

## **Lighthorne PC - District Councillor Report**

### **Cllr Anne Parry, ward member for Wellesbourne North and Rural**

Firstly apologies for not being able to attend this month's council meeting as I have to attend a briefing on the SWLP options.

### **SDC is Top Recycler in England!**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has the highest household recycling rate in England in 2024-2025 according to government figures. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said the authority had a 63.9% recycling -rate. This reflects residents' commitment to recycling with the introduction of the 123 scheme and the benefits of the Sherbourne Recycling facility where all the district's household recycling is processed.

The 123 scheme and investment in the Sherbourne Recycling facility was initiated by the previous Conservative administration, despite being voted against and objected to by the LibDem councillors at that time. Applications for the green waste bin collection service is open which has been increased to £50 per bin.

### **Planning and SWLP**

The lack of a five-year housing land supply (5YHLS) continues to be a major concern together with the delays concerning the development of the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) which has to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of the year.

Wellesbourne appears to be being targeted by developers and there are 855 new dwellings in the planning pipeline at present, which is a major concern as these will have a major impact on the services that residents from neighbouring villages also access.

Unfortunately, the situation with regard to the 5YHLS has worsened following new figures released at the end of March and SDC can now only demonstrate a 2.21 years deliverable housing supply, having previously been reliant on the appeal derived figure of 2.74 years supply. Consequently, SDC is now using the local housing need figure for the district of 1,112 dwellings per annum for the full five-year period!

I'm therefore trying to do everything I can to stop Wellesbourne becoming a new town and have launched a petition which can be found at [www.nomorehouses.co.uk](http://www.nomorehouses.co.uk) which has now gained over 400 signatures within a week of its launch and will be presented to SDC next month.

### **Stratford Road Closure**

In view of the closures of the Stratford Road, between Alveston and Charlecote until 22 May 2026 the normal Service 15 bus route has been diverted via Loxley and Loxley Road and is unable to serve the villages of Alveston and Tiddington. During this period, the normal Service 15 bus route will be diverted via Loxley and Loxley Road, and will therefore not be able to serve the villages of Alveston and Tiddington.

However, a temporary replacement bus service is in operation to maintain links throughout the duration of the road closure and is free to all passengers and will run for the full duration of the Stratford Road closure.

This is also a reminder that access to Hunscombe Farm Shop is still open and can be accessed from the Wellesbourne direction.

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

Results of the Government's consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is anticipated in July on whether Warwickshire is to form a single or two unitary council. However, it is encouraging to note that the government has recently announced multiple, smaller unitaries in four out of their six 'devolution priority' areas, which could signal a potentially positive move in favour of a two unitary council for South and North Warwickshire.

### **£250k Investment in Stratford's Recreation Ground**

SDC has completed the renovation of the children's play area at the Recreation Ground in Stratford-upon-Avon at a cost of £250,000; whilst this is great news for local residents and visitors, I am disappointed that other villages have been neglected in terms of funding for upgrading their play equipment.

Project highlights at Stratford's Recreation Ground include:

- A dedicated Accessible Sensory Play Area
- A new shaded picnic area with additional seating Improved paddling pool surround with non-slip surfacing
- New play features added within the paddling pool to encourage water play
- Enhanced landscaping throughout, including newly laid grassed areas
- Revamped sandpit with running water reinstated
- Redecorated public toilets with a new boiler installed

### **Full Council Meeting**

The next full council meeting is being held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

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