



Wootton Wawen Ward District & Arden Division County Cllr. Ian Shenton

Proud to represent Bearley, Claverdon, Earlswood, Henley in Arden, Langley, Mappleborough Green, Preston Bagot, Tanworth in Arden, Ullenhall, Wolverton, Wootton Wawen

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District Councillors report as of 18th March 2024

Planning

The Old Vicarage 21/01925/Ful – Condition 15/ DISCN/00195/23 - No Further update at present

Ex. Countrywide Stores Site 21/00973/OUT - No Further update at present. On the 16/11/2023 the planner confirmed that she has heard nothing from the applicant since August and as a result the pre commencement conditions have not yet been agreed.

Bearley Scrap Yard - No Further update at present. Main objection from Highways on safety grounds.

Council Tax

The overall increase in Council tax will be around 4.9% (WCC 4.99%, SDC 2.99%, PCC 4.7%, Bearley 9.7%) and will mean a resident on a band D in Bearley will see an increase in council tax due from £2170.18 to £2,275.91 an increase of £105.73.

	2023/2024	2024/2024	Inc £	Inc %
Band D	2170.18	2275.91	105.73	4.9%

Speed monitoring

I have been in conversation with the Police & Crime Commissioners office over the last two weeks about automated Community Speed watch and whilst they are keen not to undermine the CSW groups they will nevertheless consult with the other forces that have been trialling these cameras and see what their feedback is. We will then get together to discuss the findings.

Fire stations – The public consultation is now closed. It included Henley Fire Station which the proposals indicate would become a "surge" station i.e., the tender would only be used if other stations cannot respond to an emergency.

Flooding of homes – potential grants available - A reminder - You will be aware that Warwickshire is one of eight local authorities in the country which received notification from government of potential financial support for residents, business owners and farmers that have been affected by flooding. Can I please ask that if you are aware of any residents in your Parish that have been affected by the flooding that you encourage them to contact our Flood Risk Management Team so that they can be confirmed, and potential funding can be released. They can do this really simply through the Council's website at: [Flood Risk Management – Warwickshire County Council](#) Alternatively email the team with the details and we will get someone to drop a leaflet off to them

Stratford is fifth-best in England for recycling –

Residents in Stratford-on-Avon District are some of the best recyclers in England, according to figures just released. Stratford District Council was ranked fifth in the top ten English councils for reuse, recycling and composting last year. It achieved a recycling rate of 60.0% in 2022/23. This compared with a 61.6% rate by the leading local authority, South Oxfordshire District Council. As you know the current waste scheme was restructured by myself and the conservative party over the last 5 years and this result reflects what I said 4 years ago that we will be the best recycling authority. Current performance exceeds the above, so I confidently expect us to be crowned the best Local authority for recycling in 2023/2024

Budget – There is no doubt that finances remain very tight, but the good news is that both Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council are stable and have enough reserves for the next 5 years, but savings must be made, which will be no small task. Officers are confident that they can be achieved and, at this point in time, there are no plans to withdraw or reduce services in any area, only a desire to get better value for money.

The table below illustrates that the district council tax is forecast to increase by the maximum currently allowed for the next 5 years.



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Description	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Net Expenditure	20,920	18,636	19,376	19,983	19,656
Funded from Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	(2,600)
Contribution to/(from) Reserve	(1,252)	1,107	(3,643)	(3,679)	(157)
Net Budget Requirement	19,668	19,743	15,733	16,304	16,899
<i>Less:</i>					
Business Rate Retention	4,800	4,800	2,710	2,779	2,849
Rural Services Delivery Grant	351	351	351	351	351
Services Grant	16	0	0	0	0
New Homes Bonus	2,644	0	0	0	0
3% Funding Guarantee /Other	1,642	4,000	1,600	1,600	1,600
Collection Fund Adjustments	88	0	0	0	0
Balance Funded from Council Tax	10,127	10,592	11,072	11,574	12,099
SDC Council Tax £5 increase 2023/24 £5 thereafter	164.12	169.12	174.18	179.38	184.75

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 2.8 Council Tax 2.8.1 The proposals in relation to Council Tax include an increase in 2024/25 of £5.00, or 3.1% for a Band D property, to £164.12. Table above identifies the level of the proposed Council Tax for the period 2024/25 to 2028/29.

The following are the growth areas in the revenue budget i.e., where extra expenditure has been approved.

Schedule of Proposed Growth and use of Earmarked Reserves	2024/25 Base Budget £'000	2025/26 Base Budget £'000	2026/27 Base Budget £'000	2027/28 Base Budget £'000	2028/29 Base Budget £'000
Use of Earmarked Reserves					
Business Rates Equalisation Reserve	0	0	0	0	(2,600)
Total Use of Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	(2,600)
Chief Executive					
Climate Change	500	0	0	0	0
Procurement Officer	27	27	27	27	27
Stratford on Avon District Council Anniversary	10	0	0	0	0
Deputy Chief Executive					
Extend Transformation Team	131	0	0	0	0
Council Plan & Change Programme	2,000	0	0	0	0
Head of Development					
Policy Infrastructure Planner	53	53	53	53	53
Head of Environmental & Neighbourhood Services					
HVO for Refuse Vehicles	250	250	250	0	0
Leisure Community Instructor	25	25	25	25	25
Head of Housing, Revenues & Customer Services					
Civica on Demand	75	0	0	0	0
Communities and Social Inclusion Manager	10	10	10	10	10
Customer Access Terminals (CATs) Pilot	6	6	6	6	6
Fred Winter Centre - contribution to running costs	15	0	0	0	0
Refurbishment and fit-out of 1 Evesham Place	500	0	0	0	0
Revenues Advisor	34	34	34	34	34
South Warwickshire Place Partnership Board	20	20	0	0	0
UBUS Community Transport Service	85	50	50	50	50
Head of Law and Governance					
Community Safety Prevent Post	5	5	0	0	0
Information Governance Support Officer and Deputy Data Protection Officer	24	24	24	24	24
Legal Property & Commercial Team	54	54	54	54	54
Rural Crime Co-ordinators x 2 0.5fte	28	28	0	0	0
Total Proposed Growth to Budget	3,852	586	533	277	(2,323)

Anyone struggling to pay their council tax is advised to contact their local District or Borough Council who can advise whether they are eligible for a discount or exemption. **Further advice about local and national support available for people struggling to manage increased household costs can be found at www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk**

Rights of Way survey – The county Council are keen to get you views on the footpaths and rights of way around us whether you walk them or not. If you do walk them, we want to know what is good, what could be improved and if you don't, why not? Further details can be found by dropping the following into your browser.

<https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

This consultation will close on Sunday 7 April 2024.

As always feel free to contact me at any time to discuss any issues that you feel I can help with, and I will do my absolute best to help.