

Butlers Marston Parish Council

27th March '25

District Councillor Report

No Mow May 2025

In 2025, Stratford-on-Avon District Council will again be participating in No Mow May, an important environmental initiative that aims to help reduce the global decline in pollinating insects.

Over 80% of crop species grown in Europe rely on bees, thrips, wasps, beetles, moths and other insects for reproduction. We rely on a pollinator for every one in three bites of food we eat!

Research has revealed pollinator numbers are declining in the UK, which could have a serious effect on biodiversity, food supply and even human health. One of the main causes of pollinator decline is habitat loss, which the District Council can help prevent by engaging in the No Mow May initiative.

No Mow May encourages landowners to reduce their mowing frequency during one month, which will allow plant species to flower and provide a vital source of pollen and nectar. Longer grass also provides shelter for wildlife, reduces pollution, increases carbon sequestration, and reduces carbon emissions by lowering fuel use.

As part of the District Council's grounds maintenance contract with Krinkels UK Ltd, No Mow May will apply to highway verges on urban roads with a speed limit of 40mph or less. This may mean that some grass verges are not cut for up to eight weeks, however, those verges adjacent to main road junctions and roundabouts will be cut as normal to maintain sight lines and visibility for road users.

South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options consultation - response statistics

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils would like to thank residents, Parish Councils, landowners, businesses, developers and agents for responding to the South Warwickshire Local Plan consultation which ended on the 7 March 2025.

The Councils received a total of 19,367 representations via the South Warwickshire Local Plan online portal from 4,682 respondents during the consultation period.

There are a further 1,402 respondent submissions which need adding to the online portal system, which were received as emails and handwritten responses via the post. The exact number of representations this will create, will be established in a few weeks' time once the information has been inputted.

Accordingly, a grand total of 6,084 respondent submissions were received from the consultation exercise.

In terms of the next steps, once all the information has been logged, the team will be reviewing the responses in detail to help inform the next stage of the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

A consultation summary statement will also be prepared later on in the year which will provide more information.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council supports interim plan for local government reorganisation in Warwickshire

Councillors at Stratford-on-Avon District Council yesterday, Monday 17 March agreed to support the District Council's interim plan for local government reorganisation in Warwickshire.

Members of Full Council approved the following:

That the interim plan be approved.

That the Chief Executive be authorised to make minor changes to the interim plan, in consultation with the Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council, following the consideration of the interim plan by the other Warwickshire District and Borough Councils.

That a fund of £50,000 be made available from Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Inflation Reserve to finance the additional support required to complete the formal November submission to the invitation for Local Government Reorganisation.

Two possible options are being considered, as part of the interim plan:

A single unitary council for Warwickshire

Two unitary Councils (one for North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby Boroughs; another for Warwick and Stratford Districts).

In requesting proposals, government has set out some clear criteria for reform. Local councils have been asked that:

Proposals should seek to achieve for the whole of the area concerned the establishment of a single tier of local government.

Unitary local government must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks (population of 500,000 or more).

Unitary structures must prioritise the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to citizens.

Proposals should show how councils in the area have sought to work together in coming to a view that meets local needs and is informed by local views.

New unitary structures must support devolution arrangements.

New unitary structures should enable stronger community engagement and deliver genuine opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment.

More work will be done to identify which structure will feature in the proposal submitted by 28 November 2025.

Stratford-on-Avon District honoured for work helping Ukrainian Medical Charity

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been presented with a certificate of merit from the Order of St Pantalaimon in Ukraine in thanks for the ongoing support given to help Ukrainian Medical Charity with the war in Ukraine.

On Monday 24 February, at the Full Council meeting, Noel Clements was presented with the certificate by Tania Hébert, Deputy Chair of The Order of St Pantalaimon in the UK, and also a Ukrainian-born local GP.

Certificate presentation - Ukrainian Medical Charity

Since September 2022, the District Council offices in Stratford-upon-Avon have been used as a donation point to help Ukrainian Medical Charity (previously known as Medical Aid Ukraine). The donations received are sorted and then sent to hospitals most in need in Ukraine.

Council Tax level for Stratford-on-Avon District

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors have set the district element of the Council Tax at a meeting of the Council on Monday 24 February.

The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £169.12, an increase of £5. This is an increase of 3.1%, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year.

This means that all the services provided by the District Council cost £3.25 a week for a Band D household. This contributes to meeting the cost of providing a wide

range of services including recycling and waste collection, planning, street cleaning, housing, housing benefits, leisure services and children's play areas.

The Council Tax from Stratford-on-Avon District Council for residents for 2025/26 for each of the valuation bands is:

A	£112.75
B	£131.54
C	£150.33
D	£169.12
E	£206.70
F	£244.28
G	£281.87
H	£338.24

Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent for Council Tax, it only receives 7.1% of the Council Tax paid by residents. Warwickshire County Council receives the lion's share of 76.6%, the Police 12.8% and Towns/Parishes 3.5%.

This means the District Council only retains 7.1p of every £1 paid in Council Tax to provide its range of services.

Annual rough sleeper count

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is required by Central Government to carry out an annual rough sleeper count on a specific night during October/November. The most recent count took place on the night/early morning of 6 and 7 November 2024, in conjunction with partner agencies via an early morning street count and an intelligence gathering meeting.

Despite efforts in the District to reduce rough sleeping the number of people reporting sleeping outside increased during 2024, which reflects national trends. Numbers of people rough sleeping have increased since 2022 across all regions of England.

This year's count concluded there were 10 rough sleepers outside on the selected night. From a height of 17 in 2017, this compares with 10 in 2018, 6 in 2019, 4 in 2020, 3 in 2021, 4 in 2022, and 2 in 2023.

Those seen begging, particularly in Stratford-upon-Avon town centre, are unlikely to be homeless, with either their own tenancy, or in emergency accommodation. The

District Council and its partners are working together to encourage those who are begging in the town to take up the available support.

The District Council continues to invest in measures to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping and reduce the length of time people spend on the streets, via its housing strategy, its work with partner agencies including Spring and P3, and the work of its Housing Advice Team carrying out the Council's statutory functions under the homeless legislation.

Garden Waste Renewal Reminder

Green-fingered residents are reminded that they need to renew their subscription to the garden waste collection service.

The annual charge for this year is £48 for each green bin.

As has been the case for the past two years, garden waste permits are renewed annually on 1st April.

Residents who have signed up for reminders will have already received a message to remind them to renew their subscription. Unfortunately, the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) prevents the District Council from writing to every resident who has subscribed to the service.

Permits have been available for renewal since January and can be renewed online at: [Garden Waste Service | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) or by calling the District Council on 01789 260628.

Please be advised that there is up to a 10-day lead in time between purchase and the delivery of the permit. Only green bins with the correct permit on will be emptied; bins not displaying the correct permit will not get emptied.

Items that can go in the green bin include:

grass cuttings,
shrub and hedge cuttings,
plants,
flowers,
leaves and pruning,
bedding from non-meat eating pets and
twigs, branches, small logs (max 10cm diameter).

Subscriptions are open all year and you can subscribe to the service at any time throughout the year. However, the cost remains the same regardless of when you subscribe with no pro-rata rate. New subscriptions are due each year on 1 April.

Cllr Alan Scorer