

Report from Your District Councillors for Parish Council – September 2025

As we have reported previously, and elsewhere, the government has decided to merge the functions of the District and County Councils into a Unitary Authority. Although central government will make the final decision as these changes are being considered, it is important that residents have a say in the future of their local councils. More information is available on the District Council's website – just click on the link if reading in electronic form: [Reshaping our Councils for the future of Warwickshire](#)

There are two alternatives under consideration: to merge all six local councils (Warwickshire County, Stratford, Rugby, North Warwickshire, Warwick, Nuneaton & Bedworth) into one across Warwickshire - or – to have two 'unitary' councils, which in our case would mean covering Stratford and Warwick District areas with a new South Warwickshire council.

The [Deloitte report](#) (on SDC's website) evaluates the two proposals which were identified by Stratford Council in the "interim plan" in March and concludes that a **two-unitary model** emerges as the most advantageous structure for Warwickshire.

A public engagement exercise is running from Thursday 7 August to Sunday 14 September and we encourage all residents to put forward their views. Please have your say here: [Have your say - Shaping the future of our Councils](#). If you would like a paper copy, please call 01789 267575.

Whilst there are arguments both ways, on present knowledge we believe that a South Warwickshire Council (est pop 295000) would be the best for our residents. Those in favour of a large whole Warwickshire (est pop 617000) solution argue it will be a difficult transition to split up the big spending services such as social care, fire, highways and education (even though some of these are already organised on a district area basis). It is our view that as a principle, local government should be local, and the council tax payer will be financially and democratically better served by a smaller unitary council. At its simplest there would appear to be lower council tax in the South Warwickshire proposal, and less remote services including better councillor representation ratios.

Severn Trent

Issues with water supply continue to be challenging with a burst at Kites Hardwick bringing emergency pumps into use again. Nigel has been pursuing various officers at STW but there is no clear reason why the capital schemes are not completed and commissioned or when apparently new pipework has failed. SDC environmental health officers are in contact with STW about noise nuisance from the pumps.

Meanwhile, Severn Trent have organised a meeting with environment groups across the wider area of south Warwickshire on the issue of foul discharges. Among others, our own NEAT group has been a driver for this. The meeting took place at Wellesbourne on 21 August. As well as those resident groups, Jonathon Horsefield, Natalie, Nigel and several other SDC councillors plus Stratford MP Manuella Perteghella were there to raise questions. These covered not only the spill history, but planning for the future. We were promised

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follow-ups, but specifically we have asked for improved liaison between the District Council and Severn Trent on infrastructure planning.

Community Climate Change Fund

Round Three remains open for applications. There is no deadline as applications will be assessed on a quarterly basis, meaning applicants will have to wait a minimum of three months to be informed as to whether they have been successful or not. More information and the online application is available on SDC's website. Please email climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk with any queries.

Warm Homes

Despite the recent warmer weather Stratford-on-Avon District Council is thinking ahead to the cooler months and is pleased to announce a new funding scheme available to residents to help keep homes warm and reduce the cost of energy bills.

The Warm Homes Local Grant (WHLG) is primarily funded by Stratford-on-Avon District Council but complemented by funding from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The 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.

If residents are eligible for the WHLG scheme, an assessor will visit the home to determine the best energy efficiency measures, which could be various types of insulation or clean heating sources. Any approved measures will be installed completely free of charge.

Residents could be eligible if they are a homeowner or a private rented tenant, and if:

- They have a home [Energy Performance Certificate](#) (EPC) of D, E, F or G
- They have a combined annual household income under £36,000 (savings are not assessed) or receive means-tested benefits

Other eligibility criteria could be available, please contact Act on Energy.

The District Council is working with partners E.ON and Act on Energy to deliver WHLG and you can apply for the funding via the E.ON website: [Grant Finder | Check Your Eligibility for Home Efficiency Grants](#)

If you would like to know more about home energy improvement options or other funding schemes, you can visit the District Council's website: [Energy & Warmth | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

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You can contact Act on Energy directly via phone 0800 988 2881 or email advice@actonenergy.org.uk.

Silver Award from Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been awarded a Silver Award from the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS).

The prestigious award recognises employers who have actively demonstrated support for the Armed Forces community by implementing policies to help them.

To achieve the Silver award, organisations must proactively demonstrate that the Armed Forces community is not unfairly disadvantaged as part of their recruitment policies.

They must also actively ensure their workforce is aware of their positive policies towards the defence community and understand issues for reservists, veterans, cadet force adult volunteers, and spouses and partners of those serving in the Armed Forces.

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