

Ladbroke Parish Council Meeting 8th January 2025

District Councillor Report: Susan Ostrander

Headlines:

1. **Windmill Lane: planning updates**
2. **English Devolution White Paper – initial comments**
3. **South Warks Local Plan – consultation opens**
4. **Dog fouling – PSPO consultation**
5. **Community Safety – new police constable**
6. **District and Parish Council Partnerships – updates**

Windmill Lane

On 25.10.2024, the Council issued a temporary stop notice on the land, requiring the cessation of the importation and deposition of materials to create areas of hardstanding; and the importation/stationing of any caravans (including touring caravans and mobile homes). That notice expired on 20 December 2024.

Following an assessment of the breaches carried out on the site and in consultation with Legal and Highways, it has been considered reasonable and appropriate to issue an 'Enforcement Warning Notice'. This notice was issued and served on the 17th December 2024.

The Enforcement Warning Notice requires the owner to submit a planning application for the change of use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential use for consideration by the LPA. The Notice requires the submission of the planning application within 60 days (i.e. by 15.02.2025). This does not, however, stop the submission of additional application(s) for other forms of development. Any application received will then be assessed *in the normal manner* – meaning that it will need to be commented on by the Ward Member, the PC, Highways etc and if there is any disagreement between the recommendations of planning officers at SDC and the PC/Ward member it would then go to planning committee.

If an application is not received by the date specified above the enforcement position will be reviewed again for consideration of whether any further formal action should be taken.

ASB: I have been in touch with Jenny Logan one of the ASB and Community Safety officers at SDC. She is going to contact some of the residents on Windmill Lane to arrange individual home visits to gather the details relating to cars and ASB. She will then liaise with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and see what can be done there.

Dogs: I am also in contact Sam Slemensek (the Community Safety Manager) about following up on what we can do about the dogs running free and causing serious concerns. I hope to be able to report in more detail on this when I am at the meeting.

English Devolution White Paper

The English Devolution White Paper was presented to Parliament by the Deputy Prime Minister on 16 December 2024. Local government in Warwickshire is currently a two tier system: County Council and District and Borough Councils more locally. The English Devolution White Paper proposes moving all local government in England to a one tier system ie. the abolition of District and Borough Councils and the formation of unitary authorities over a larger geographical area.

There are currently a number of proposals being discussed for Stratford District and the wider county area and how this might look going forward. Whilst it is difficult to say at this early stage what the future of local government looks like for our district, *it is clear that this administration will be doing their utmost to protect the valuable assets and finances raised by and for the people of Stratford District to be kept and used by, for and in Stratford District.*

Warwickshire County Council will be making a submission to Government by the 10th January which will not only be seeking the deferral of the scheduled May 2025 elections but will also propose, without any debate with the District and Borough Councils, that a single Warwickshire Unitary Authority be formed as soon as possible and that when formed this authority would then become a member of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

For a link to the response from the local District and Borough Councils please use this link: [Statement from the Leaders of North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

The link to the English Devolution White Paper is here: [English Devolution White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

South Warwickshire Local Plan – preferred options consultation

Over recent months SDC have been reporting on the developing joint Local Plan with Warwick District Council which, when implemented, will set out planning policy for the period 2027 to 2050. Various aspects of the complex process that has been going on emerge from time to time. The whole proposed plan will be subject to public consultation.

As a result of earlier work, it was agreed by the Joint Cabinet Committee of Councillors of Stratford and Warwick Districts that a pattern of distributed growth across the whole district in small towns and villages was undesirable, and that growth would be planned on a strategic basis led by environmental considerations whilst supporting economic factors. This was Option 4 from the Issues and Options stage. Mainly this would require proximity to rail links (either existing or by reopening if feasible) in addition to being well related to sources of economic demand, in the interest of minimising environmental impacts.

As you may have seen in the news, the Government are revising the National Planning Policy

Framework (NPPF). Although the Government has not finalised the numbers yet, it is clear they are looking to tell us to build many more houses in the future. The 'Standard Method' calculation will require us to build housing at about the same rate (or probably slightly greater rate) than we have done in the last few years (I reported on this in October '24). So, if we don't want to add many more new houses and commercial sites on the edges of villages, it will mean building all-new villages with their own shops, businesses, schools, GP surgeries and other infrastructure.

The next stage of public consultation will start in January and aims to find where we can put such new settlements and all residents are invited to comment when the consultation becomes live on the 10th January.

Officers and planning consultants have been looking across both Districts at very many potential sites. This has been narrowed from 736 down to 12. To meet the Government's expected target, only **three** new settlements are probably needed.

The pack of reports is 683 pages and you may see them by following this link: [Agenda for Joint Cabinet Committee on Thursday, 12th December, 2024, 6.00 p.m. | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

What is the view of your local District Councillor?

1. It is essential that we have a Local Plan. Stratford District has had a poor experience of a period without a Local Plan and this created a developer led strategy the effects of which are still being felt. This has been reflected in excess development, often given by appeal, in unsuitable locations with inadequate infrastructure. The distributed growth option was not desirable as it would have put housing around nearly every village with no significant infrastructure. Furthermore there have been costs to the taxpayer as a result: Audit and Standards committee report on 30th January 2017 highlighted the costs to the Council of having no Local Plan in place including the legal costs and costs awarded against the council at Appeal which came to £2,329,062 (spent between 2012 and 2017).

2. A plan period to 2050 has been chosen to maximise our chances of creating new communities with the right infrastructure; roads and transport links, schools, healthcare facilities, shops etc.

3. The previous Government was prescriptive on us making provision for a required number of houses. This had been worked out as 1679 houses per annum using the 'standard method' set out at that time. The previous Government also set out in legislation a 'duty to cooperate' with neighbouring authorities (the West Midlands conurbation) to take their development that they could not accommodate within their boundaries. Our district was faced with having to take thousands of extra houses to meet the needs of Birmingham and Coventry. The present Government has increased the number calculated by the new 'standard method' from 1679 to 2178 houses per year for our Districts. However, they have indicated that they expect a significant number to be 'internally' provided within Birmingham and Coventry, so we hope there may be less 'overspill' to us. The fact is though, we still do not know how many houses we will be required to permit and build each year,

which makes planning very difficult. That said, the rate is likely to be slightly greater than the rate we have sustained over the last few years.

4. The Councils' officers and consultants have come up with four sites included within the twelve, locally for new settlements as shown on the Preferred Options plan below.

F1 Land to the West of Ufton

F2 Land South of Deppers Bridge

F3 Land North East of Knightcote

G1 Land to the West of Knightcote

There are a cluster of sites for strategic growth including business around the M40 Junction and the land to the south of Southam. (SG12-14). Sites X2 and SG11 are across the Fosse Way in Warwick District. We are surprised to see these sites included because it is our view that these sites do not meet the overarching strategy initially set out for an environmentally led approach. All of these sites would be car dependent which we do not see as the way forward for the future. The prioritisation of the sites is still being worked on and at this stage, some of the scoring seems odd to us. We will be resisting these sites as they are unsuitable on several grounds and submitting our formal response to the consultation which will be made available to residents.

Spatial Growth Strategy Priority Area:

<https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/doc/213188/name/A3%20Spatial%20Growth%20Strategy%20Priority%20Areas.pdf>

Emerging Spatial Growth Strategy Options:

<https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/doc/213187/name/A3%20Emerging%20Spatial%20Growth%20Strategy%20Options.pdf>

Better and interactive maps will be available shortly.

Councillors from Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils met on Thursday 12 December 2024 and approved the recommendation for a Preferred Options consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

The Consultation **opens on 10 January 2025 and will run until 7 March**. Details of how to take part in the consultation will be published shortly as well as the link to the online consultation. We will circulate details to all of the parish clerks in the ward and report to Parish Councils with those details once they are available.

One of the simplest ways to respond will be online, which will be live from the start of the consultation in January until the deadline in March. Although the more traditional ways of responding via email and by post will still be available.

Further information on the South Warwickshire Local Plan may be found by following the link here: [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#)

PSPO on Dog Fouling

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is carrying out a six-week Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) consultation on dog fouling. There have been dog fouling orders across the District since 2009, which has been subject to regular reviews, with the last review taking place in 2020. A PSPO gives a local authority powers to tackle a particular nuisance by banning or restricting certain acts or behaviour in an area where it is having a negative effect on people's quality of life. A PSPO can remain in place for three years. The consultation is now open and runs until 24 January 2025.

Further information may be found here: [Proposed PSPO \(Dog Fouling\) Consultation | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Together with the link to the online consultation here: [PSPO Consultation 2024](#)

Community Safety - Appointment of the New Chief Constable

The Confirmation Hearing for the appointment of the new Chief Constable took place on Monday 16 December. After a robust question and answer session, the Police and Crime Panel resolved to confirm the appointment of Alex Franklin-Smith as the new Chief Constable for Warwickshire. Further information including the webcast of the meeting together with a BBC article may be found here:

[Information and Documents – Warwickshire County Council](#)

[Warwickshire Police appoints new chief constable - BBC News](#)

District and Parish Councils Partnerships

There have been several issues which the Council has supported this year which are designed to improve the partnership working between the Council and the Town and Parish Councils within the District area:

- Local Councils Charter - Stratford DC was the first of the principal Councils to approve this document in July this year. Given the number of Town and Parish Councils across our District, there will be two Parish Champions for SDC, these being Cllr Louis Adam and Cllr Stuart Keighley. Louis will predominately cover the east of the District and Stuart the west.
- Parish and Town Councils Forum - The first meeting of the forum will be held on **30 January 2025**; further details will be circulated in the new year but it will be at 6pm via Teams (details for joining emailed out on 20th December 2024). At this inaugural meeting we will consider issues including the Terms of Reference for the Group and the consultation exercise in relation to the development of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. Parishes are entitled to send nominated representatives of their Council (usually the Chair and/or their Clerk) to the Parish Forum, with a maximum of two per meeting.
- Civility and Respect Pledge - The Council formally supported the pledge at the meeting which was held on 14 October 2024. At this same meeting it was agreed that the Council will be providing refresher training on Respect, Civility and the Code of Conduct. The Council will also be updating the Council's website to demonstrate support for the Pledge for Town and Parish Councils.

- Parish Liaison Officer Finally, as part of the Council Plan and Change Programme, funding has been agreed initially for 2 years for the Council to employ a Parish Liaison Officer. The purpose of the role is to help us work more closely together; SDC will be advertising for this position early in the new year.

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