



## 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](mailto:ian.shenton@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

### District Councillor's report Bearley Parish Council 18<sup>th</sup> May 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.**

Most of my time is currently spent on four issues (see below) and committees such as

- Licencing panel,
- Regulatory committee
- Employment committee
- plus trying to get some local issues resolved whilst it is quiet.

Half term is always a quiet time at SDC and committee meetings at present seem to be few and far between.

The main issues over the last month have been the following.

- **Warm Hubs**
- **Oil Syndicate**
- **South Warwickshire Local Plan**
- **Issues log.**

**Warm Hubs** – I am trying to get SDC to give me a grant of £50,000 so I can set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) and distribute the money by way of grants to established warm hubs. I raised a motion at the last full council, in April, which was referred to the Cabinet for a decision. There are over 40 warm hubs in Warwickshire excluding libraries and fire stations, and they used to receive grants from a utilities company (responsible for the gas infrastructure in the Midlands) via Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC). With the demise of WRCC, Cadent are not currently giving grants as they would prefer to deal with a CIC rather than individual warm hubs as the administration involved can be high. This is where I come in along with Cllr. Bill Fleming of Bidford on Avon as we want to get the grants from Cadent which typically amount to £50,000 every six months so if I can get SDC to fund the new CIC for six months this gives me some time and leverage with Cadent for the future. As with all public monies, this is not an easy thing to arrange and SDC must be certain that the CIC will be constituted and run correctly and legitimately. I should have an answer sometime in May.

**Oil Syndicate** – This is following a similar pattern to Warm Hubs but instead of SDC (Stratford District Council) I need Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to help me boost the numbers of those interested in joining a syndicate from approx. 40 to the hundreds. This will give me greater leverage with the heating oil suppliers. I have asked that both WCC and SDC help me with publicising the oil syndicate and am awaiting a response from them.

Anyone can join if they live in Warwickshire, there are no joining fees, just send me.

- your email address,
- parish name,
- approximate annual usage,
- the last price you purchased at, the date and the supplier.

If I can get this off the ground, it will probably be via a Community Interest Company (CIC) again. In the meantime, I am awaiting details of how the emergency relief fund that WCC have been given by the government is going to be distributed.

**South Warwickshire Local Plan** – The current situation is that SDC must put this out for consultation in May and then finalise the sites where future developments will be encouraged. There has been a subtle shift from having one or two large new towns or developments to expanding existing new towns and trying to find funding to build a southwestern relief road so that Long Marston can be fully built out. This site is partially built (along with Meon Vale) but suffers from capacity issue on the Campden Road, without the relief road Long Marston cannot be fully developed.



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The preferred

sites will become public in May and engagement by Parishes and individuals will be encouraged but there are specific guidelines on the consultation which centre around if you do not like the proposal where do you propose development should take place rather than just "I don't like it."

We are targeted to build over 1100 homes each year for the next 25 years, by the government, which is a big ask, more than 1100 homes have been built in odd years but never over such a long period and what the Government seem unable to grasp is that developers will only build this level of homes if the market conditions and profit levels are conducive. Within this number 40% of these must be affordable homes and with less profit in these, or none at all, it is not hard to see that developers may not release land and build.

The whole issue of building is compromised by the 5-year Housing Land supply of only 2.2 years which means that we only have certainty that there are enough sites being developed to meet the 1100 per annum for just over two years. This needs to be at 5 years. So, what, I hear you say, well it means that developers can put in applications for sites that would not ordinarily be where SDC want them but because SDC only have 2.2 years of supply the Building Inspector would more than likely overrule any objection from SDC.

To put this in context, if say a site on fields near Blackford Mill for 300 homes was put forward, despite it not being in the SWLP it could get approved on appeal (if SDC objected) despite it being green belt land.

The problem with the 5-year Housing land supply was caused by a change in how it is calculated (a change made by the Government in December 2024) and compounded by a lack of action by the current Lib Dem administration and officers of SDC to come up with a coherent plan B. I challenged their view and lack of a plan B in December 2024 and still no Plan B. This lack of action means that developers are more in control of housebuilding than the planners and they could refuse to build as many affordable homes as planned, preferring to build market priced housing instead. SDC might have to allow this to get enough homes built to satisfy the Government.

My position on the SWLP and that of the Conservative Party is that we are unlikely to support it because of the changes in emphasis and because the plan included developing 6,800 houses at Bearley/Wilmcote, two villages that would be swamped by this level of development and would effectively disappear as they joined up with Stratford upon Avon.

**Issue Log** – I currently have the following issues outstanding that I am working on.

Ref	Date	Parish/Town	C of	Issue	Latest update
14	12/05/2025	Bearley	D	Gwens Close - Sewer smells	Ongoing
93		Bearley		Planning Issue Spa recycling	Application pending a decision
97		Bearley		Scrap yard - pre app 9 houses	Planning application received 26/01120/FUL consultation expires 4/6/2026
104	17/03/2026	Bearley		Gibbs Metal recyclers	20/04/2026 Guy developping a plan?

**Other News**

**Stratford-on-Avon District Council is England's top recycling area** - Stratford-on-Avon District had the highest household recycling rate in England in 2024/2025 according to figures published by Defra this week.

With a 63.9% household recycling rate, Stratford-on-Avon District Council has jumped up two places in the league table after seeing a 2.9% increase from the previous year.

Rank	Authority	Recycling rate for 2024/25
1	Stratford-on-Avon District Council	63.9%
2	Milton Keynes Council	63.2%
3	South Oxfordshire District Council	61.3%
4	Three Rivers District Council	61.1%
5	East Riding District Council	61.0%
6	East Devon District Council	60.3%



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7	Dorset Council	60.2%
8	North Somerset	60.2%
9	Stockport MBC	60.1%
10	St Albans City and District Council	60.0%

If you would like a reminder of what can be recycled and the extra items that the District Council can take, please visit: [Recycling Collection](#)

**New green projects delivered through SDC's Community Climate and Nature Fund** - 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.

Since it was set up in November 2023, £250,000 has been allocated to local initiatives by the scheme, across 53 projects.

The latest round ended in April 2026, and the following projects received funding:

- £2,500 to Oxhill Village Hall to install solar panels and battery storage.
- £6,000 to Stratford Baptist Church to install solar panels and LED lighting.
- £849 to Langley Parish Council to carry out a community engagement exercise to encourage more sustainable use of the village's septic tanks.
- £3,971 to Tysoe Parish Council and Tysoe Wildlife Group to preserve and enhance local swift and hedgehog populations.
- £5,110 to Stratford Beekeepers' Association to fund equipment and events to defend against the impacts of the Yellow Legged Asian Hornet.
- £5,000 to Lighthorne Parish Council to install solar panels on their Pavilion.
- £5,000 to Long Compton Action Group to clear vegetation and debris from Nethercote Brook; and
- £367 to Phoenix Players to install double glazed windows and insulation in their rehearsal studio.

We are also delighted to announce that 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.

It's fantastic to see such a wide range of organisations coming forward with innovative ideas, from renewable energy installations to wildlife conservation. With the fund now reopening for a fourth round, we encourage councils, community groups and charities to apply and help us build a more sustainable future for Stratford-on-Avon."

To find out more information, including whether you may be eligible, and what projects have been delivered by the CCNF in the past, [please visit our website here](#). Alternatively, you can get in touch with us directly at [climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk).

**Free gym memberships are being offered by local leisure centres to people living with Parkinson's.** - Stratford Leisure Centre, Southam Leisure Centre, Shipston Leisure Centre, Studley Leisure Centre and The Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester, run by award-winning operator Everyone Active in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, offer the initiative co-designed with the charity Parkinson's UK.

Now in its fifth year, the Everyone Active and Parkinson's UK free membership provides access to gym, swim, and group exercise classes, as well as online Synergy Dance classes. A free membership will also be given to up to three carers to provide additional support if needed.

**Fast and accessible sport of padel coming to Stratford Leisure Centre** - The world's fastest-growing sport is coming to Stratford Leisure Centre, with work poised to begin on the installation of three padel courts. Everyone Active is partnering with padel centre operator PadelStars to construct the courts at the centre, which is run by award-winning operator Everyone Active and Stratford-on-Avon District Council.



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The new padel

courts will sit next to the existing outdoor courts, replacing the 2G Multi-Use Games Area. Customers will have access to three football courts and three padel courts by the end of the project. There will be two doubles courts for padel, and one singles court.

Construction begins toward the end of May, with courts for matches and training expected to open by June.

### **New Website Launched to Support Community Climate Action Across South Warwickshire**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council are pleased to announce the launch of a new website for the South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme, a joint initiative designed to support residents, community groups, and organisations to take practical action on climate change.

The new website will act as a central hub for information, resources, and support, helping local communities better understand climate change and identify ways to reduce carbon emissions, build resilience, and protect the local environment. It brings together guidance on topics such as energy efficiency, sustainable travel, waste reduction, biodiversity, and funding opportunities for community-led projects.

The Local Climate Engagement Programme is a collaborative programme between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council, reflecting a shared commitment to tackle the climate emergency through partnership working and local engagement.

Residents and organisations are encouraged to visit the website to explore the resources available and learn how they can get involved in the Local Climate Engagement Programme: Click on this link [Home - Local Climate Engagement Programme](#) or paste this link into your browser <https://climatechange.southwarwickshire.org.uk/>

### **Stratford Leisure Centre opens brand-new children's soft play area.**

Families in Stratford-on-Avon District can enjoy a brand-new soft play area.

Stratford Leisure Centre, run by award-winning operator Everyone Active in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, has revealed its vibrant play-based environment for children aged up to eight years to stay active.

The exciting addition has transformed part of the leisure centre's existing facilities into a safe, fun, and engaging space to help support learning and development.

Featuring colourful slides, building blocks, spinning panels and sensory features, the soft play area for early years encourages children to build motor skills and development through balancing, sliding, and rolling throughout the secure two-tier structure.

The soft play area has replaced the clip 'n climb facility and entry are available to both members and non-members with affordable pricing.

The development forms part of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Everyone Active's wider commitment to family-friendly leisure services in the area, providing innovative ways to help keep the community active.

For more information and updates, please visit [www.everyoneactive.com/centre/stratford-leisure-centre/](http://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/stratford-leisure-centre/)

### **Police report.**

Incidents of a public interest from the last week: -

- ALCESTER Common Assault. Store and then in its car park, Town Centre. Several school children have sprayed a liquid in elderly persons face inside the store and then have been verbally abusive to them outside. Descriptions of the children and their school uniform passed to police for follow up enquiries. All aged about 13. 5.45pm Monday 11th May. 0366 11/05/2026
- Alcester continued..... Burglary / ASB. Shop, High Street. Group of school children have entered the private areas of a building off High Street. They have then also been seen kicking cars and generally being a nuisance out in the street. 5.30pm Monday 11th May. 0296 11/05/2026.
- OVERSLEY GREEN Suspicious Circumstances. Elm Drive. Two males seen to go to house and ask to check rainwater drains at the front and back of property. They had a laminated Severn Trent headed letter, but



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the

caller later confirmed with ST that they had no one in the area. Caller concerned regards their motives.  
Reported 1.17pm Tuesday 12th May. 0356 12/05/2026

- BROOM Suspicious Circumstances. Millers Bank. Three males seen climbing fence into private property. Area search made by police - nothing untoward found at the time. 5.40pm Thursday 14th May. 0329 14/05/2026
- WOOTTON WAWEN Suspicious Circumstances. Stratford Road. White Van seen entering private property. Area search made by police - nothing untoward found at the time. 2.25am Tuesday 12th May. 0023 12/05/2026