

Stratford on Avon District Councillor's Monthly Report
Mike Rice, Liberal Democrat Councillor for Henley in Arden
2nd October 2023

Contact: mike.rice@stratford-dc.gov.uk; mike.rice4henley@outlook.com

Council Plan

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is preparing a new Council Plan that will be in place for the next four years.

Residents, local businesses, parish and town councils, voluntary groups and the Council's partners are being given the chance to help create the new Plan, which is now out for consultation.

Residents and businesses are invited to view the Plan and complete a questionnaire on the District Council's website at:

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/b0d0fef6-93cc-43f9-9c27-f718fa8aaa4a>

The District Council is currently consulting on six core areas:

- Residents and Communities
- Delivery of Service
- Climate Change
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing
- Local Economy

The consultation runs until Friday, 20 October 2023.

Gateway Masterplan

A draft Masterplan for the Gateway area of Stratford's town centre should be approved for public consultation by the Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 2nd October.

Located to the north-west of the town centre and bounded by Birmingham Road to the north-east, Arden Street to the north-west and Windsor Street to the south-east, the Gateway site will be the location of a proposed World Shakespeare Centre,

celebrating the life and work of William Shakespeare. This Centre will be the centrepiece of the site, which will be regenerated “in a way that benefits the wider district and region”. In particular, the new Gateway should improve northern access from Henley, for example, into the town centre.

The Masterplan, which takes the form of a Supplementary Planning Document, is currently in draft form. Subject to Cabinet approval, a public consultation will commence on Thursday, 19 October 2023 and run for six weeks.

Shared Prosperity Fund

A total of 37 applications out of 59 received have been shortlisted for approval under the Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Funds, part of the government’s Levelling Up agenda.

A total of £901,582 will be invested in 32 projects by the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and £95,480 in five projects by the rural fund. The latter represents an underspend of more than £150,000. This will be rolled forward into the money available next year when the District Council will give “particular consideration as to how to communicate the opportunity more widely”.

Projects shortlisted for final SPF approval include £64,250 for Stratford Sports Club, £14,800 for Stratford Literary Festival and £12,701 for Stratford Xmas lights. The latter two awards are for developing and promoting the visitor economy. Warwickshire County Council is to receive nearly £300,000, mostly for “strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems”. Another £135,750 will go to Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce under the same heading and for supporting exports.

Among the rural projects are £19,500 to go to Lizzie’s ironing & laundry service for the hospitality industry and £2,400 for Bidford-on-Avon to expand its monthly market to 12 stalls. These represent “capital grant funding for small-scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas”.

The District Council has been allocated about £3.59million in funding for the period 2022-2025 to be invested locally. It must be spent by March 2025.

