



Wootton Wawen Ward District Cllr. Ian Shenton

Proud to represent Bearley, Mappleborough Green, Ullenhall, Wootton Wawen

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District Councillor's report Ullenhall Parish Council 3rd February 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.

Officers and councillors have been focussed on budgets and counter proposals from the opposition parties over the last few weeks, but the budget papers are now available and will be voted on at the Council meeting on them on the 23rd February 2026.

The County Council vote on their budget this Thursday 5th February.

The likely increases are as follows.

- Stratford District Council 2.99%
- Warwickshire County Council 3.89%
- Police and Crime Commissioner to be confirmed but the maximum it can be increased without a referendum is 4.94% (approx. £15 for a Band D property)

I would like to urge parishes to put in an application for grants from the **Community Climate Change and Nature Fund**. Further details are included in the "Funding Opportunities section" If you need help to complete an application just let me know.

Phone lines outage in Wootton Wawen – You may have experienced difficulty calling landline numbers in Wootton Wawen beginning 01564. This is due to a major outage and since the 27th of January many landlines cannot send or receive calls, the lines are literally "dead". Openreach have said that this will not be fixed until the 20th of February which I have complained about. There are many residents who rely on the landline for help and to dial 999 in emergencies, who have poor mobile signal reception or who don't own a mobile phone.

In the meantime, as I have been in contact with Talk Talk who have told me that any Talk Talk customers should contact the Welfare team at Talk on 0345 172 0088. They are open 9am to 7pm Monday to Friday and until 6pm on Saturday. I am assuming that other service providers will also have a Welfare Team. The engineer I have spoken to has said that the more people that register for help the more chance that Openreach may bring the date forward due to the service being critical for so many.

In the meantime, I will continue to press Openreach directly about this.

District Issues – I am concentrating this report on the following: -

- Local Planning Enforcement Plan - consultation
- Grants for Parishes preparing or updating a Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation
- Current outstanding and ongoing issues log.
- Funding Opportunities
- Free Trees for Parish Councils
- Mobile Phone users with poor signal survey
- Police report for the last week plus drink driving convictions
- Road Closures in Stratford district – February and March
- Other news – REFORM budget proposal

Local Enforcement Plan Consultation - Stratford-on-Avon District Council is targeting significant improvements in the delivery of its enforcement services backed by a new Local Enforcement Plan (LEP) and wants your views.

As a local planning authority Stratford-on-Avon District Council has the responsibility for taking enforcement action, whenever necessary. Enforcement officers diligently investigate a range of violations including unauthorised building work, non-compliance with planning conditions, and unauthorised changes to building or land use.

Whilst the enforcement role is discretionary, the District Council is committed to taking formal action where serious breaches of planning control have been identified, and a negotiated outcome cannot be achieved. The District Council is committed to proportionate, timely and decisive action, ensuring accountability among those responsible.

The Local Enforcement Plan is a document which is fundamental to our commitment to maintaining high performance and advancing cases involving the most serious breaches of planning control as a priority, thereby safeguarding our community's interests.



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This draft LEP has

been reviewed and amended following a workshop with District Councillors and now provides greater clarity on the prioritisation of enforcement cases which will be investigated by the enforcement team. It also sets out where the District Council will decline to investigate if evidence is insufficient, the breach falls outside identified categories, or no planning harm is demonstrated.

Have your say - The plan is now out for consultation via the following link: [Local Enforcement Plan Consultation | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) and comments should be made by 12noon on 4 March 2026.

During the six-week consultation, the District Council will be engaging with the community and stakeholders to gather comments on the draft plan which will shape the way planning enforcement is delivered in the district.

Grants for Parishes preparing or updating a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) – The Conservative group at SDC have put forward a proposal as part of the budget process to give grants to parishes to help fund the preparation of NDP's or to update them. This will be approved at the Council meeting on the 23rd of February so please apply as soon as possible as there is only enough funding for 10 applications. If I hear anything sooner, I will circulate a note to everyone.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation - On the 16 December 2024, Central Government published the [English Devolution White Paper](#). The White Paper sets out the government's plans to widen and deepen devolution across England, providing mayors with unprecedented powers and funding and hardwiring them into the way government works.

Devolution: Devolution will provide greater freedoms and flexibilities at a local level, meaning councils can work more effectively to improve public services for their area. The result will be more effective, better targeted public services, greater growth and stronger partnerships between public, private and community leaders in local areas.

Local government reorganisation: LGR will replace borough/district/city and county councils with fewer councils. The Government wants every part of England to have a Mayoral Strategic Authority (also known as a Combined Authority). They believe this is the best way to deliver change and drive economic growth across the country.

These authorities would get extra powers and money from the Government to make bolder decisions about things like:

- Where housing is provided
- Local job creation
- Training opportunities and skills development
- Improved transport links
- Bus and train provision

Stratford-on-Avon District Council, alongside the other Warwickshire district and borough councils, submitted an [Interim Plan](#) on the **21 March 2025**, which identified two options for local government reorganisation in Warwickshire. These are:

- **One unitary authority for the whole of Warwickshire.**

OR

- **Two unitary councils in Warwickshire**, these being made up as follows: 1) one comprising the districts of North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth and Rugby and 2) the other comprising the districts of Stratford on Avon and Warwick.

Government will now review the proposal and hold a statutory public consultation on the LGR options for Warwickshire in the Spring of 2026. If accepted, the new unitary authorities would operate in shadow form from May 2027, with full implementation by April 2028.

The timeline for a decision and implementation is as follows.

Spring 2026	Statutory Government public consultation on LGR options for Warwickshire
May 2027	Proposed elections (Shadow authorities)
April 2028	Vesting day for new unitary councils



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Current outstanding and ongoing issues in my log

Ref	Date	Parish/Town	C Of	Issue	Latest update
39	25/07/2025	Ullenhall	D	Hardcore laid in field opposite Moat Farm Stud	26/09/2025 AO'K says . I have an open enforcement case relating to a wall and fence erected on the boundary of the property, planning permission was recently refused for this work. I have request the confirmation of the intentions of the property owner regarding the decision - 6 weeks allowed for a decision
50	01/09/2025	Ullenhall		Grovewood planning issue raised by applicants architect	24/10/2025 Ongoing planning issue - have connected architect to planners
53	01/09/2025	Ullenhall		The Coppice - building not approved by planning	24/10/2025 Note to PE for an update
54	01/09/2025	Ullenhall		PE issue White Pump Lane	24/10/2025 update requested from AO'K
69	29/09/2025	Ullenhall		Grovewood - blocked footpath	In conversation with architect
85	07/12/2025	Ullenhall		NDP Funding	Notes sent to Lisa Faulkner plus an update in January newsletter
86	10/12/2025	Ullenhall/MG		Four Acre Farm	Increase in number of caravans on land. PE investigating

Funding Opportunities

Community Climate Change and Nature Fund Round Three is open for applications! - Stratford-on-Avon District Council introduced The Community Climate and Nature Fund (CCNF) in November 2023 and has since enabled the funding of a multitude of climate and biodiversity initiatives across Stratford-on-Avon District. Funded projects include the installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps, to pond restoration and flood prevention projects.

Round Three of the CCNF opened in May 2025 and will stay open until April 2026. All applications will be considered at the nearest appraisal date following their submission, the dates are as follows:

- 15th April 2026

For your application to be considered at the next appraisal date (14th January 2025) please submit your application by **5pm on Friday 15th April 2026**.

The latest assessment period ended on 22 October 2025. The following projects were successful:

- £10,000 to Welford on Avon Bowls Club to install 60 solar panels on their club roof, as well as the installation of battery storage.
- £4,033 to Hoppers Lane Wood Trust to restore and plant on the 0.6ha Hoppers Lane Wood site.
- £5,530 to Henley-in-Arden Parish Council to deliver their project titled: "Henley Buzz and Bloom - Creating Colour, Habitat, and Heritage for Henley".
- £3,104 to Tysoe Tennis Club to upgrade the club's floodlighting to LED.
- £6,000 to Henley Memorial Hall to install 3 air source heat pumps throughout the Hall.
- £6,000 to Kineton Village Hall Association to install 2 air source heat pumps in their Hall.

[More information on how to apply can be found on our website here](#)

Please send any enquiries about the CCNF to: climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet approves £350,000 Community Grant Scheme. -

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet on Monday 6 October, approved a new £350,000 Community Grant Scheme aimed at enhancing community infrastructure across the district. The scheme, developed in collaboration with local and regional partners, will support capital projects that improve accessibility, resilience, and diversity in community spaces. The grant programme is designed to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ Days, with a vision to transform community spaces into living memorials that honour the sacrifice and spirit of past generations. It will also promote unity, remembrance, and community cohesion.

Key features of the scheme:

- **Funding allocation:** £50,000 for small grants (£5,000 - £20,000) and £300,000 for large grants (£20,001 - £100,000).
- **Eligible applicants:** Town and Parish Councils, registered charities, PTAs, community interest companies (CICs), and similar non-profit entities.
- **Project types:** Structural repairs, accessibility improvements, facility upgrades, outdoor space enhancements, and new community asset creation.

Eligible projects may include:

- External structural repairs to community buildings.



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- Refurbishment or installation of kitchen and bathroom facilities.
- Building extensions to improve internal space.
- Accessibility improvements such as wheelchair access, handrails, and raised flower beds.
- Enhancements to play areas, recreation grounds, allotments, orchards, and leisure facilities.
- Creation of new community assets.

The District Council will host workshops to guide potential applicants through the process, with support from Warwickshire CAVA and other partners. Projects will be assessed by a dedicated panel using a robust scoring system that prioritises community impact, deliverability, and location of the project. For more information, including eligibility criteria and application guidance, please visit the [Community Grant Scheme 2025 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) or contact the Communities and Social Inclusion Team on socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Application timeline:

- Launch: Late October to 11 November 2025
- Briefing sessions: Mid-November 2025
- Application deadlines: 31 January 2026 (small grants), 27 February 2026 (large grants)
- Awards announced: May to June 2026, aligned with Armed Forces Day

Project delivery: April 2026 to March 2027

Free trees for Town and Parish Councils - Town and Parish Councils have received an email from SDC's Sue Greenall, asking for expressions of interest to gauge the level of interest in a scheme for tree planting in their areas. If your Town or Parish Council has suitable areas of public or publicly accessible land and would be interested in applying for the grant and hasn't already responded to the email, please send the following information to sue.greenall@stratford-dc.gov.uk

- Name of the Town/Parish Council and contact details for scheme organiser.
- Show the proposed planting location(s) on a map.
- Confirm the number of trees and species that you would be looking to purchase and plant.
- Confirm who is the legal Landowner of the proposed planting area and whether permission for planting will need to be sought.

Once all expressions of interest are received and based on the information provided, an application form will be issued along with a list of conditions to be met and details of evidence that would be required.

Mobile Phone Users with Poor Phone Signal Urged to Take Survey - A survey has been launched to find the areas in Warwickshire suffering from poor mobile phone coverage.

The latest initiative from Warwickshire County Council aims to gather reports directly from residents and businesses about signal quality and to identify coverage 'blackspots' which require service improvements from the mobile phone operators.

Help us build an understanding of coverage in your area by completing our mobile connectivity survey online at <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/mobile-coverage/issues/>

Police report – local incidents reported over the last week.

WOOTTON WAWEN

- Burglary. Meadow Court. Shed entered but nothing believed stolen at the time of the report. Garage light seen on at about 3am. Overnight 29th & 30th January. 0118 30/01/2026
- Burglary. Alcester Road. Shed entered but nothing believed stolen at the time of the report. Garage also entered at 3.30am. Overnight 29th & 30th January. 0104 30/01/2026
- Burglary. House entered, and items taken including work bag with laptop. Entry was made through window / rear door. Early hours of the 30th of January. 0042 30/01/2026

HENLEY

- Vehicle Crime. Cherry Orchard. White Ford Transit Custom van stolen. Silver roof rack. Overnight 28th & 29th January. 0030 29/01/2026

Other Police news

- Studley Man Charged with Supply of Drugs Our fellow officers over the border in Redditch stopped and search a vehicle as well as the two male occupants. One of those is a local resident of Studley. Both persons were arrested upon the discovery of Class A drugs, cash, and suspected burner phones. Both males have been interviewed and have been charged to court to face trial.
- Reports of Hare Coursing The Rural Crime Team have recently received reports of Hare coursing near to Alcester and Lutterworth. Hare coursing tends to start after harvest when fields are left without standing crops up to Springtime. Coursing is more likely to take place at dawn or dusk, but it can also take place in broad daylight. If you see an event taking place, we advise you not to approach the participants but to contact the police immediately on 999. If it is safe to



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do so it

would be helpful to pass on further information regarding potential vehicles involved, descriptions of people and/or dogs and a what 3 word of the location, but only if it's safe to do so.

- Police are praising members of the public for their vital role in improving road safety throughout 2025, after thousands of suspected driving offences were reported via our Operation Snap initiative. Over the past year, 3,553 videos of moving traffic offences were submitted for review by our Road Safety Officers. These reports have helped us take action against drivers who put others at risk. The most common offence captured was careless or dangerous driving, with 1,339 suspected incidents reported. Close passes, where drivers overtook cyclists or horse riders too closely and often too fast, were the next most frequent, with 993 reports. Submissions came from all road users:

- Drivers: 1,821 reports
- Cyclists: 1,257 reports
- Pedestrians: 253 reports
- HGV drivers: 99 reports
- Equestrians: 58 reports

Thanks to this public support, positive action was taken in 66.3% of cases: 27.8% resulted in a Notice of Intended Prosecution (NIP) 38.5% led to a formal warning letter Action taken Op Snap 2025 Unfortunately, 33.7% of cases could not be progressed, often due to insufficient evidence, but we always explain the reasons to those who submit footage. Most submissions were made during the summer months of May to July, reflecting the seasonal increase in cyclists, pedestrians, and horse riders on our roads. PC Ken Bratley, who oversees Operation Snap, said "We would like to thank the public for submitting their footage of moving traffic offences. Your efforts are helping us make our roads safer for everyone."

Road Closures in Stratford district – February and March

February:

- Saturday 7, 6.30am to 2.00pm, High Street, (from its junction with The Bank to its junction with Church Street) all in Bidford-on-Avon, 'Bidford Village Market'.
- Tuesday 17, 10:00am to 2:00pm, High Street, Church Street and Henley Street (all in Alcester), 'Annual Pancake Races'.

March:

- Saturday 7, 6.30am to 2.00pm, High Street, (from its junction with The Bank to its junction with Church Street) all in Bidford-on-Avon, 'Bidford Village Market'.

Other News

REFORM UK's proposed financial plan for Warwickshire County Council includes £10.6 million in extra savings without stating where they will be found.

Papers laying out the administration's first county budget and medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) – five-year financial plan – were released last week ahead of Thursday's (05/02/2026) budget setting at Shire Hall.

They include plans to limit the rise to the county's portion of council tax to 3.89 per cent. That is against the advice of the authority's financial professionals who advocate taking the maximum available, 4.99 per cent.

If approved, it will reduce the increase in the bill for an average Band D property by £20.05 per year with the lowest-value Band A properties saving £14.36 per year.

It may not seem like much but the combined loss to the council over the next five years is estimated to be £26 million, a shortfall that has to be made up.

Reform UK has sought to balance out its wider changes with an extra £10.6 million of savings attributed to the "transformation of services" but no departments are highlighted and it is acknowledged that the mission "requires further scoping".

Cuts to pre-school autism checks, help for mental health patients seeking work and the maintenance of buildings for children and families have been kept in with new cuts to staffing introduced.

The climate team's staff budget is to come down by £90,000 from April and £120,000 per year from April 2027, while efforts to "rightsize the communications service" cut its funding by £75,000 from April and £100,000 per year from April 2027.

But even after all that, the final £10.6m of savings to balance the books lack detail.

Further details on this can be found on the Stratford Herald website or in the paper later this week.