**Stratford on Avon District Councillor’s Monthly Report**

 **for January 2025**

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**Public consultation opens on Plan for Henley**

Residents, businesses and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the latest proposals for developing Henley-in-Arden in an eight-week public consultation starting on 10th January 2025.

Henley-in-Arden is one of 24 “strategic growth location options” nominated in the South Warwickshire Local Plan being developed jointly by Stratford on Avon and Warwick District Councils.

The Plan covers development until the year 2050, with Henley one of many “preferred options” which could see up to 2,500 homes as well as business units located on the former golf course and adjoining land to the north-west of the market town.

According to the latest government thinking, more than 2,000 homes must be built every year in South Warwickshire. This could mean over 50,000 new homes during the 25-year life of the Local Plan, which is timetabled to come into effect in 2027.

Henley is just one of 36 emerging housing and employment growth location options. These include 12 potential new settlements as well as the 24 strategic growth location options, of which Henley is one.

Both Councils emphasise that not all of the locations identified will ultimately be required to meet the area's growth needs. The next stage of the Plan process is for further site analysis to be carried out. This will filter down which growth locations and specific sites should form part of South Warwickshire's final growth strategy.

During the consultation period ­– from 10th January until 7th March – Stratford and Warwick District Councils will be running a series of in-person and online events. Residents are being urged to respond and make their comments on the emerging Plan.

One of the simplest ways to respond will be online, which will be live from the start of the consultation in January until the deadline in March. Although the more traditional ways of responding via email and by post will still be available.

Details of how to take part in the consultation, as well as a link to the online response form will be available soon.

The latest Preferred Options consultation is informed by wide ranging research that may be viewed on the South Warwickshire Local Plan website at: [www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp](http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/).

Once adopted, the Plan will set out how both Councils intend to deliver the housing, employment and infrastructure development required to meet their needs up to 2050, whilst also protecting open spaces, green belt and countryside from unplanned development.

The Plan will be the basis upon which all planning applications will be determined. As such, it will support both Councils’ development needs as well as addressing pressing issues around climate change, biodiversity, connectivity and resident wellbeing.

As part of the consultation, a targeted call for sites exercise will be held specifically for the following:

* Gypsy and Traveller sites
* Commercial and Community-Led Renewable Energy generation sites
* Housing and Employment sites within the 12 potential new settlement locations

**More climate change cash available**

Sports Clubs are now eligible to apply for grants from the District Council’s Community Climate Change Fund, which has just reopened for new applications.

Projects enhancing biodiversity will also now be eligible from the Fund, which has been renamed the Community Climate and Nature Fund.

Among the 10 successful applicants in the first phase of the £100,000 Fund were Great Alne Parish Council with £4,000 to develop a community flooding scheme, Snitterfield Village Hall with nearly £5,000 to install an air-source heat pump and Bearley Parish Council, which got £2,000 for LED streetlight bulbs. [You can view some case studies of the successful projects here.](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/community-climate-change-fund-case-studies.cfm)

A total of £55,863 is now available to successful applicants in phase two of the Fund. [Applications will oen from the 10th of January. Find out more here.](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-fund.cfm)

The District Council will also be hosting a Webinar Event to provide interested parties with the opportunity to formulate project ideas and obtain detailed guidance on the application process. To register your interest to attend the event, please contact climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk