

## Ladbroke Parish Council Meeting – May 14th 2025

### District Councillor Report: Susan Ostrander

#### Headlines:

1. Rural policing and resilience – focus group needed
2. Community Climate and Nature Fund – new round
3. District Council Newsletter – The Online View
4. Election Results
  - a. By-elections for District Council
  - b. County Council elections
5. SWLP Update
6. Local Government Reorganisation – 2 options being considered
7. Recycling news and changes

#### 1. Rural Policing and Resilience – focus group

The Rural Services Network, an Executive Board Member of the [Rural National Crime Network](#), is encouraging rural residents to have their say on policing in their communities.

The **Rural Resilience Research Group** at Harper Adams University is conducting important research into **rural confidence in the police**, and they want to hear from local people. This project will explore how rural residents feel about their interactions with the police and help develop recommendations for future practice. It is the first initiative of its kind to create robust, evidence-based insights on what drives trust and confidence in rural policing.

#### Why Take Part?

- Share your experiences and thoughts on policing in rural areas.
- Contribute to meaningful research that could drive real improvements.
- Help create evidence-based recommendations for policymakers.
- Ensure rural voices are heard and rural issues are addressed.

**What's Involved?** Participants will take part in a single focus group discussion (video recorded) and offer input on guidance documents based on their experiences. A small recompense is available for full participation.

**Where?** Focus groups will be held across:

- North and South Shropshire
- North and South Worcestershire
- North and South Herefordshire
- North and South Warwickshire

**Interested?** This is a vital opportunity to influence future policing policy and practice in rural areas. Please get in touch with the project lead, **Kreseda Smith**, at:

[kresedasmith@harper-adams.ac.uk](mailto:kresedasmith@harper-adams.ac.uk)

## **2. Community Climate and Nature Fund – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round**

On Monday 7 April, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet approved more funding for round three of the Community Climate and Nature Fund (CCNF).

£150,000 has been allocated from the Climate Change Reserve to the CCNF, previously known as the Community Climate Change Fund (CCCF), for the next round of funding.

The fund will provide opportunities for the following groups to apply for grant funding:

- Town and parish councils
- Properly constituted community and charity groups operating within the Stratford-on-Avon District
- Sports clubs

It is interesting to see where the previous funds of funding were allocated. It can be viewed here along with information on some case studies: [Community Climate Change Fund Case Studies | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

## **3. District Council Newsletter – The Online View**

A recent resident survey, considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 April 2025, highlighted a strong preference among respondents to receive updates about the work of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and its committees via email.

This facility is already in place through the 'Online View' newsletter which I have already alerted you to but thought a reminder could be useful. Residents and councillors can subscribe by visiting the District Council's website and entering their email address. The newsletter provides regular updates on council news, decisions, consultations, and service changes. Sign up for this here: [Email Newsletter | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

## **4. Elections:**

### **a. By Elections for District Council:**

**Alcester West** - Turnout 44.77%

**Tom Ballinger - Liberal Democrats - 403 Elected**

Emma Daniell - Conservative Party - 265

Andrew Foster - Labour Party - 241

Ashley Jones - Reform UK - 278

John Stott - Green Party - 37

Number of votes cast: 1,224

**Welford-on-Avon** - Turnout 41.64%

**Cliff Brown - Liberal Democrats - 485 Elected**

John Hartigan - Labour Party - 29

Neil Lawrence - Reform UK - 330

Christian Reeve - Conservative Party - 190

Penny Stott - Green Party - 32

Number of votes cast: 1,069

**b. County Council Elections**

65 candidates contested 13 divisions on Warwickshire County Council in the Stratford-on-Avon District area on Thursday 1 May 2025.

**Feldon** - Turnout 37.26%

Louis Adam - Liberal Democrats - 1126

Rachel Frenguelli - Labour Party - 192

Joshua Hearne-Wilkins - Reform UK - 783

**Christopher Kettle - Conservative Party - 1133 Elected (by just 7 votes!!)**

Michael Mordue - Green Party – 159

Overall:

Total Declared

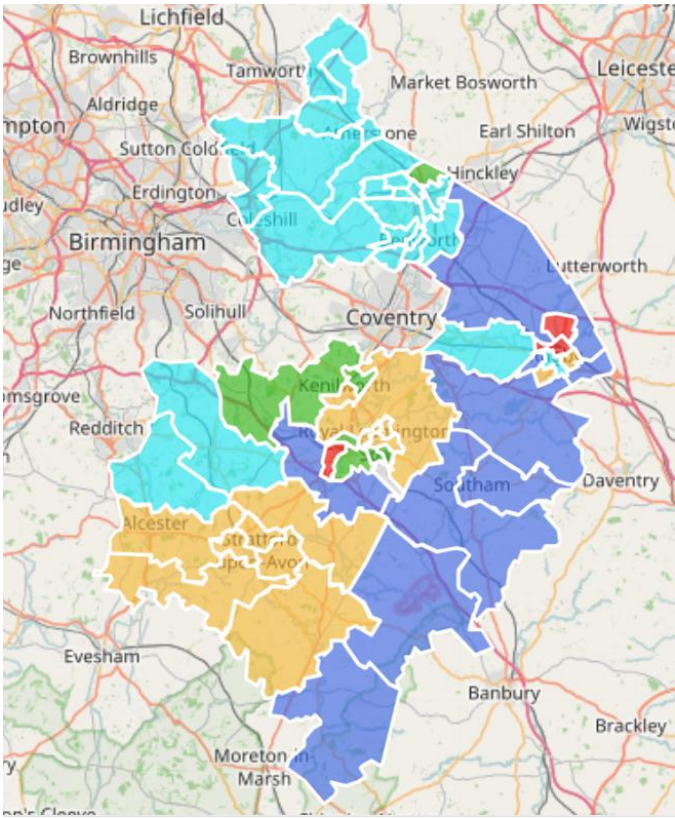
57

Total Seats

57

Total seats by party

Conservative Party	9
Green Party	7
Labour Party	3
Liberal Democrats	14
Reform UK	23
Whitnash Residents Association	1



**5. Update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan Consultation**

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils extend their gratitude to residents, Parish Councils, landowners, businesses, developers, and agents for their participation in the South Warwickshire Local Plan consultation, which concluded on 7th March 2025.

During the consultation period, the Councils received 19,367 representations submitted via the online portal from 4,682 respondents. In addition, a further 1,402 submissions were received via email and post. These handwritten and emailed responses are currently being processed, and the final number of representations will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

In total, 6,084 individuals and organisations participated in the consultation.

### *Next Steps*

Once all responses have been logged, the planning team will undertake a detailed review of the feedback to inform the next stage of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. A consultation summary statement will also be published later in the year to provide further insights into the findings.

## **6. Local Government Reorganisation**

The Government's English Devolution White Paper outlines plans to restructure local government by replacing existing councils with larger Strategic Authorities led by elected mayors. This means that by April 2028, our current District and County Councils may be replaced by a unitary system.

On 5th February 2025, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and others in Warwickshire were invited to submit proposals for how this new system should look. Two options are being considered:

1. A single unitary council covering the whole of Warwickshire (population 617,000).
2. Two unitary councils, one for North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby (323,000 people) and another for Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick (295,000 people).

The second option is the option favoured by Stratford District Council, in part, because we feel it will keep your carefully managed money (Stratford's finances are in very good order) in the south of the county rather than being siphoned off to the north of the county where need is greater. Although the Government has said they are looking for unitaries of ~500k, they have also said that they will consider smaller numbers, and we are set to grow considerably under the new projected planning numbers. This may also be taken into consideration.

The District Council is working on a proposal, and there will be opportunities for public input before the November 2025 deadline. A further update will be provided on how this will happen following the local elections (see above) and there will be a further detailed briefing at the next meeting of the Parish Forum (26<sup>th</sup> June). Following the formal submission in November 2025, the Council understands that Government will undertake a consultation exercise in the spring of 2026 on their preferred option for the future of Warwickshire. A final decision on this issue is expected by Government by the Summer of 2026.

During this unsettling period the Council is committed to continue to deliver high quality services. There may of course be some anxiety from Parish Councils; the new Parish Liaison Officer will be able to help in providing support to some of your queries.

## **7. Recycling news and updates**

Stratford-on-Avon District had the **third highest** household recycling rate in England last year (2023/24) according to figures published by Defra recently.

With a 61.0% household recycling rate, Stratford-on-Avon District Council has jumped up two places in the league table after seeing a 1% increase from the previous year.

Increasing recycling rates brings significant environmental, economic, and social benefits, including:

- Waste Reduction – Less landfill and incineration, reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Resource Conservation – Saves raw materials like metals, paper, and plastics, preserving natural resources.
- Energy Savings – Manufacturing with recycled materials requires less energy than using virgin resources.
- Cost Efficiency – Reduces waste disposal costs for councils and taxpayers.
- Job Creation – Supports employment in recycling and waste management industries.
- Environmental Protection – Reduces litter, protects wildlife, and improves overall sustainability.

From the 14<sup>th</sup> April there will be additional items that can be recycled:

## Changes to your recycling are coming

From the 14th April, we are including plastic bags and wrapping in your existing recycling collections across Stratford-on-Avon District Council. Simply place the empty, clean material with your usual recycling into your recycling bin.



## What can I now recycle?

Remember all items should be clean and free of food.

### Plastic Bags



Carrier Bags, Fruit and Vegetable Bags, Frozen Food Bags, Bread Bags, Cereal Bags

### Confectionery Wrappers



Chocolate, Sweets, Biscuits, Cakes, Ice Cream, and Chewing Gum Wrappers

### Foil Lined Packaging



Crisp & Snack Packets, Coffee Bags

### Plastic Film and Sleeves



Removeable Film, Lids, Plastic Sleeves for Bottles and Jars

### Outer Layer Bags and Wrapping



Multipacks, Toilet and Kitchen Roll, Magazine, and Newspaper Wrapping

### Bubble Wrap and Cling Film



Bubble Wrap and Cling Film (Maximum 1M Sections)

### Cheese, Fish, and Meat Wrapping



Cheese, Fish, and Meat Wrapping

### Fruit and Vegetable Net Bags



Fruit and Vegetable Net Bags (Once Empty)

Any excess recycling that you cannot fit in your bin can be placed in a rigid container, cardboard box or clear plastic sack next to your recycling wheeled bin. **Please do not put your recycling**

**items into plastic bags or refuse sacks, as materials need to be separated at the recycling facility.**

**Textiles, household batteries and small electrical items** can be put into a standard carrier bag and placed next to or on top of your recycling bin.