

## Report from Your District Councillors for Parish Council – April 2026

### Retirement of Nigel Rock

As you may have already heard, Nigel has retired from being a District Councillor. The rules are such that when a District Councillor resigns they cease to be a Councillor with immediate effect. Therefore, I am presently the sole District Councillor for the whole ward. I attach a statement from Nigel for residents. I must publicly and personally say how much I have appreciated Nigel's support and friendship over the past three and a bit years and how fortunate we all have been as residents to have had him represent us.

There will therefore be a by-election for Nigel's vacated seat (not mine!) on Thursday 7 May. At the time of writing, nominations for this by-election will close at 4pm on Thursday 9 April. More information will be available on SDC's website in due course.

### Budget 2026/7

#### 1. Council Tax

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors have set the district element of the Council Tax at a meeting of the Council on Monday 23 February.

The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £174.18, an increase of 2.99%, 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 £3.35 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 2026/27 for each of the valuation bands is:

A	£116.12
B	£135.47
C	£154.83

## **Report from Your District Councillors for Parish Council – April 2026**

D	£174.18
E	£212.89
F	£251.59
G	£290.30
H	£348.36

Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent for Council Tax, **it only receives 7.0% of the Council Tax paid by residents**. Warwickshire County Council receives the lion's share of 76.7%, the Police 12.8% and Towns/Parishes 3.5%.

**This means the District Council only retains 7.0p of every £1 paid in Council Tax to provide its range of services.**

**Anyone who thinks they could be struggling to pay their Council Tax is encouraged to contact the District Council as soon as possible by calling 01789 260990 or email [revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk), where the team will be able to advise what help is available.**

### **2. Budget items of particular interest to residents in the ward**

There are a number of items in this year's budget which I think will be of particular interest to residents in this ward, which include:

- **Neighbourhood Development Plans** - £100,000 (over 3 years) Supports parish councils following this funding being cut by central government.
- **Health Screening Events** – SDC is supporting Health Screening Events with the Graham Fulford Trust for the second year in a row with events across the District. More information is below.
- **Housing to Rent** - £1,000,000 (one-off) To secure additional social housing units and reduce reliance on costly temporary accommodation. This will include residents fleeing domestic violence.
- **Climate Change Fund** - £500,000 (one-off) Fifth consecutive year of funding for local climate initiatives.

## **Report from Your District Councillors for Parish Council – April 2026**

- **Rural Crime Advisors** – We continue to fund the Rural Crime Advisors whom we hope many residents across the ward have already met, and if not met, heard about. Not only do the Advisors give crime prevention advice and support to residents, they are also able to loan crime prevention equipment so that residents can “try before they buy” and the Advisors also hold crime prevention toolbox events. Enquiries can be made of the Rural Crime Advisors via SDC’s website here: [Rural Crime Advisor Enquiry | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)
- **Community Safety Deputy Manager** – two year fixed term. This will introduce additional capacity into the Community Safety Team working with partners, such as the Police. As Cabinet member, Natalie is very proud to let you know that the Community Safety Team were runners up for a national award for dealing with ASB.
- **SA Volunteer Driver Scheme** - £12,000 (for 3 years) Supports transport for older and mobility-impaired residents. Transport can be requested by residents here: [Community Transport – Vasa](#). You will need to register first by calling 01789 262889 and selecting option 1 or by following the link on the webpage. Once you have registered, you can book online or call the above number and also select option 1.
- **Veterans Healthcare and Development Officer** - £8,000 (for 2 years) Contribution to veterans support services.
- **Cost of Living Crisis Mitigation Fund** - £250,000 (one-off) Adds to projected £250,000 rollover to create a £500,000 hardship support fund. Further information is available on our website: [Cost of Living Support | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

### **Consultations still open**

#### **Health Screening Events – Prostate Cancer Awareness Month**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council launched 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.

Events closer to residents in our area will be taking place as follows:

## **Report from Your District Councillors for Parish Council – April 2026**

- Saturday 18th April Lighthorne Heath Village Hall, Upper Lighthorne, Valiant Close, CV33 9UF
- Saturday 9th May Graham Adams Centre, Saint James Road, Southam, CV47 0LY
- Saturday 30th May Wellesbourne Village Hall, The School House, School Road, Wellesbourne, CV35 9NH

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.mypsatests.org.uk/> or call 01926 419959 or email [info@myhealthtests.org.uk](mailto:info@myhealthtests.org.uk)

The 2025 screening programme demonstrated the significant value of proactive, community-based health checks. Across seven events, 1,137 tests were completed:

- 663 men underwent PSA testing, with 24% referred to their GP for further investigation
- 11% of all participants recorded blood sugar levels outside the normal range
- 80% had cholesterol readings requiring GP follow-up

These outcomes underline the vital role screening plays in enabling early diagnosis, empowering residents to seek timely medical advice, and improving long-term health **outcomes.**

**A full list of all 2026 health screening events is available at: [PSA Health Screening Events | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)**

### **Operation Recall – Livestock worrying**

This is the time of year when livestock worrying becomes a particular concern as pregnant ewes and lambs are particularly vulnerable. Please could we remind all dog owners to keep their dog on a lead when livestock is present and please pick up after your dog. If you have

## **Report from Your District Councillors for Parish Council – April 2026**

livestock and would like a 'Dog on Lead' sign, please

email: [ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk](mailto:ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk)

**And finally!**

**SDC refreshed website**

No doubt you will all be thrilled to learn that SDC has refreshed its website 😊 Please do have a look at it and let us know what you think.

**Cllr Natalie Gist**

[natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk)