**District Councillor Report October 2023**

Future provision of Shopmobility Stratford-on-Avon District Council’s Cabinet has agreed to transfer the service to Active Mobility to safeguard future provision.

SDC’s Cabinet backed an existing plan to support the long-term growth of the University of Warwick Innovation Campus Stratford upon Avon at Wellesbourne.

The Lench Meadows is to become Local Nature Reserve. Stratford-on-Avon District Council’s Cabinet has agreed to support the designation of Lench Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve and be managed for wildlife for the long-term future.

The developing South Warwickshire Plan is in consultation phase. My serious concern is that it will take precedence ove0r all NDP’s. This would be unacceptable. In addition, it is necessary to review NDP’s every 5 years. At a minimum that would require an up-dated Housing Needs Survey to revalidate the conclusions of a Made Plan.

At the Full Council Meeting on Monday a report on the state of the District it was reported that;

1. 15.6% of households in the District were in Fuel Poverty compared with 15.1% in Warwickshire, and 13.1% in England.
2. According to the 2021 Census, 573 households are without central heating.

Housing Associations are required to bring their dwellings up to a minimum standard and this is a current and on-going process. Private and Private Rented accommodation have not had the benefit of support to bring stock up to the same standard. I have separately circulated information to Parish Councils explaining the HUG2 initiative which targets the Private sector. It is not a simple process to determine eligibility, but the main criteria are:

* Properties must NOT have gas (mains) central heating.
* Property must have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D, E, F or G.
* Household must have a combined annual income under £31,000 (gross).
* If rented from a private landlord, then the Landlord is required to contribute.

The following Conservative Motions were agreed:

1. Capitalise on Military Talent -Supported
2. To support the provision of public access Defibrillators in Parishes.
3. As part of the South Warwickshire Local Plan consideration of Solar Farms and Renewable Energy Generation changes to Policy.
4. The protection of Public Houses to be considered and recommendations made for future policy.
5. The Portfolio Holder will continue to write to the South Warwickshire University Integrated Care Board and to consult with WCC to request referral to the Secretary of State.
6. A Registration Fee for Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding to be introduced.

The Administration also resolved to write to Westminster to demand Proportional Representation at General Elections. It was pointed out that had PR been applied to this year’s May District Council Elections the results would have been substantially different.

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|  |  | Proportional Representation | First Past the Post | Δ |
| **Party** | Total Votes Cast | % Vote | Number of Seats |
| Conservative | 15,387 | 36.5% | 15 | 12 | 3 |
| Lib Dem | 17,817 | 42.2% | 17 | 25 | -8 |
| Labour | 3,878 | 9.2% | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Green | 4,528 | 10.7% | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Independent & UK Reform | 598 | 1.4% | 1 | 1 | 0 |
|   | 42,208 | 100.0% | 41 | 41 |   |