

District Councillor Report April 2024
Cllr Manuela Perteghella

The Greenway refurbishment

A reminder of the resurfacing work planned for Stratford Greenway. This work will be delivered using S106 funding and will see the top half of the Greenway, from Severn Meadows to Milcote, resurfaced. Unfortunately, Warwickshire County Council was unsuccessful in securing the CIL funding that would have enabled to resurface the second half of the Greenway, from Milcote to Long Marston. Warwickshire County Council will need to consider alternative funding pots to be able to complete this work.

Work is to be carried out in three phases:

Phase one: (8th April – 26th April – 3 weeks) works surface preparation of first section from Milcote Road Carpark (partial closure of Greenway - 50% during working hours 7.30 – 16.30)

Phase Two: (29th April – 17th May – 3 weeks) surface preparation of second section from Severn Meadow Road Carpark (partial closure of Greenway - 50% during working hours 7.30 – 16.30)

(Final) Phase Three: (20th May- 24th May) Surface treatment of tar and chippings (Full closure of Greenway required)

S38 link road (Shottery relief Road)

The Shottery Relief road (S38 link road) from Bordon Hill/Evesham Road roundabout to Alcester Road) will be delivered by Bloor Homes, however as we know, the works at the roundabout at the Wildmoor need to be completed before the link road is opened up. This is going to be delivered by National Highways but it is important to note that the delivery of this scheme may also be very much in the hands of the developer.

I have written to both National Highways and Bloor Homes, and this is the latest update from Bloor Homes:

Following the Christmas break Bloor Homes has since secured their approvals for the proposed works and are currently looking to complete the S278 agreement and tender process. We have since been advised that the proposed Drayton Manor Drive Access roundabout is still under review and has yet to fully secure their technical approval. Given that Bloor Homes are now in a position to start in advance of the Drayton Manor Drive Roundabout works we have proposed to National Highways that we start our works this summer. My understanding is that we are on target to start these works this Summer and are working closely with National Highways to achieve this.

Let's wait and see if they start work this summer. Any 'booking' of these works will have to be agreed by Warwickshire County Council, which has to timetable any highway works, to mitigate impact on traffic congestion into town. I will certainly keep chasing this.

Home Upgrade Grant - phase 2

The income eligibility criteria for Home Upgrade Grant - phase 2 (HUG2) funding has increased to £36,000 a year. Some residents who may not have applied previously because they were over the first £31,000 threshold may now be eligible.

Even though we are now entering the warmer months, residents are encouraged to apply to grants as soon as possible because there is a 3 to 6 month time frame from application to installation.

Apply now to be warm NEXT winter!

Stratford-on-Avon District Council works alongside local energy experts Act on Energy, to help administer all winter warmth grant funding. There are many types of funding, [follow the link to our website](#) to read more about them and how to apply.

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](#).

Or you can contact Act on Energy directly via phone 0800 988 2881 or email advice@actonenergy.org.uk

Rooftop solar panels will be installed at Stratford Leisure Centre, following Stratford-on-Avon District Council's successful bid in Phase II of the Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund. The District Council has been awarded £283,000 to provide grant funding for capital investments to help swimming pools become more energy efficient. The funding will be used to install Photo Voltaic (PV) panels on Stratford Leisure Centre's roof, which will help to reduce the leisure centre's energy bills and save carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere each year - helping the fight against climate change. It is anticipated that the size of the rooftop solar panel system to be installed will be 202.50kWp, housing 405 panels, yielding 849 kWh. It is also anticipated that the Year 1 energy savings will generate 172,090kWh in electricity reductions.

At the current rate, the annual forecast savings post intervention will be £51,627, and based on the costs of the project, expect payback in just under 5.5 years. No start date for the work has been agreed, but the installation needs to be completed by no later than 31 March 2025. The District Council declared [a climate emergency](#) to become net-zero carbon as an organisation by 2025, and by 2030 seek to reduce the total emissions in Stratford-on-Avon District as a whole by at least 55% as a stepping stone to becoming a net zero District.

Prostate screening event

On Sunday 28 April 2024 Stratford Leisure Centre will host a prostate screening event. The event is being subsidised by Stratford-on-Avon District Council in partnership with The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) and Everyone Active.

The event will run from 10am until 4pm and people are able to book at a discounted rate of £12.50. Spaces are limited, so make sure to book using this link: [PSA Testing Events @ GFCT - GFCT \(mysatests.org.uk\)](https://mysatests.org.uk)

The aim of the event is to make the local community aware of the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer and to offer free prostate PSA screening blood tests.

Police and Crime Commissioner elections

Poll cards notifying residents of the local election taking place across Stratford-on-Avon District for the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday 2 May 2024 are being sent out this week. The poll cards inform residents across the District where their polling station is and when they can vote, from 7am until 10pm.

Voters have a range of options for casting their ballot - in person, by post or by appointing someone they trust to vote in their place, known as a proxy vote.

Electors who wish to vote at a polling station must now show acceptable photo ID, such as a passport, driving licence, blue badge and certain bus passes. Full details and a list of acceptable photo ID are available on the Council's website at [Voter ID at Polling Stations | Stratford-on-Avon](#)

[District Council](#)

If electors don't have suitable photo ID, they can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate online at [Apply for photo ID to vote \(called a 'Voter Authority Certificate'\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) by 5pm on Wednesday 24 April.

To be able to vote at this election residents must be aged 18 or over on the day of the poll, a British, Commonwealth, Irish or European citizen and be on the electoral register or have applied to be so by midnight on Tuesday 16 April.

Changing Places Toilets

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has opened two new Changing Places toilets across the District, at Bell Court Shopping Centre in Stratford-upon-Avon and the British Motor Museum in Gaydon. It is after £190,000 of government funding was awarded to install new Changing Places toilets to help improve lives of severely disabled residents.

[Changing Places toilets are specialized toilet facilities that provide suitable equipment and space for people with complex disabilities who need assistance. They are different from standard accessible/disabled toilets, which may not meet the needs of some people with high support needs. Changing Places toilets enable people with complex disabilities to participate in community life without worrying about finding a suitable toilet.](#)

EV Training Academy Stratford upon Avon College

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet has approved the capital funding of £625,000 to Stratford-upon-Avon College to establish an Automotive Electric Vehicle (EV) Training Academy. The financial year of 2024/2025 is the first period where skills funding has been provided as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

The £625,000 capital funding is being used to widen the College's offer in the District's significant automotive manufacturing and engineering sector. The College seeks to ensure that the automotive training facilities are upgraded to meet the transition of the industry to supply and manufacture hybrid and electric vehicles.

Future Allocation of CIL funding

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet has approved a revised approach to allocating its portion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Receipts.

Currently, the District Council uses an annual open bidding process to allocate its portion of CIL that must be spent on infrastructure that supports development. However, there are more strategic and proactive ways to allocate CIL receipts.

A proposal has been put forward to move from bid-led to evidence-led process of allocating this portion of receipts. This change, alongside the proposal to pause the annual cycle of CIL, will allow work to be focused on infrastructure, and CIL receipts to accrue ahead of implementation of new process.

This change in approach also coincides with the work on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP), which identifies a new spatial distribution of development. This will ensure that the proper infrastructure can be planned by the SWLP once the CIL receipts have been allocated. The portions of CIL allocations which go directly to Parish Councils will be unaffected by this change.

An Infrastructure Planning Officer Advisory Group will also be established to advise Cabinet on infrastructure planning and the allocation of CIL.

Free leisure centres membership for residents living with Parkinson's

Several leisure centres in Stratford-on-Avon District offer free memberships to those living with Parkinson's disease. These include Stratford Leisure Centre, Southam Leisure Centre, Shipston Leisure Centre, Studley Leisure Centre and The Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester.

The leisure centres - which are managed by Everyone Active in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council - collaborated with charity Parkinson's UK to create the initiative in 2022.

Since it started, almost 70 members of the community who are affected by Parkinson's disease have benefitted from the free membership. The leisure centres want to encourage more people than ever before to take advantage of the initiative.

Parkinson's is the fastest-growing neurological condition in the world and there is currently no cure. It affects around 153,000 people in the UK and there are more than 40 symptoms, from tremor and pain to anxiety. Being physically active can play an important role in living well with Parkinson's. People living with the condition find various activities, from walking to dancing, beneficial in managing their symptoms. The free membership offers access to gym, swim and group exercise classes. Plus, a free carer membership is available, if required.

Manuela Email: manuela.perteghella@stratford-dc.gov.uk

mob. 07870488071

Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/CllrManuelaPerteghellaWelford>