

Lighthorne PC – September 2025

Wellesbourne North and Rural District Councillor Report

Five Year Housing Land Supply 5YHLS

SDC is now under pressure to approve new housing planning applications in the wake of the outcome of the appeal for the Gladmans development at Bordon Hill, Stratford-upon-Avon which the planning inspectorate has allowed.

This means that under a new calculation introduced by the reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced by Angela Rayner and the Government in December, is that SDC now has a 5YHLS of just 2.74 years.

The significance of the new calculation method, courtesy of the government's pledge to build 1.5 million homes over its parliamentary period provides an open door for housing developers!

This will have a huge impact to our rural communities and also is likely to give a green light to even more new settlements in the district.

SWLP

With over 20,000 responses to analysed from the SWLP consultation it is hoped that an indication of the preferred new settlement options and strategic growth areas for new housing will be known by late autumn. Critical factors on new settlement options for the district will depend on resolving road infrastructure capacity for the Long Marston development.

Help Shape the future of Local Councils

Warwickshire residents, businesses, Town and Parish Councils, voluntary and community groups are being invited to help shape the future of local councils in the county in a public engagement exercise which is currently open and closes on 14th September.

Under Government proposals for local government reorganisation, all six councils in Warwickshire will disappear by 1 April 2028.

Councillors will use this information to help them to make their final decision. It is being run by Opinion Research Services (ORS) online at www.shapingourcouncils.co.uk and paper versions can be collected from district and borough council offices.

For Stratford-on-Avon District residents, copies will be available from Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX.

In addition to the public questionnaire, ORS will be conducting focus groups with a randomly selected sample of residents from each council area.

ORS will also be holding focus groups with businesses, voluntary/community groups and Town and Parish Councils, to explain the proposals and gather feedback.

Local stakeholders will also be consulted.

No decisions have been made yet. This is your opportunity to shape the future of local government in Warwickshire. Whether you support the current proposal or have other ideas, your voice matters. To complete the questionnaire online, visit:

<https://shapingourcouncils.co.uk/get-involved/>

Licensing Act 2020 - Statement of Licensing Policy 2026- 2031 [Consultation]

This is to advise that SDC has reviewed and amended its Statement of Licensing Policy which is now out for consultation. Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires a Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a Statement of its Licensing Policy at least every 5 years. The current policy for SDC is due to expire in January 2026. Before determining this policy, the Licensing Authority must consult with members of the public, trade and responsibly authorities.

The draft policy for 2026-2031 can be viewed on the council's website by searching for 'Licensing Policy' or via the following link: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/licences-permissions/licensing-policy.cfm> This consultation will run until 10 September 2025.

Planning & Enforcement

SDC is implementing its restructuring programme for its planning and enforcement departments and the Local Enforcement Plan in terms of its priorities is to be reviewed.

Cllr Anne Parry