

Report from Your District Councillors – October 2026

Priors Hardwick

Whilst discussing a matter elsewhere in the ward, Natalie reminded Highways that the white lines at the junction were due to be re-painted, which has now been chased.

We've been working with representatives of the parish on concerns with Butchers Arms proposals so we're interested to hear more about the new developments happening around this vital asset for the community.

Priors Marston

Congratulations to everyone involved with the playground project!

We were made aware by the Parish Council that there is an area of Keys Lane that is particularly dangerous with silt having gathered in the centre of the road – we have reported this to Streetscene at SDC with a request for it to be cleaned.

Severn Trent in Napton

Small victories...Tankering now being done from pumping station rather than in the middle of New Street, Business Open As Usual signs on the STW truck for the first time in September. Productive meeting with some senior representatives at Severn Trent following the last round of road closures. They have accepted that things have not been going well in Napton and have agreed to improve communication and signage. We will be arranging a village meeting with STW soon.

Planning responses

A few key planning applications we have responded to recently...

Hambridge Road (150 houses) - Bishop's Itchington

Made clear our concerns regarding impact of traffic on the smaller residential streets that currently sit between the main road south and what could be roughly 300 extra cars on this proposed site. These narrow, congested streets contain the school, the playground and the village store. The accessibility and safety of these vital amenities could all be seriously affected by the failure to consider the impact on these roads.

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Home farm (200 houses) - Southam

Attended planning committee to express our concern about the impact on the bypass of the proposed 200 houses on the patch next to Aldi - specifically what that could mean for journey times of residents of Southam and the surrounding villages who rely on it. Also questioned the value of debating mitigations for 200 houses when we all know it is part of a much larger proposal in the local plan which will need far more significant changes to the roads.

Brickworks (100 houses) - Napton

Raised concerns with developer requirement for new residents to keep their windows shut in order to keep out noise from nearby businesses. Apart from a sub standard quality of life this proposal offers, it also poses risks related to increased temperatures given the hotter summers we are having. Also raised lack of clarity around visual impact of development.

Changes to planning

From 31 October 2026, the rules regarding the Scheme of Delegation will be changing along with the new NPPF. This means that there will be a single national rulebook. The main changes to the Scheme of Delegation are as follows:

- **Schedule 1:** Functions that must always be decided by planning officers rather than committees. These include householder developments, minor commercial projects, minor residential builds (up to 9 dwellings on sites under 0.5 hectares), prior approvals, discharge of conditions, and certificates of lawfulness.
- **Schedule 2 :** To be decided by planning officers unless a nominated planning officer and nominated committee member agree it meets a 'Gateway Test' when it will go to committee. This schedule covers major developments, very large outline permissions (500+ dwellings or 50,000+ sqm), listed building consents, and tree preservation orders.
- **Abolition of Call-Ins:** Ward councillor "call-in" powers and automatic referral triggers are removed nationwide.

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- **Planning Committee Size Caps:** Planning committees and sub-committees are capped at a maximum of 13 members, with local authorities encouraged to use even smaller panels.

The changes to the NPPF are extensive and available online. For those of you who are particularly keen, we do have a number of articles that we are more than happy to send to you for bedtime reading, so please feel free to email us.

Community/Warm Hubs Grant Scheme

SDC has opened a community/warm hubs grant scheme following closure of Warwickshire Rural Community Council who facilitated funding to hubs through Cadent. The scheme provides small grants of £250–£1,000 to support community/warm hub activity across the district.

The total funding available is £25,000, with awards made on a rolling basis until the funds are exhausted or 31 March 2027, whichever is earlier.

Details of the scheme are available on SDC's website: [Community/Warm Hub Grant Support Scheme 2026 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Online application is preferred but hard copies of the application form are available for any groups without digital access. Application queries can be directed to socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk. For those of you who prefer the telephone, John Wilde (01789 260933) and Emma Gurdag (01789 260937) are also contacts for discussion of applications.

Cost of Living

As Winter draws in, we are aware that residents face increased pressure from the cost of living, we want to bring resident's attention to the free advice, information and assistance from the District Council and other partners. This can be accessed by completing and submitting a form, via the Stratford-on-Avon District Council website, which can be found in the online version here: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/benefits-support/cost-of-living->

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[support.cfm](#). Or if you type 'Cost of Living' into the search box on SDC's website, the relevant page should come up.

Community Safety

Southam SNT

At the time of writing we are due to meet with Southam SNT for our regular catch up. There seem to be increasing reports of males wearing balaclavas and engaging in ASB, particularly in Southam, so will raise that with them. Speeding continues to be a persistent problem and we discuss this regularly with them.

How Can the Rural Crime Advisors Help You?

Crime Prevention Visits

If you have a farm or rural business and have been a victim of crime or are concerned that you may become a victim of crime, please fill out the enquiry form. The RCAs can complete a crime prevention visit at your property and discuss any improvements that can be made to enhance your security.

Community Crime Prevention Toolbox events

If your community feels it could benefit from wider crime prevention, the Rural Crime Advisors can run a 'Community Crime Prevention Toolbox' event in your village. We believe that Avon Dassett and Farnborough have benefited from these events. The toolboxes contain crime prevention equipment such as: window alarms, shed alarms, can hides, personal alarms, property marking kits, switch timers, faraday pouches, TV simulators, crime prevention information leaflets, Warwickshire connected z cards / Safe in Warwickshire cards.

The principle of a 'community crime prevention toolbox event' is for the RCA's to attend with the box, meet the community and following some informal discussions on crime prevention, leave the box with a custodian for the villagers to use as they think best.

Toolbox events are run as a 'drop in' style, which work best alongside an existing event e.g.: village hall coffee morning or similar.

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If you are interested in being a custodian of the box and have an event that would benefit from a 'toolkit event' please fill out the online enquiry form on SDC's website.

As always, please get in touch with either of us if we may be of assistance.

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