

Lighthorne Parish Council

Report from Cllr Anne Parry – Wellesbourne North & Rural

Local Government Reorganisation Proposals

The next few weeks represent a major focus on the Local Government Reorganisation proposals and the submission by Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwick District Council for a South Warwickshire Unitary. This includes extra-ordinary meetings by Cabinet and Full Council together with briefings for councillors.

Planning Matters

Due to a shortfall in the Five Year Housing Land Supply, there has been a surge in planning applications from developers, with rural villages particularly affected. The planning committee will be busy over the next six months, and SDC plans to recruit more planning officers to manage the increased workload.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The announcement of new settlement options and strategic growth areas in the SWLP is postponed to Spring 2026, due to the time needed to review public consultation responses. This delay makes meeting the plan's deadline more challenging.

CIL Spend Allocations

It is recommended that LPC apply for CIL funds in 2026 in respect of the village hall refurbishment and extension plans.

SDC Community Grant Scheme

A £350,000 Community Grant Scheme has been launched to improve district community infrastructure. Developed with local partners, it funds capital projects that enhance accessibility, resilience, and diversity in community spaces. Marking the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ Days, the programme aims to create living memorials and promote unity, remembrance, and cohesion.

Key features of the scheme:

- **Funding allocation:** £50,000 for small grants (£5,000 – £20,000) and £300,000 for large grants (£20,001 – £100,000).

- **Eligible applicants:** Town and Parish Councils, registered charities, PTAs, community interest companies (CICs), and similar non-profit entities.
- **Project types:** Structural repairs, accessibility improvements, facility upgrades, outdoor space enhancements, and new community asset creation.

Eligible projects may include:

- External structural repairs to community buildings.
- Refurbishment or installation of kitchen and bathroom facilities.
- Building extensions to improve internal space.
- Accessibility improvements such as wheelchair access, handrails, and raised flower beds.
- Enhancements to play areas, recreation grounds, allotments, orchards, and leisure facilities.
- Creation of new community assets.

For more information, including eligibility criteria and application guidance, please visit the [Community Grant Scheme 2025 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) or contact the Communities and Social Inclusion Team on socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Application timeline:

- Launch: Late October to 11 November 2025
- Briefing sessions: Mid-November 2025
- Application deadlines: 31 January 2026 (small grants), 27 February 2026 (large grants)
- Awards announced: May to June 2026, aligned with Armed Forces Day
- Project delivery: April 2026 to March 2027