

Ufton Parish Council Meeting – December 2nd 2025

District Councillor Report from Cllr Susan Ostrander

Headlines:

1. Local Government Reorganisation
2. CIL Funding and Infrastructure
3. By-election results
4. South Warwickshire Local Plan
5. Christmas Bins Collection Schedule

1. Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has now formally endorsed a proposal to create two new unitary authorities in Warwickshire. This follows the Government's invitation for councils to submit proposals for local government reorganisation across the county.

Over recent months, Stratford District Council has worked with external advisers (Deloitte, Peopletoo and District Councils Network) to develop a detailed business case. After considering this work, and following extensive engagement with residents and partners, the Council agreed to support the creation of:

- A North Warwickshire Unitary Authority, covering North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough, and Rugby Borough; and
- A South Warwickshire Unitary Authority, covering Stratford-on-Avon District and Warwick District.

This “two-unitary” model was chosen instead of a single county-wide unitary. Public engagement showed strong support: over 2,300 responses were received, with 73% of respondents across Warwickshire, and 78% within Stratford District, favouring the two-unitary approach.

The proposal is considered to meet the Government's criteria for reorganisation, particularly around improving efficiency, protecting service quality, and strengthening local accountability. Independent analysis has also suggested that smaller unitary authorities are more likely to remain financially sustainable and responsive to local needs. The business case estimates around £83.9 million of savings over the first three years, alongside opportunities to improve services over the longer term.

Importantly, the two-unitary model aims to bring decision-making closer to communities and recognises the distinct identities and priorities of North and South Warwickshire. It also keeps future options open for county-wide strategic work where appropriate.

The proposal will now be submitted to Government by the deadline of 28 November 2025. As part of its decision, Stratford District Council has also confirmed that, if Government were instead to

choose a single unitary authority for Warwickshire, it would not support this being established as a “continuing authority”.

Next Steps:

- The proposal will now progress for approval by the other participating councils.
- If agreed locally, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- Should the Government support the proposal, the new authorities would begin operating in a “shadow” capacity from May 2027, with full implementation planned for April 2028

2. Strategic CIL Funding Allocation

Stratford-on-Avon District Council’s Cabinet has approved the allocation of over £1.85 million in Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to support key infrastructure projects across the District. This follows the introduction earlier this year of a more strategic and evidence-based process for deciding how CIL should be used.

In March 2025, the Council adopted a revised allocation method, replacing the previous open bidding system. The new approach focuses funding on projects that clearly align with the Council’s Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Core Strategy, and on areas where new development has created the greatest infrastructure pressures.

A total of 15 projects were submitted after stakeholder engagement and a formal application process. Each proposal was assessed using criteria such as deliverability, alignment with strategic objectives, and wider community benefits, including climate resilience, health outcomes, and equality.

Among the projects recommended for funding this year are:

- Improvements to facilities at Alcester Academy, including enhancements to the sports field for school and community use.
- Resurfacing of the Stratford Greenway between Long Marston and Milcote Road.
- Natural Flood Management schemes for Wellesbourne/Kineton, Shipston-on-Stour, and Alcester, delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency and Wildlife Trusts.

Projects that were not funded at this stage will remain on the Council’s Infrastructure List and can be reconsidered in future years.

Although no major CIL-funded schemes have been allocated this year in the east of the District, it is positive to see that the needs of these communities are being given careful and thoughtful consideration through the new strategic assessment process. Infrastructure remains at the top of residents’ concerns—whether related to roads, schools, health provision, or transport—and it is important that the east of the District continues to be recognised in future funding rounds as the Infrastructure List evolves.

As of 31 March 2025, the total Strategic CIL available was £1,969,019.61, with unspent funding carried forward into the next financial year. The Infrastructure List will be reviewed and updated annually, with the next update due in March 2026.

3. By-election Results

Five candidates contested the seat for the by-election for the Quinton ward in Stratford-on-Avon District on 20 November 2025.

Quinton

Sean Edmunds - Reform UK - 306

Paul Harrison - Liberal Democrats - 437 Elected

John William Hartigan - Labour Party - 9

Sarah Gail Hession - Conservative Party - 137

Penny Stott - Green Party - 35

Turnout: 30.41%

Number of ballot papers issued: 925

Turnout for the last contested election at Quinton in May 2023 was 36.73%

The electorate for the Quinton ward is 3,042

Five candidates contested the seat for the by-election for the Salford Priors and Alcester Rural ward in Stratford-on-Avon District on 20 November 2025.

Salford Priors and Alcester Rural

Julie Fewins - Labour - 18

Tom Genders - Green Party - 31

Ashley Jones - Reform UK - 272 Elected

Justin Anthony Lee Kerridge - Conservative Party - 227

Huw Lewis - Liberal Democrats - 269

Turnout: 33.0%

Number of ballot papers issued: 817

Turnout for the last contested election at Salford Priors and Alcester Rural in May 2023 was 34.36%.

The electorate for the Salford Priors and Alcester Rural ward is 2,476.

The current political make-up of the District Council's 41 seats is now:

- Liberal Democrats - 25 seats
- Conservatives - 9 seats
- Green - 3 seats
- Independent - 2 seats
- Reform UK - 2 seats

4. South Warwickshire Local Plan

The Parish Council will recall that there was a consultation on the preferred options which ended on 7 March. That was a consultation to which the Parish Council responded as did I as your District Councillor. Those responses were among over 22000 others that are being technically assessed before moving on to create a policy submission document in the new year. Stratford and Warwick District Councils that are making the joint local plan have now made all the representations available to view on the website. The link to view the representations and

instruction of how to do so is below. (With such a very large representation database online, it can be tricky to navigate in detail.)

[South Warwickshire Local Plan - Preferred Options 2025](#)

To view comments on this consultation, please navigate through the document (using the [Table of contents](#) button on the top left of the page to go directly to a chapter, or using the Next and Previous links on each page) and click on any of the [View responses](#) buttons to see the published comments for a particular question. Alternatively, you can click on the [Search representations](#) button at the top right of the page to get a list of links of organisations that have responded. Clicking on one of these organisation names will take you directly to a list of their comments. If you have commented yourself, you can view your published comments by clicking on the View responses button or by [logging in to your account](#) and going to **My account**. Your comments are all listed under the **Processed** section of your account.

For those who emailed their responses to the council, you can create an account by entering your email address in the [forgotten password page](#) to create a new account and password. You will then be able to view your comments using **My account** as above.

(Please note: only organisations are listed from the Search representations button to avoid listing individual names. Comments from individuals can be viewed by navigating to questions and clicking on the View responses button.)

For more help on viewing comments, creating an account or to contact us please see our [instructions page](#).

5. Christmas Bin Collections Schedule

(I will also share on the Facebook page but perhaps this could also be included in the village newsletter?)

**Stratford & Warwick
Districts recycle**

**Collection Service**

**Working together
to deliver Waste Services**

Your refuse, recycling and food waste collections will change over Christmas

There will be no refuse, recycling or food waste collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.
Your collections will be affected by the following changes:

Normal collection date	NEW collection date over Christmas
Thursday 25 December 2025	→ Saturday 27 December 2025
Friday 26 December 2025	→ Monday 29 December 2025
Monday 29 December 2025	→ Tuesday 30 December 2025
Tuesday 30 December 2025	→ Wednesday 31 December 2025
Wednesday 31 December 2025	→ Friday 2 January 2026
Thursday 1 January 2026	→ Saturday 3 January 2026
Friday 2 January 2026	→ Monday 5 January 2026
Monday 5 January 2026	→ Tuesday 6 January 2026
Tuesday 6 January 2026	→ Wednesday 7 January 2026
Wednesday 7 January 2026	→ Thursday 8 January 2026
Thursday 8 January 2026	→ Friday 9 January 2026
Friday 9 January 2026	→ Saturday 10 January 2026

Normal collections will resume on Monday 12 January 2026.
Please ensure your bins are presented at the edge of your property by 6am on your new collection day.

