

## **Stratford District Council Report 2026**

**Cllr Duncan Parker**

### **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

The final consultation for the SWLP is now underway. Because this stage focuses primarily on the plan's legal soundness, it is aimed at institutions and developers rather than residents. Significant changes are unlikely from this point forward; this version will largely be the one voted on to replace the Core Strategy and will run until 2050.

As previously reported, the government has mandated that in Stratford district we build no fewer than approximately 1,200 houses every year throughout the lifetime of the plan. This results in nearly 26,000 new homes being built in a district that currently has around 68,000.

Such a massive increase could never be simply absorbed into existing settlements, which is why the initial plan proposed building entirely new communities. New settlements have the advantage of being properly designed from scratch. They create sufficiently focused, large-scale developments that ensure developers provide all necessary infrastructure, including public spaces, surgeries, schools, and shops. These new communities would allow residents to access amenities on their doorstep rather than being car-dependent. Most importantly, building new settlements prevents the irreparable damage that would be caused by grafting massive housing estates onto existing towns and villages.

Regrettably, in a sharp and bizarre turn from the last consultation, the District Council administration has opted for the latter approach. Southam (currently approximately 4,000 houses) is being allocated 3,000 houses; Bidford (currently approximately 3,200 houses) is allocated 3,000 houses; Henley (currently approximately 1,700 houses) is allocated 2,000 houses; and Wellesbourne (currently approximately 3,300 houses) is allocated 1,500 houses. To provide amenities for these "bolt-on" developments, each will have its own separate centre, effectively competing with the existing village or town hubs. These sprawling, combined settlements will damage the fabric of our existing communities, making it incredibly difficult to integrate such a massive influx of new housing.

### **Great big green week – 6<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> June**

Every June, thousands of events take place in towns, cities and villages across the country. From repair cafés and nature walks to community clean-ups and film screenings, over a million people came together last year to enjoy and make a real difference.

Stratford district's week is organised by Net Zero Stratford and has an amazing number and variety of events. So much so that, in our district, the week has already started and runs until the 28<sup>th</sup> June. Use the link below to look at the programme of events.

[https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/stratford\\_on\\_avon\\_district\\_great\\_big\\_green\\_week](https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/stratford_on_avon_district_great_big_green_week)

**Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council are pleased to announce the launch of a new website** for the South Warwickshire Local Climate Engagement Programme, a joint initiative designed to support residents, community groups and organisations to take practical action on climate change.

The new website will act as a central hub for information, resources and support, helping local communities better understand climate change and identify ways to reduce carbon emissions, build resilience and protect the local environment. It brings together guidance on topics such as energy efficiency, sustainable travel, waste reduction, biodiversity, and funding opportunities for community-led projects.

The Local Climate Engagement Programme is a collaborative programme between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council, reflecting a shared commitment to tackle the climate emergency through partnership working and local engagement.

<https://climatechange.southwarwickshire.org.uk/>