

From Your District Councillors – July 2024

General Election

The election covered two constituencies in Stratford District. For us here, election registration and polling station organisation was run by Stratford District, while the Election itself was run from Warwick District Council, causing some minor confusion as postal voting letters were labelled Warwick District Council. For our area in the Kenilworth and Southam Constituency the election has resulted in the retention of Sir Jeremy Wright as Conservative MP, while in the Stratford Constituency part of the District there is a new Liberal Democrat MP Manuela Perteghella. Manuela is the first female MP Warwickshire has ever had and as a serving Stratford District Councillor is fully familiar with local issues. We wish both MPs well in serving our communities. Your District Councillors have good personal relationships with both MPs and to that extent we hope we can continue to represent residents fully at all levels.

To an extent, the election has constrained some activity in local government over the last few weeks.

Priors Hall

There is good news in that the District Council awarded a grant of £25000 to the hall for ‘the installation of solar panels and updating of heating systems to reduce user costs and maintain its use as a community hub’. I believe the hall are working on the implementation of the scheme as soon as they can.

Community Safety

There have been a number of concerning incidents in our area in the last 10 days. I have spoken with the Police and predominately the trend appears to be largely targeted on high value vehicle theft. Please report all incidents on 101. However, the Rural Crime Advisors at SDC have issued some more general reminders for residents to protect themselves from crime over the summer months.

Vehicle security

- Lock your car, don't be tempted to unlock your car from a distance, unlock it when you are at your vehicle.
- If you have keyless entry, store your keys in a faraday pouch, this will minimise the risk of thieves gaining the signal, that is constantly emitted from the key, storing it and being able to unlock your car (without having the key).
- Don't leave valuables on show in your car.
- Be aware of who is around you when you are at your vehicle.
- Try to park in places that are well lit with good, all round, visibility of the vehicle.

Caravans

- Caravans are prime targets for thieves. It is not just new caravans that are targeted, those 2 or 3 years old are stolen and older. Most thefts occur from storage compounds/ locations, especially if they are in a rural area, or occasionally from driveways, pitches at sites or dealer's premises.
- Consider use of wheel clamps, trackers, wheel locks, hitch locks and data chip systems – for further information please refer to: [Caravan Advice – Warwickshire Rural Watch](#)

Eating out

- At picnic areas – be aware of where your valuables are, don't leave valuables in bags on a table or on a blanket, unattended.
- If you carry a bag – try to carry the bag in front of you, where possible e.g., cross body bags, if this is not possible consider using small ‘purse bells’ on a zip, this could act as a deterrent and increases the likelihood the attempt will be identified, a small travel padlock can also be helpful.

Out and About

- Avoid use of headphones when walking, particularly when you are walking alone or around an area you may be less familiar with. Removing the ability to hear the world around you might increase the potential to make you a target.

- Consider carrying a personal alarm with you, many alarms will fit on a keyring. Creating a loud, piercing, noise can assist in raising awareness that you need help.

HS2

I have attended three meetings over the last month, none of which offered me much comfort. These were with the Construction Commissioner Sir Mark Worthington, the county ecologist and EKFB. The proposed actions and timing relating to the Stoneton and Wormleighton Roads are of the most concern as they impact the road closures. All I can say is the timing continues to be uncertain.

Armed Forces Day – Saturday 29 June

On Monday 24 June, Stratford-on-Avon District Council raised the flag for Armed Forces Day. Armed Forces Day is an annual event and takes place on the last Saturday each June, falling this year on 29 June. Armed Forces Day gives communities the opportunity to show their support for the men and women of the Armed Forces including currently serving troops, service families, reservists, veterans and cadets.

It also marks the culmination of a week of celebrations, beginning on Monday 24 June, when the public show their support and appreciation for the Armed Forces community. It also includes Reserves Day (26 June), which provides the country with an opportunity to recognise our Reserve Forces. Of course, it was also the 80th anniversary of D Day in June.

The District Council supports Armed Forces personnel all year round through an Armed Forces Community Covenant. The Covenant is a pledge to ensure that those who serve or who have served their country in the armed forces - and their families - should be treated with respect and fairness.

The District Council has also recently been awarded the Bronze Award from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). The ERS encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same. The District Council will now be working towards the Silver Award.

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