

Report from Your District Councillor for Parish Council – April 2026

Since I was unable to attend the March meeting, this report covers the last two months.

Budget 2026/7

1. Council Tax

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors set the district element of the Council Tax at a meeting of the Council on Monday 23 February. Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent for Council Tax, **it only receives 7% of the Council Tax paid by residents.** Warwickshire County Council receives the lion's share of 77%, the Police 13% and Towns/Parishes 3.5%.

The District Council contribution residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £174.18 per year, an increase of 2.99%, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year.

This means that all the services provided by the District Council cost £3.35 a week for a Band D household. This contributes to meeting the cost of providing a wide range of services including recycling and waste collection, planning, street cleaning, housing, housing benefits, leisure services and children's play areas.

The Council Tax from Stratford-on-Avon District Council for residents for 2026/27 for each of the valuation bands is:

A	£116.12
B	£135.47
C	£154.83
D	£174.18
E	£212.89
F	£251.59
G	£290.30
H	£348.36

Report from Your District Councillor for Parish Council – April 2026

The District Council only retains 7p of every £1 paid in Council Tax to provide its range of services.

Anyone who thinks they could be struggling to pay their Council Tax is encouraged to contact the District Council as soon as possible by calling 01789 260990 or email revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk, where the team will be able to advise what help is available.

2. Budget items of particular interest to residents in our ward

There are a number of items in this year's budget which I think will be of particular interest to residents in our ward, which include:

- **Neighbourhood Development Plans** - £100,000 (over 3 years) Supports parish councils following this funding being cut by central government.
- **Health Screening Events** – SDC is supporting Health Screening Events with the Graham Fulford Trust for the second year in a row with events across the District. More information is below.
- **Housing to Rent** - £1,000,000 (one-off) To secure additional social housing units and reduce reliance on costly temporary accommodation. This will include residents fleeing domestic violence.
- **Climate Change Fund** - £500,000 (one-off) Fifth consecutive year of funding for local climate initiatives.
- **Rural Crime Advisors** – SDC continues to fund the Rural Crime Advisors whom we hope many residents across the ward have already met, and if not met, heard about. Not only do the Advisors give crime prevention advice and support to residents, they are also able to loan crime prevention equipment so that residents can “try before they buy” and the Advisors also hold crime prevention toolbox events. Enquiries can be made of the Rural Crime Advisors via SDC's website here: [Rural Crime Advisor Enquiry | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)
- **Community Safety Deputy Manager** – two year fixed term. This will introduce additional capacity into the Community Safety Team working with partners, such as the

Report from Your District Councillor for Parish Council – April 2026

Police. SDC's Community Safety Team were runners up for a national award for dealing with Anti-social Behaviour.

- **Volunteer Driver Scheme** - £12,000 (for 3 years) Supports transport for older and mobility-impaired residents. Transport can be requested by residents here: [Community Transport – Vasa](#). You will need to register first by calling 01789 262889 and selecting option 1 or by following the link on the webpage. Once you have registered, you can book online or call the above number and also select option 1.
- **Veterans Healthcare and Development Officer** - £8,000 (for 2 years) Contribution to veterans support services.
- **Cost of Living Crisis Mitigation Fund** - £250,000 (one-off) Adds to projected £250,000 rollover to create a £500,000 hardship support fund. Further information is available on our website: [Cost of Living Support | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Health Screening Events – Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Stratford-on-Avon District Council launched the first of its 2026 health screening events on Saturday 21 March, coinciding with National Screening Day (NSD) during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

Events closer to residents in our area will be taking place as follows:

- Saturday 20th June, Shipston Scout Hut, New Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV364EW
- Saturday 17th Oct. Stratford Leisure Centre, Bridgeway, Stratford, CV37 7YX

Tests are available at a discounted rate of £14 each, supported by District Council funding, and include:

- PSA (Prostate Screening) for men over 40
- Diabetes screening for men and women aged 18+
- Cholesterol checks for men and women aged 18+

Appointments must be booked in advance at: <https://sdc.mypsatestests.org.uk/> or call 01926 419959 or email info@myhealthtests.org.uk

Report from Your District Councillor for Parish Council – April 2026

The 2025 screening programme demonstrated the significant value of proactive, community-based health checks. Across seven events, 1,137 tests were completed:

- 663 men underwent PSA testing, with 24% referred to their GP for further investigation
- 11% of all participants recorded blood sugar levels outside the normal range
- 80% had cholesterol readings requiring GP follow-up

These outcomes underline the vital role screening plays in enabling early diagnosis, empowering residents to seek timely medical advice, and improving long-term health **outcomes**.

A full list of all 2026 health screening events is available at: [PSA Health Screening Events | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Operation Recall – Livestock worrying

This is the time of year when livestock worrying becomes a particular concern as pregnant ewes and lambs are particularly vulnerable. Please could we remind all dog owners to keep their dog on a lead when livestock is present and please pick up after your dog. If you have livestock and would like a 'Dog on Lead' sign, please email: ruralcrimeteam@warwickshire.police.uk

And finally!

SDC refreshed website

No doubt you will all be thrilled to learn that SDC has refreshed its website 😊 Please do have a look at it and let us know what you think.

Cllr Paul Harrison

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