

# **Cllr Duncan Parker's Bi- Monthly Update Report to Claverdon Parish Council July 2025**

## **Warm Homes Grant**

The Warm Homes Grant replaces the Homes Upgrade Grant (HUG). I'm hoping that the new grant system will be a huge improvement on the HUG which was heavily flawed and opaque.

Unfortunately, the amount of money to be granted to the Council by government has fallen far short of that given for HUG. To this end, the council has made an application to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to shore-up some of this shortfall.

Because the Council is committed to tackling fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions despite receiving a significantly lower-than-expected allocation, it will allocate up to £1.1 million from the General Reserve over the next three years. This has been possible due to the favourable interest received on council savings.

The District Council's 2024 Residents Survey and national data emphasises the urgent need for continued investment. Approximately 14,000 homes in the District are rated EPC D-G, with 16.5% of households in fuel poverty - above the national average.

## **Land supply for development**

Having a minimum of a 5-year land supply is critical for the Council to retain control over planning policy. If the land supply falls below this threshold developers are heard more favourably at planning appeal and development considered inappropriate by the Council will go ahead. Furthermore, the Council is often required to pay all legal expenses.

Last year the government changed the method of calculation of land supply used by councils. The government also increased Stratford District Council's annual housing requirement from 730 to 1,126 homes per annum. These changes have required the Council to re-calculate its land supply and the deliverability of housing on key sites. Stratford District council (along with many councils) has been hard hit by this change in calculation which has caused its land supply to fall from 24.65 to 5.06 years. The District Council is already in legal dispute with a developer (to develop Bordon Hill ) who is asserting that the Council does not have a 5-year land supply and therefore have a favourable assessment on appeal.

This is one means by which the government intends to increase the rate of house building in England.

## **Stratford-on-Avon District Council launches consultation on draft Licensing Policy 2026-2031**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has reviewed and updated its Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. The revised draft policy, which will guide licensing decisions from 2026 to 2031, is now open for public consultation.

Under Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003, all Licensing Authorities are required to prepare and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy at least every five years. The current policy is set to expire in January 2026. Before finalising the new policy, the District Council is seeking views from residents, businesses, and responsible authorities.

The draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2026-2031 is available to view on the District Council's website. Interested parties can access it by searching for "Licensing Policy" or by visiting the following link: [Licensing Policy | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

The consultation period will run until 10 September 2025. Comments and feedback on the draft policy should be submitted directly to the Licensing Team via email [licensing@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or by post to Licensing at the District Council offices at Elizabeth House by the closing date.

### **Background Information**

- A Statement of Licensing Policy is a formal document published by a local licensing authority, that outlines how it will carry out its duties under the Licensing Act 2003.
- This policy provides guidance to applicants, residents, and responsible authorities on how the authority will make decisions about licensing matters, including applications for alcohol sales, regulated entertainment, and late-night refreshment.

### **Stratford-on-Avon District Council demonstrates Climate Action**

Climate Emergency UK has assessed all UK councils on the actions they have taken towards net zero on their estates. Stratford District Council has been found to have improved by 12% to 42%. Much work is still required to be in near the top of the table which is currently held by Winchester City Council at 68%.

### **Re-Register for Postal Vote**

Following changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022, voters are now required to reapply for their postal vote every three years.

All postal voters who completed a postal vote application form before 31 October 2023 will be required to renew their postal vote application by 31 January 2026. Postal votes will be limited to a maximum of three years, following which it will be necessary to make a new application.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be contacting around 17,000 registered postal voters in the District directly by email, where an email address is held, or by post informing them of the new rules and encouraging them to reapply as soon as possible ahead of the deadline.

The quickest and easiest way to reapply for a postal vote application is to apply online at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote)

**Cllr Duncan Parker**  
**Claverdon & Snitterfield**