

## **Q3 2024 District Councillor Report**

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### **UBUS:**

From 1 September, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council's joint UBUS service will be replaced by a new Demand Responsive Transport Service (DRT) run by Warwickshire County Council (WCC).

Further funding of £70k was agreed by Stratford District Council to ensure the service remains accessible to as many residents across the District as possible.

This funding will be sufficient for WCC to procure an additional vehicle and also provide a late afternoon and evening service between 4.30pm and 7pm across the whole District, which had originally been proposed to be withdrawn.

It is important that this service is well advertised to residents who cannot access public transport because of mobility issues or live in an area with limited or no public transport.

### **Local Councils Charter:**

SDC has signed up to the revised Warwickshire Local Councils Charter. The last revision was in 2015 so it has been updated and relaunched. It is also supporting WALC with their Civility and Respect pledge.

### **Home Energy Grants:**

Please let residents who do not use gas to heat their home and have a household income of under £36,000 a year, regardless of any savings, and have an EPC for their home of D, E, F or G that they can apply for a Home Energy Grant. Please refer them to Act on Energy for advice ([www.actonenergy.org.uk](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk) or 0800 988 2881).

### **New SDC newsletter:**

The District Council have a new online newsletter 'The Online View' that residents can sign up to for information about the Council. They can sign up on the website under the News section.

### **Antisocial Behaviour and Violent Crime Prevention training:**

All councillors have been given a series of training sessions on the work being undertaken to address antisocial behaviour and violent crime prevention by the police, WCC and the SDC Community Safety team.

Earlier this year SDC invested in extra CCTV, CCTV upgrades and rural crime prevention.

### **LGA Councillors Forum:**

Council Leader Susan Juned attended the LGA Councillors Forum online to hear from the Deputy Prime Minister and the new Minister about their proposals that will affect or involve local government. Subjects covered include finance, affordable housing and planning changes.

**Skills Escalator Funding:**

Funding is available to small and medium sized businesses or self-employed and based in Warwickshire to apply for up to £750 training support per person to upskill their employees. Please contact Email: [skillshub@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:skillshub@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**New MP:**

A protocol is being explored and agreed for regular Leader/MP and regular Chief Executive/MP meetings with Manuela Perteghella MP. Previously there was very little or no contact between the local MP and SDC, so this is welcomed. Manuela is also keen to engage with local PCs to ensure local issues can be addressed and raised at parliamentary level if needed. If you have any particular issue that you'd like Manuela's support with, then please let me know and I arrange a meeting.