting projects across Stratford-on-Avon District. Since 2024, more than £7 million has been received from new developments, contributing towards local services, facilities and infrastructure.



How does this funding work?

When new homes and developments are built, developers are required to contribute towards local infrastructure. This happens in two main ways:

Section 106 (S106)

These are legal agreements tied to individual developments and fund specific local needs. This can include things like:

- Affordable housing
- New or improved health services
- Play areas and green spaces
- Community buildings

£5.36 million
from site specific
funding

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

This is a standard charge on development that helps fund wider infrastructure across the District. It can be used for larger or strategic projects such as:

- Transport improvements
- Schools and healthcare facilities
- Major community infrastructure

£1.84 million
from District wide
infrastructure

What has the funding delivered?

Community facilities

- New and improved village halls and community hubs
- Ongoing development of a new community hub in Lighthorne



Parks & green spaces

- Investment in play areas, parks and nature reserves
- Improvements at Stratford Local Nature Reserve and community spaces



Affordable housing

- More than £3.2 million secured in just one year
- Supporting homes for local people



Health services

- Over £1.6 million invested in local healthcare
- Improvements to GP surgeries and medical facilities across the district

Transport & active travel

- Canal towpath improvements (£329k)
- New cycling routes, including Alcester Road enhancements



Growing older in Stratford District

What does it mean to grow older in Stratford-on-Avon District today? Thanks to a recent survey of local residents aged 65+, we now have a clearer picture: older residents here are not slowing down, they're looking to stay active, connected and independent. The good news is that there's a wealth of local support available.

Top 3...

Things people want to achieve in the next 12 months



Stay healthy



Travel



Improve fitness

Most important things to them



Health



Independence



Sufficient funds

Things people would like to enjoy but cannot



Nothing



Pubs/restaurants



Travel

Things that stop them doing what they want



Health



Transport



Old age & fatigue

Making connections

Staying connected is just as important as staying active. For those looking to meet new people or give back, volunteering can be a rewarding way to stay involved. Organisations like **Warwickshire & Solihull Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA)** help match people with opportunities that suit their interests and availability. For more information visit or call: www.wcava.org.uk/ 01789 332962

Across the District, **Warm Hubs*** provide welcoming spaces to drop in for a chat, a hot drink and a range of activities. Far from being just a winter initiative, these hubs run all year round and offer everything from crafts and games to gentle exercise sessions. We recommend checking in advance with the warm hub for their opening times in case of changes. To find out what Warm Hubs are open in your area, visit: maps.warwickshire.gov.uk/warm-hubs

IndieGo Plus bus service

IndieGo Plus is a low cost, on demand, ride share bus service covering Stratford-on-Avon. You can book a trip either through the mobile app or by calling the Contact Centre on 01926 742000. You request your pickup and drop off points when making your booking and preferred times of travel. For more information: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/public-transport/indiego 01926 742000

The service accepts concessionary passes which need to be validated on board the vehicle each time you travel.

VASA volunteer driver service

VASA provide a volunteer driver service which supports people in the district to get to medical appointments and community events. A volunteer driver collects passengers and takes them to their destination. There are charges for this service to cover administration and the driver's fuel. Drivers may be able to wait during an appointment. For more information: www.vasa.org.uk/community-transport/ 01789 262889

Help with finances

Pension credit gives you extra money to help with living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. It can also help with housing costs such as ground rent or service charges. You can get **Pension Credit** even if you have other income, savings or own your own home. You might also get extra help if you're a carer, severely disabled or responsible for a child or young person. For more information, contact Citizens Advice or visit: www.gov.uk/pension-credit

Stratford Energy Support Fund

offers financial help to support vulnerable households with financial support for those who are struggling to pay for their energy. To be eligible households must meet the income and vulnerability criteria outlined below:

- ▶ Gross household income of below £31,000 (not including PIP or DLA) and
- ▶ No household savings

One of the below vulnerabilities in the household:

- ▶ Long term diagnosed and treated health condition e.g COPD
- ▶ Households with unmanageable debt
- ▶ Pregnant or have young children under the age of 5
- ▶ Disabled and in receipt of DLA or PIP
- ▶ In receipt of benefits-related (not universal) free school meals

For more information, visit or call: www.actonenergy.org.uk/support/sesf 0800 988 2881



Scan the QR code or visit www.actonenergy.org.uk/support/sesf to find out more

What are respondents experiencing?

23% Poor physical health	21% Lack of physical activity
11% Boredom	10% Loneliness
7% Financial issues	7% Other poor mental health

Need advice?

Citizens Advice South Warwickshire is a local charity that offers free, confidential and impartial advice on a wide range of subjects including benefits, housing, employment and consumer issues. You can access their services through drop-in sessions across the district. For more information visit or call: www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk 0808 2505715

Stay healthy and getting active

Swimming, exercise classes, multisports and much more are on offer for older people at **Everyone Active** Leisure Centres across the District. **Everyone Active** also have a community outreach programme providing a variety of community classes in community venues including village halls, churches, community centres and outdoor locations. These are designed to offer residents a fun and convenient way to keep active in their communities. For more details about what's on offer, visit or call: www.everyoneactive.com/centre/stratford-community-outreach/ 01789 268 826

Alcester Town Council employs a dedicated health and wellbeing coordinator, Wendy Sherwood, who supports the local community to develop ideas, activities and projects to promote health and wellbeing, inclusion and to foster community cohesion. For details of groups and support available, visit or call: www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/ 01789 766 084

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership is a community led partnership set up to support residents in Shipston-on-Stour and the surrounding villages to live longer and better. For more information, visit or call: <https://www.shwp.org.uk/> 01608 691 128

10

11

How small changes can make a big difference for biodiversity

Across Stratford-on-Avon District, simple changes are helping to protect something vital to all of us - biodiversity. From longer grass on roadside verges to carefully chosen floral displays, the Council and local partners are working together to create spaces where nature can thrive.

One of the most visible signs of this effort is No Mow May, a national initiative that the District Council has proudly supported again this year. While it may look like a pause in routine grass cutting, the benefits are anything but small. Allowing highway verges to grow during May gives plants such as daisies and dandelions the chance to flower, creating a much-needed food source for pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and beetles.

No mow, let it grow

And these tiny creatures play an enormous role in our lives. In fact, one in every three bites of food we eat relies on pollinators. Across Europe, more than 80% of crop species depend on them. Yet research shows pollinator numbers are declining, largely due to the loss of natural habitats.

By simply mowing less frequently, we can begin to reverse that trend. Unmown verges don't just help pollinators, they provide shelter for wildlife such as birds and small mammals, improve air quality, capture carbon and even reduce emissions by cutting down on fuel use. This approach was applied to many urban road verges across the District, while still ensuring that key visibility areas, like junctions and roundabouts, were maintained for safety.

No Mow May is also part of a wider commitment by the District Council to enhance and protect green spaces, supporting nature recovery and addressing the climate emergency declared in 2019.

Alongside reduced mowing, the Council has been investing in tree planting, wildflower meadows, and the creation of a new Local Nature Reserve, helping to build a greener and more resilient environment for the future.

Search '**Our Green Spaces**' on our website to find out more about public open spaces near you.

Stratford in Bloom

Community groups are playing a key role too. Stratford in Bloom, working in partnership with the Council, is showing how beauty and biodiversity can go hand in hand. Their vibrant hanging baskets and planted displays are not just visually striking; they are carefully designed to support pollinators.

They are helping to create a town centre that is as welcoming to wildlife as it is to residents and visitors, by choosing nectar-rich plants and sustainable growing practices.

Join in

Stratford in Bloom is always keen to welcome new volunteers who share a passion for the town, sustainability and community pride.

If you are interested in getting involved or joining the committee, contact:
sueengland@btconnect.com



“ Environmental care and visual appeal go hand in hand. Our aim is to create a vibrant, welcoming Stratford that supports biodiversity and makes everyone proud. Through collaboration, thoughtful design and volunteering, we're creating floral displays that uplift the town and leave a lasting impression on visitors. Stratford in Bloom is about more than flowers, it's about creating a sustainable and vibrant environment. ”

Cohl Warren-Howles
Chair of Stratford in Bloom





Have you got a green idea?

Round Four of the CCNF is now open!

The Community Climate and Nature Fund (CCNF) is an initiative run by Stratford-on-Avon District Council that provides funding to local councils, community groups and charities to reduce carbon emissions and improve local biodiversity. £200,000 has been made available to successful applicants, across four quarterly funding windows. Since it was set up in November 2023, £250,000 has been allocated to local initiatives by the scheme, across 53 projects.

The CCNF will fund projects which meet one of the following criteria:

- ▶ Projects which result in a direct reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- ▶ Projects which build resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- ▶ Projects which will result in research enabling access to more significant funding applications.
- ▶ Projects which will result in the enhancement of biodiversity.

The following groups will be able to apply for grant funding through the CCNF:

- ▶ Town or Parish Councils
- ▶ Formally constituted charity and community groups
- ▶ Sports clubs

Eligible applicants can apply for up to £10,000 per project.

How to apply:

Please send any enquiries about the CCNF to our email climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk and our team will guide you through the application process.

Round Four will be open until April 2027, and applications will be appraised once every three months.

All applications will be considered at the nearest appraisal date following their submission. For your application to be considered at the next appraisal date (29th July 2026) please submit your application by 5pm on Monday 27th July.

The provisional dates are as follows:

- 29th July 2026
- 14th October 2026
- 13th January 2027
- 7th April 2027



Scan the QR code or search 'Community Climate and Nature Fund' on our website

Greener energy, brighter futures at Compton Verney

Compton Verney received £8,000 from Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Community Climate and Nature Fund to replace failing oil-fired boilers with a new air source heat pump in our Learning Centre.



The Learning Centre is a vital part of Compton Verney where 6,000 school pupils each year take part in engaging workshops and activities, taking advantage of the amazing art, nature and creativity that they have.

Before this project, the ageing boilers risked closing the space during colder months due to a lack of heating.

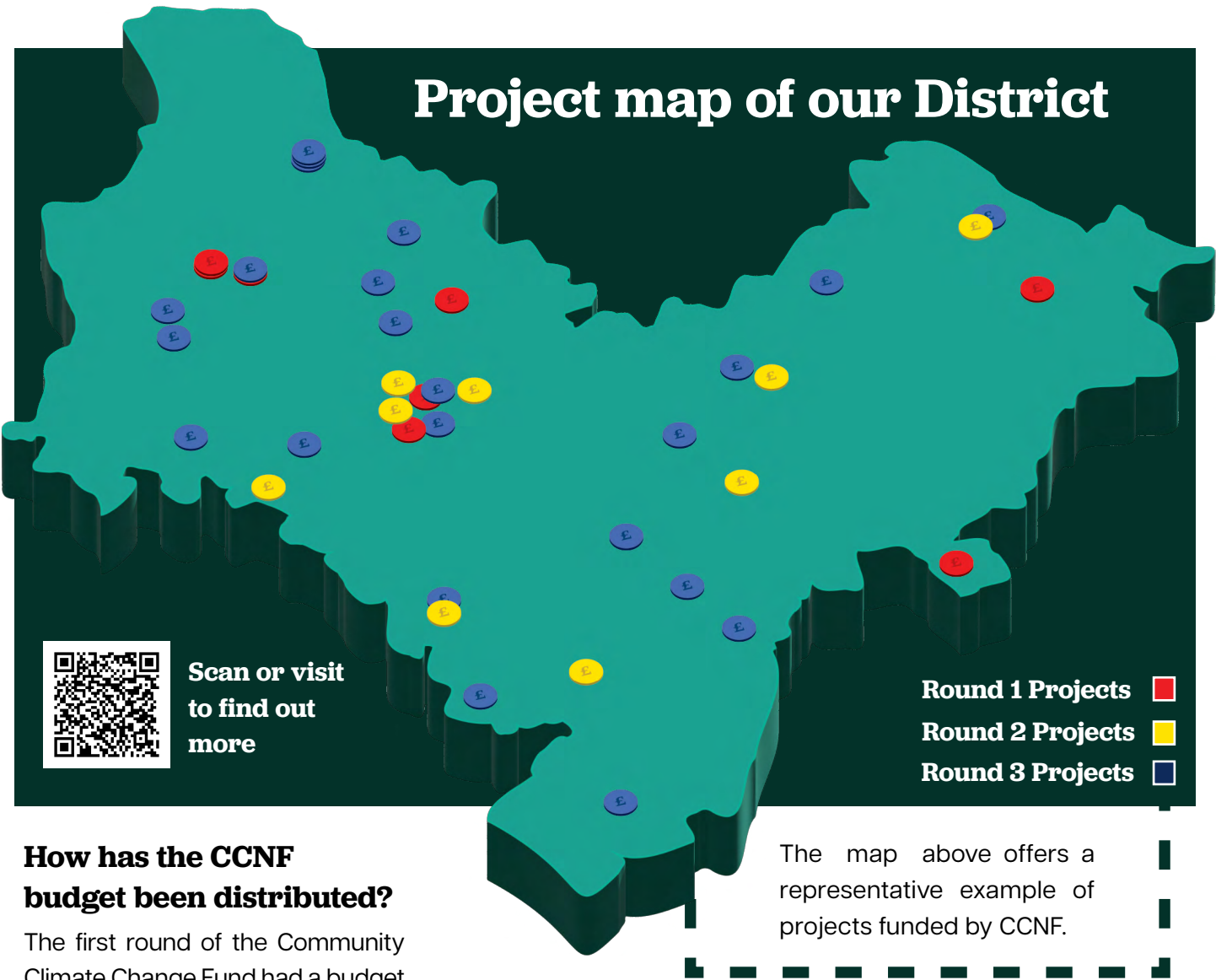
“Through this project we have eliminated the use of **11,000 litres of oil** each year, becoming an oil free site and reduced our carbon emissions by around **26 tonnes annually**. Now, thanks to this funding, the space is warm, reliable, green and ready for the future, ensuring local children and communities can continue to learn, create and explore all year round. This project has been one of the final parts of a wider energy improvement plan across our site, that has seen the use of both water source and air source heating as well as the installation of **160 solar panels** and a new air chilling system that has reduced our carbon emissions by **170 tonnes annually**. This project really shows how local investment can cut carbon, protect vital community spaces, and help build a greener future for Stratford District.”

Thomas Williams
Development Director at Compton Verney

Community Climate and Nature Fund

In November 2023, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet agreed to establish a Stratford-on-Avon Community Climate Change Fund (CCCF).

The purpose of the CCCF was to enable the delivery of climate change focused projects within the communities of Stratford-on-Avon District.



How has the CCNF budget been distributed?

The first round of the Community Climate Change Fund had a budget of £50,000. The successful grants represented a combined total of £44,137.

The remaining £5,863 was carried over to the second round of the Fund, where a total of £55,863 was available to successful applicants. Following the success of Round One, the remaining £55,863 was allocated and spent in Round Two of the fund.

The CCCF was renamed the Community Climate and Nature Fund (CCNF), to signify that the fund was now open to biodiversity and nature recovery initiatives.

Round Three of the CCNF was opened in April 2025. The budget was increased to £150,000, to be allocated across the following 12 months. Applications were appraised once per quarter, allowing funding to be released gradually across the year, and for applicants to receive a prompt response. This round closed in April 2026, and the full £150,000 was spent across 29 projects.

Examples of projects from across our District

So far, we have distributed £250,000 of grant funding across 53 projects all over the District. Below are few examples of how CCNF funding is helping to support our communities.



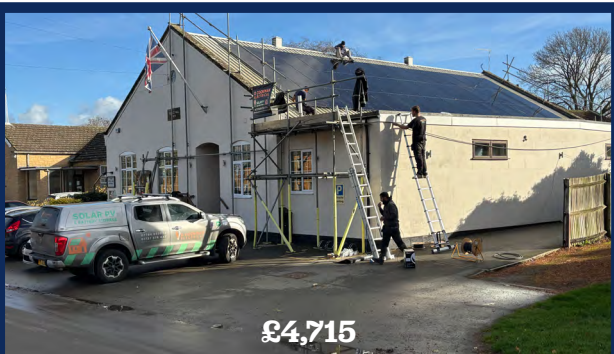
Back to nature pond project
Heart of England Forest

The project engaged local residents through community organisations, social media, Eventbrite, and a dedicated webpage. This dedicated volunteer pond team completed comprehensive ecological surveys across 14 ponds, including habitat structure, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates, vegetation, dragonflies, water quality and eDNA analysis for great crested newts.



Great Alne flood alleviation project

Great Alne Parish Council created a Flood Action Group (FLAG) tasked with delivering the Great Alne Flood Alleviation Project. The project goals were to reduce the instances of highway flooding and improve vehicular access through the village. The funding provided by SDC's Community Climate Change Fund was used to fund CCTV investigations into road drain performance, highway gully jetting, excavate ditches, and procure equipment to enable the FLAG team to manage assets.



Solar panels and battery installed at Tysoe Village Hall

The project involved the installation of 45PV solar panels and four batteries to generate electricity and store surplus power during the day. This stored energy is then used in the evenings, when the hall is colder and heating is needed to keep users comfortable over winter. The grant funding from SDC was used specifically to purchase the four batteries that enable the storage of this renewable, zero-cost energy.



New LED stage lighting Bear Pit Theatre

The Bear Pit Theatre is the only community theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon that provides an affordable venue for local performing arts groups, but it was highlighted that costs needed to be cut to guarantee a sustainable future for the venue. The project aimed to replace the entirety of the remaining tungsten lighting with LED lights which are far more energy efficient, cost effective, and generate less heat.

Families welcomed back to revamped play area

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's newly refurbished children's play area at the Recreation Ground, was reopened in time for the Easter holidays, marking the return of a much-loved community space.

A major investment in play and community wellbeing

At the heart of the project is a £250,000 investment, transforming the play area into a modern, vibrant, and inclusive destination designed for children aged 1 to 11 years.

With more than 75 engaging play features, the new layout embraces a creative Forest and River theme, reflecting the natural beauty of Stratford-upon-Avon while encouraging imaginative outdoor play.



The play area has been built with both fun and sustainability in mind. Innovative EcoCore Panels, made from over 95% post-consumer recycled material, have been used throughout, ensuring the site not only delights its visitors but also supports environmental responsibility.

Capable of accommodating up to 150 users at any one time, the space is designed to be welcoming and accessible for families across the district.

Inclusive, safe, and designed for everyone

A key priority of the redevelopment has been inclusivity. The play area now features a dedicated Accessible Sensory Play Area, ensuring children of all abilities can enjoy the space in a safe, stimulating environment.

Families will also benefit from a new shaded picnic area, offering additional seating and a comfortable place to relax while children play nearby. Across the site, improvements have been made to enhance accessibility, safety, and overall user experience. A highlight for many visitors will be the upgraded paddling pool area, which now includes:

- Non-slip surfacing for improved safety
- New interactive play features designed to encourage water-based fun
- Upgraded fencing and gates for added security

The popular sandpit has been fully revamped, with running water reinstated, bringing back a much-loved feature that supports creative and sensory play.

Wider improvements across the site

The project has also delivered a range of enhancements beyond the play equipment itself, creating a more enjoyable and practical environment for all visitors. These improvements include:

- Enhanced landscaping, including newly laid grassed areas
- Redecoration of public toilets, alongside installation of a new boiler
- Selected car park markings relined, including safer zebra crossings

Continued investment across the District

The Recreation Ground project is part of a wider programme of improvements to play areas across our District. Last year, several other sites have also have also benefitted from refurbishment, including:

- Trevelyan Crescent
- Cottage Lane
- Avenue Farm

Upcoming refurbishments

- Three Trees Play Area (Trinity Mead)
- Shottery Fields Play Area
- Extension to the Recreation Ground children's cycle track

How the investment was spent

► £125,000 - Main play equipment

► £71,000 - Wetpour surfacing and detailing

► £21,000 - Installation costs

► £15,000 - Paddling pool equipment + fencing and gates

► £12,000 - Sandpit groundworks

► £6,000 - Miscellaneous costs



“ This project represents a significant investment in our community and provides a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable space for children and families to enjoy for many years to come. ”

Councillor Lorraine Grocott
Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Neighbourhood Services

Stratford-on-Avon's new housing allocations policy

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is introducing a new Housing Allocations Policy to ensure access to social housing is fair, transparent and focused on those in greatest need. This comes at a time when demand continues to far outstrip supply.

Why change is needed

Councils are legally required to maintain a housing allocations scheme. Stratford-on-Avon's previous approach formed part of a wider partnership that is now ending, creating an opportunity to develop a clearer, locally focused system.

However, the key driver is simple: there are not enough social homes. Even with more than 4,400 affordable homes delivered since 2019, demand continues to rise.

- ▶ Over 1,900 households joined the register in 2025
- ▶ Only 564 homes became available

The supply and demand challenge

Stratford-on-Avon is an attractive place to live, but high house prices and private rents make the District increasingly unaffordable, pushing more households toward social housing. At the same time:

- ▶ One-bedroom homes are in very high demand
- ▶ Family homes are limited
- ▶ Accessible properties are scarce

This mismatch means difficult decisions must be made to ensure homes go to those who need them most.

Shaped by consultation

More than 250 responses were received during consultation, with 80–95% support across most proposals. Feedback helped strengthen clarity, accessibility and safeguards and confirmed strong public backing for prioritising genuine housing need.

A stronger focus on housing need

A major change is the introduction of a clear “housing need” requirement to join the register. Priority will be given to:

- ▶ People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- ▶ Those living in overcrowded or unsuitable homes
- ▶ Households with serious health or welfare needs
- ▶ People needing to move for care or support reasons

Households with suitable housing and realistic alternatives generally will not qualify. The policy also recognises wider factors such as disability, mental health and domestic abuse, not just bedroom need.

Local connection - with safeguards

To prioritise local residents, the policy strengthens local connection rules, such as living or working in the District or having close family nearby.

Clear exceptions ensure fairness for vulnerable groups, including:

- ▶ People fleeing domestic abuse
- ▶ Armed Forces personnel
- ▶ Care leavers
- ▶ Certain homelessness cases

Simpler, clearer priorities

The policy replaces the current system with a five-band structure, making it easier to understand how priority is set.

Applicants are placed in the band reflecting their highest level of need, supported by a new, more consistent medical assessment framework. This ensures housing-related health impacts are assessed fairly and transparently.

Supporting safe communities

The policy also includes proportionate measures to address:

- ▶ Deliberate worsening of housing circumstances
- ▶ Serious rent arrears
- ▶ Significant antisocial or criminal behaviour

These decisions will be carefully assessed and regularly reviewed, with opportunities for people to requalify.

What happens next

The policy will launch alongside a new housing system in September. All applicants will need to re-register to ensure the register reflects current need.

Current applicants will be written to directly with clear information about what they need to do and when.

The new system will:

- ▶ Be easier to use online
- ▶ Allow document uploads and real-time updates

While most people are comfortable using online systems, the Council recognises that this will not be the case for everyone and to support residents, the Council will be running drop-in sessions and phone assistance for anyone who needs help with the process.

The policy will be reviewed after 12 months to ensure it continues to meet local needs.



Scan the QR or visit
stratford.gov.uk/housing-allocations-policy/
to find out more



Health screenings in our District

Following the success of last year's programme, Stratford-on-Avon District Council is once again partnering with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) to deliver affordable, accessible health checks for both men and women at venues across the District.

Many serious health conditions can develop with little or no noticeable symptoms. Screening offers a simple but powerful way to detect potential issues early, when they are often easier to manage or treat. Last year's results highlight just how important these checks can be:

- ▶ Over 1,100 tests were carried out
- ▶ Nearly a quarter of men tested were advised to follow up with their GP
- ▶ One in ten people has raised blood sugar levels
- ▶ A significant 80% showed cholesterol levels requiring follow-up

What tests are available?

A range of simple blood tests are available at each event, priced at a subsidised £14 per test:

- ▶ PSA (Prostate Screening) – for men aged 40 and over
- ▶ Diabetes test – for adults aged 18 and over
- ▶ Cholesterol test – for adults aged 18 and over

All tests are conducted by experienced professionals, with results helping you decide whether any follow-up with your GP may be needed.

Where and when

The next events, running from 10am to 2pm will take place on:

- ▶ Saturday 19 September – **Studley Village Hall**
- ▶ Saturday 17 October – **Stratford Leisure Centre**
- ▶ Saturday 7 November – **Henley-in-Arden Memorial Hall**



How to book

Appointments must be booked in advance, as spaces are limited and previous events have been extremely popular with many fully booked in advance.

- ▶ Visit: sdc.mypsatestests.org.uk
- ▶ Call: 01926 419959
- ▶ Email: info@myhealthtests.org.uk

“Thank you SDC. Without your health initiative I would be living life with prostate cancer (no symptoms) and not knowing anything different until it may have been too late ———— Simply put, SDC may have saved my life.”

- Steve, Stratford District resident

Armed forces support

Employment

Stratford-on-Avon District Council provides a guaranteed interview where the essential criteria for a vacancy is met by external candidates who are:

- Serving Armed Forces personnel during the 12 week prior to their discharge date from the Armed Forces;
- Ex-Armed Forces personnel within 3 years of their discharge date; or
- Where the Armed Forces were their last long-term employer.

The Council provides employees who are Reservists 2 weeks paid leave.

Career Transition Partnership (CTP): Forces Employment Charity:

0121 236 0058

www.ctp.org.uk

0800 028 2369

www.forcesemployment.org.uk



Housing

There are special considerations for certain serving and former members of the regular armed forces. This means that you may qualify for additional priority for housing allocation. For further information, please contact:

Veterans Housing Advice:

0808 801 0880

www.veteranshousingadvice.org.uk

SSAFA Housing Support:

0800 731 4880

www.ssafa.org.uk

Housing Advice team:

01789 260861

housingadviceteam@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Health and Wellbeing

Everyone Active offers discounted memberships for Armed Forces veterans and personnel.

Stratford Leisure Centre - 01789 268826

Southam Leisure Centre - 01926 817788

Studley Leisure Centre - 01527 857161

The Greig Leisure Centre, Alcester - 01789 400073

Shipston Leisure Centre - 01608 662354

Mental health

Combat Stress:

0800 138 1619

www.combatstress.org.uk

Samaritans:

116 123

www.samaritans.org

NHS Veterans' Mental

Health Services:

Contact your GP for referral

Financial

Royal British Legion:

0808 802 8080

www.britishlegion.org.uk

Turn2Us:

0808 802 2000

www.turn2us.org.uk

Emergency contact

Veterans' Gateway:

0808 802 1212

www.veteransgateway.org.uk

Veterans Contact Point

02476 343 793

www.veteranscontactpoint.org.uk

Search stratford.gov.uk/armed-forces-covenant for more information

Keeping our rural communities safe this summer

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is continuing its work to support residents in rural areas through practical, free crime prevention services delivered by the Council's Rural Crime Advisors (RCAs).

Free home security checks for rural residents

If you live in a rural area, you can now benefit from a free residential crime prevention visit. During these personalised visits, an RCA will assess your property and offer tailored advice to help reduce the risk of crime.

The visit typically lasts between one and two hours and can include:

- Checking boundaries such as fencing and hedges
- Reviewing home access points including windows and doors
- Assessing gardens, sheds, and outbuildings
- Identifying vulnerabilities and suggesting improvements
- Advice on marking valuables and tools

Following the visit, residents may be provided with practical security equipment or loan items where appropriate.



Allotments and sheds: Protecting what matters

As the summer season begins, the Council is also reminding residents to take extra care with allotments and garden sheds, which can be attractive targets for crime. Common risks include:

- Opportunistic theft of tools or produce
- Targeted theft of high-value equipment or fuel
- Vandalism and damage to property
- Arson affecting sheds and structures

The good news is that effective prevention doesn't require extreme measures. Instead, it's about:

- Improving visibility across sites
- Securing sheds with proper locks
- Avoiding leaving tools out overnight
- Working together as a community to stay alert

Working together for safer communities

Crime prevention in rural areas is most effective when communities work together.

Whether through improving security at home, keeping an eye on allotments, or seeking expert advice from the Council's RCAs, every small step makes a difference.

For more information and practical advice, visit the Warwickshire Rural Watch website or contact the Council's team (please copy in both addresses):

rebecca.jenkins@stratford-dc.gov.uk
alison.packer@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Don't Ignore It Report ASB



WHAT IS ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR?

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is any action that causes distress, alarm or harassment to others.

Examples include:

- Vandalism or graffiti
- Intimidation or harassment
- Fly-tipping or littering
- Rowdy or disruptive behaviour in public spaces

REPORT IT TO US ONLINE:

www.stratford.gov.uk/reportasb

New community noticeboards funded across the District

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has supported the installation of new community noticeboards across the district, helping residents and visitors stay informed and connected.

In early 2025, Town and Parish Councils, community venues and local groups were invited to apply for funding to install new community noticeboards in their areas. Following a successful application round, eight projects were approved in April, with over £6,500 awarded to support installations at the following locations:

- **Bishops Itchington** - by the play area and recreation ground
- **Clifford Chambers** - on the Village Green
- **Fenny Compton** - outside the village hall, opposite the shop, and at Compton Lock playground
- **Gaydon** - outside Gaydon Village Shop
- **Kinwarton** - at St Mary's Park
- **Pillerton Priors** - outside Pillerton Priors Village Hall
- **Shipston** - at Cornmill Meadows Local Wildlife Site
- **Southam** - outside Tithe Lodge

The noticeboards are already playing an important role in village life, sharing a wide range of information for local communities. Content includes Parish Council notices, local business adverts, clubs and village events, volunteering opportunities, guided walks, maps, wildlife and hedgehog care advice, and information about local history and points of interest.

“ I am delighted that we have been able to support the purchase of these community noticeboards across the District. In a rural area where social isolation and digital exclusion can be real challenges, noticeboards provide a vital way to share local information, support residents and help build strong, cohesive communities. ”

Councillor Liz Coles
Portfolio Holder for Housing, Revenues and Customer Services

Search 'Growing Opportunities Plan' on our website to find out more about our social inclusion work.

Community grants in action

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ Days, Stratford-on-Avon District Council launched the Community Grant Scheme, a £350,000 investment designed to support and strengthen valued community assets. Within this, £50,000 was allocated to Small Grants, funding projects between £5,000 and £20,000. Three successful applicants were awarded funding, each delivering meaningful improvements to local facilities.

1st Shottery Scouts – Scout hut refurbishment

Shottery Scout Hut, tucked away in a quiet corner of Stratford-upon-Avon since 1912, now needs some TLC. This well-used space helps children aged 6–14 build skills, friendships and confidence. Funding will support a new electrical system, insulation and walls, improving safety, energy use and functionality so the hut can serve scouts and the wider community.



£10,606
Rob Farquharson,
Group Lead Volunteer

“ This investment will make a lasting difference to our young people and the wider community for years to come, and we are extremely grateful. ”

Brailes Village Hall – Creating a sustainable, modern kitchen

Brailes Village Hall is a busy community space, hosting classes, parties and other events throughout the year. The well-proportioned kitchen is a big draw, providing plenty of space to cater for up to 200 people using the hall. It was, however, installed in the 1970s and is in need of modernisation. The funding will go towards new commercial-grade units and worktops, improved storage, new appliances and energy efficient ceiling lights.

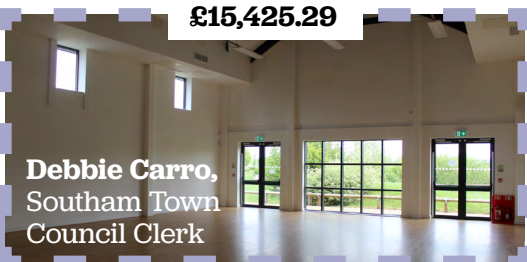


£20,000
Brailes Village Hall Trustees

“ We are delighted to be awarded the community grant to update our dated, worn kitchen. It will be a great enhancement to the facilities at the hall. ”

Southam Town Council – Community centre acoustics

The Flying Fields Estate in Southam sits on the former RAF Southam site, a WWII training ground where pilots trained on Tiger Moths before night missions. In 1943, a Wellington bomber crash-landed here, now marked by a metal Wellington sculpture at the entrance. Today, it is a modern housing community, with road names honouring its aviation past. The Community Centre on Tiger Moth Drive opened in 2025 and hosts many groups. Funding will add wool-felt acoustic panels to reduce echo in the hall.



£15,425.29
Debbie Carro,
Southam Town Council Clerk

“ Funding will improve the accessibility of the hall for all users, currently there are a lot of people who struggle being in the hall because of the echoing. ”



The digital phone switchover

What you need to know



What is the digital phone switchover?

The UK's telephone network is changing. Between now and 2027 most telephone providers will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines over to new upgraded landline services using digital technology.

This means services that rely on the old landline system such as home phones and health-care devices will be switched over.

How will it affect me / what do I need to do?

The good news is – your landline isn't going anywhere and for most consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward. In fact, many customers are already making the switch when they upgrade to full fibre broadband.

Your telecoms provider (Virgin Media O2 or BT) should contact you before the switchover to check in and discuss what you need to do to make sure your service isn't affected. However, we're encouraging everyone to know what to expect.

If you have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router rather than the socket on the wall.

Do you or someone you know depend on their landline for use of a telecare device connected to the phone line such as a fall monitor, lifeline or personal alarm?

If yes, then please notify your communications provider (the people you pay for your landline) and check with your monitor/alarm provider whether your device is digitally enabled so that they can advise on how the switch might affect the service of the devices.

If you have other devices connected to your phone line, such as alarm systems, your burglar alarm service provider might need to upgrade your device to make sure it is compatible. If you are unsure about how a device in your home or business might be affected, it is recommended you contact the equipment supplier or device manufacturer to find out whether it will still work on a digital phone line.

In an emergency

Digital landlines cannot carry a power connection, so in the event of a power cut they will not work. If you have a mobile phone this can still be used, but if you've no other means of calling the emergency services your telecoms provider will offer a solution to allow calls to be made to emergency services.

You should tell your telecoms provider now if you have no other way of making emergency calls.

If you're worried about your devices, please contact the supplier, provider or company who provide them. They will be able to give you more information.

1 ALCESTER EAST	Susan Juned T: 07971 343 061 E: susan.juned@stratford-dc.gov.uk
2 ALCESTER WEST	Tom Ballinger T: 07745 210 094 E: tom.ballinger@stratford-dc.gov.uk
3 BIDFORD EAST	Daren Pemberton T: 07970 064 759 E: daren.pemberton@stratford-dc.gov.uk
4 BIDFORD WEST	Bill Fleming T: 07971 342 945 E: bill.fleming@stratford-dc.gov.uk
5* BISHOPS ITCHINGTON, FENNY COMPTON AND NAPTON	Natalie Gist T: 07745 210 095 E: natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk
5* BISHOPS ITCHINGTON, FENNY COMPTON AND NAPTON	Jake Beavan T: 07971 343 065 E: jake.beavan@stratford-dc.gov.uk
6 BRAILES AND COMPTON	Sarah Whalley-Hoggins T: 07971 342 948 E: sarah.whalley-hoggins@stratford-dc.gov.uk
7 CLAVERDON AND SNITTERFIELD	Duncan Parker T: 07745 210 097 E: duncan.parker@stratford-dc.gov.uk
8* GAYDON, KINETON AND UPPER LIGHTHORNE	Chris Mills T: 07966 133 607 E: chris.mills@stratford-dc.gov.uk
8* GAYDON, KINETON AND UPPER LIGHTHORNE	Alan Scorer T: 07745 210 098 E: alan.scorer@stratford-dc.gov.uk
9 HARBURY	Susan Ostrander T: 07745 210 099 E: sue.ostrander@stratford-dc.gov.uk
10 HENLEY-IN-ARDEN	Mike Rice T: 01789 260 701 E: mike.rice@stratford-dc.gov.uk
11 KINWATTON	Vacant at time of printing By election to be held on 9 July 2026
12 LONG MARSTON	Stuart Keighley T: 07745 210 105 E: stuart.keighley@stratford-dc.gov.uk
13 QUINTON	Paul Harrison T: 07745 210 107 E: paul.harrison@stratford-dc.gov.uk
14 SALFORD PRIORS AND ALCESTER RURAL	Ashley Jones T: 07745 210 108 E: ashley.jones@stratford-dc.gov.uk
15 SHIPSTON NORTH	Olivia Hatch T: 07752 562 114 E: olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk
15 SHIPSTON SOUTH	Dave Passingham T: 07752 562 115 E: dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk
16 ALCESTER WEST	Tom Ballinger T: 07745 210 094 E: tom.ballinger@stratford-dc.gov.uk
17 SOUTHAM EAST, CENTRAL AND STOCKTON	Andy Crump T: 07771 335273 E: andy.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk
18 SOUTHAM NORTH AND LONG ITCHINGTON	Louis Adam T: 07971 342940 E: louis.adam@stratford-dc.gov.uk
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21 STRATFORD AVENUE	Lorraine Grocott T: 07752 562 123 E: lorraine.grocott@stratford-dc.gov.uk
22 STRATFORD BISHPOTON	Victoria Alcock T: 07971 342 941 E: victoria.alcock@stratford-dc.gov.uk
23 STRATFORD CLOPTON	Letty Petrovic T: 07980 918 201 E: letty.petrovic@stratford-dc.gov.uk
24 STRATFORD GUILDHALL AND BRIDGETOWN	Jenny Fradgley T: 07970 643 509 E: jenny.fradgley@stratford-dc.gov.uk
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26 STRATFORD ORCHARD HILL	Ian Fradgley T: 07971 343 072 E: ian.fradgley@stratford-dc.gov.uk
27 STRATFORD SHOTTERY	David Curtis T: 07971 343 084 E: david.curtis@stratford-dc.gov.uk
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29 STRATFORD WELCOMBE	Roger Harding T: 07514 951 171 E: roger.harding@stratford-dc.gov.uk
30 STUDLEY NORTH	Peter Hencher-Serafin T: 07971 342 943 E: peter.hencher-serafin@stratford-dc.gov.uk
30 STUDLEY SOUTH	Neil Edden T: 07971 343 056 E: neil.edden@stratford-dc.gov.uk
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35 WELFORD-ON-AVON	Cliff Brown T: 07870 488 071 E: cliff.brown@stratford-dc.gov.uk
36 WELLESBOURNE EAST AND RURAL	David Johnston T: 07752 562 127 E: david.johnston@stratford-dc.gov.uk
37 WELLESBOURNE NORTH AND RURAL	Anne Parry T: 07917 117 737 E: anne.parry@stratford-dc.gov.uk
38 WELLESBOURNE SOUTH	George Cowcher T: 07752 562 129 E: george.cowcher@stratford-dc.gov.uk
39 WOOTTON WAVEN	Ian Shenton T: 07971 343 074 E: ian.shenton@stratford-dc.gov.uk
39 WOOTTON WAVEN	Ian Shenton T: 07971 343 074 E: ian.shenton@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Your Local District Councillor





Active, connected and thriving: Your leisure centres supporting health and wellbeing

Looking after our health and wellbeing has never been more important and right on your doorstep, Stratford-on-Avon District's leisure centres offer more opportunities than ever before to help residents stay active, connected and feeling their best.

Working in partnership with Everyone Active, the Council continues to invest in high-quality, inclusive and modern facilities designed to support people of all ages and abilities. From playful spaces for young families to cutting-edge fitness technology and exciting new sports, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

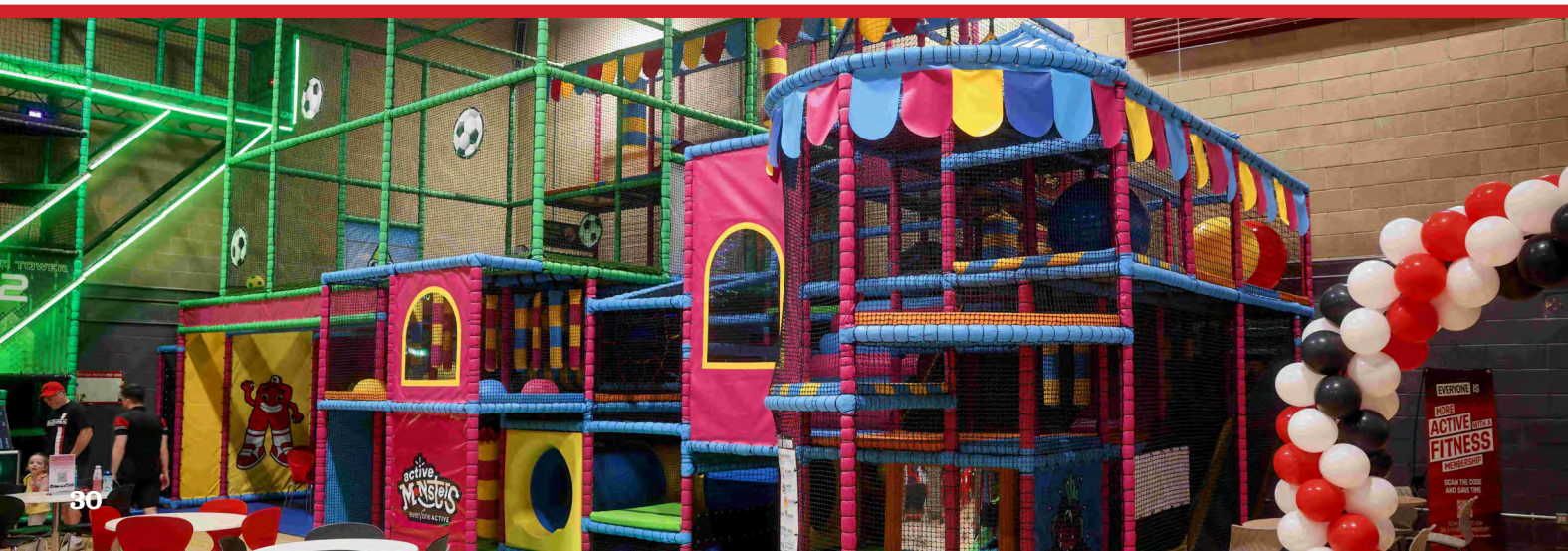
A place for families to play and grow

For our youngest residents, Stratford Leisure Centre has unveiled a vibrant new soft play area, creating the perfect space for fun, movement and early development.

Designed for children aged up to eight, the colourful, multi-level play environment encourages little ones to climb, balance, slide and explore, helping to build key motor skills while having fun.

More than just a play space, it's a place where families can spend quality time together, keeping children active in a safe and engaging environment. It reflects the Council's commitment to supporting healthy habits from an early age and providing family-friendly leisure opportunities for the whole community.

Whether it's a weekend activity or a school holiday treat, the soft play area is set to become a much-loved local destination.



Discover the UK's fastest-growing sport

If you're looking for something new, social and energising, padel has arrived in Stratford. Often described as a mix of tennis and squash, padel is easy to learn, highly sociable and suitable for all ages and abilities.

Three brand-new courts are now available at Stratford Leisure Centre, giving residents the chance to try one of the fastest-growing sports in the UK, with participation having surged dramatically in recent years.

Whether you're playing competitively, learning the basics, or simply enjoying a fun match with friends, padel offers a fantastic way to combine physical activity with social connection, boosting both physical and mental wellbeing.

Smarter fitness for better health

For those looking to improve their fitness or take the next step in their wellbeing journey, the introduction of EGYM Smart Strength equipment at Stratford Leisure Centre brings a new level of personalised support.

This innovative technology uses AI-powered guidance to tailor workouts to individual needs and ability levels, helping users feel confident, safe and motivated, whether they're new to strength training or returning after a break.

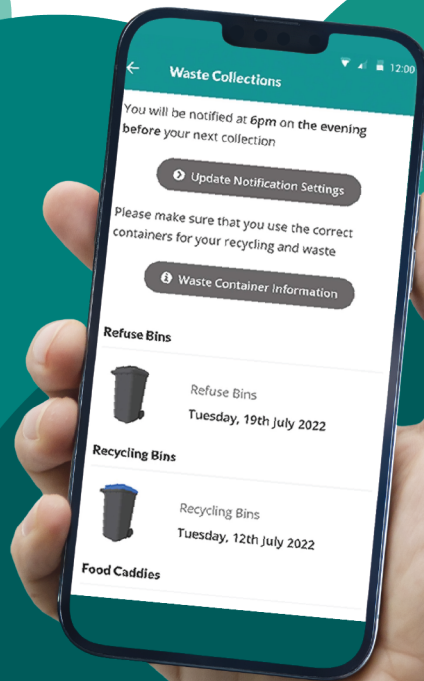
Each member benefits from a detailed onboarding session, including a full-body analysis measuring fitness levels, metabolism and flexibility. The result? A bespoke training programme that automatically adjusts to you every time you visit.

The focus is not just on fitness, but on measurable improvements in health and wellbeing. Research shows users can achieve significant gains in strength and even reduce their biological age through consistent training. Importantly, the equipment is accessible to all members, including those on GP referral schemes, helping break down barriers and ensure more residents can benefit from structured, supportive exercise.

A community-focused approach to wellbeing

From early years development and family activities to inclusive fitness programmes and emerging sports trends, the Council is committed to providing a diverse range of opportunities that make it easier for residents to stay active. With so much on offer, there's never been a better time to explore your local leisure centre.

To find details of what's available at your local centre in Alcester, Shipston, Southam and Studley please visit: www.everyoneactive.com/centre/



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Stratford-on-Avon District Council