

**Report District councillor Cllr Manuela Perteghella August 2023**

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### **West Midlands Combined Authority & Warwickshire County Council**

You might be aware of a proposal that the County Council was considering in relation to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Stratford District Council (SDC) was notified last month that the County Council was considering whether it should seek to join the WMCA as a full constituent member. Currently SDC & the County Council are non-constituent members. The date of the next mayoral election is May 2024 and if the County Council did join as a full constituent member then Warwickshire would be included in the mayoral area. The position from the County Council was confirmed at the meeting of their Cabinet on 13 July 2023 that they would be completing a governance review and undertaking consultation on the proposal. However, the County Council has now confirmed that they will no longer be pursuing full constituent membership on this occasion, but would consider this as an option for May 2028 instead.

Our group at District Council has grave concerns about this move. We believe that residents benefit from local government that is close to them, is able to listen to them and which represents them. At the moment WMCA has limited powers and responsibilities mainly covering transport, adult skills training and inward investment with some funding for land acquisition and affordable housing- but further legislation is currently going through Parliament.

### **Self Built & Custom Housing Register Consultation**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is starting a 3-week consultation today, Monday 24 July on the creation of a two-part Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register. Since 2016, the District Council has maintained a combined Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register, providing data to better understand the demand for this type of housing in the area and plan for future needs. They are proposing that the register would include two separate parts:

- Part 1: entries with a local connection
- Part 2: entries with no local connection

The Act places a duty on the Council to grant enough '*development permissions of serviced plots of land*' to meet the demand shown in Part 1 of the Register (but not specifically for those on the register). Stratford-on-Avon District Council is inviting views on its proposals to split the Register into Parts 1 and 2 and the nature of the local eligibility criteria to join Part 1. Further information (including a list of the proposed eligibility criteria) is available on the District Council's website at: [www.stratford.gov.uk/scbregister](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/scbregister)

### **Bike Marking surgery 26 July Memorial Hall, Welford on Avon.**

A bike marking surgery was held on 26<sup>th</sup> July in Welford on Avon, It was very successful with 19 bikes marked and on the National Database. Please let me know if the parish would like to organise a similar surgery.

### **Binton Bridges works and planned closure (Welford on Avon)**

The proposed closure of the bridge has now been postponed to **21 August** (but this might change yet again). I am liaising with the engineers, county councillor, and have contacted other agencies in view of the possible issues generating from the closure. Concerns remain on the diversions, communications to residents, parallel works planned at Campden Road and the current delays at the Evesham Roundabout works.

### **Evesham Road /Bordon Hill Roundabout works**

A meeting with neighbouring residents was held at the Racecourse on 31<sup>st</sup> July. This was mainly a meeting to address serious concerns about the project management and traffic management at this location, which have seriously and negatively impacted local residents. The project has been delayed of several months now and a new date of October 2023 was mentioned, however Warwickshire County Council Highways could not confirm this would definitely be the end of the works and even mentioned April 2024. The answers to the several questions raised at the meeting will be made public.

### **Pensionable age Parking Permits (Stratford upon Avon)**

The Cabinet agreed to re-introduce a Concessionary Parking Permit for state pension aged District residents (over 66s) within the constraints of the previous administration's budget. The Cabinet will also investigate viable systems to reintroduce the permit to other car parks within the Stratford Town centre (for example the Rec).

A reminder that **one hour's free parking** is still available at Bridgeway Multi-Storey and Bridgeway Surface Car Parks for all residents and visitors, and disabled parking for Blue Badge holders remains free of charge in all District Council car parks.

### **Review of the 123 plus waste collection system**

I understand that a review of the service will be undertaken in August (on the anniversary of the introduction of the 123 plus service). This will ensure any outstanding issue of refuse service are addressed.

### **Parish Council Champion & Area Meeting**

I have been appointed the Parish Council Champion for Stratford on Avon. This role has several objectives including: to raise awareness and have regard of issues affecting Parish and Town Councils within the District Council; to ensure that Parish and Town Councils views are taken into account when the District Council undertakes consultation; to encourage joint training events; and, perhaps most importantly, to facilitate discussions in relation to the possibility of devolving services to parish councils. I have already attended the Stratford Area meeting organised by WALC with town and parish councillors and clerks on 20<sup>th</sup> July and looks forward to the next meeting. Issues raised: Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) and

South Warwickshire Local plan, turnout to referenda, NDP making process and support available, reviews of current NDPs.

### **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

The representations received to the consultation have now been published and can be viewed at: <https://southwarwickshire.oc2.uk/document/124>

Consultation responses are currently being analysed. Once this process is complete, the Councils will publish our response and a summary of key issues through a Consultation Statement which will be available to view on our website. In addition, the council ran a second Call for Sites undertaken concurrently with the Issues and Options consultation and these submissions have also been published on the South Warwickshire Local Plan interactive map alongside the earlier Call for Sites 1. Please note: these sites are presented for information at this stage and have not yet been assessed as to their suitability for inclusion within the plan nor are they endorsed. The Council is now looking at the suitability of sites for inclusion within the Plan and are undertaking a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) in order to begin to assess their suitability. A revised timetable for the South Warwickshire Local Plan is expected to be issued in Autumn 2023 which will set out the next stages.

### **Consultation on Closure of ticket office at Stratford upon Avon rail station – deadline extended**

West Midlands Railways are proposing to remove the tickets office from Stratford upon Avon station, and substitute this with 'mobile teams'. The consultation has now been extended to **1<sup>st</sup> September**.

To comment on proposed changes to ticket offices at stations on our network, please contact Transport Focus, the independent transport user watchdog, by 1<sup>st</sup>

September 2023 at:

- Email: [TicketOffice.WMT@transportfocus.org.uk](mailto:TicketOffice.WMT@transportfocus.org.uk)
- Freepost: RTEH-XAGE-BYKZ, Transport Focus, PO Box 5594, Southend on Sea, SS1 9PZ