

## Parish and Partners Foreword

Dear All,

I hope that you are all well and have some plans over the summer to take a well-earned break.

The last few months have been incredibly challenging as we have had a number of issues that we have had to address all of which are more complicated due to the ongoing COVID pandemic.

Firstly as you will be aware elections were held across the District on 6 May for the Police and Crime Commissioner, Warwickshire County Council, and in four communities for Neighbourhood Plan Referendums. To have conducted all of these polls together in normal times, but to hold them with strict social distancing rules in place was a monumental task.

I however, would like to say a massive thank you to all of you who helped, especially with the provision of venues for these elections. Myself, along with the election team had to make some very difficult decisions not to use some venues as there was no way in which these could be made COVID secure. I appreciate that as a result a number of electors had to travel further to vote than normal, please rest assured that I see this very much as a one-off set of elections and that in future we will hope to return to all of the venues that we have previously used.

In common with all other Councils across the District the ongoing social distancing and the refusal of the government to extend the ability for meetings to be held

virtually has been a major issue. Our first face-to-face meeting was of the Cabinet on 17 May and we could accommodate this within Elizabeth House. However, as all Councillors were invited to attend the Annual Meeting held on 19 May, we were forced to hire an alternative venue big enough to safely accommodate all of our elected members.



As you will be probably be aware, the MHCLG have called for evidence surrounding the issue of virtual meetings and we will be making a submission. Our submission will strongly arguing for the reinstatement of virtual meetings, for information the link to be used for any comments is : [Local Authority Remote Meetings - Call for Evidence - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#), the deadline however is fast approaching and closes on 17 June.

There has been a fantastic uptake of the vaccine across the District, although we must ensure that the take up in the lower age bands remains high to provide maximum

protection. A massive thank you to all of those in the vaccination programme locally.

As reported last time Stratford and Warwick have publically announced that by April 2024 it is the ambition of the two authorities that we are merged to create a wider South Warwickshire Council. The main driver for this move is to ensure the longer term financial viability of our Councils into the future and to ensure that service which our residents and businesses enjoy can be continued. In submitting an application to central government for them to consider such a merger we will need to demonstrate that we have met the following criteria:

- improve the area's local government;

- command local support, in particular that the merger is proposed by all councils which are to be merged and there is evidence of a good deal of local support; and
- the area is a credible geography, consisting of two or more existing local government areas that are adjacent, and which, if established, would not pose an obstacle to locally-led proposals for authorities to combine to serve their communities better and would facilitate joint working between local authorities.

Over the next few months, a robust consultation exercise will be launched to help the Councils determine the view of residents, businesses and other areas of the public sector including town and parish councils. Your views in this consultation exercise will be extremely important in helping to determine the



next steps for the Councils. As I mentioned last time I will provide regular updates in this newsletter to keep you informed of progress,

Very Best Wishes

David

## Leader and Cabinet for Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet for the new municipal year was agreed at the Annual Council meeting on Wednesday 19 May.

Corporate Policy **Cllr Edward Fitter**

Strategic Leadership Cllr Tony Jefferson

Place & Economy Cllr Daren Pemberton

Resources Cllr Trevor Harvey

Transformation Cllr Mark Cargill

Climate Change

Homes, Health & Wellbeing Cllr Jo Barker

Culture, Tourism & Leisure Cllr Matt Jennings

### Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Cabinet Structure and Contact Details

Cllr Christopher

Cllr Mark Cargill

Cllr Ian Shenton

Cllr Trevor

Cllr Jo Barker

Cllr Anne Parry

Cllr Matt

Governance

Partnerships

Economic Development & Inward Investment

Physical Infrastructure – transport, energy, etc.

Planning Policy

Cllr Ian Shenton May 2021

Regeneration Email: [stratford-dc.gov.uk/tony.dixon@](mailto:stratford-dc.gov.uk/tony.dixon@)

Chairman of the Council

Telephone: 07976 693080

Email: [edward.fitter@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:edward.fitter@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

Cllr Tony Dixon Vice-Chairman of the Council

Telephone: 07971 342942



# Parish and Partner Briefing

Culture, Planning, Protection Transformation Change Resources & Wellbeing Planning and Leisure Portfolio Portfolio Portfolio Portfolio Portfolio

Community Protection Email: [chris.kettle@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:chris.kettle@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

Cllr Tony Jefferson, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District

says: "Following the decisions that were made by our

Cabinet and the Executive at Warwick District Council, we have now aligned the portfolios for the new municipal year,

reflecting the joint working between ourselves and Warwick

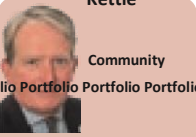


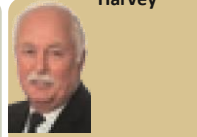



District Council. These changes will enable us to better deliver

a more effective operation, synergies and cost savings."

"As well as progressing the joint working with Warwick our

other priorities remain focused on our COVID-recovery

plans and the significant challenges we face in a time of very

 <p><b>Kettle</b> Community Telephone: 07798 692683 Email: <a href="mailto:chris.kettle@stratford-dc.gov.uk">chris.kettle@stratford-dc.gov.uk</a></p>	 <p><b>Cargill</b> Telephone: 07988 485050 Email: <a href="mailto:mark.cargill@stratford-dc.gov.uk">mark.cargill@stratford-dc.gov.uk</a></p>	 <p><b>Shenton</b> Climate Telephone: 07971 343074 Email: <a href="mailto:ian.shenton@stratford-dc.gov.uk">ian.shenton@stratford-dc.gov.uk</a></p>	 <p><b>Harvey</b> Telephone: 07969 167720 Email: <a href="mailto:trevor.harvey@stratford-dc.gov.uk">trevor.harvey@stratford-dc.gov.uk</a></p>	 <p><b>Barker</b> Homes, Health Telephone: 07748 968712 Email: <a href="mailto:jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk">jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk</a></p>	 <p><b>Parry</b> Telephone: 07917 117737 Email: <a href="mailto:anne.parry@stratford-dc.gov.uk">anne.parry@stratford-dc.gov.uk</a></p>	 <p><b>Jennings</b> Tourism Telephone: 07969 168536 Email: <a href="mailto:matt.jennings@stratford-dc.gov.uk">matt.jennings@stratford-dc.gov.uk</a></p>
Community Leadership, Forums & VCS Emergency Planning Environmental Health incl. Licencing Parish Champion Human Resources Safeguarding, Community Safety and CCTV	Broadband Delivery Communications Digital and ICT Digital Infrastructure Health & Safety Green Spaces – Programme Management Public Conveniences	Bereavement Services Car Parking Climate Change Contracted Services (Refuse & Recycling, Street Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance) Development	Audit & Risk Budget & Finance Procurement	Asset Management Development Programme (Local Housing Company and Joint Venture) Health and Wellbeing Homelessness Housing Landlord Private Sector Housing Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services	Building Control Development Management Land Charges Planning Enforcement	Culture Events & Markets Leisure Tourism

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## New Chairman for

## Stratford District Council

At the Annual Council Cllr Edward Fitter was appointed Chairman of the Council, when Cllr Tony Dixon handed over the chain of office.



SDC/0059/19MAY21

At 27 years old, Cllr Edward Fitter (Quinton) becomes the youngest Councillor at the District Council to hold the position of Chairman, a record previously held by Sir William Lawrence who was 35 years old, when he was first appointed in 1990.



Cllr Fitter has chosen Lifespace, Stratford-upon-Avon, a charity mentoring young people and helping them to achieve more, as his Chairman's charity for the year. He will also be supporting the Heart of England Forest to help take care of our woodland and to plant more trees.

Cllr Fitter said of his appointment: **"It is a great honour to have been elected as Chairman of the District Council and I am proud to be an ambassador for the Council."**

**"We have all just gone through a very dark and uncertain winter, but we witnessed the love and courage that makes our communities so special. I am confident that our District will thrive and prosper again. I'm looking forward to the restrictions lifting and having the opportunity to meet with residents and representing the Council at civic events."**

Follow Cllr Fitter's appointment as Chairman of the District Council via the Instagram account – SDC\_Chairman.

## How the Cabinet has coped with the COVID challenge



The pandemic has created all sorts of problems for individuals, businesses, and organisations since it began to take hold in March 2020 – and Stratford District Council was no exception. Despite the disruption, the Council was still able to deliver its services to the District during that difficult period.

Here are the thoughts of Stratford District Council's portfolio holders on the challenges their departments faced and how they feel about the future:

## Cllr Tony Jefferson, Leader of Stratford District Council

From an operational and organisational point of view, the Council had to transform how it works when the pandemic hit.

To all intents and purposes, we moved most of the operations out of our office in the early days so that the vast majority of staff were working remotely although that has clearly varied depending on the lockdowns.

We put in all the technology to allow that to happen and that operation was completed very quickly and efficiently. This really aided our push to help businesses as soon as the first major lockdown was announced.

Our distribution of grants to businesses has been a massive operation and we have paid out more than £40m in support.

The grants team has done a superb job, working around the clock and we have had very positive feedback. The officers have fully grasped that, in many cases, the funding has been a lifeline to businesses and they had to deal with some really upsetting stories from people. We have worked very closely with the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Hub and that has helped a seamless delivery.

I think most businesses and organisations have risen to the challenge of keeping going during the pandemic and accelerated change which was coming down the line. It has been a long and arduous effort to get through what has been a dreadful and, for many, a tragic, time but hopefully the light at the end of the Covid tunnel will soon be with us.



## How the Cabinet has coped with COVID challenge

CLlr Ian Shenton, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change



## How the Cabinet has coped with COVID challenge

Keeping our services running for the good of our District's residents and businesses has been our top priority over the last year and a bit – and I'm delighted to say the Council has done a great job.

The immediate needs of our residents didn't disappear overnight when the Prime Minister issued his 'stay-at-home' order – so we had to step up.

For many of our residents, their first worry was whether their bins would be collected. However, despite the challenges, I'm happy to say we didn't miss a bin collection day – whether that was general waste, garden waste or recycling.

The pandemic also left certain people in our District very isolated. Along with many other communities, I decided to set up a Community Outreach Service in Wootton Wawen, working with volunteers, local shops, pharmacies and other groups to deliver food and prescriptions to vulnerable people.

At the same time, the Council's own Operations Team worked with Warwickshire County Council to deliver hundreds of food parcels to those in need all over the District at the height of the pandemic.

Monitoring our public green spaces was a challenge too. When the first lockdown was lifted in summer 2020, demand for our green spaces was very high, as visitors flocked to our District to enjoy the scenery. In general, people were well behaved and respected social distancing, and our waste collection teams worked incredibly hard to empty bins which filled up fast thanks to the extra visitors.

So it's fair to say the last year has been extremely busy for the operations department. Our goal now is to make sure Stratford District is as welcoming to locals and visitors as it can be as we ease out of lockdown.

### Cllr Chris Kettle, Portfolio Holder for Community Protection

As lockdown commenced, I was Chairman of Stratford District Council having been appointed back in May 2018. I was looking forward to stepping down after my second year and handing on the reins to my successor.

I was also looking forward to a number of events around the Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations in April, hosting a tour of Stratford and Warwickshire for our Chinese guests from Fuzhou celebrating our wider cultural and commercial heritage, and then a celebration of VE day in May.

What a difference a day makes. In the only Full Council meeting during the pandemic, I effectively delegated decision making to officers as Councillors would no longer be able to attend meetings to make those decisions. I stayed on as Chairman for another six months before eventually stepping down in October.

My relief at stepping down was short lived as I was then invited to take on the Community Portfolio in Cabinet including Community Safety and Planning. Officers in both teams were by this time well versed in working under the new normal. The Council received many emails to staff thanking for their ongoing and unceasing efforts to support the residents of the District through their normal and many additional roles the pandemic created for them.

So, a rollercoaster year for us all. Are we out of it yet? I do not know but I do know our staff at SDC have adapted to the new normal admirably.

### Cllr Matt Jennings, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Tourism and Leisure

COVID-19 has been a challenge for everyone over the past year, but now



## How the Cabinet has met the challenge

Stratford District is ready to start its recovery.

The economy, however, is not something that can be fixed quickly. It is a little bit like manoeuvring an oil tanker – it takes a long time to make progress and there is no shortcut to success.

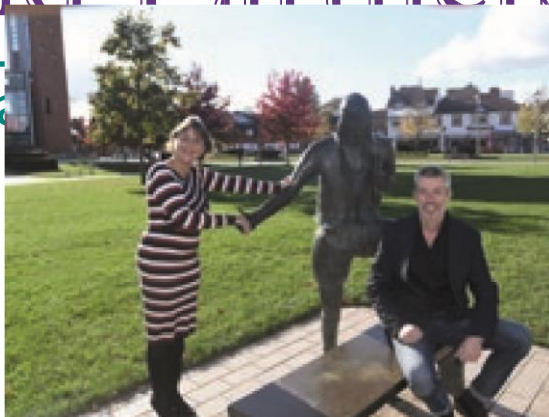
As a District Council, our role is to facilitate plans that will get the economy moving again, but other parties need to come together to make the changes happen.

Essentially, we need to make our District an attractive place for people to visit, live, and for firms to do business in.

We have supported so many of our businesses through this by issuing millions in government grants. With so many reliant on tourism, and with a high proportion of hospitality businesses, we have worked incredibly hard to have grant applications processed and in businesses' bank accounts to keep them going through this crisis.

Throughout this pandemic, our team has had to adapt to working from home and to cope with a huge number of firms asking for help and advice. I think we've risen to the challenge, and our hard work has meant we're now in a position where our economy should really start to recover.

Over the course of 2021 and beyond, we're hopeful tourists will start coming back, more people will live and work here, and businesses will all reap the benefits.



Cllr Anne Parry, Portfolio Holder for Planning

It has been a very challenging year for everyone, but I think one of the benefits that has come out of it all for my teams is a closer working relationship.

Not only with each other, but with our partner organisations such as Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Trading Standards, Public Health Warwickshire and Warwickshire Police as we have all had to band together to get through this incredibly tough time.

Our response to the pandemic has definitely been a joined-up approach and it is a testament to them all that it has worked so well.

It has been particularly hard on the Environmental Health team, which has been very much 'at the coalface' and has had to transform from being a 'policing' team into what has become a more advisory role for organisations out there.

There has been a lot of upskilling and a lot of on-the-job training because none of us have been through anything like this before; it was all brand new.

But they have all shown a huge amount of resilience and endeavoured to keep everyone safe throughout this crisis.

One thing that has shone through is how everyone from Council staff, the public and business owners have faced this head-on and it is amazing how strong they have been throughout it all.



## How the Cabinet has coped with COVID challenge

Cllr Mark Cargill, Portfolio Holder for Transformation





## How the Cabinet has coped with COVID challenge

Our transformation story started over three years ago when a three-month review was undertaken to assess the current state of the Council and its fitness as we move into an ever-changing future.

Three months extended into a year and out of it came a deep dive into the fundamental workings of Stratford District Council. This identified a number of areas where we felt we could improve the way the Council operates and how to be more approachable to residents. The first task was upgrading the computer operating system. The old Microsoft Windows system was well past its sell by date so we moved across to a more modern cloud-based system.

The timing was fortuitous as shortly after roll-out began the Covid crisis started. Having the infrastructure available and through a massive effort by officers, the IT team and our project managers, we were able to get all staff working from home in a very short space of time.

I had considered this 'agile working' to be the biggest organisational challenge to the Ways of Working programme but, as it happened, Covid accelerated that process dramatically. Within a short space of time people were meeting virtually and business as usual carried on.

It is down to the dedication of our staff that the Council hardly faltered during the Covid crisis with many of our staff volunteering with the food distribution hubs as well as doing their day job. A sterling effort.

Cllr Jo Barker, Portfolio Holder for Homes, Health & Wellbeing

There's no denying the last twelve months or so have been very difficult for both us as a council and for the residents who live in our District.

The revenues and benefits side has been especially difficult. Throughout this crisis, we've had eight different types of grants to pay people and businesses, all introduced at different times by central government.

Our officers have gone above and beyond to process them, with many working every other weekend to help get payments out to businesses.

There have been other challenges too. Many residents struggled with loneliness during the pandemic – the foodbank I help run in Shipston obviously has visitors who need food, but some come along just to talk to someone.

And while many people have been encouraged to work from home, not everyone has had that option. Frontline health workers and those in precarious, often lower-paid jobs, have not been able to shelter from the risks of COVID-19.

That's not to say people who have worked from home have had it easy. The reduction in freedoms over the last twelve months or so has put a real strain on both physical and mental health in our District.

With all that being said, I'm optimistic that things will improve now we have a 'roadmap' out of lockdown.

Thanks to many people in our District having already been vaccinated due to the amazing speed of the vaccine rollout, I am confident we are on the road to recovery.



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## How the Cabinet has coped with COVID challenge

Ultimately, we need to do all we can to ensure our District is safe for residents and visitors, to enable businesses to keep going by continuing to process and issue grants where we can, and to allow all that is good about Stratford District to shine through once again.

## How the Cabinet has coped with COVID challenge

Cllr Trevor Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Resources

When the pandemic hit last year, it soon became clear that the Council's finances were going to be affected, and that a decision needed to be made on how to save money while still providing services for taxpayers.

I regularly met with the Chief Financial Officer in the early stages of the pandemic to review the numbers and the potential impact of measures like reduced car parking revenue, the closure of leisure centres, etc.

With a stark reduction in revenue, it became clear the Council needed to decide how to save money in future.

Thankfully, prudent financial management in previous years meant the Council had reserves to draw on which could be used in exceptional circumstances such as this.

It meant that, when the 2021/22 budget was prepared, there was no reduction in service provision in Stratford District. Only one in five local authorities managed to achieve this. What it does mean is that a number of future projects which would have been funded through earmarked reserves will have not now be undertaken, and the Council will need to top the reserves up in further budgets.

But considering the serious financial challenges the pandemic presented, I am pleased the Council was able to manage its spending effectively and to use some of the reserves it had built up in previous years to protect its services and produce value for money for its residents.



## Garden waste permits exceed expectations

Almost 75% of households across Stratford-on-Avon District have signed up to Stratford District Council's Clip and Collect garden waste subscription service which started in April.

Over 45,000 garden waste permits have been purchased, exceeding any original estimate that had been predicted and factored into the budget process.

Cllr Ian Shenton, Climate Change Portfolio says: **"I would like to thank all our residents who have purchased the permits, we are incredibly grateful to them. Although this is a service we don't have to provide and is not part of the Council Tax, we know this service is valued by residents.**

**"We had to make the difficult choice to charge for the service or possibly discontinue it completely. We felt that it would be fairer for residents to have the choice to pay for a service, rather than not having a service at all.**

**"The revenue raised by permits has exceeded our forecasts and expectations in the first year and that is a great measure of how valued this service is. This income helps contribute towards the cost of providing this and other waste and cleansing service, reducing pressure elsewhere on the council's finances**

**"I would also like to thank all the staff who have been involved in implementing the chargeable waste service – this has been a tremendous team effort from across the whole Council."**

Subscriptions are still open and you can subscribe to the service at any time throughout the year. The cost is £40 per green bin regardless of when you subscribe with no pro-rata rate. New subscriptions will be due for everyone on 1st April 2022.

To subscribe and find out more about this service, please visit: [www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste)



# Parish and Partners Briefing

If you are sure you do not want a green waste subscription you can request removal of your green bin by visiting - [www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/green-bin-removal-request](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/green-bin-removal-request)

The two Councils coming together will create a super-district which will be well placed to address some of the significant strategic issues facing South Warwickshire including climate change, the economy or housing.



## Working Together

Stratford District Council is continuing to work closer with Warwick District Council 'To create a single statutory South Warwickshire Council covering all of the activities currently carried out by Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Councils by 2024.'

During the past year, the District Council has been working with Warwick District Council in a number of areas to respond to the coronavirus pandemic in the wake of substantial losses to income and budgets. This is coupled with the ambition of both Councils to preserve, improve and expand the valuable services provided to residents across south Warwickshire. Work has already started on the production of joint local plan, a joint procurement process has started for a joint refuse and recycling contract and the Councils will have a joint management team in the very near future.

Working towards merging the two Councils builds on a long-term strategic trend of significant collaboration between the two organisations. It also builds on strong foundations as there are similarities between the two Councils. Both Councils face significant financial pressures and need to make savings; merging the Councils provides the potential to improve the financial position and ensure that local government can continue to deliver or improve services for local communities.

There are many similarities with Warwick District Council:

- Shared economic geography
- Shared sense of community between authorities
- Strong political relationships between Leaders
- Within the same County Council area



## Working Together

The District Council and Warwick District Council will be consulting with the public, the business community and key partners on the proposals for achieving shared goals in the coming months.

Your views will be crucial in determining whether a submission is made to government to request that the Councils formally merge. Proposals will include reviewing the services provided, jointly commissioned contracts and investigating joint political leadership to create a stronger, unified voice for residents and businesses in South Warwickshire.

## Stratford and Warwick District Councils chosen by government to test use of digital tools in planning process

At the beginning of June, Housing Minister Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP announced a £1.1m fund to test the use of digital tools and data standards across 10 local areas.

The Planning White Paper 'Planning for the future', published in August 2020, proposed reforms to the planning system to streamline and modernise the planning process.

The pathfinder programme will look at the digital transformation of local plans which will increase community involvement and speed up the planning process.

By introducing a digital system that makes plans mapbased and accessible online, local people will be able to engage with planning in their local area, which will help get homes built quicker.

Councils will test how existing local plans translate into the new system, including moving away from long text documents to an interactive map with accompanying annotation document, and the adaptation of existing site allocation policies into the proposed land categorisation format.

This will enable planners to understand the impact of proposed land designations and associated policy

implications on land allocations and inform a wide range of policies across the reform programme.

Community engagement will continue to play a key role for ensuring that the right levels of growth are identified to meet the needs of the community. In the new system digital tools will be key for making planning proposals more accessible and interactive, supporting the ambition for more effective community engagement.

Housing Minister Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP said: **"We are moving away from notices on lampposts to an interactive and accessible map-based online system – placing planning at the fingertips of people. This announcement will ensure the planning process will be brought into the digital age. Communities will be reconnected to a planning process that is supposed to serve them, with residents more engaged over what happens in their areas. While the current system excludes residents, who do not have the time to contribute to the lengthy and complex planning process, local democracy and accountability will now be enhanced by technology and transparency."**

Local Government Association Chairman Cllr James Jamieson said: **"Councils want communities to be able to shape and define the area they live in, and support measures to enhance public participation in the planning process through a more digital service. This**

**will help to make the planning system more accessible and efficient, and we look forward to working with government to ensure that all residents can engage in the planning process."**

Cllr Daren Pemberton, Deputy Leader and Place & Economy Portfolio at Stratford-on-Avon District Council said: **"I am delighted that Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council working together have been selected as 'pathfinder' local authorities who will test and shape how local plans better meet residents needs by increasing access and local accountability through new approaches to digital engagement. This is also a demonstration of how, by working together, we are able to punch above our individual weight and secure access to new innovations and investment from Central Government."**

Cllr John Cooke, Place & Economy Portfolio at Warwick District Council said: **"The Planning White Paper published last year highlights Government's desire for Local Plans to be fully digitised, more visual, web-based, and based on the latest digital technology. It also indicates that this should improve public engagement in the Plan making process. I am therefore delighted that the two South Warwickshire Councils are amongst a select few authorities to have**



been chosen to test the use of digital tools, thus leading the way in this area.”

The 10 bids from Local Councils to be selected are:

1. Newcastle City Council and Gateshead Council
2. Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council

3. Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council
4. Dacorum Borough Council
5. Broxbourne Borough Council
6. Birmingham City Council
7. East Suffolk Council
8. London Borough Hounslow
9. Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

10. Ashford Borough Council

Bringing planning into the digital age will provide a range of exciting opportunities for PropTech companies to innovate and bring forward new ideas. This project will build on the work of the United Kingdom Government that has helped millions of people continue to provide for their families as part of its [Plan for Jobs](#) to protect, support and create employment.

## Stratford-on-Avon District Council consults on Local Enforcement Plan

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has launched a The plan is now out for consultation – [www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk) consultation on its draft Local Enforcement Plan (LEP). [gov.uk/planning-building/draft-local-enforcement-plan](http://www.gov.uk/planning-building/draft-local-enforcement-plan)The District Council has reviewed its Local Enforcement [consultation.cfm](#) and comments should be made by 12noon Plan (LEP) which describes the work priorities for the on 30 June 2021.

Planning Enforcement Team.

Councillor Anne Parry, Planning Portfolio Holder, said: “The

Unlike many other regulatory services which the District **District Council recognises the importance of providing a Planning Council provides, the Planning Enforcement service is Enforcement service which reviews and resolves possible breaches** discretionary, which means that there is no obligation on **of planning law, despite being a discretionary service.**

councils to provide this service.

“Having a Local Enforcement Plan is therefore essential, in order

The plan follows national guidance and it recognises that **to prioritise resources and ensure officer time is directed in the** some matters are more harmful than others. It describes **most appropriate way. By revising this plan, it is intended that** how the service goes about identifying the most serious **more investigation resources will be released and targeted to** complaints and then deciding the priority of these **pursue genuinely harmful planning breaches.**

complaints, which is essential given that the resources “**Anyone with an interest in helping to better target the Council’s** available for this work are in no way sufficient to allow every **actions is encouraged to respond to the consultation which runs** matter to be pursued to its conclusion. Therefore, the most **until the end of June 2021.**” significant matters are targeted and Council resources are not:

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ss serious/trivial issues.

- Become used by complainants to pursue neighbour disputes which may have their origins in issues outside of the complaints made.
- Used in an attempt to obstruct developments which have been permitted against local opposition.

A personalised consultation service is available, totally independent from the Parish, Town or Neighbourhood Plan process in your area.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Consultation & Insight Unit offers you:

- > Pick and Mix flexible approach
- > Survey design from draft questionnaire to final report
- > Low cost one-stop shop for all your market research needs
- > Data processing via an unconnected, unbiased third party
- > Anonymity assured
- > Work carried out to Market Research Society guidelines Satisfied clients include Parish Councils from both within and outside Stratford-on-Avon District. **Feedback received includes:**  
"Just wanted to say a big thank you for doing a cracking job on our village survey" "Again thanks to you and your staff for a professional job – and lots of patience!"

Get professional assistance for your consultation

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

has awarded grants to four local organisations to support young people across Stratford-on-Avon District who have had difficult lockdown experiences.

Young people have had their lives turned upside down by the pandemic and have had to adjust to major changes in their education, leisure and home life. Good mental wellbeing is important to help young people develop the resilience to cope with life.

Councillor Jo Barker, Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing said: **"Supporting young people to overcome mental wellbeing issues triggered by the pandemic is so important. The District Council is pleased to offer grants to these four diverse projects, all of which aim to provide young people strategies to manage their mental wellbeing and offer a safe space to talk."**

The grants will support:

Lifespace Trust (£3,000), based in Stratford-upon-Avon to deliver workshops for girls throughout the district to build confidence, better understand their mental health and the strategies that can help with anxiety and ultimately set goals for the future.

Rachel Key, Chief Executive of Lifespace Trust, said: **"After a year that has tested many people's resilience and self-esteem, Lifespace's RECOVERHer/Their workshop programme gives young women the chance to explore their strengths and appreciate how incredible they are."** Lifespace Trust – <https://www.lifespace.org.uk/>



## Local organisations receive grant to support young people's mental wellbeing



# Parish and Partners Briefing

Escape Arts (£3,000) from Stratford-upon-Avon will use Dungeons & Dragons society where collaboration to crucial. Young people from across the district will meet in to play the game.



the grant to deliver a overcome obstacles is a supervised online platform

Karen Williams, Chief Executive of Escape Arts, said: **“Escape Arts are delighted to receive this funding for a new Dungeons and Dragons project for young people aged 13-16. The Escape Arts Dungeons and Dragons Society opens up a world of adventure, camaraderie and excitement. Young people work together to complete objectives like rescuing a town from a rampaging dragon or saving a princess from an evil tyrant as well as enjoying a few tales and laughs with fellow adventurers. The project encourages team building, decision making, and inclusivity. It develops social and other life skills which can be used in the real world.”**

Escape Arts – <http://www.escapearts.org.uk/>

Warwickshire Young Carers (£1,939) will purchase outdoor young carers together for small group activities, providing they can relax and learn new skills.



equipment so they can bring a safe environment where

Amy de Ville, Fundraising and Engagement Lead at WYC, said: **“The funding for the Recover and Reconnect project enables us to begin to bring young carers back together in small groups to provide activities within localities across Stratford. These activities will have a specific focus on reducing isolation and increasing wellbeing after the huge impact that has been felt as a result of the pandemic.”**

Warwickshire Young Carers - <https://www.warwickshireyoungcarers.org.uk/>

The Depot Youth Club (£2,800) run by Alcester Town Council will train volunteer mentors to work at the club, offer workshops and mentoring to attendees who need some additional support.



Wendy Sherwood, Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinator at Alcester Town Council, said: **“We know that local youth clubs can provide vital early mental health support and it is important that young people know there is a place where they can go and find support or services that they may need. This funding allows us to provide some specific mentoring and resilience support alongside our programme of social activities to provide a full package of provision that will help reduce loneliness and social isolation for young people in Alcester.”**

The Depot via Alcester Town Council - <https://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk/>

The grants have been awarded from the District Council's annual funding to the voluntary and community sector which targets the priorities detailed in the Council's Social Inclusion Statement.





# Parish and Partners Briefing

## Helping businesses across the district

Despite the high volume of applications from all sorts of

The District Council has helped more than 4,300 businesses in Stratford District affected by the coronavirus pandemic by processing and administering a range of government grants to keep them on their feet.

Businesses in all sectors and of all sizes have been applying for different grants through the District Council, and more than £70 million in grants have been issued as a result.

The grants date right back to the start of the pandemic in March 2020, grants relating to the Tier system introduced later in 2020, through to the Restart grants businesses can apply for now restrictions are easing.

The District Council has made things easier for businesses by not making them reapply for newer grants if they had already applied for a previous grant.

Every effort has been made to make it as simple as possible for business owners as the District Council continues to receive further guidance and instruction from central government.



[facebook.com/StratfordDC](https://www.facebook.com/StratfordDC)

[twitter.com/StratfordDC](https://twitter.com/StratfordDC)



businesses in the district, the District Council has been working extremely hard to process and pay the grants.

In March the Government announced Restart grants designed to help businesses re-open as restrictions reduce - that scheme will close on 30 June 2021. Therefore no more grant claims can be made.

The District Council is hoping to receive additional funding this summer to help those businesses looking to diversify or expand and provide support to wider business initiatives. For further details please visit: [www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk)



# Parish and Partners Briefing

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Online form gets residents extra help



Stratford-on-Avon District Council has introduced an online form which automatically makes referrals to other organisations who can offer additional help to residents, according to the responses they provide.

The form can be completed by residents themselves on their own device or by the District Council's customer service staff when a customer rings up with a query.

Depending on the customer's circumstances they will be asked if they would like to receive some additional tailored support and will then be asked a series of questions relating to finances, housing, employment and wellbeing.

Referrals are generated to partner organisations where a customer indicates they would like some help in that area. For example a customer who has caring responsibilities would be referred to Carers Trust Heart of England for practical support around caring. Carers Trust receive the referral and then contact the customer to discuss how they can help. A customer impacted by addiction would be referred to Change, Grow Live (CGL).

Councillor Jo Barker, Portfolio Holder for Homes, Health & Wellbeing said: **"This service enables multiple referrals to be made from one place, getting people the support they need. Covid-19 has impacted on people's jobs, finances, housing situations and wellbeing. We have partnered with organisations who can help with all those issues and who can make a difference to our residents' lives."**

Rachel Shuter, Domestic Abuse Service Manager, one of the partner organisations receiving referrals, said: **"This form is another way to highlight that support is there for you if you are experiencing domestic abuse. You are not alone, Refuge is here for you. We are pleased to be a partner organisation in this new initiative and look forward to seeing how it develops."** The form is available on Stratford-on-Avon District Council's website Customer [Referral Form | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#).

## Thank you for supporting our anti-litter campaign

Our new posters, which you can have copies of for your own area, are going up in our green spaces and parks asking you to [#LoveYourPark](#) and take responsibility for your rubbish as the weather gets warmer.

The District Council is in the process of writing a litter strategy, a joint initiative with Warwick District Council which will feature 4 key strands: Engagement, Education, Enforcement and Infrastructure.

### DID YOU KNOW

Littered disposable coffee cups can take up to 30 years to decompose due to plastic lining. Please dispose of them responsibly. Why consider a reusable coffee cup? Many places offer a reduced price if you bring your own!

[#KeepBritain](#)

[V](#)

[#GBSpringClean](#)



Whilst the strategy is being formulated we are continuing with our 'Don't be a Tosser' campaign, and one of our key messages is asking people to take responsibility for their rubbish and taking it home if litter bins are full.



## Contactless donations for Meaningful Change

Contactless technology is now available in Stratford-upon-Avon to make donations to support homeless people and those at risk of homelessness in the area.

The new contactless giving points at the Visitor Information Centre at Bridgeway and HR Coffee Bar on Windsor Street, enable centralised fundraising in Stratford town centre, as part of the \*Meaningful Change campaign.

This will make it easier for people to donate money for those who are homeless, providing a simple and effective way to raise funds so organisations working with vulnerable individuals can support them to change their lives in a meaningful way.

Funding donated through the scheme is being managed by Stratford Town Trust and Fred Winter Centre. All money raised will be distributed between local

organisations, for local individuals, focussing financial support to help to positively change the lives of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Cllr Christopher Kettle, Community Protection Portfolio Holder at Stratford District Council said: **“Residents and visitors will always find it a concern to see people begging on the streets of our towns and, for many, their natural instincts are to give to help support**

them. But there is often a nagging doubt as to where the money goes and what it is used for.

"As contactless payments increase, and especially now when many people now prefer not to use cash, the Meaningful Change programme allows people with or without cash to give to support those on the street whilst ensuring that their donation is used to directly benefit and support those people, without the concern as to what the money might be used for. Meaningful Change, is a great example of how technology is playing a role in helping society support those who need our help to come off the streets with targeted help to address their individual needs. Fundamentally, it is about the person and it will be different for everyone.

"As the scheme develops, we would very much hope more business will become involved and we look forward to welcoming them coming on board to help support the Meaningful Change campaign." For those businesses which would like to join and support the scheme or to find out more information please contact

Jenny Logan at Stratford District Council – jenny.logan@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

The Meaningful Change campaign is also supported by Philip Seccombe, Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, who added: "This is a great way for the public to help support the initiatives in Stratford which are working with people who are already homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.




"With contactless donation now available, it is now easier than ever to help those who really need it while at the same time ensuring well-meaning citizens are not inadvertently helping to sustain damaging lifestyles.


"Meaningful Change is also a great way for businesses too to make a difference for vulnerable people in the community, so I hope many more across the town will sign up to become a donation point."

For more information visit:

<https://meaningfulchange.org.uk/stratford/>



Working together to end homelessness in Stratford-upon-Avon  
Find out more at: [www.meaningfulchange.org.uk](http://www.meaningfulchange.org.uk)



\*Meaningful Change is a multi-agency campaign to positively change the lives of those who sleep on the streets or beg in Stratford-upon-Avon.

## Community Crime



**Philip Seccombe  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
for Warwickshire**

[www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk)  
district-council

[info@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

[www.facebook.com/StratfordDC](https://www.facebook.com/StratfordDC)

[twitter.com/StratfordDC](https://twitter.com/StratfordDC)

[www.linkedin.com/company/stratford-on-avon-](https://www.linkedin.com/company/stratford-on-avon-)



## Prevention scheme

The District Council's Rural Crime Advisors, funded by the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, are working with Crime Reduction partners to offer a number of Crime Prevention toolboxes to villages and communities in south Warwickshire.

The boxes include:

- Crime prevention materials, including property marking kits
- Crime prevention advice and a variety of different types of equipment
- Signposting to a wide range of community safety advice and support

This initiative will give our communities the tools and knowledge of how to help protect themselves, increase their knowledge of community safety partner services and the support available.

For more information or if your community would like to join the scheme please contact Baz Bains or Bob Church at Your District Council on 01789 267575 or email [baz.bains@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:baz.bains@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or [robert.church@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:robert.church@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

## Public Spaces Protection Order secured for Earlswood Lakes

Stratford District Council, working in partnership with statutory partners, including Warwickshire Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and local councils, has implemented a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Earlswood Lakes, for three years from 1 May 2021.

PSPO's are used to protect the public from behaviour that is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in a locality and which is (or is likely to be) of a persistent or continuing nature, and unreasonable.

The PSPO for Earlswood Lakes will deal specifically with:

- possession and consumption of psychoactive substances in the area
- car cruising – anti-social use of vehicles that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life
- loitering – a person breaches the PSPO if they are loitering and causing, or are reasonably perceived to be causing, intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress to another person
- alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour associated with it

Sergeant David Ebbs from the Alcester and Shipston Safer Neighbourhood team at Warwickshire Police said: **"We welcome the decision to implement a Public Spaces Protection Order for Earlswood Lakes. Our officers will be actively enforcing the Order to ensure that visitors and the local community feel reassured that they can safely enjoy the lakes and beautiful surroundings, free of criminality and nuisance caused by a minority."**

Adnan Saif, director for West Midlands Canals and River Trust, says: **"The lakes at Earlswood are a popular visitor destination for walking, fishing and sailing. Spending time by the water makes us all feel happier and healthier and we welcome visitors to Earlswood Lakes. But unfortunately there have been a number of criminal and anti-social incidents at the lakes, which we know is causing local residents concern."**

**"We welcome the implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order for Earlswood Lakes. This will allow for earlier intervention and the prevention of anti-social behaviour. We will continue to work with Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council and the District Council to try and tackle these issues and ensure the reservoirs continue to be a tranquil place for local people and visitors."**

**"Signs have been put up across the site to remind visitors that cycling and swimming is not permitted at the lakes, and to warn visitors of the dangers of walking on the mud when water levels are low."**





# Parish and Partners Briefing

For more information about the Public Spaces Protection Order for Earlswood Lakes, please visit: [Public Space Protection Order | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

## Warwickshire against Domestic Abuse

The COVID-19 pandemic has been detrimental to Violence Service provided by Refuge on 0800 408 1552, or individuals and community groups up and down the get in touch with the police by calling 101. Please always dial country. The lockdown restrictions, and associated 999 in an emergency. periods of isolation, has meant that people suffering Domestic Abuse have been particularly vulnerable at this time.

Warwickshire County Council and its partners are reaching out to women and men to ensure they know they are not

alone and urging anyone in an abusive relationship to

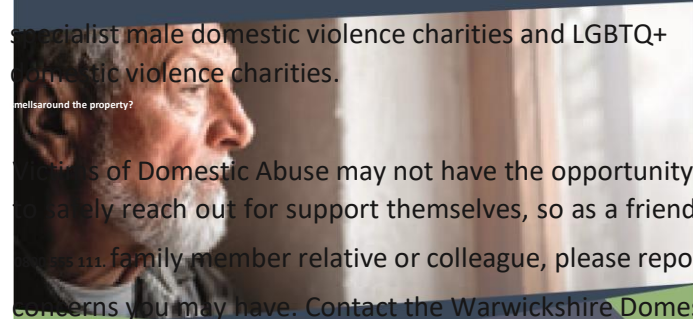
get help. The abuse could be from a partner or a family **Community** member. Domestic Abuse includes coercive and controlling **intelligence is key**, behaviour, stalking and harassment, technological abuse, **the information you** financial abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and honour **provide may be the** based violence. **missing piece of the**

The Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service is provided by Refuge and can be contacted on: 0800 408 1552. The service can support all victims over the age of 16. Warwickshire is here for anyone who is suffering at the hands of a perpetrator. Support is available for victims looking to escape an abuse environment. In addition

take over their homes by to the Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service, our Talk2Someone website provides a range of local and national organisations that are able to help: <https://www.talk2someone.org.uk/support-services/>. This includes

specialist male domestic violence charities and LGBTQ+ domestic violence charities.

Victims of Domestic Abuse may not have the opportunity to reach out for support themselves, so as a friend, family member relative or colleague, please report any concerns you may have. Contact the Warwickshire Domestic



County Lines drugs gangs are exploiting vulnerable people in Warwickshire. They using intimidation and violence, this is a term known as cuckooing. Here are some of the signs to look out for:

- Is a tenant
- Do visitors
- Are curtains or blinds almost always shut?
- Has a tenant stopped leaving their house?
- Are there suspicious changes in behaviour around the property?
- Has anti-social

## Council Tax Help

Are you, or someone in your household, living with:

- a degenerative brain
- a learning disability disorder such as Alzheimer's
- a severe stroke
- other kinds of dementia
- severe or chronic mental illness



and are entitled to one of the following benefits:

- Employment Support Allowance
- the care component of high or middle rate Disability Allowance



- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Living Allowance
- Constant Attendance Allowance
- increased Disability Pension Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment
- Incapacity Benefit Payments (PIP)
- Income Support that includes a disability premium

then you may be entitled to a Council Tax discount

and save money off your Council Tax bill

For more information please contact Revenues on 01789 260990  
revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk

## County Councillors Grant Fund 2021/22



### First Round

The first round of the Warwickshire County Councillors' Grant fund launched at the end of at the end of May, with a deadline of 5pm on Sunday 11 July. The Fund is aimed at community and voluntary organisations and provides each of the County's 57 Councillors with a pot of £6000 to support small-scale projects within their division that support the following outcomes:

- Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent
- Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure

All applications should aim to build community capacity and improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Warwickshire.

- Improve community assets and their sustainability
- Improve access to services
- Improve financial capability

- Please contact Amanda Wilson-Patterson for further information on 07780 995817 or email [amandawilsonpatterson@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:amandawilsonpatterson@warwickshire.gov.uk) or [funding@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:funding@warwickshire.gov.uk)
- Promote equalities and inclusivity

For more information about the Councillor Grant Fund in Warwickshire and the available funding please visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants)



A green and pleasant land...



**Volunteer at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games**

Birmingham 2022 are seeking over 13,000 volunteers to help deliver the Commonwealth Games.

Whether you have never volunteered before or have a specific skill, we would love to see people from the district join the volunteer programme and participate in this fantastic opportunity.

Applications are now open.  
<https://www.birmingham2022.com/get-involved/volunteering/>



**let's do the right thing**  
for Stratford-on-Avon

**Thank you for continuing to play your part to reduce the spread of COVID-19**

**Have the vaccine**

**Take regular tests**

**Follow the guidance and get your vaccine to help keep everyone safe.**



## and home!

As the weather gets warmer, work doesn't stop on planning for when it isn't!

The Government is providing investment for homes to become more energy efficient and have a lower carbon impact. Stratford-on-Avon District Council, working with Orbit, has successfully secured £1.45 million to improve homes under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Demonstrator to ensure that a number of households within the District will benefit from this investment.

This will involve some Orbit properties receiving a range of products that will be monitored to see how these measures work in real life situations, providing valuable lessons that will help shape future investment.

Orbit are also making a significant investment alongside the Government grant. In addition to this – there is funding available under the Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS) that will help other, mainly private households, achieve lower fuel bills and warmer properties. This scheme will see a further £750,000 spent improving housing in the local area.

Both schemes are being managed in a targeted way and funding and information will be made more widely available for people to be able to apply direct.

The Government has created a number of initiatives that will see further funding and the District Council is currently waiting to hear if there is an additional £820,000 available to provide even more investment in our local housing.

This is an exciting, if not challenging time. As we emerge from 2020, the District Council is experiencing many challenges in delivering these schemes – but is confident that it will be able to support a number of households in securing improved conditions.

The District Council will keep informed of the various schemes as they emerge from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.



## Arrangements for Stratford Di

This applies to all council meetings to which the public have access and also apply to non-decision-making meetings (eg OSC, Climate Change Panel).

- Meetings must be face to face in a physical location.
- Councillors who are members of the relevant committee/ panel will only be counted as being in

We are continuing to strongly urge public observers, via the Council website, to watch meetings virtually and not to physically attend meetings.

- The Democratic Services team will attend physically, together with the Chief Executive and/or Monitoring Officer where necessary-to provide direct support and advice.



attendance (and the meeting quorate) if they are physically present.

- Physical access to meetings must be allowed for the public, but subject to compliance with prevailing social distancing rules.
- All participants -i.e. a person who is not a member of the committee/panel but who wishes to speak at a meeting, must be physically present.
- The term ‘participant’ includes the local ward member in relation to a planning application.
- If a participant is not able or willing to attend physically they will either need to appoint an agent to speak on their behalf or rely on a written submission.
- For planning and licensing matters, if an applicant merely wants to observe, we will try to secure physical access to the meeting - taking into account others that need to be there.
- The default venue for meetings is still the council chamber - it has a capacity of 28 when socially distanced.
- If attendance is likely exceed 28 the meeting will take place in an alternative external venue.
- All meetings will continue to be streamed and broadcast for now, to enable anyone to watch the meeting live or on catch-up. [Council Meeting Webcasts | Stratford-onAvon District Council](#)

- Any other officers acting in an advisory capacity can attend remotely - this includes legal advisers and officers presenting reports, including planning officers.

For meetings from 21 June 2021 onwards the arrangements will be kept under review in light of changes in Government guidance on public health risk.

Date	Time	Meeting
Monday 5 July	3.30pm	The Cabinet
Tuesday 6 July	4.00pm	Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 7 July	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 12 July	2.00pm	Council
Wednesday 21 July	10.00am	Overview and Scrutiny
Wednesday 21 July	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 4 August	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 18 August	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 1 September	10.00am	Overview and Scrutiny
Wednesday 1 September	6.00pm	Planning
Monday 6 September	3.30pm	The Cabinet
Tuesday 7 September	4.00pm	Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 15 September	6.00pm	Planning
Wednesday 29 September	4.00pm	Climate Change Panel
Wednesday 29 September	6.00pm	Planning



## Do you need help with pest problem in your home or business?

Stratford-on-Avon District Council offers a reliable pest control service with highly qualified, friendly and professional officers.

### Our Control service offers:

Free surveys and treatments for domestic and commercial properties for a wide range of pests.

Fast response times  
Competitive prices

- Environmentally friendly
- Long term contracts for businesses and farms – These can be tailored to your needs.
- Advice on how to prevent pests
- Free home visits
- Free pest control during the cooler months, rats and mice will be looking for shelter as they are nice and warm to nest. To prevent these pests from entering your property it is a good idea to assess your property for any potential entry points and seal up any cracks or holes.
- Free advice on how to prevent pests

Reduce clutter to a minimum and garden cut back to remove shelter for pests.

Dispose of waste correctly and dispose of it in an appropriate bin

For a free survey and a treatment please contact **Environmental Services** on **01789 267575** email **environment@stratford-dc.gov.uk** or visit **stratford.gov.uk/environment/pest-control**

For more information visit **stratford.gov.uk/environment/pest-control**

with a service request form.