

First of all I wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016.

Writing this message at a time when we are experiencing unusual seasonally high temperatures feels slightly surreal, but is nearly mid December and Christmas is almost upon us. Firstly I wish all partners and colleagues a very good Christmas time and a happy and healthy New Year. From what I have seen from the fantastic partnership work that has been done in 2015, partners and colleagues deserve that at least!

Stratford District Council has changed this year in that it has reduced its size from 53 to 36 councillors and its electoral cycle of election in thirds to all out elections every four years. This is a major step and is intended to prepare the Council for the challenges it will face over the life of this Parliament and beyond. The whole face of the public sector is changing and this Council is no different. It is certain that budget settlements will bring about significant change for the way local services are delivered. I also feel it will make partnership working all the more important as we strive to get 'more from less'. While this has been achieved successfully in the past this will become more difficult unless partners engage in a way that everyone is signed up- more for less is unlikely to be achieved working in isolation.

There are too many achievements to mention made in the district through working together and long may that continue to be the case.

The staff and members here at the Council like to support good causes, with the Chairman's Charities and the many events throughout the year raising funds for local charities or food for Christmas hampers or the foodbanks. Without their commitment a lot less would be achieved, so I personally express my thanks to them. Christmas will be a brighter time for some as a result of their efforts, thankfully.

2015 has also seen the sad passing of several public figures, not least the Council's longest serving councillor, Sir William Lawrence. His service to the public covered many decades and was an exemplar to all of us. Our thoughts go to all families who are experiencing their first Christmas without loved ones. It can be a difficult time, but do remember others are there for you.

Looking ahead it is safe to say the future is uncertain, however during my time in local government I have always noticed that people in public and voluntary service have risen to the challenges that befall them. Services will continue to be delivered, albeit differently, and hopefully in that spirit of partnership joining up in the delivery will give better value for money while protecting those in society who need others' help.

Once more have a peaceful Christmas time and I hope 2016 brings you all health, happiness and prosperity.

Kind Regards



Paul Lankester

Twitter [@SDCchiefexec](https://twitter.com/SDCchiefexec)



2015 Year Review

January

- Public Examination of Core Strategy begins



- Stratford District in top 10 recycling league – 8th with a recycling rate of 59.66%
- £5m refurbishment of Stratford Leisure Centre begins
- Brailes Parish Council by-election – Cllr John Greaves elected with 143 votes and turnout 37.51%
- 13th Annual Sports Awards – attended by 250 people. Caitlin McCarthy (Archery) won the Senior Sports Person and Rory Dwyer (Stratford Athletic Club) won Junior Sports Person for the 2nd year running
- Match funding agreed for BDUK Broadband Delivery Project
- Designation of Marston Sicca and Quinton Neighbourhood Plan Areas agreed
- Dress Down Day money raised: Chairman's Charity – Riding for the Disabled and Chapel Restoration Campaign - £127

February

- Councillor Sir William Lawrence died – ward member for Aston Cantlow for 33 years
- New Corporate Strategy 2015-19 approved
- 2015/16 budget approved – including increased resources for Planning
- Council Tax freeze for 2015/16 agreed – making a net reduction over the last 4 years
- Business Matters Roadshow – Alscot park, Atherstone-on-Stour
- Informal consultation on GLH Supplementary Planning Document
- Suspended prison sentence for owner of Field Farm, Wootton Wawen for breach of Injunction Order
- New Planning online tool – planning news straight to your inbox
- Dress Down Day money raised: Shakespeare Hospice - £163



March

- New Cabinet member appointed, Cllr Daren Pemberton
- SDC marks Commonwealth Day
- Big Belly solar powered litter bins on Bancroft Gardens



- Residents' survey shows increased satisfaction with the District Council and the services it provides
- Dress Down Day money raised: Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group - £124
- Extra Dress Down Day for Comic Relief - £138

2015 Year Review

April

- Stratford District Council host Building Excellence Awards. Best Major extension photo left and Best Minor Commercial right.



- £2,215 worth of unused travel tokens handed to Age UK
- Stratford District Council Housing Strategy 2015 – 2020 adopted
- Joint ICT Business Development Strategy approved
- Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations



- Dress Down Day money raised: Tourism for All - £109

May

- General Election - Nadhim Zahawi (Conservative) elected with 29,674 votes. Turnout was 72.39%
- Stratford District Council Elections, with new boundaries going from 53 Councillors to 36. Turnout was 71.4% turnout.
31 – Conservatives, 3 Liberal Democrats, 1 Labour and 1 Independent.
- Stratford District Council prosecute an architect for unauthorised works to an historic farmhouse near Stratford-upon-Avon
- New Chairman, Cllr Mike Gittus (Kinwarton) elected



- RingGo launched cashless parking in District Council car parks (excluding Bridgeway multi-storey and Bridgeway surface car park)
- New affordable homes in Ilmington
- Stratford Town Square development plans on show
- Wonder World Funfair on Recreation Ground (from 18 – 31 May)
- Dress Down Day money raised: Fundraising for Jo – Meningitis - £116

June

- Fit for Life Roadshow delivered to 40 schools across the District



- CCTV service retain the British Standard Accreditation for an eighth year
- Stratford District Council Core Strategy policies approved
- Stratford District Council adopt Warwickshire Local Councils Charter
- Dress Down Day money raised: Nepal Earthquake Appeal £176

2015 Year Review

July

- Newly refurbished swimming pool at Stratford Leisure Centre opens
- Launch of 'Tell My Council' mobile application – to report full street bins, fly tipping, dead animals on road, litter on public land – www.tellmycouncil.co.uk/stratford
- Decision on the Confederated Approach and Development of Shared Working deferred
- Stratford Town Square planning application submitted
- Stratford District Council agree revised housing target for the District of 14,480
- Warwickshire County Council (WCC) agreed lease to operate Globe House, Alcester as a Public Library and Museum.
- Bancroft Gardens and Recreation Ground win prestigious Green Flag Award



- Summer Fun with Hi-5
- Dress Down Day money raised: Prostrate Cancer UK £125

August

- Summer Fun with Hi-5
- Official opening of Orrian Close play area
- National Playday event at Stratford Recreation Ground



- Bulldog Bash, Long Marston attended by approximately 20,000 people from all over the world
- Restaurant manager at The Laughing Buddha Bar and Restaurant, Stratford-upon-Avon prosecuted after salmonella outbreak
- Stratford District Council consults on West Midlands Combined Authority
- Rugby World Cup Trophy Tour comes to Stratford-upon-Avon
- Start of 6-week consultation on Core Strategy proposed modifications – made in response to the independent Inspector's Interim Conclusions
- £40,000 fraudster from Wellesbourne jailed for offences
- Dress Down Day money raised: Life Commitment Dog Rescue - £127

September

- Stratford District Council agree for Leader to sit on newly formed Shadow Board of the West Midlands Combined Authority as an observer
- Stratford District Council offer support to Syrian refugee crisis
- New waste collection and street cleaning fleet



- Stratford District Council's new business centre, Venture House taking shape
- Bid submitted to the CWLEP Growth Bid Refresh 2015 for funding a more detailed study into the prospect of the line from Stratford to Honeybourne Railway being reinstated
- SCAN Annual Conference takes place focusing on 'Living Well with Cancer'
- Start of 6-week Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan consultation
- Adoption of Tredington Parish Plan
- Dress Down Day money raised: Jeans for Genes - £123
- Extra Dress Down Day for Syrian Refugees (+ cake sale) - £346

2015 Year Review

October

- Stratford Mop Fair and 'runaway' Mop
- Stratford Leisure Centre hold Open Day



- Stratford District Council acts on modern slavery
- Stratford District Council decide not to become a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority
- Stratford District Council consults on proposed Community Infrastructure Levy Charges
- Core Strategy resubmitted to the Planning Inspector
- Record year of 215 new affordable homes in Stratford District
- Designation of Clifford Chambers and Milcote neighbourhood plan area agreed
- Dress Down Day money raised: ARNI (Action for Rehabilitation after Neurological Injury) - £135

November

- Christmas Lights switch across the District



- Free Thursday night parking in District council owned car parks for Christmas shopping in Stratford-upon-Avon
- Took part in #OurDay a local government tweetathon – posting 140 tweets
- Stratford District Council to work with neighbouring authorities to identify potential transport improvements for the District.
- Revised Alveston Village Design Statement 2015 adopted
- Dress Down Day money raised: BBC Children in Need – £142
- Extra Dress Day for Bromford Support – food donations making 20 hampers and £100

December

- Joint Stratford District and Warwickshire County Councils Annual Conference focusing on 'Spotlight on Communities'
- Recycling rate hits 60.3% mark – our best figure and maintain position in top ten Councils for recycling and composting
- Dress Down Day money raised: Christmas Jumper Day for Shakespeare Hospice - £167

and looking ahead to 2016

- **January** Public examination of Core Strategy resumes
- **February** Council Tax set for 2016/17
- **April** Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations – 400 years since his death
- **May** Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Elections
- **June** The Aviva Women's Cycle Tour, Stratford-upon-Avon
- **July** Stratford River Festival
Stratford-upon-Avon Home & Garden Show at Stratford Rec

Stratford District Council Offices closed between Christmas and the New Year

The opening hours for Stratford District Council offices over the Christmas and New Year holidays are:

Thursday 24 December: 8.45am - 4.00pm

Friday 25 December Christmas Day: Closed

Monday 28 December: Closed

Tuesday 29 December: Closed

Wednesday 30 December: Closed

Thursday 31 December: Closed

Friday 1 January 2016: Closed

Office opening hours go back to normal on Monday 4 January that is: 8.45am to 5.15pm Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 8.45am to 5.00pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

District Council services can still be accessed online at www.stratford.gov.uk and emergency out-of-hours contact is available on 01789 267575.

Only a limited number of properties will have changes to their refuse and recycling collection days over the festive period.

There will be no collections on 25 December, or 1 January 2016. On all other dates, collections will take place as normal.

Revised arrangements are shown below.

Normal Collection Day for rubbish, recyclables or green waste	Revised Collection Day
Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December
Friday 1 January	Saturday 2 January

From Monday 4 January 2016 collections will return to normal.

In the event of adverse weather affecting collections please check the District Council's website at www.stratford.gov.uk/winter or Twitter on [@StratfordDC](https://twitter.com/StratfordDC) for all the latest updates.



MEETING DATES

Stratford-on-Avon District Council meetings

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
Wednesday 13 January	6.15pm	Planning (West)	Elizabeth House
Monday 18 January	2.00pm	The Cabinet	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 20 January	6.00pm	Planning (East)	Kineton High School
Wednesday 3 February	6.15pm	Planning (West)	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 10 February	6.00pm	Planning (East)	Kineton High School
Monday 15 February	2.00pm	The Cabinet	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 24 February	6.15pm	Planning (West)	Elizabeth House
Monday 29 February	2.00pm	Council	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 2 March	6.00pm	Planning (East)	Kineton High School
Monday 14 March	2.00pm	The Cabinet	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 16 March	6.15pm	Planning (West)	Elizabeth House
Wednesday 23 March	6.00pm	Planning (East)	Kineton High School



Council, The Cabinet and Planning meetings to be webcast <http://council.webcast.vualto.com/stratford-council/live-webcast/>



Community Forum meetings

Community Forums are an interactive event enabling residents to learn about issues big and small affecting their area, get answers to questions and influence local decision-making. Anyone with a question about a local issue can go along and put it to officers from a range of organisations.

Date	Forum	Contact
Tuesday 1 March	Shipston / Stour	07780 995817
Tuesday 8 March	Alcester / Bidford	07557 565783
Thursday 10 March	Wellesbourne / Kineton	07780 995817
Thursday 10 March	Arden	07557 565782
Wednesday 16 March	Southam / Feldon	07780 995817
Thursday 17 March	Stratford-upon-Avon	07920 822063

If you would like to suggest an issue for a future Community Forum meeting, or get involved, please contact the WCC Stratford Area Office on 01789 260133 or email stratford@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Community Forums are part of a countywide initiative involving Warwickshire County Council, District and Borough Councils, NHS Warwickshire, Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire Together partners. There are 30 forums across Warwickshire, which bring together elected representatives across all tiers of local government - County, District and Borough and Parish, together with a range of other community representatives.