

Ufton Parish Council – 3rd March 2026

District Councillor Report – Susan Ostrander

Headlines:

1. Council Tax
2. Key Budget items
3. Consultations – from Central Govt and SDC
4. Health Screening Events

1. Council Tax:

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors have set the district element of the Council Tax at a meeting of the Council on Monday 23 February.

The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £174.18, an increase of 2.99%, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year. Stratford DC remains a low taxing council ranked 18th out of 164.

This means that all the services provided by the District Council cost £3.35 a week for a Band D household. This contributes to meeting the cost of providing a wide range of services including recycling and waste collection, planning, street cleaning, housing, housing benefits, leisure services and children's play areas.

The Council Tax from Stratford-on-Avon District Council for residents for 2026/27 for each of the valuation bands is:

A	£116.12
B	£135.47
C	£154.83
D	£174.18
E	£212.89
F	£251.59
G	£290.30
H	£348.36

Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent for Council Tax, it only receives 7.0% of the Council Tax paid by residents. Warwickshire County Council receives the lion's share of 76.7%, the Police 12.8% and Towns/Parishes 3.5%. This means the District Council only retains 7.0p of every £1 paid in Council Tax to provide its range of services.

Anyone who thinks they could be struggling to pay their Council Tax is encouraged to contact the District Council as soon as possible by calling 01789 260990 or email revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk, where the team will be able to advise what help is available.

2. Budget Items

There are a number of items in this year's budget which I think will be of particular interest to residents in this ward, which include:

- **Neighbourhood Development Plans** - £100,000 (over 3 years) Supports parish councils following this funding being cut by central government.
- **Health Screening Events** – SDC is supporting Health Screening Events with the Graham Fulford Trust for the second year in a row with events across the District. More information is below.
- **Housing to Rent** - £1,000,000 (one-off) To secure additional social housing units and reduce reliance on costly temporary accommodation. This will include residents fleeing domestic violence.
- **Climate Change Fund** - £500,000 (one-off) Fifth consecutive year of funding for local climate initiatives.
- **Rural Crime Advisors** – We continue to fund the Rural Crime Advisors whom I hope many residents across the ward have already met, and if not met, heard about. Not only do the Advisors give crime prevention advice and support to residents, they are also able to loan crime prevention equipment so that residents can “try before they buy” and the Advisors also hold crime prevention toolbox events. Enquiries can be made of the Rural Crime Advisors via SDC's website here: [Rural Crime Advisor Enquiry | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)
- **Community Safety Deputy Manager** – two year fixed term. This will introduce additional capacity into the Community Safety Team working with partners, such as the Police. The Community Safety Team has been nominated for a national award for dealing with ASB, which shortlisted 250 nominations down to four.
- **VASA Volunteer Driver Scheme** - £12,000 (for 3 years) Supports transport for older and mobility-impaired residents. Transport can be requested by residents here: [Community Transport – Vasa](#). You will need to register first by calling 01789 262889 and selecting option 1 or by following the link on the webpage. Once you have registered, you can book online or call the above number and also select option 1.
- **Veterans Healthcare and Development Officer** - £8,000 (for 2 years) Contribution to veterans support services.
- **Cost of Living Crisis Mitigation Fund** - £250,000 (one-off) Adds to projected £250,000 rollover to create a £500,000 hardship support fund. Further information is available on our website: [Cost of Living Support | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

3. Consultations....

From Central Government

a. Local Government Re-organisation

If you would like to share your views on Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire, the easiest way to take part is to provide your feedback through the [online survey](#).

The consultation is open from until Thursday, **26 March**.

Alternatively, paper copies are available from:

- Main council office reception areas
- Libraries operated by Warwickshire County Council
- Council-operated Museums
- Paper copies can also be requested by calling 01926 410 410

Your responses to the questions can then be submitted by email to lgrconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk.

Written responses can also be sent to: LGR Consultation, Fry Building 2NE, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

If completing a paper copy of the consultation form, please make it clear which consultation you are responding to.

b. Private Management Companies

i. Enhanced protections for homeowners on freehold estates – Available here: [Enhanced protections for homeowners on freehold estates - GOV.UK](#)

Both of these consultations close on **12 March 2026**.

ii. Reducing the prevalence of private estate management arrangements – Available here: [Reducing the prevalence of private estate management arrangements - GOV.UK](#)

Consultations from SDC

a. Five Year Housing Land Supply: [Housing Land Supply](#). Until Monday **9 March 2026**.

b. Local Enforcement Plan: [Local Enforcement Plan Consultation | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#). Until **4 March 2026**.

c. Social Housing Allocations Policy: [Social Housing Allocations Policy Consultation | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) Closes on the **3rd March 2026**

4. Health Screening Events – Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Stratford District Council is launching the first of its 2026 health screening events on Saturday 21 March, coinciding with National Screening Day (NSD) during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. The event will take place at Venture House, Avenue Farm Industrial Estate, Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0HR, running from 10am to 2pm.

Events closer to residents in our area will be taking place as follows:

- Saturday 18th April Lighthorne Heath Village Hall, Upper Lighthorne, Valiant Close, CV33 9UF
- Saturday 9th May Graham Adams Centre, Saint James Road, **Southam**, CV47 0LY
- Saturday 30th May Wellesbourne Village Hall, The School House, School Road, Wellesbourne, CV35 9NH

Tests are available at a discounted rate of £14 each, supported by District Council funding, and include:

- PSA (Prostate Screening) for men over 40
- Diabetes screening for men and women aged 18+
- Cholesterol checks for men and women aged 18+

Appointments must be booked in advance at: <https://sdc.mypsatests.org.uk/> or call 01926 419959 or email info@myhealthtests.org.uk

The 2025 screening programme demonstrated the significant value of proactive, community-based health checks. Across seven events, 1,137 tests were completed:

- 663 men underwent PSA testing, with 24% referred to their GP for further investigation
- 11% of all participants recorded blood sugar levels outside the normal range
- 80% had cholesterol readings requiring GP follow-up

These outcomes underline the vital role screening plays in enabling early diagnosis, empowering residents to seek timely medical advice, and improving long-term health outcomes.

A full list of all 2026 health screening events is available at: [PSA Health Screening Events | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)