

Parish and Partners Foreword

Dear All,

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Parish and Partners newsletter, this edition is highlighting some of the recent achievements of the Council in working with our communities.

Firstly, I would like to praise the work of the Environment and Operations team. You may well have seen on BBC Midlands Today recently that the Council has enabled our residents to achieve a recycling rate of 61%.

Out of the 319 local authority areas who are responsible for the collection of waste and recycling, Stratford-on-Avon District Council is currently ranked as third, and within the West Midlands we are the highest performer.

The Council is incredibly proud of our arrangements and thanks all of our residents who have helped achieve this incredible performance.

This edition also contains a number of articles which demonstrate how the Council is delivering against each of the 6 areas of focus within the Council Plan 2023-2027.



This edition includes articles surrounding Health and Wellbeing through the Health Screening events which the Council has arranged. On Climate Change there are a number of initiatives including the installation of solar panels on our leisure centres but also the Council's Community Climate and Nature Fund and free trees for Town and Parish Councils.

The article which concentrates on the Council's delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund over the last three years shows how projects across the whole of district have been supported.

As mentioned in previous editions of the Parish and Partners newsletter one of the main issues that the Council is wrestling with now is Local Government Reorganisation. The Government has announced that it wishes to abolish all remaining County Councils and District and Borough Councils and replace them with new unitary councils. These unitary councils would deliver all the services currently provided by Warwickshire County Council and the District and Borough Councils including Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

The current preference for Stratford-on-Avon District Council is that for the existing Warwickshire there are two unitary Councils created. The two unitaries being made up as follows:

- **North Warwickshire** – based on the existing North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Rugby Borough Council
- **South Warwickshire** – based on Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwick District Council.

The current preference for Warwickshire County Council is that a single unitary council is created covering the whole of the Warwickshire County Council area.

Thank you so much to all of you who took part in the recent engagement exercise, we have had an incredible response to the survey with over 2,000 submissions. Thank you also to all the Town and Parish Councils who took part in the two focus groups organised by Opinion Research Services on behalf of the Councils involved.

The Council is required to make its final decision on which proposal it supports on 17 November 2025, this will be considered at an Extraordinary meeting of Council, ahead of the formal submission to Government on 28 November. Ahead of this meeting there will be special meetings of the Cabinet and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

In addition, and to ensure that you are all up to speed on the debate a special meeting of the Parish Forum is being arranged. For your information this will be held on the evening of Thursday 6 November, invites for this session will be going out soon, it would be good to see as many of you as possible at this session.

Following the submission of our proposals the Government is expected to run a formal consultation exercise early in 2026, with a decision expected from them on the solution for Warwickshire coming next summer. We will obviously keep you updated on this issue.

Finally, thank you again for all your support.

David

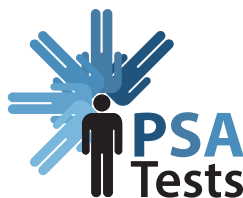


Prioritising Resident Health and Wellbeing Health screening - making a real impact

As part of Stratford-on-Avon District Council's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of communities, we're working in partnership with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust to deliver a series of health screening events throughout 2025 and into 2026.

These events offer residents across Stratford-on-Avon District the opportunity to access blood tests at a concessionary rate, with a focus on early detection of prostate cancer, diabetes, and high cholesterol.

The screenings are organised and delivered by the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust. If you'd like to find out more or book a place, please follow the links below.



W: <https://sdc.mypsatests.org.uk/>

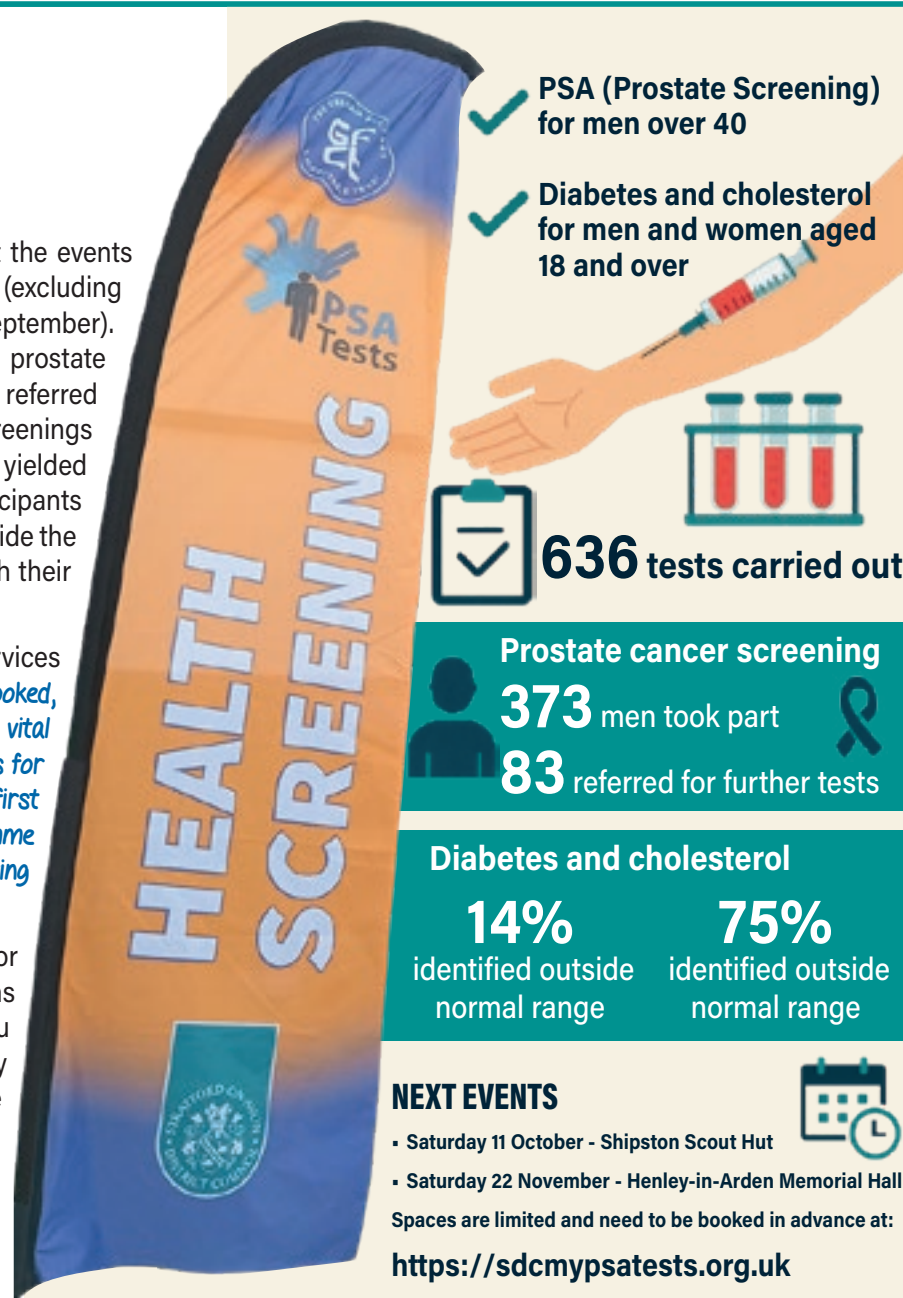
T: 01926 419959

E: info@myhealthtests.org.uk

So far, 636 tests have been carried out at the events in Stratford, Studley, Southam and Alcester (excluding the most recent event in Stratford on 13 September). A total of 373 men have taken part in the prostate cancer screening programme, with 83 referred for further tests via their GP. The screenings for diabetes and cholesterol have also yielded important results, with 14% and 75% of participants respectively identified as having levels outside the normal range and advised to follow up with their GP.

Cllr Liz Coles, Housing and Customer Services Portfolio said: *"Each session has been fully booked, demonstrating the strong demand for these vital services. In response, we've added more events for Autumn 2025 and due to the success of this first phase, we're now planning to expand the programme further in 2026, bringing this potentially lifesaving initiative to even more communities."*

Over the next few months the programme for 2026 is being planned. Although sessions can't be guaranteed in every area, if you represent a medium-sized community and believe you can gather 30 or more participants, we'd love to hear from you. Please email: socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk to express your interest, and we'll explore the possibility of bringing a screening event to your area.



What happens to my recycling?

Recyclable material is collected and taken to Sherbourne Recycling Ltd (Material Recycling Facility, MRF). The mixed material is segregated using magnets, optical sorting and other technology until the different materials are in separate waste streams.

Materials are then transported to specialist reprocessing facilities where they are made into new products.

All of the recycling processed at Sherbourne stays in the UK to be reused.



Our recycling service has recently featured on BBC Midlands Today, you can watch here: <https://ow.ly/B8uJ50WVFhr> and see the article online: [Automated recycling centre gets council close to 65% target - BBC News](#)



Stratford-on-Avon District is ranked 3rd in the country for its recycling rate last year (2023/24).

Swimming Pools



Padding Pools, Indoor Swimming Pools

BBQ's



BBQs, Charcoal, Firelighters, Tongs, Grills, and Skewers

Garden Tools



Spades, Rakes, Hoes, Trowels, Shears, and Watering Cans

Soil



Soil, Compost, Topsoil, Mulch, Fertiliser, and Peat

Hoses



Hoses, Hose Reels, Hose Connectors, Spray Guns, and Hose Fittings

Concrete



Concrete, Cement, Sand, Gravel, Mixers, and Paving Slabs

Wood



Wood, Timber, Planks, Logs, Boards, and Offcuts

Furniture



Furniture, Chairs, Tables, Benches, Sofas, and Stools

These items are not recyclable and can cause serious damage to machinery

To find out where to dispose of these items, please visit www.stratford.gov.uk/a-z



www.stratford.gov.uk



info@stratford-dc.gov.uk



www.facebook.com/StratfordDC



<https://x.com/StratfordDC>



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

Community Climate and Nature Fund

Round three of the Community Climate and Nature Fund (CCNF) is now open.

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

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.

Please send any enquiries about the CCNF to: climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Round three will be open until April 2026, and applications will be appraised once every three months. The next dates are 22nd October 2025, 14th January 2026 and a date to be confirmed in April 2026

All applications will be considered at the nearest appraisal date following their submission. All applications need to be submitted by 5pm on the day before the appraisal date for it to be considered.

[CCNF round three application guidance document](#) and [CCNF round three application form](#)

For more information or to take a look at what projects have been supported in the past please visit: [Community Climate and Nature Fund | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

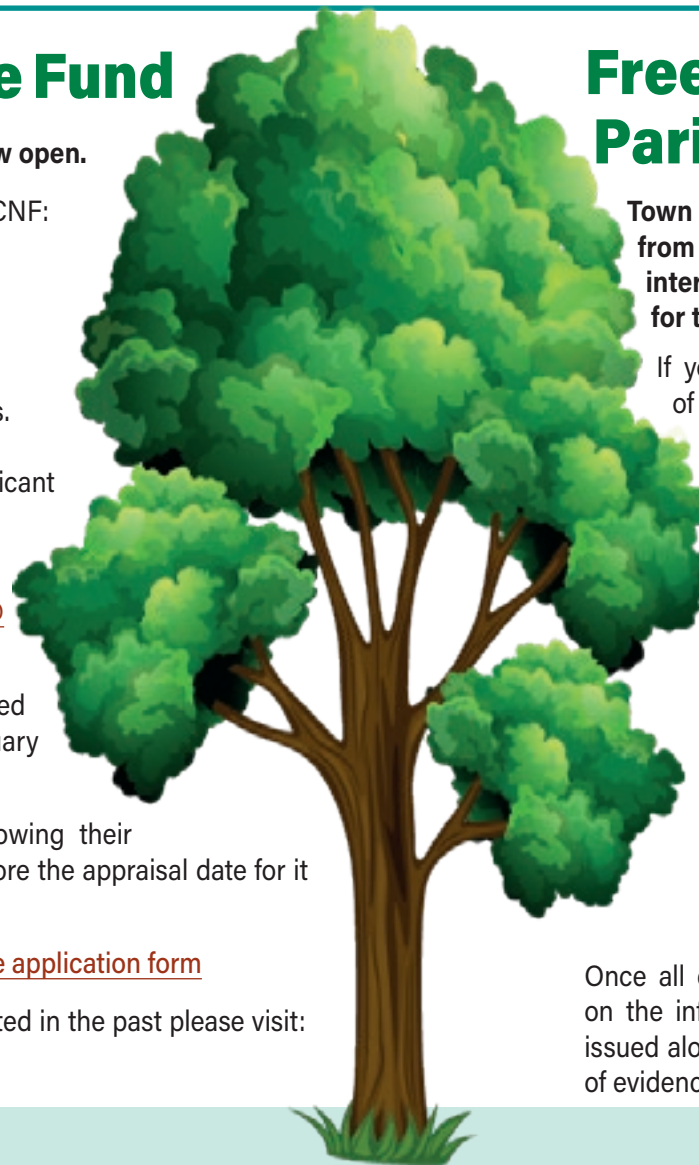
Free trees for Town and Parish Councils

Town and Parish Councils have received an email from SDC's Sue Greenall, asking for expressions of interest to gauge the level of interest in a scheme for tree planting in their areas.

If your Town or Parish Council has suitable areas of public or publicly accessible land and would be interested in applying for the grant and hasn't already responded to the email, please send the following information to sue.greenall@stratford-dc.gov.uk

- Name of the Town/Parish Council and contact details for scheme organiser
- Show the proposed planting location(s) on a map
- Confirm the number of trees and species that you would be looking to purchase and plant.
- Confirm who is the legal Landowner of the proposed planting area and whether permission for planting will need to be sought.

Once all expressions of interest are received and based on the information provided, an application form will be issued along with a list of conditions to be met and details of evidence that would be required.



Wilder Communities

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is working in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to help boost biodiversity across the District.

If you're a group with a public green space and is interested in having trees, hedges or a wildflower area planted, get in touch: Call: 07943 155915 Email: olivia.williams@wkwt.org.uk



Leisure centre decarbonisation: A proven success and the next steps

Stratford and Shipston Leisure Centres' major solar panel installation projects have been completed and are already delivering significant and measurable results.

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.
 - Shipston Leisure Centre has generated 42,700 KWh, resulting in a CO₂ saving of 8.26 tonnes.

While final outcomes will be influenced by seasonal weather and fluctuations through autumn and winter, a forecast based on real-world data can offer a more informed, yet conservative, projection for the first 12 months:

- Projected electricity generation: in the region of 200,000 – 220,000Kwh
- projected CO₂ savings: annual savings of approximately 40-45 tonnes of CO₂

Building on this success, similar projects are now progressing at Southam and Studley Leisure Centres. Feasibility studies are underway to determine the precise number of PV panels and define the scope of the installations.

To support this next phase, the District Council's Cabinet has approved a £400,000 investment, enabling the remaining leisure centres in the District to benefit from solar energy.



What's going on in your parish for young people?

What activities are available for young people in your parish?

We're looking to build a better picture of the support and opportunities available to young people across the District.

We know there are some fantastic initiatives out there, whether it's Rainbows, Scouts, youth clubs, or sports programmes for 11 to 16 year olds in your town or parish, we'd love to hear about them.

Please send the following details to: socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk:

- Name of group
- Age range of young people
- Is this free or paid for?
- Contact email address
- Website/Social media page (if applicable)



Transforming the District Council's housing register service

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has approved a new strategy to improve its housing register service, following a comprehensive review of the Home Choice Plus system.

The District Council has endorsed a series of transformative measures aimed at streamlining operations and enhancing the experience for residents seeking social housing.

What's changing?

- **Clearing the backlog:** Temporary staffing will support the Housing Options Team to process outstanding applications more quickly.
- **New IT system:** To replace the Home Choice Plus system.
- **Exiting the partnership:** The Council will leave the Home Choice Plus partnership with Wyre Forest and Bromsgrove District Councils, allowing greater control over its housing register.
- **Operational improvements:** Broader changes will modernise the service and improve long-term sustainability.

To support these changes, £150,000 has been allocated in the Council Plan, which will see a reduction in manual processing and improved customer service.

Cllr Liz Coles, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Customer Services, said: *"This is a vital step forward in ensuring our residents receive the service they deserve. By investing in modern systems and reviewing our operational model, we are committed to delivering a fair, efficient, and secure housing register that meets the needs of our community."*

A public consultation on the revised Housing Allocation Scheme will be launched soon, inviting feedback from residents, Members, Registered Providers, and other stakeholders.

Supporting dementia care in Alcester: A new chapter for Orchard House

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has granted a 25-year lease of Orchard House to Alcester Day Care for use as a Dementia Care Centre.

The property, located on the Greig Centre site in Alcester, will bring vital support to families affected by dementia in Alcester and the surrounding areas and is set to become the new home of the Alcester Day Care Dementia Respite Centre, a dedicated community day care facility.

Alcester Day Care has long been a lifeline for carers and individuals living with dementia and Alzheimer's. Their services include arts and crafts, reminiscence activities, and gentle exercise, all designed to promote wellbeing and provide much-needed respite for carers. With this new lease, the charity will be able to expand its offering to five days a week initially, with the ambition to grow to seven-day coverage.

The lease agreement includes a peppercorn rent for the first five years, enabling the charity to invest in refurbishing the property to meet agreed standards, reflecting the Council's commitment to supporting community-led initiatives and aligns with its Growing Opportunities Plan.

Importantly, Orchard House's location within the Greig Centre site offers exciting potential for collaboration with nearby facilities, including the recently opened Alcester Men's Shed. Together, these organisations can foster a supportive and inclusive environment for older residents and their families.



Silver Employer Award for armed forces support

Stratford-on-Avon District Council recently received the Silver Employer Award from the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme, recognising its strong support for the Armed Forces community.

Following the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant in November 2024 and last year's Bronze Award, this achievement highlights the Council's commitment to fair treatment and support for service personnel, veterans, reservists, and their families.

Cllr Susan Juned, Leader of the Council, said: *"This award reflects our ongoing dedication to those who serve and have served. We're proud to support them both during and after their time in uniform."*

The Council offers a range of support including:

- Employment policies for reservists and veterans
- Housing priority and guidance
- Community engagement through Armed Forces Day and remembrance events

For more information please read: [Stratford-on-Avon District Council receives Silver Employer Award from Ministry of Defence | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)



District Council's CCTV receives British Standard award

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's CCTV system has once again been recognised for excellence, receiving the prestigious British Standard Accreditation (BS 7958) for the 18th consecutive year.

This accreditation reflects outstanding management and operational practice, following a rigorous assessment across 120 criteria - with no recommendations made, highlighting the service's consistently high standards.

Operated in partnership with local towns and parishes, the District's 24/7 Public Space CCTV monitoring service plays a vital role in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. It provides live feeds directly to the police control room, helping officers respond swiftly and effectively to incidents as they unfold.

In addition to supporting real-time policing, the system also delivers high-quality evidence used in court proceedings, contributing to successful convictions and safer communities.

Cllr Natalie Gist, Law & Governance Portfolio says: *"The work of the CCTV team in partnership with Warwickshire Police is vital in protecting residents from harm. The 24/7 team proactively seek to work with businesses and respond to calls from the public. Not only does the team work to coordinate responses to incidents of crime but they play a crucial role in responding to welfare and medical emergencies."*

"The provision of CCTV technology and cameras has grown in Stratford-on-Avon District through obtaining additional funding and we thank all partners for their contribution. I congratulate the team on gaining this high accreditation for the eighteenth year in a row and their continued dedication to keeping the public safe."



REFLECTING ON THREE YEARS OF IMPACT: UKSPF AND REPF GRANT SCHEMES IN STRATFORD DISTRICT

From April 2022 to March 2025, Stratford District Council played a pivotal role in delivering two major government-backed funding programmes: the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). These schemes, launched by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and DEFRA respectively, aimed to build pride in place, improve life chances, and strengthen rural economies.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Over the three-year period, the District Council was allocated a total of £4,631,210:

- **UKSPF (Years 1-3):** £3,616,031
- **REPF (Years 2-3):** £1,015,179

Of this, £4,616,411.49 was successfully spent across a wide range of projects, with a minimal underspend of just £14,798.51 (0.32%).



DELIVERY AND GOVERNANCE

The District Council acted as the delivery body, managing the allocation, monitoring, and reporting of funds in line with local investment priorities. Funding was distributed through both direct awards and open calls. Direct awards supported pre-identified priorities such as:

- Warwickshire County Council's Business and Skills Programmes
- Stratford District Council's CCTV upgrades
- Stratford College's Electric Vehicle Centre

Open calls invited organisations to submit bids assessed on outputs, outcomes, cost, risk, added value, and match-funding. Final decisions were made by the Local Prosperity Advisory Group.

SCHEME THEMES AND ELIGIBILITY

UKSPF supported three core themes:

- **Community & Place:** Enhancing local infrastructure, green spaces, and cultural assets.
- **Supporting Local Business:** Boosting SME productivity and innovation.
- **People & Skills:** Addressing labour market barriers through training and development.

REPF focused on capital investment in rural areas, supporting productivity and community resilience.

Eligibility extended to businesses, charities, parish councils, and other legal entities, with grants ranging from £2,000 to £50,000. Projects were required to align with one main intervention, deliver measurable outcomes, and complete by March 2025.

REFLECTING ON THREE YEARS OF IMPACT: UKSPF AND REPF GRANT SCHEMES IN STRATFORD DISTRICT - *continued*

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

UKSPF Projects – 73 projects approved and completed.

Some examples include:

- **Wixford Village Hall:** Upgraded to serve as a vibrant community hub.
- **College Estate Endowment Charity:** Improved access to nature and community engagement.
- **Alcester Rural Enterprise Hub:** Piloted collaborative innovation for rural businesses.
- **Southam Town Council:** Refreshed street furniture to enhance town centre appeal.

REPF Projects – 43 projects approved and 42 completed.

Some examples include:

- **Pug Pubs:** Transitioned to food service, creating jobs and fostering community cohesion. (Photo below)
- **Wincot Farm:** Invested in precision fertiliser equipment for sustainable agriculture.
- **Avon Boating:** Installed a crane for electric boat fleet and community use.
- **Old Mill House, Guild Estate:** Refurbished a historic asset for community benefit.



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The schemes supported key objectives of the South Warwickshire Economic Strategy, including:

- Access to training, especially in green and digital sectors
- Support for start-ups and innovation ecosystems
- Climate adaptation and low-carbon business initiatives

Over the three-year delivery period, the UKSPF and REPF schemes have made a significant impact across Stratford District.

Key achievements include:

- Revitalisation of community groups and spaces
- Delivery of skills training programmes that improved employability and business sustainability
- Establishment of Stratford College's Electric Vehicle Centre, supporting green skills and future investment in heat pump technologies
- Support for local businesses to expand and innovate
- Strengthened relationships with businesses, communities, and strategic partners such as WCC Business Support, WCC Skills Hub, and CW Growth Hub

These outcomes reflect a strong commitment to inclusive growth, sustainability, and community resilience - laying the foundation for continued prosperity across Stratford-on-Avon District.

REFLECTING ON THREE YEARS OF IMPACT: UKSPF AND REPF GRANT SCHEMES IN STRATFORD DISTRICT - *continued*

LOOKING AHEAD

The successful delivery of UKSPF and REPF has left a lasting legacy across Stratford District, demonstrating the power of targeted investment in local priorities. With 115 projects completed and strong alignment to regional strategy, the District Council has helped foster a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous community.

YEAR 4 UPDATE (2025 - 2026)

For Year 4, Warwickshire County Council has been appointed lead authority for UKSPF. A proportion of the Community and Place funding has been delegated to districts and boroughs. Stratford District has received £320,623, which must be spent by 31 March 2026.

The District Council has chosen to allocate this funding directly to projects aligned with existing Council strategies and priorities. Seven projects have been approved, with contracts being finalised and funding awaited from WCC:

- Parenting Project at Lighthorne Heath Primary School – £10,000
- Domestic Abuse Projects – £55,000
- Rural Crime Advisors – £31,000
- Warm Homes: Local Grant – £134,623
- Mobile Hostile Vehicle Mitigation – £50,000
- High Street Vacancies Fund – £20,000
- Stratford Brand and Website (Stratford BID) – £20,00



New Warm Homes grant funding available for home energy upgrades

The latest Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) grant programme, Warm Homes Local Grant (WHLG) is now open for applications.

DESNZ funding has been supplemented by Stratford-on-Avon District Council and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The WHLG scheme will build on the success of the Home Upgrade Grant 2 scheme which saw 98 properties occupied by lower income households upgraded.

The WHLG funding aims to improve the warmth and comfort of more of the worst performing homes across the District, whilst also reducing energy bills, carbon emissions and levels of fuel poverty.

Full details, including eligibility criteria, can be found on our website: [Warm Homes Local Grant | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Residents should be directed to contact [Act on Energy](#) (phone 0800 988 2881) to find out if they are eligible for this scheme, as well as other grant funding and general advice on fuel bills and energy saving.

Please email home.energy@stratford-dc.gov.uk for more information.



Business Growth Warwickshire continues to support businesses

Over 500 Warwickshire businesses are set to benefit from the continuation of Business Growth Warwickshire as part of Warwickshire County Council's UKSPF Investment Plan for 2025/26.

Business Growth Warwickshire offers a range of support programmes to Warwickshire's small and medium sized businesses.

Following the success of the programme, launched in October 2023, developed and commissioned by Warwickshire County Council working with the District and Borough Councils, a further £3.3 million of funding from UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Warwickshire County Council and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has allowed the programme to be extended.

Business Growth Warwickshire aims to create over 67 jobs and safeguard a further 269 while enabling more than 160 businesses to improve their productivity in just 12 months.

Over 125 businesses will also receive a free energy assessment to help them identify cost effective energy saving measures to help them significantly reduce business energy expenses.

Responsibility for the planning and delivery of UKSPF was part of the Level 2 Devolution Deal secured by Warwickshire County Council in 2024. This year an additional £1.25 million is also available from DESNZ via West Midlands Combined Authority to provide grants to implement energy efficiency recommendations and help businesses save money on their energy bills.

The six programmes within Business Growth Warwickshire include:

Warwickshire Business Start Up Support Programme

Delivered on behalf of WCC by Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce

Aimed at businesses in their first 24 months of trading and individuals who have ambitions to start a business, this is a programme of one-to-one business coaching and workshops to provide the fundamental skills to start and grow a business.

Business Ready - Warwickshire High Growth and Innovation Programme

Delivered on behalf of WCC by University of Warwick Science Park

This project will engage with businesses with ambitions for high growth and looking to innovate. It will target higher productivity that will contribute towards county-wide growth targets and create new highly skilled jobs. This programme offers access to specialist mentors, bespoke support and specialist workshops.

Warwickshire Business Resilience and Growth Programme

Delivered on behalf of WCC by Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce

Aimed at businesses over 24 months old to help improve their resilience and growth potential via a tailored package of support with access to appropriate advice and services to support growth plans.

Warwickshire Manufacturing Growth Programme

Delivered on behalf of WCC by Oxford Innovation Advice

Directly supporting manufacturing businesses across all sectors to grow by identifying, understanding and removing their barriers to growth to support the creation of new jobs through improved productivity and competitiveness. A programme of one-to-one support from specialist manufacturing advisors, digital diagnostic tools, workshops and cohort-based small courses.



Business Growth Warwickshire continues to support businesses - *continued*

Project Warwickshire - Visitor Economy & Hospitality Business Support Programme.

Delivered on behalf of WCC by Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.

A package of support for businesses in the tourism, leisure, hospitality and retail sectors, offering specialist one-to-one business coaching, workshops, and networking including with larger businesses.

Business Advice Energy Service

The Business Energy Advice Service (BEAS) is a pilot scheme led by the Mayor of the West Midlands, the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ). It is providing businesses across the West Midlands with free energy audits and match funding to cut their energy usage and bills.



Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is the lead delivery partner for the Warwickshire area with further funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Coventry City Council has been appointed by WCC to deliver the energy audits. WCC manages the grant scheme.

For all referrals to these programmes contact the Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub on 0300 060 3747 or by visiting www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ukspf

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



Helping Warwickshire residents prepare for the Digital Switchover

The UK's telephone network is changing, and a series of Warwickshire roadshows will take place this September to help residents be prepared.

Most providers including BT, Virgin Media and O2 will be moving customers from traditional landlines to a new digital landline service by 2027. This nationwide Digital Switchover is designed to make phone systems more reliable and future ready.

For most households and businesses, the change will be as simple as plugging a phone into a broadband box instead of the wall socket. However, residents who rely on landlines for telecare devices such as fall monitors, lifelines, or personal alarms will need to contact their providers and the company that supplied the device to advise how service might be affected after the switchover.

It is important to understand that digital landlines do not work during power cuts and providers will offer a solution on how to make emergency phone calls, however, mobile phones can still be used.

To help residents understand the changes and prepare for the switchover, BT is hosting a series of free face-to-face events across the county. These events are open to anyone with questions or concerns about the changes. There is no need to pre-book just turn up and a team will be available to explain why the change is necessary, what it all means and information about the improved and crystal-clear calls system Digital Voice.

Stratford-upon Avon

Tuesday 30 September - 10am to 4pm

Stratford Leisure Centre, Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6YX

BT will be running more events in Warwickshire throughout 2025, find out when [Digital Voice Events](#) | [Digital Home Phone](#) | [BT](#)

For more Information about how providers will migrate devices and services from the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to digital technologies visit [Moving landlines to digital technologies - GOV.UK](#)

Entry
£1

FREEDOM to FLOURISH
STRATFORD

Entry
£1

Saturday 18th October
Crowne Plaza Stratford upon Avon
Menopause Informed Wellbeing Day

9.30am - 4pm

Lifestyle Medicine
Support Groups
EFT tapping
Comedian
CBT



Laughter yoga
Sound bath
Nutrition
HRT
and more...

Book online using QR code or
go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1528908629869>
you can also email aline@menopauseknowledge.org
or turn up on the day !

£1 Entry - Cash only for entry on the day
Limited Free Parking

Celebrating World Menopause Day 2025





Warwickshire celebrates Tour of Britain with thousands lining the streets

Warwickshire shone on the international stage on Friday 5 September when it welcomed the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men Stage 4

Warwickshire shone on the international stage on Friday 5 September when it welcomed the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men Stage 4, with thousands of visitors, residents, schoolchildren and cycling fans lining the streets to cheer on some of the world's best riders as they raced through the county.

The celebrations began the evening before the race with Routes to Cycling – An Evening with Ned Boulting in Atherstone. The popular commentator was joined on stage by Olympic gold medallist Dani Rowe and road world champion Lizzie Deignan, who shared stories, insights and inspiration with a packed audience.

On race day itself, Warwickshire's community spirit shone through. The stage was officially started in Atherstone by Cllr George Finch, Leader of Warwickshire County Council, together with competition winner Oriana Whitehead, aged 10, who had designed the official starting flag. The stage winning rider, Romain Grégoire, later received a unique trophy designed by another competition winner, Amy Belcher, aged 11, who presented it alongside Warwickshire County Council's Chairman Edward Harris.

Another highlight came when Harvey Yorke, aged 8, a young cyclist who earlier this year completed a 100-mile ride to raise funds for Cyclists Fighting Cancer in Stratford, joined British Cycling President Bob Howden to present the Best Young Rider award.



Stage 4 offered challenging hills and rolling countryside as well as fast sections through our towns and villages, giving fans plenty of excitement along the Warwickshire route. The crowds at [Burton Dassett Hills](#), where the stage finale took place, witnessed the competitors take on the climb into the Country Park three times before first place was secured by Romain Grégoire (Groupama-FDJ).



Hosting the Tour is about more than a single day of world-class racing. It leaves a legacy of inspiration and showcases Warwickshire as a fantastic place to cycle, whether it be for family rides, leisure routes or competitive sport. The live television coverage on ITV4 was shown to millions, with the county's towns, villages and countryside shown at their very best. Local businesses also benefited, with visitors taking advantage of the many local cafés, pubs and shops along the route. Previous similar events have given the local economy a significant boost, bringing both new and returning visitors to the county.





COMMUNITY SAFETY NEWS

Protecting our countryside:

How CESAR is helping farmers fight rural crime

Rural crime continues to pose a serious challenge across the British countryside, affecting not only farmers but the wider rural community. From stolen tractors to the illegal export of agricultural machinery, these crimes disrupt livelihoods and cost millions each year. But thanks to initiatives like the CESAR Scheme, there's growing momentum in the fight back.

Stratford District Council's Rural Crime Advisors are actively supporting the CESAR Scheme during their crime prevention visits and at local events, helping raise awareness and encouraging adoption among farmers and landowners.



What is CESAR?

CESAR (Construction & Agricultural Equipment Security and Registration Scheme) is the UK's official security marking system for agricultural machinery. Since its launch in 2007, it has helped thousands of farmers protect their equipment through a combination of visible ID plates, hidden RFID tags, microdot technology, and forensic DNA marking.

These features make it extremely difficult for criminals to disguise or resell stolen machinery and allow police to identify and recover equipment even years after it's taken.

Why it matters

Independent data shows that CESAR-marked machines are four times less likely to be stolen and six times more likely to be recovered than unmarked equivalents.

This has made a real difference in rural areas, where organised gangs often target high-value assets. Knowing that machinery can be traced and verified makes it a far less attractive target.

Industry and police support

Major manufacturers such as John Deere, New Holland, and Massey Ferguson now fit CESAR as standard, and many insurers offer discounts for CESAR-protected equipment. Police forces across the UK are trained to identify CESAR-marked machines, and tools like the RAPID app allow officers to check a machine's status instantly, whether on the roadside or at ports.

A community-wide impact

For farmers, CESAR offers peace of mind. For the wider community, it contributes to a safer, more resilient countryside. Fewer thefts mean fewer insurance claims, less disruption to agricultural work, and a stronger sense of security.



Looking ahead

As rural crime evolves, so does CESAR. The scheme now covers ATVs, quads, and smaller equipment items increasingly targeted due to their portability and value. With nearly 700,000 systems supplied, CESAR continues to be a vital tool in protecting rural livelihoods.

As Viki Bell, CEO of the Construction Equipment Association, puts it: *"The CESAR Scheme has become an essential tool in the fight against rural crime. It protects livelihoods, safeguards the machinery that underpins our agricultural industry, and gives criminals fewer places to hide."*

For more information please visit: <https://www.cesarscheme.org/about.php>

To find an authorised fitter visit: <https://www.cesarscheme.org/dealer.php>

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting updates

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

14 May

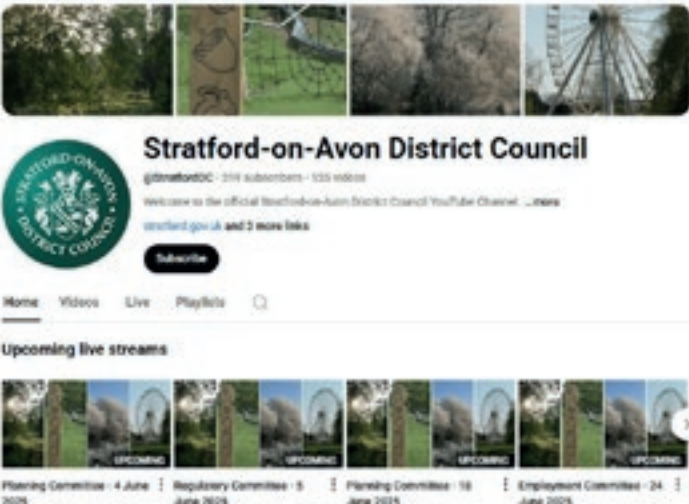
The members of the Committee were formally appointed to serve for the 2025/26 municipal year. Councillor Crump was reappointed as Chair, and Councillor Passingham was reappointed as Vice-Chair.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe, and Chief Superintendent Mike Smith of Warwickshire Police joined the Committee for its 28 May meeting, providing an update and answering members' questions on policing across the District, with a particular focus on improvements made to the 101 non-emergency reporting system. Budgets, detection of crime, recruitment, performance, implications of local government reorganisation, cross-boundary working, speeding and station opening times were also discussed.

At the same meeting, the Committee received an update on devolution and local government reorganisation, which is now a standing item on each agenda, appointed the membership of the Housing Associations Working Group for 2025/26, and considered Cabinet reports on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP), a review of the 2023 Off-Street Parking Places Order, Solar Panel Installations at Southam and Studley Leisure Centres, the Council's Strategic Risk Register and the Year End Performance Monitoring Report 2024-2025.

18 June

The OSC held an extraordinary meeting to consider a proposed site visit to the Ellen Badger hospital in Shipston-on-Stour, ahead of the scheduled meeting with the South Warwickshire NHS University Foundation Trust (SWFT) on **27 August 2025**. The Committee agreed that a site visit would be beneficial and went to see the hospital on Friday 8 August. An update regarding the meeting with SWFT will be provided on the next Parish and Partners Briefing in December.



2 July

The meeting was focused purely on items for consideration by The Cabinet. These included:

- the South Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy, which would inform the SWLP;
- a response to the Notice of Motion on Private Management Companies, which recommended the formation of a task and finish group (which would be established at the OSC meeting on **27 August 2025**);
- local government reorganisation proposals for Warwickshire, following which the Council decided its preferred option ahead of public engagement on **14 July**;
- a review of the Council's housing register system, Home Choice Plus; and
- the Draft Revenue Outturn Report 2024/25.

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](#).



Bancroft Gardens earns prestigious Green Flag Award

In July, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Bancroft Gardens was awarded the internationally recognised Green Flag Award - a symbol of excellence in green space management.

The award, administered by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, is a mark of quality that honours well-managed parks and green spaces across the UK and beyond. Bancroft Gardens is now proudly among 2,250 sites nationwide to receive this accolade.

This recognition reflects the outstanding standards of safety, cleanliness, environmental care, and biodiversity at Bancroft Gardens. It also highlights the dedication of the Council's grounds maintenance contractor, Krinkels UK Ltd, whose commitment played a key role in securing the award.

Councillor Lorraine Grocott, Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Neighbourhood Services said: *"We are absolutely delighted that Bancroft Gardens has received the Green Flag Award. This achievement reflects the tireless efforts of our staff and contractors who work year-round to ensure our green spaces are safe, clean, and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike - for everyone."*

"Our parks and green spaces are vital for our physical and mental well-being, offering perfect spots to connect with nature, exercise, and spend quality time with family and friends. It's a wonderful recognition of the pride we take in our local environment."



Council Tax Help

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

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

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

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

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



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

For more information please contact
Revenues on

01789 260990

@revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk



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COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION

COMMUNITY GROUP

AND VOLUNTEER ADVICE

DROP IN SESSIONS

Looking for funding for your group?

Want to volunteer or recruit more volunteers?

Drop in for an introductory chat

with Warwickshire Community

And Voluntary Action (CAVA)

staff and see how we can help.

Our forthcoming events...

Locality	Venue	Date/Time
Shipston on Stour	Ellen Badger Community Hub	Tuesday, 30th September 2025, 1.00pm-3.00pm
Bidford	The Crawford Memorial Hall	Wednesday, 1st October 2025 10.00am to 12 noon
Studley	Studley Village Hall	Monday, 6th October 2025 6.00pm-8.00pm
Southam	Graham Adams Centre	Wednesday, 8th October 2025 1.00pm-3.00pm
Wellesbourne	Wellesbourne Library	Friday, 10th October 2025, 2.30pm-4.30pm
Alcester	Eric Payne Centre	Tuesday, 14th October 2025, 1.00pm-3.00pm

FREE of charge. No booking required.

Email: stratfordinfo@wcava.org.uk or call 01789 332962

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FREE places funded by Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

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Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
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Stratford District Council meetings

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](#).

Date	Time	Meeting
Wednesday 1 October	10.00am	Overview and Scrutiny
Monday 6 October	10.00am	The Cabinet
Wednesday 8 October	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 13 October	2.00pm	Council
Wednesday 22 October	6.00pm	Planning
Thursday 30 October	10.00am	Overview and Scrutiny
Monday 3 November	10.00am	The Cabinet
Tuesday 4 November	4.00pm	Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 5 November	10.00am	Overview and Scrutiny
Wednesday 5 November	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 10 November	10.00am	Extraordinary Cabinet
Monday 17 November	2.00pm	Extraordinary Council
Wednesday 19 November	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 26 November	10.00am	Overview and Scrutiny
Monday 1 December	10.00am	The Cabinet
Wednesday 3 December	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 8 December	2.00pm	Council
Wednesday 17 December	6.00pm	Planning



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