



Wootton Wawen Ward District Cllr. Ian Shenton

Proud to represent Bearley, Mappleborough Green, Ullenhall, Wootton Wawen

Mobile: 07971 343074 Email: ian.shenton@stratford-dc.gov.uk

District Councillor's report 20th July 2026

If you need to contact me, please email me as I aim to respond within 24 hours otherwise leave a message on my mobile phone. I am here to help you.

Development in and around the ward of Wootton Wawen Ward – my view

As you will know, the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) (Regulation 19) options were published recently, and the nearest site would be in Henley in Arden on the old golf course which is on the north side of Henley. This site will also have additional infrastructure such as possibly a 6th form college and a medical centre. A relief road is also planned to exit close to the A4189 near Mayswood road. It is this relief road that may cause some concern as it will funnel traffic to the traffic lights towards Warwick, along the A4189 to Mappleborough Green or south towards Stratford using Mayswood Road. The full plans have yet to be brought forward so nothing is absolutely certain, but these would appear to be the biggest possibilities. The District Councillor, Parish Council for Henley in Arden and myself support this development in principle because if we must build, as the government has told us, this represents a suitable location near to the town centre, access to the railway station and brings infrastructure with it. This is expected to take at least 2100 houses. The vote to approve the plans to go to consultation was delayed until the 15th of July due to a by election being caused by the resignation of the Lib Dem councillor for Kinwarton which includes Wilmcote. The timing of the resignation was interesting because it immediately meant that the original vote scheduled for earlier in June could not go ahead as I pointed out to the Party leaders and the Chief Executive at SDC. After consultation with legal experts, they agreed with my assessment. **For the record I voted for the SWLP but only because the plan does not include the Bearley/Wilmcote site for 6,800 dwellings which is exceptionally good news after a long campaign against it. It never made sense to include this site with this level of development.** I did make my feelings clear on the rest of the SWLP as I am totally opposed to the plan as at this stage it has a sites that must come forward but are heavily dependent on a new relief road, in the case of Long Marston or a bridge, in the case of Bidford on Avon. At this stage neither are funded and this raises the issue of viability. Unless there are clear funding routes then the inspector will in all likelihood reject this plan and we will then have to create a new viable and sound plan which could take another two years and could mean that the Bearley/Wilmcote site in some lesser form could be back on the table. We have won the battle but maybe not the war yet.

The Links to all the published papers for the SWLP are as follows:

The agenda papers for the Joint Committee on 14th were published on Friday [Agenda for Joint Cabinet Committee on Tuesday, 14th July, 2026, 6.00 p.m. | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#).

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Appendix 1 of those papers is the draft version of the Regulation 19 consultation itself. [Appendix 1 - Publication draft South Warwickshire Local Plan.pdf](#)

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Appendix 9 is a schedule of the main changes since 28th May version was published. [Appendix 9 - Reg 19 Amendments Schedule Jul 26.pdf](#)

There is also a tracked change version on the SWLP website at [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#). Please note: this version has no status and is published for information purposes only.

There is also a site that isn't in the plan that is likely to submit an application. This site is to the south of Henley and "wraps" around **Blackford Mill** and will have two exits, one onto the A4189 Warwick Rd houses., the other onto the A3400 Stratford Rd (opposite the Birmingham City training ground). You may have received a letter from a company called SP Broadway inviting you to a public consultation for the potential site being developed by Mac Mic Strategic Land. At this point in time the district councillor and Parish Council for Henley and myself do not support this proposal.



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It is clear that the

SWLP will not please everyone and whilst the original proposal for 6,800 houses at Bearley/Wilmcote have been dropped out of the Regulation 19 version, 3000 of those houses have been "tacked" onto Bidford on Avon which more than doubles the size of the town with the main "chunk" now allocated to Long Marston. The Long Marston site will be expected to take thousands of new houses possibly twice as many as were allocated to Bearley/Wilmcote, but this depends on building a new relief road costing at least £150m and unlikely to be completed before 2035. The uncertainty around the funding of this relief road and the slow rate of potential building until the road is completed could be a problem when the SWLP goes to the Building Inspector for examination, later this year, and could mean the plan is rejected. If this happens then a new set of rules mean that it could be another two years before a new plan is submitted with even bigger targets.

In addition, there are potential developments proposed for land bordered by the Alcester Road and also for land around the Keyte Garden's site.

In total we could see around 300 to 400 new houses being built within the Wootton Wawen Village boundary which far exceeds the level required for a local service village and far exceeds any published housing need survey. Whilst some development is obviously needed to encourage young families to move to Wootton Wawen all three of the developments proposed within the boundaries of Wootton Wawen are driven by profit not by need. If it was driven by need, we would see only smaller affordable houses not 4 bedroomed houses that will be market priced. Keyte gardens, in particular was 14 affordable houses which if the village magazine is correct would be swamped by up to 80 new houses of which most will not be affordable houses. The planners opposed the original Keyte Gardens development, as I did at the time, but the planning committee approved. Many of the dwellings in Keyte Gardens were allocated to former residents of the Allens Caravans site (more correctly it is a park home site).

In the meantime, due to a lack of foresight by the district council our 5 years housing land supply (5YHLS) number has fallen to 2.2 years, the minimum should be 5 years, which means that developers now have the upper hand in planning and can bring plans forward for consideration in areas where we would not want development i.e. on green belt land. Developers can hold the district council to ransom and negotiate away affordable housing and infrastructure using the argument of viability. The district council blame the government for the increased target of 1100 new homes per year but this new target was known way back in 2024 as I specifically raised this in a councillors meeting with the planning department and challenged their view, as I was adamant that this target would be imposed upon us, the council disagreed and we are all possibly going to pay the price for this huge mistake by the district council and the current administration, in not reacting to the problem two years ago with applications for settlements in locations where we might not want them. The current Lib Dem administration appears to have been "asleep at the wheel" and have not come up with a plan B in the last two years to rectify the 5-year housing land supply and are only now trying to improve this by suggesting to district councillors and the planning committee that we should allow more development and approve sites we wouldn't necessarily have done so had our 5YHLS been sufficient. This is why we are seeing so many applications for up to 9 dwellings.

All of these developments will have a direct impact on the ward as the traffic has to go somewhere. This could potentially mean over 7,000 more vehicles on our local roads each day. Our roads and lanes will definitely be a lot busier if all of these are approved. Car traffic on A roads has increased by around 2.5%, across England, since 2024 alone and this is without the above developments. If I look at just Warwickshire the increase is around 2% but since 2000 the increase is nearly 19% whilst the increase in road mileage (new roads) is less than 1% meaning our roads are becoming increasingly busier and congested.

Other News

Joint statement from the six councils in Warwickshire on Local Government Reorganisation -

North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council have responded to the Government's decision to create two unitary councils for Warwickshire.

From the 1st April 2028, one unitary council will cover the north of Warwickshire, including North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby. A second unitary council will cover the south of Warwickshire, including Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick.

The six councils said: "We note the Government's decision to create two unitary councils for Warwickshire. "We recognise that councils across Warwickshire have held different views on the best structure for local government in the county. "All six councils have a history of working well together and have been praised by Government for being an area where cooperation is high. We remain committed to continuing to work together constructively and responsibly as we move into the next stage of this process.

"Our shared priority is to make sure residents, businesses and communities continue to receive the services they rely on, and that the move to the new councils is managed carefully and in the best interests of Warwickshire.

"There is now important work to do. We will work closely with Government, partners, our staff and councillors to support a smooth transition and to help shape the best possible future for local services."



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Stratford-on-

Avon District Council's 2026 health screening events across the District - For a second year, Stratford-on-Avon District Council has joined together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) to offer a series of health screening events for both men and women across the District.

The events enable men and women to have a number of health tests from a simple blood test, allowing them to, where necessary, seek further advice or action via their GP.

The tests on offer cost £14 each, subsidised by the District Council and are:

- For men over 40 - PSA (Prostate Screening)
- For men and women aged 18 and over - diabetes and cholesterol

The remaining events are taking place at:

- Saturday 19 September at Studley Village Hall, High Street, B80 7HJ
- Saturday 17 October at Stratford Leisure Centre, Bridgeway, CV37 6YX
- Saturday 7 November at Henley-in-Arden Memorial Hall, Station Road, B95 5JP

The events run from 10am until 2pm at each of the locations and residents are able to book at a discounted rate of £14 for each test.

Spaces are limited and need to be booked in advanced at: <https://sdc.mypsatestests.org.uk>

For more information and to book please visit <https://sdc.mypsatestests.org.uk> or call 01926 419959 or email info@myhealthtests.org.uk

Councils seek public's views for new housing and homelessness strategy - Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils are seeking feedback from the public as they set out their vision and priorities for housing across South Warwickshire through a new Housing & Homelessness Strategy.

The Strategy will not only consider future housing need and development but will also look at the homes and neighbourhoods people live in, the support they might need to stay in their home or move to something more suitable. It will also look at the different types of homes available and the role of landlords in both the private and social housing sectors.

In order to gain the views of local residents a public survey has been launched.

[The Housing Strategy survey](#) can be completed online and the deadline for submissions is Tuesday 11 August.

Energy bills support for Stratford-on-Avon residents - Stratford-on-Avon District Council has introduced the Stratford Energy Support Fund, in response to the continued pressures faced from the rise in cost of living and the energy price cap increase. The funding is available to support vulnerable households with financial support for those who are struggling to pay their energy bills living in the District. The scheme can support payments for gas, electricity, oil, and LPG.

The Stratford Energy Support Fund, administered by Act on Energy, provides a one-off grant to help eligible residents with their energy costs. The payment is made directly to the energy supplier or issued as a pre-payment voucher for households using a card or key meter. Eligible families can receive up to £500, while single residents and couples can receive up to £300.

To be eligible households must meet the income and vulnerability criteria.

Income criteria:

- Gross household income of up to £31,000 (not including PIP or DLA)
- No household savings
- A vulnerability from the list shown in the next section

Applicants must also confirm that someone in the home is vulnerable. This is quite a broad measure so please contact Act on Energy if you are unsure.

The full eligibility criteria list is available on the Act on Energy website here: <https://www.actonenergy.org.uk/support/sesf>

Residents can also contact Act on Energy on 0800 988 2881

Further funding schemes are available on the Act on Energy website: <https://www.actonenergy.org.uk/area/warwickshire>



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Changes to

publication of Councillors' home addresses - From 29 June 2026, local authorities will no longer be required to publish the home addresses of elected or co-opted members in councillors' registers of interest.

The introduction of Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 confirms that a member's home address must not be included in a local authority's public register of interests unless the member has specifically requested its publication.

Stratford District Council will implement this change with immediate effect, ensuring compliance ahead of the 29 June 2026 deadline. This will apply to all councillors within the district.

Members will still be required to provide their home address (and details of any land they own) as part of their register of interests submitted to the Monitoring Officer. However, home addresses will be withheld from the public version of the register unless the councillor expressly requests otherwise.

If you have any queries, please contact the Monitoring Officer: monitoring.officer@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Stratford-on-Avon District Council by-election result – Five candidates contested the seat for the by-election for the Kinwarton Ward of Stratford-on-Avon District Council on Thursday 9 July 2026.

Kinwarton Ward (includes Wilmcote and Pathlow)

- Tina Ballinger - Liberal Democrats - 500
- Andrew Mark Foster - Labour Party - 28
- Rachael Chadwick-Harrison - Reform UK - 231
- **Janine Ann Lee - Conservative Party - 507 Elected**
- Lizzee Leedham - Green Party - 128

This was a swing from Lib Dem to Conservatives of around 20%, a very significant movement.

Turnout: 45.05%

Number of ballot papers issued: 1,394

Turnout for the last contested election at Kinwarton in May 2023 was 43.63%

The electorate for the Kinwarton Ward is 3,094

The current political make-up of the District Council's 41 seats is now:

- Liberal Democrats - 24 seats
- Conservatives - 10 seats
- Green - 3 seats
- Independent - 2 seats
- Reform UK - 2 seats

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has successfully obtained a grant of £2,250 from the Chewing Gum Task Force, administered by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, to help clean up chewing gum and reduce chewing gum littering.

The District Council is one of 50 local authorities across the country that have successfully applied to the Chewing Gum Task Force, now in its fifth year, for funds to clean chewing gum off pavements and prevent it from being littered in the first place.

The clean-up operations will be carried out in targeted areas of Stratford-upon-Avon and Southam by the Council's street cleansing contractor, Biffa Waste Services, in August 2026 using specialist cleansing equipment.

The Chewing Gum Task Force grant scheme is open to councils across the UK who wish to clean up chewing gum in their local areas and invest in long-term behaviour change to prevent it from being dropped in the first place.

In the past four years, the Chewing Gum Task Force has awarded grants worth a total of £6.46 million, funding the cleaning of over 4.15 million square metres of pavements.

Monitoring and evaluation carried out by Behaviour Change - a not-for-profit social enterprise - has shown that in areas that benefitted from funding, a reduced rate of chewing gum littering of up to 86% was seen in the first two months.

Reductions were still being observed six months after targeted street cleansing and the installation of specially designed signage to encourage people to bin their chewing gum.



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According to Keep

Britain Tidy, around 77% of England's streets and 99% of retail sites are stained with chewing gum.

New homes must be ready for challenge of our climate -If we must have more new houses built, then they should be mainly affordable new homes that are also affordable to heat. This has become more of an issue since the Middle East war drove up the prices of energy. After a frustrating ten-year delay, a policy gap was filled when the UK Government recently published the long-awaited Future Homes Standard. This aims to ensure that all new homes will have reduced energy bills whilst producing significantly lower carbon emissions by mandating solar panels and heat pumps for most new houses.

The Standard will legally come into force on 24 March 2027. However, a requirement for homes to be delivered in line with the Standard has been delayed to 2028 to allow the industry to transition to the new requirements. This is much later than it should be - but is progress, nevertheless. Homes with energy running costs that are affordable over the lifetime of the property should be our aim, especially in a world where energy security matters more than ever. Every year of delay will see homes built to the standards of the past, not the future.

The Climate Change Committee also produced a Report in May 2026 that states that 'The UK was built for a climate that no longer exists today and will be increasingly distant in years to come'. We can't get away from the realisation that the UK has been warming faster than the global average with four of the last five years in the UK's top five warmest on record.

According to a recent Met Office's State of the UK Climate report, the number of days in the UK with temperatures above 28C has more than doubled and the number of days with temperatures above 30C has more than trebled in the most recent decade, compared with the 1961-1990 average. We are also seeing fluctuations from dry to wet periods and back again.

Adapting now will cost the UK less than dealing with the damages and disruption from climate change, but we need Government to create the policy environment. We also need financial incentives and information to allow local government, businesses, and households to protect their futures.

Police Report

Incidents of a public interest from the last week: -

- SPERNAL
 - Drone / Suspicious Circumstances. Sperm Lane. Drone seen hovering over houses. The drone was seen to land and was picked up by someone in a vehicle that then drove off. Caller reports that this is not the first time this has occurred. 10.30pm Saturday 18th July. 0502 18/07/2026
 - Suspicious Circumstances. Sperm Lane. Person on quad bike acting suspiciously near to houses and other cars using the lane. 10.15pm Saturday 18th July. 0478 18/07/2026
- STUDLEY
 - Drone / Suspicious Circumstances. Toms Town Lane. Drone seen to hover over gardens. Drone had a camera, and caller was concerned regards the motives of the operator. Seen several times. Tuesday 14th July. 0241 14/07/2026
 - Damage. St Asaphs Avenue. At least 2 vehicles damaged by a corrosive substance, possibly paint stripper. Found and reported morning of Tuesday 14th July. 0069 14/07/2026
 - Vehicle Crime. Highfield Road. Silver Nissan Qashqai stolen without key. Taken around 10.30pm Monday 13th July. 0059 14/07/2026
- MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN
 - Burglary, Birmingham Road. House considerably damaged inside by wiring and copper pipes being removed from the premises. Other items stolen and damaged. Two cars also removed from the driveway. Found and reported Thursday 16th July. 0145 16/07/2026
- HENLEY
 - Robbery. School House Mews. Two males on a black motorcycle have approached a male in his car and have threatened him with a weapon - as a result assorted items plus the car was stolen. Vehicle was a 'gloss' Black VW Golf Gti. 8.30pm Saturday 18th July. 0431 18/07/2026
 - Attempt Burglary. Tanworth Lane. Several males seen on driveway to house looking at cars and trying doors. Entry not gained and nothing believed stolen at the time of the report. 2.10am Friday 17th July. 0023 17/07/2026

If you become aware of a crime or a police issue then we encourage you to call us straight away, rather than using social media as an information platform. "A post on social media is not a report to the police and as we do not monitor social media pages, we often do not find out about these incidents until it is too late. "If a crime is in progress call 999, if you wish to report an incident you are aware of that is not time critical you can call 101." If you have any information regarding the above incidents, please contact us quoting the incident number shown at the end of the entry. This can be done via 101 or on our online portal on the Warwickshire Police Website. How to tell us about an existing case or report | Warwickshire Police If you would rather pass on information anonymously, please consider the independent charity Crimestoppers. They can be contacted by phone on 0800 555 111 or via their online reporting portal - Giving information anonymously | Crimestoppers



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Get involved in our silver-accredited volunteer scheme - Our Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) scheme has been recognised with a national silver award. The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) has developed a quality assurance framework to assess how well schemes comply with the code of practice that governs custody visiting.

This is the third year that schemes have been assessed under the framework and have been able to gain quality assurance awards to recognise the value of their work. Warwickshire's scheme was presented with a silver quality assurance award by ICVA earlier this month.

About our ICV scheme. ICVs are trained volunteers from the local community who make regular unannounced visits to police custody suites.

They work to ensure detainees' rights and welfare are being properly safeguarded. Visits are always conducted in pairs and visitors are accompanied by custody staff for safety.

During a visit, ICVs speak with detainees about their experience in custody, checking whether:

- their rights and entitlements have been explained and provided
- their welfare needs, such as food, hygiene and medical care, are being addressed
- the conditions of the custody environment are appropriate

ICVs maintain strict confidentiality at all times. After each visit, volunteers are expected to complete a report summarising their findings. These reports are reviewed by the OPCC and are used to hold Warwickshire Police to account, ensuring that any concerns or necessary actions are followed up promptly.

Get involved:-We're currently recruiting for more volunteers to our (award winning) scheme, so if you or someone you know may be interested, check out our website for more information and details of how to apply: www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteering

Two new multi-directional automatic speed cameras have been installed on the A46 between Stratford-upon-Avon and Alcester.

The installation is the result of collaboration among key stakeholders within the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership to improve road safety in Warwickshire. Between 2021 and 2025, there have been 3 fatal, 8 serious and 22 slight injury collisions on this stretch of road, classifying it as a 'high harm route'. The majority of these collisions were found after investigation to be caused by road users 'failing to look properly or failing to judge the other person's path or speed. Careless/reckless, in a hurry, loss of control, and exceeding the speed limit are also among the top 10 factors contributing to collisions. Evidence gained over many years demonstrates that speed cameras are extremely effective at reducing road casualties, especially those of a higher severity.

Funding opportunities

I highlighted these in previous reports so for more details please go to the June report or to the SDC website

Community Climate and Nature Fund - Apply Now!

Have you got a green idea?

The Community Climate and Nature Fund has been reopened for a Fourth Round. The budget for this round is £200,000, and the upcoming deadline for applications is Monday 27th July 2026. [Find out more and apply here.](#)

The Community Climate and Nature Fund 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.

Wilder Communities Grant - The Wilder Communities project is being delivered in collaboration with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, with funding available for biodiversity enhancements including wildflower planting and tree planting at community sites across the district.

Find out more <https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/dunsmore-living-landscape/wilder-communities>