

## **Lighthorne PC Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

### **PCC Elections**

Pleased to announce that Philip Seccombe (Conservative) has been re-elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire and has pledged to continue to increase police officer numbers and is working to increase support for victims and survivors of all crimes as well as reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending.

### **Upper Lighthorne GP Surgery**

The ICB has selected the St. Wulfstan GP practice in Southam to work with them in providing a new GP facility at Upper Lighthorne, which is extremely welcome news and follows extensive lobbying by the local parishes to secure a new medical facility in the proposed community hub. In terms of timing this is unlikely to happen until 1927, however it is hoped that pressure can be brought on the ICB to sanction a temporary facility in the meantime and talks are continuing in this vein. My thanks are extended to Andy Smith for all his diligent and relentless work on behalf of all the parishes.

### **No Mow May**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be taking part in No Mow May this year, following the new grounds maintenance contract and the Ecological Emergency Notice of Motion passed last week.

No Mow May is one of the actions which will preserve and enhance biodiversity within Stratford-on-Avon District. This aligns with our climate emergency declared in 2019 and with one of the District Council's Council Plan objectives:

- Increase and protect green spaces which positively affect nature recovery.

No Mow May has multiple positive impacts for biodiversity. Reduced mowing allows different plant species to grow, which provides food sources for pollinators and other animals. Longer grass also provides wildlife with shelter. No Mow May also reduces pollution, increases carbon sequestration, and reduces emissions by reducing fuel use.

It is a contractual requirement for No Mow May to be carried out on highway verges, on non-rural roads with a speed limit of 40mph or less. Some road junctions will continue to be cut to maintain sight lines and not restrict the visibility of road users.

No Mow May forms part of a wider agenda to enhance biodiversity which is being delivered by Stratford-on-Avon District Council. Other measures that have been delivered include tree planting, the creation of wildflower meadows on Council owned land and the declaration and ecological enhancement of a new Local Nature Reserve.

### **Open Space SPD Revised**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Full Council has formally adopted its revised Open Space SPD following a public consultation, where all Public Open Space as part of new developments will now be adopted by either the local Town/Parish Council or by the District Council.

In November 2020, The Cabinet agreed to change the way the District Council approaches the management and maintenance of public open space.

This was in response to the growing amount of public open space provided in associated with new development and concerns raised by residents about:

- Charges levied by the private management companies appointed by the developers to maintain the public open space which are not always made transparent at the time of purchase, can change every year and are unlimited.
- The quality of the maintenance work carried out.

Also, where a Parish or Town Council decides not to take ownership of public open space, the District Council would generally take ownership of the land, with responsibility for ongoing maintenance. The option of passing maintenance responsibilities onto private management companies would no longer be included in Section 106 agreements.

### **Annual Council**

The Annual Council meeting is being held on Wednesday 22 May and as the new shadow portfolio holder for Planning and Economic Development, this will be useful to maintain close contact with the planning and enforcement teams.

### **Anne Parry**

Ward Member for Wellesbourne North  
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