

Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting – March 2026 - Cllr Anne Parry

Ward Member for Wellesbourne North and Rural

Full Council Meeting

SDC's Council Tax for 2026/27 was approved at 2.99%, Warwickshire County Council's at 4.44%, Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner at 4.94% and Lighthorne Parish Council at 8.9% increase. The green waste bin collection has been increased to £50 which went against the Conservative group's proposal to reduce this to £40 per bin.

However, the group welcomed its proposal to repurpose the £1.6m River Avon Hydro project to providing solar panels on the car park at Stratford Leisure Centre instead with EV charging for residents and visitors, which was subsequently adopted by the LibDem administration and included in the 2026/27 budget, together with the funding for parish and town councils to review their neighbourhood development plans.

The group continued to raise its concerns in respect of Warwickshire County Council's proposal by Reform UK to make young children walk eight miles to school along unsafe, unlit roads, although the Secretary of State has now subsequently advised this would not be permissible, which is welcome news.

SDC Planning and SWLP

The lack of a five-year housing land supply continues to be a major concern together with the delays concerning the development of the South Warwickshire Local Plan, which has to be submitted by the end of the year.

Whilst the appointment of a highly experienced planning officer on an interim basis to focus attentions on the 5YHLS and with the Head of Development now given SWLP policy development as a priority is welcome, this is a better late than never strategy as the writing was on the wall when the government reviewed the NPPF in December 2024.

Health Screening Events

SDC is launching the first of its 2026 health screening events on Saturday 21 March, coinciding with National Screening Day (NSD) during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

The event will take place at Venture House, Avenue Farm Industrial Estate, Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0HR, running from 10am to 2pm.

For the second consecutive year, the District Council has partnered with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) to deliver a series of subsidised health screening opportunities for residents across the District. The programme offers simple but potentially life-saving blood tests for men and women aged 18 and over, enabling early detection and timely medical intervention.

Tests are available at a discounted rate of £14 each, supported by District Council funding, and include:

- PSA (Prostate Screening) for men over 40
- Diabetes screening for men and women aged 18+
- Cholesterol checks for men and women aged 18+

Appointments must be booked in advance at: <https://sdc.mypsatestests.org.uk/> or call 01926 419959 or email info@myhealthtests.org.uk

Cllr Anne Parry

Wellesbourne & North District Councillor (Conservative)