

District Councillor Annual Report

First, may I thank everyone who supported me by voting in my favour at the District Council Election in May 2023. It has been an interesting first year as District Councillor for me. The major work has been Planning Applications and Enforcement as well as some case work around the Ward.

Before the last May elections the Ward boundaries were revised by the Boundary Commission. This resulted in changes to both the Ward Boundaries as well as Constituency. The Vale of the Red Horse ward sadly replaced with Tysoe Ward, and from this General Election Tysoe Ward is now split between the two neighbouring constituencies of Kenilworth & Southam and Stratford on Avon. Parishes within the Ward changed and are now allocated to Parliamentary Constituencies as follows:

Tysoe Ward Parishes Councils by Parliamentary Constituency	
Kenilworth & Southam	Stratford on Avon
*Compton Wynyates	Halford
Oxhill	*Honington
Ratley & Upton	*Idlicote
Radway	Pillerton Hersey
Tysoe	Pillerton Priors
*Whatcote	*Parish Meetings

Working in my Ward it became clear to me that many do not know what statutory duties the different levels of Authorities; Parish, District, and County councils, have, and I thought that it might be helpful to set them out here.

Statutory Duties are those which we are required by law to carry out.

County councils	District, borough and city councils	Parish, community and town councils
Education	Refuse collection	Allotments
Transport	Recycling	Public clocks
Planning	Council Tax collections	Bus shelters
Fire and public safety [Fire & police]	Housing	Community centres
Social care	Planning applications	Play areas and play equipment
Libraries	Car Parking	Grants to help local organisations
Waste management	Public Lavatories	Consultation on neighbourhood planning

It is also worth noting that Parish Councils have the authority to issue fixed penalty fines such as;

Littering, graffiti, fly posting, and dog offences.

There is no statutory responsibility on any level of Council for local Health services which is solely the responsibility of National Governments (Wales, Scotland, and England), but

events around Shipston on Stour's Ellen Badger Hospital and the Lighthorne new settlement need for a medical centre that meet the need of the communities have shown that continuous pressure from all levels of Council will change minds of NHS management and secure a service that will support communities. Local democracy does exist, but it has to be tenacious!

For me, Planning is the main source of work-load along with individual case-work. As I write the Anaerobic Digester [AD] proposal in Tysoe Parish is not yet 'determined' but I remain hopeful for a satisfactory outcome in the near future. Similarly the AD application the Travelling Showman's' site application was a proposal in just the wrong location.

Much of the work carried out by the new administration in the first six months of the year from May 2023 was to implement the work already agreed by the previous Council but with the addition of increasing Green Bin charges to fund the reinstatement of free parking in Stratford Town for drivers of pension age.

In terms of my work within SDC, I sit on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and part of the Task & Finish Group for Housing Associations and the Protection of Public Houses as Assets of Community Value [Co-Char]. I am also a member of the Cash Management Group and a Member of the Audit & Standards Committee. I substitute as required on the Planning Committee.

The next month will be overshadowed by the upcoming General Election. Work continues during this period of 'purdah' but political decisions are limited. The work of the Council however continues through the Officers.