

# Ladbroke PC Meeting 13th<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## District Councillor Report – Susan Ostrander

### 1. Stratford on Avon Community Climate Change Fund:

The Council's Community Climate Change Fund went live on 22 January 2024. By the time you read this the first phase of the fund of £50,000 will be under consideration with a second phase of £50,000 available later in the year. The purpose of the CCCF is to enable the delivery of climate change focused projects within the communities of Stratford-on-Avon. As well as Parish Councils, other formally constituted charity and community groups can apply.

Firstly, applicants will need to submit an Expression of Interest providing preliminary information regarding your project. If the Expression of Interest shows that your project fulfils the overall eligibility criteria (which you can view online), you will be invited to submit a full application. Details can be found here:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-fund.cfm>



### 2. Year 3 UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Shared Prosperity Fund Year 2:

The call for projects is opening on the 11<sup>th</sup> March and will close on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. There will be 2 webinars outlining the process on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March. Further details on the webinars can be found by using this QR code:

SDC website has more information about these funds but those eligible include:

- All businesses including unincorporated sole traders and partnerships.
- Other legally created bodies such as Parish Councils & Charities.

SDC website link: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/ukspf-repf-year-3-call.cfm>



### 3. Neighbourhood Policing Award:

SDC are pleased to let residents know that our Rural Crime Advisors recently received a Neighbourhood Policing Award from Warwickshire Police. The Neighbourhood Policing awards recognise outstanding local work carried out by police officers and staff and partnership initiatives to make communities safer. You can contact the Rural Crime Advisors if you are a victim of crime or are concerned you may be at risk and would benefit from crime prevention advice. The Rural Crime Advisors can also arrange crime prevention talks to local community groups and host crime prevention property marking days, where property such as bicycles, lawn mowers, power tools etc can be securely marked.

For more information visit the rural crime page at:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/community-safety/rural-crime.cfm>



#### 4. Flooding:

The flood risks in the district are well recognised with more and more flooding (for example, Storms Henk and Isha at the beginning of the year). The wetter winters will only make this worse and we must make sure that our planning policies locally address this. Information below helps when there is a threat of flooding:

You can check which rivers have flood alerts or flood warnings in place by visiting <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings>

#### If you are affected by floodwater from:

- the road - please contact [Warwickshire County Council Highways Team](#) on 01926 412982
- a main river - please contact [The Environment Agency](#) on 0345 9881188
- a public sewer or burst water main - please contact [Severn Trent](#) on 0800 7834444

You should also call the **Environment Agency Floodline** on 0345 988 1188 if you see flooding from collapsed or badly damaged riverbanks, or unusual changes in river flow. Main rivers may also be blocked by fallen trees and increase the risk of flooding.

If you see animals trapped in flooded fields, please call 999 and report this to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Please call Severn Trent Water on 0800 783 4444 if you see flooding from sewers and burst water mains.

#### 5. Budget cycle:

This is the first budget of the new administration. The proposed budget went for public consultation in January. Stratford-on-Avon District Council is required to set its budget annually; it was approved by Council at the meeting at the end of February. Budget proposals include:

##### Rural communities and vulnerable residents

- £28,000 for Rural Crime Advisors, working with Community Safety Team, to improve response to rising rural crime.
- £85,000 to maintain support for the UBUS service, to protect the vital connection between isolated communities and public services.
- £5,500 for a new pilot scheme in Southam and Alcester for Customer Access Terminals in rural communities to enable face-to-face communication with the District Council.

##### Staying healthy and active

- £25,000 for a new Leisure Community Instructor to provide targeted support for people with long term health conditions.
- Reduction in hire fees for use of public playing pitches in Stratford-upon-Avon to incentivise more sporting activity.

##### Cost of Living Crisis support

- £250,000 to continue to protect residents from the ongoing cost of living crisis, providing grants for those most in need of support with energy bills.

##### Climate change emergency:

- £500,000 extra funding to enable the Council to achieve its carbon reduction targets.

- £250,000 to change the current refuse collection vehicles to the use of HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel to reduce harmful emissions by nearly 100%.

Council Plan and Change Programme:

- £2million to implement the new Council Plan, benefitting residents within six areas of focus, including delivering better homes, boosting the local economy, increasing green spaces, encouraging alternative modes of transport, supporting Town and Parish Councils and their local communities, and improving the overall effectiveness of the Council.

The draft budget also proposes an increase to Council Tax of £5.00 (3.1%) for 2024/25 and 2025/26 and 2.99% thereafter, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year.

**6. Windmill Lane:**

- a. Kernon Countryside Consultants have responded and are unable to support the proposal as: 1) insufficient information has been provided to comply with Policy AS.10 (r), 2) poor design of the stables with regard to the inclusion of windows, and 3) concern with the suitability of the site for keeping horses. This was going to go back to committee with a recommendation from officers to refuse.
- b. More recently (5<sup>th</sup> March) the applicant's agent has provided a response to Kernon Countryside Consultant's comments. As such, SDC have gone back to Kernon Countryside Consultant and asked them for further comments. Stuart Mclver will provide you with an update if/when Kernon Countryside Consultant respond.