

LOCAL NEWS

FROM DUNCAN PARKER, YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

EDITION 10
Summer 2024



CLAVERDON, SNITTERFIELD, WOLVERTON, LANGLEY & PRESTON BAGOT

HOME UPGRADE GRANT FUNDING

HUG2 – Home Upgrade Grants are still available and are currently under subscribed. Free home energy efficiency improvements including insulation, double glazing, solar panels and more worth up to £24,000 can be obtained. If you live in a house without mains gas and the total household income is less than £36,000 HUG2 could be for you. Register by the end of September. If you fulfil these criteria, please give me a ring and I can drop over and explain more and assist you through the process. Don't worry if you've got savings, this is not part of the eligibility criteria.

www.actonenergy.org.uk/grants/hug-sdc

SEWAGE SPILLS IN OUR WARD

Residents have been in touch regarding sewage spills.

A manhole in Snitterfield periodically leaks sewage onto the road (The Green) and down into Bell Brook. This is unacceptable as such spills can be a health risk and seriously pollute our waterways. Severn Trent had undertaken remedial work on the sewer to resolve this problem, but there has been another spill recently. I am in contact with Severn Trent to ensure they investigate further and repair the fault leading to these spills.

If there are other sewage spills around our ward – please get in touch.



DUNCAN VISITING THE NET ZERO CLIMATE HUB

In June, I visited the newly opened Climate Hub on Meer Street in Stratford. The Hub is open for the public to drop in and talk about local climate and nature issues. Volunteers can provide information and practical ideas. It's comfortable and family friendly (with a children's corner) and I would highly recommend a visit next time you are in Stratford! The Hub is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10am – 4pm.

www.netzerostratford.org.uk/climate-hub/

WARM HUBS ARE NOT JUST FOR WINTER!



I've concluded that 'warm' refers to the welcome that I got when I attended Snitterfield's Warm Hub recently. There was lots of friendly chat & cups of tea. There are two warm hubs in our villages: –

- **Snitterfield** - Every Wednesday, 10am -12 noon: The Graham Simons Room (in St. James Church grounds), CV37 0LE.
- **Wolverton** - Every Tuesday from 10.30am - 12.30pm: Wolverton Church Hall, CV37 0HF

If you would like to set up a Warm Hub, get in touch. I can help obtain funding for hall hire and provisions.

WELCOME TO YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER, KEEPING YOU INFORMED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

NEWS IN BRIEF

999 - The 999 phone service receives a lot of accidental calls every day. If you inadvertently find you have connected to the emergency services, please don't hang up. The call handler needs to satisfy themselves that you do not require help, which is much quicker if you stay on the line confirming that your call was mistaken. This allows the call handler to quickly move on.

Water Testing - You will recall from the last Newsletter that we are measuring pollution in our wards' rivers using a network of fabulous volunteers. **Stratford Climate Action** are now testing the Avon for E.Coli & Intestinal Enterococci, bacteria which pose a potential risk to human health. They enter surface waters via agricultural runoff & sewer overflows. **Surfers Against Sewage** are funding around 20 lab tests. Please get in touch if you would like to help out with water testing locally.

Community Led Climate Change Event - The District Council wants to hear your views using a **Citizens Assembly**. This will be held on the 5th of September at the council chambers. There will be workshops on **Business & Sustainability, Food, Energy, Transport, Schools & more**. To book the workshops go to www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/climate-aaa.cfm - All welcome.

VASA - I recently met Linda, Community Connector for VASA, a long established local charity changing lives by connecting people through community activities. I was very impressed by the range of services VASA offers & how embedded in our South Warwickshire Communities they are.

Linda told me all about the many services they offer including:-

- Community transport with volunteer drivers - Book a driver for medical appointments & to visit family & friends in hospital or care homes.
- Wheelchair hire.
- Community Activities & Clubs supporting all generations including baby clubs, care for people living with dementia & all carers.

To chat about a club or activity, book community transport/wheelchair hire or volunteer your services please email hello@vasa.org.uk or Tel. 01789 262889



THE SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

Having joined the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Advisory Committee in May, I thought it worth shining a spotlight on this as, one way or another, it will change parts of South Warwickshire over the coming years.

The SWLP is a joint plan between Warwick and Stratford District Councils for the development of the Districts. The Plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2027, although given the number of delays already, I wouldn't expect the plan to be rolled out until 2028. The plan will run until 2050.

In Stratford District, the plan will replace the current 'Core Strategy' which is what planners presently use as the main document (along with the Neighbourhood Plan if a village has one) to determine planning consent when planning applications are made.

The plan is being created by the two Councils but is required to meet a framework set out by Government. An inspector, on behalf of government, will not approve a plan which does not meet the Governments objectives. A feature of UK democracy is that Councils are kept on very short leads by Government.

A key function of the plan is to provide an evidence base that, over the period of the plan, sufficient houses will be built. If a Council falls into a situation where it has insufficient land supply, the Council loses a significant amount of control over development. This is because, on appeal, developers can point to the fact that the Council has insufficient land earmarked for development to meet the stated housing numbers and so building on land of the developer's choice becomes 'appropriate'.

The number of houses that need to be built during the life of the plan is yet to be settled and will be subject to protracted negotiation with the inspector. You may be aware that a figure of around 1000 houses per year for the life of the plan for our district was recently put in the public domain, although this number may increase with the new governments ambitions to build more homes. Through last year and the earlier part of this year there has been a 'Call for Sites'. This is where everyone is invited to put land forward so that the SWLP can be developed around land which has the landowners consent. Just because land is put forward does not mean it is going to be developed – the land has to be in a location identified as suitable for development.

The plan is in its early stages of development and there will be public consultation along the way. The inevitable reality is that locations which have significant infrastructure and are on good public transport routes will be heavily favoured. This will mean Henley, Wellesbourne, Shipston, Long Marston, Alcester, Studley, Southam & Gaydon are likely to take the brunt of development along with Stratford. There is also the possibility to create new settlements.

Please be assured that I am not passive on the Committee. The housing numbers will ultimately be dictated, but I will work hard with the Committee to find the most appropriate sites. I will push for the necessary improvements to infrastructure and work with the County Council to ensure public transport and roads are improved to meet the demands of the new housing.

Visit www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/ where you will find more information and an interactive map.

CAN I HELP? WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED? PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

✉ duncan.parker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

☎ 07745 210097

📘 StratfordOnAvonDistrictGreenParty

