

**REPORT DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**  
**Cllr Manuela Perteghella**

The new administration at Stratford on Avon District Council has undertaken a Planning Advisory review of planning and enforcement services at this council. A new Council Plan (this refers to the strategic vision for the next 4 years) is being shaped, and we now begin the first budget cycle. There have been many years of falling grants from central government, and the 3-year settlement has been reduced to one year (which makes it incredibly difficult for local authorities to plan their medium term budget). There will be a budget consultation too soon. There have been two new Head of Services, after the retirement of the previous senior officers. One covers Law and Governance, and the other Housing and Customers Services.

Below follow some updates and initiatives.

**Binton Bridge repairs works and road closure**

The next bridge closure is scheduled for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, to run until 22 December. There is a dedicated webpage for updates:

[C46/005 Binton Bridge South, Welford-on-Avon – Warwickshire County Council](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/C46/005/Binton_Bridge_South_Welford-on-Avon_-_Warwickshire_County_Council)

and email for any query: [Bintonbridge@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:Bintonbridge@warwickshire.gov.uk)

I have written to the County Council about the bus 27 diversion and about putting more signs for businesses. I have also written to Councillor Daren Pemberton as well as met with him and ask for the following:

- ◆ signs for the Barton Road in Welford to slow down traffic
- ◆ asked for temporary speed reduction for the Milcote Road while the Bridge is closed, as residents reported an increase of speeding traffic on this road in particular.
- ◆ Asked what compensation there is by WCC to local businesses during closure.

At time of writing this, I'm awaiting response.

Please see below the current schedule of works, including road closures to May.

123	<b>Traffic Management</b>	222 days	Mon 02/10/23	Fri 10/05/24
124				
125	<b>Type</b>	222 days	Mon 02/10/23	Fri 10/05/24
126	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	12 days	Mon 02/10/23	Fri 13/10/23
127	2-way temporary lights	23 days	Sat 14/10/23	Sun 05/11/23
128	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	47 days	Mon 06/11/23	Fri 22/12/23
129	Fully open (Christmas break)	10 days	Sat 23/12/23	Mon 01/01/24
130	2-way temporary lights	27 days	Tue 02/01/24	Sun 28/01/24
131	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	47 days	Mon 29/01/24	Fri 15/03/24
132	2-way temporary lights	23 days	Sat 16/03/24	Sun 07/04/24
133	Road closure (with pedestrian access)	5 days	Mon 08/04/24	Fri 12/04/24
134	2-way temporary lights	28 days	Sat 13/04/24	Fri 10/05/24
135	Fully open	0 days	Fri 10/05/24	Fri 10/05/24

Project: Binton South Bridge  
 Date: Thu 28/09/23

Task  
 Split

 Milestone  
 Summary



Project Summary



External Tasks

27/09/2023 (Rev 5 - 'High Level')

### **Climate Change Fund**

Stratford District Council will be implementing a **Climate Change Fund**, to which town and parish councils can apply to, as well as community groups and charities. Funding streams are climate adaptation, mitigation, reduction of carbon emissions for example via use of solar panels or green technology. The Fund has been formally approved by Cabinet. The funding allocated to the first year (2024) for the Climate Change Fund are £100,000 (in two tranches of £50,000). I will circulate details once call for projects is open.

If you have ideas or possible projects in mind, do get in touch!

### **Winter Warmth grants now available from Stratford on Avon District Council**

As we head into winter, Stratford-on-Avon District Council is pleased to announce new funding options available to residents to help keep homes warm and reduce the cost of energy bills.

The new schemes are the Home Upgrade Grant - phase 2 (HUG2), Energy Support Fund (ESF) and Physical Intervention Fund (PIF). HUG2 is funded by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, and ESF and PIF are funded by Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

HUG2 is designed to specifically tackle cold and damp homes that are not connected to the mains gas heating network. If you are eligible for the scheme, and your home assessment recommends the installation of energy efficiency measures, all works are carried out free of charge.

ESF has been set up to offer financial support this winter for vulnerable households within the District who are struggling to pay their energy bills. This payment consists of a one-off payment of £500 (for households with children) or £300 (for households without children). This payment is made directly to the energy provider.

PIF is a programme to assist individuals and households experiencing hardship through significant increases in the cost of living. The scheme aims to support vulnerable households by paying for works to repair, supplement and/or improve domestic heating systems. Households can apply for works up to a limit of £6,000.

The schemes all have different eligibility criteria which are listed on the District Council's website: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/green-home-grants.cfm>

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has teamed up with local energy experts Act on Energy to help administer all winter warmth grant funding. The charity may contact residents directly to let people know about the funding and issue invitations to local events where they can find out more.

If you would like to apply for any of these funding schemes or find out more about eligibility criteria, please visit the Act on Energy website: [www.actonenergy.org.uk](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk)

Or you can contact Act on Energy directly via phone 0800 988 2881 or email [advice@actonenergy.org.uk](mailto:advice@actonenergy.org.uk)

## **South Warwickshire Local Plan Timetable update**

Following public consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Issues and Options earlier this year, both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils have been progressing work on the joint Local Plan. Since the existing timetable for the preparation of the Plan was approved in March 2022 a number of factors are now requiring a revision to this timetable, including:

- A delay to the publication of 2021 Census data resulting in a delay to the production of the Coventry & Warwickshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (C&W HEDNA), a key piece of evidence required to support the Plan
- Changes to the administrations of both councils and the need to ensure new administrations and members of all parties understand progress to date on the plan and have an opportunity to input in the process
- The uncertainty of potential changes to national planning policy and to the planning system, including the process for producing plans.

Following a meeting of the SWLP member Advisory Group on 19th October 2023, a revised timetable is being recommended for approval to the Joint Committee of both councils at a meeting to take place at the first available opportunity, and certainly before the end of 2023. This proposed timetable envisages a Preferred Options consultation in Autumn 2024 followed by further stages of consultation and a public examination, with final adoption of the Plan by 2027. (An alternative approach would be to cease work on the SWLP until the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill passes into law. This would likely mean pausing work on Local Plan preparation until possibly the autumn of 2024 and re-commencing work on a "new style" Plan under the new legislation. This alternative approach is not considered desirable and will not be recommended to the Joint Committee.)

### **State pension concessionary Parking permits**

From 1 October 2023, the concessionary parking permit for residents of state pension age has been re-introduced for a charge of £50 a year. Those eligible will be able to purchase the concessionary parking permit not only from the District Council offices (Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford upon Avon, but now residents are able to apply quickly also online at the link below:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/concessionary-state-pension-age-permit.cfm>

**Please Note: 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.**

I also understand the council is looking at the possibility to include other car parks in the future.

## **Live & Local events**

Live & Local is a network of over 250+ voluntary organisations across the West and East Midlands who book and promote professional shows, screening, and participatory arts into venues such as village halls, church halls and community centres. The shows are chosen by the local community, for their local community. Made possible by funding from Arts Council England and your local authorities, including Stratford on Avon District Council, but it all happens because of the commitment and enthusiasm of the voluntary organisations.

If parish councils, the village hall committee or community groups are interested to collaborate or bring some of these projects to their communities. Find Out More: Email [community@liveandlocal.org.uk](mailto:community@liveandlocal.org.uk) or call 01926 402173 to have a chat with one of the Community Engagement staff or to receive some more information. You can also visit the website at [liveandlocal.org.uk](http://liveandlocal.org.uk)

Finally, thank you to the residents who came to my councillor's surgery on 21<sup>st</sup> October at the Binton Village Hall. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any query, issue or concern you might have, and I will help you as best I can.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

### ***Manuela***

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