

Report from Cllr Anne Parry – Wellesbourne North & Rural – January 2026

Firstly, may I extend a very Happy New Year to you all, in spite of the challenges that lie ahead in 2026.

Obviously in view of the Christmas/New Year break there is not a huge amount to report on, as there have been few meetings over the last four weeks.

But, starting on a positive note, I am pleased to report that the motion I seconded at Full Council in December - to allocate £250,000 from this year's SDC budget to help parish councils update their Neighbourhood Plans - was approved. Hopefully this will be included in SDC's budget next month as preparing and updating NPD's will be even more crucial in view of the government's planning reforms.

However, I wish to raise my concerns regarding the continuing delays over the progress of the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP), which is not being developed at the pace with which it started back in 2022. In terms of timings the proposed plan has to be submitted to the planning inspectorate by the end of this year and having lost a chunk of contingency time over various consultations, the outlook is not encouraging.

Whilst I am in support of the principle of a SWLP, I do have serious concerns regarding the proposed developments and new settlements which are being exacerbated by the lack of a Five-Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) and also by the lack of any sense of urgency by SDC, WDC and the respective administrations.

It would appear to me that Wellesbourne is facing the potential of 3900 new homes in the proposed planned period, which I have argued against as it would be catastrophic for the village to lose its status and become a large town. The impact on neighbouring villages such as Lighthorne and rural communities will also be horrendous. The inclusion of Bearley Wilmcote as a potential new settlement would also totally urbanise the area north of Stratford, destroying the historical nature of the area and put even more pressures on our roads, education and health provision this side of the M40.

The villages around Wellesbourne are already facing the impact of potentially increased traffic movements on the A429 if the Barford Quarry gets approved.

Cllr Anne Parry, Ward Member for Wellesbourne North and Rural