

# Ward member Report to Parish Councils in Tysoe Ward.

December 2025

***First, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Peaceful, Prosperous, and Happy New Year.***

This year has been one of working towards forthcoming change. Change to local government authority and responsibilities and change to the planning rules and vulnerability caused by SDC being currently unable to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply and change in the way local government is organised is scheduled for April 2028.

As a member of the opposition, we have been working to support the administration where we have agreed, proposed policies to encourage an increase in retail footfall, and have introduced budget proposals to increase the number of EV Charge points, install PV canopies in carparks, and reduce the cost of Green Bins and carparking costs for SDC Council Tax Payers.

I also introduced a motion supported by Cllr. Anne Parry to provide £250,000 in the budget for 2026/27 for Parish Councils to renew or establish a Neighbourhood Development Plan which received unanimous support at the Full Council Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. NDP's have a lifetime and only have weight in determining planning Applications if they have been "made" five years or less prior to the date of the planning application. Many of the around 30 made NDP's in the District are older than that. This fund replaces the financial support that was cancelled this autumn by the current government at the same time as increasing the quota of housing to be carried by the District.

My goal, and that of my colleagues is to make a difference in our Wards for all residents and to act as advocates on their behalf. Change is coming in the form of Local Government reform that will in 2028 create a single tier of Local Government. This will consolidate all the responsibilities of Local Government into a single Authority and will mean that your local Councillors will be more able to influence the authority on your behalf whilst maintaining your access to your representatives.

Until a Five-Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) is re-established or the South Warwickshire Local Plan made, there are going to be difficult decisions to make in the coming year. Between the beginning of 2025 and the end of 2050, South Warwickshire is required by central government to build some 30,000 houses in the combined SDC & WDC geography. This will be a challenge because of economic factors, commercial imperatives, and constraints on suitable sites. Whilst the 5YHLS is not in place, the planning balance is tilted towards granting developments. This does not mean that Developers have carte blanche to do what they want. Protection is still there in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in up-to-date (less than five years old) local NDP's and less so in Parish Plans, and Local Housing Needs Surveys. I hope the NDP fund that I referred to above will assist with ensuring these plans are updated or established.

Consequently, there is much still to be done in the next remaining months to local elections in May 2027 when a 'shadow' Unitary Authority will be created that will take control when the UA is vested in April 2028.

Finally, I hope that everyone has a great holiday period with friends and family. I will be doing just that but of course remain available throughout as always.