

Ward Report – Tysoe Ward.

Including the Parishes of Compton Wynyates, Halford, Honington, Idlicote, Oxhill, Pillerton Persey, Pillerton Priors, Tysoe, and Whatcote.

Overview for September

In August I reported that this is a holiday period with Central Government in recess. and normally little happens in Local Government. This year has been different with Devolution and Local Government Reform, the South Warwickshire Local Plan, reform of the planning system from the 31st of October this year, and the climate that threatened high fire risks in rural areas and future food security: not to mention a change in Prime Minister.

I have little to add to my previous report therefore except to repeat how important it is that Parish Councils encourage their residents to respond to the public consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan that will directly affect the communities and all who live in South Warwickshire. As it is drafted this plan will change where we all live until 2050.

Representations can be made via the SDC Website and also be emailed to swlp@warwickdc.gov.uk , or posted to the South Warwickshire Local Team, Stratford-upon-Avon District, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6HX.

Devolution and Local Government Reform

At the end of last month, the Government announced that Warwickshire will be administered by two separate Unitary Authorities, North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire. Two such authorities will enable a Mayoral Strategic Authority to be established attracting additional annual funding from Central Government for the implementation of devolved powers. The details of the latter are to be notified. It is possible however that the Government will require a Warwickshire Mayoral Strategic Authority to also combine with another authority such as Worcestershire. No further information is forthcoming on that matter.

The Government has also determined that NHS regions should match the political authorities' geographies. In Warwickshire that would mean removing Coventry from the current sphere which would seem unlikely. Also, there is a review of the number of police forces with a view to reducing the number of forces to increase efficiency. The new South Warwickshire Unitary Authority will comprise Stratford-on Avon and Warwick District Councils. The vesting date for the change is 1st of April 2028.

It seems likely that a separate Fire and Rescue Authority would be set up under a Warwickshire Mayor, but again, no information is coming from Central Government on that subject.

Elections for the current District Councils are due to go ahead in May 2027 as normal but will also elect members for the Shadow Unitary Authority. The electoral Wards (41 in SDC) of the current District Councils will be replaced by the current County Electoral Divisions, 27 in South Warwickshire). Each Division will have two members, except for Bidford & Wellford and Budbrooke & Bishop's Tachbrook which have three elected members each giving a total of 56 members. Parish Council elections will be at the same time as UA elections to ensure Parish Councils do not carry the financial burden of a separate election.

Members elected in 2027 will serve an initial five year term.

An Extraordinary Parish Forum meeting will be held on **22 October 2026** at **6pm**, regarding Local Government Reorganisation. This will be an online meeting via Teams, and a link to the meeting will be forwarded with the agenda five working days prior to the meeting.

Parishes are entitled to send nominated representatives of their Council (usually the Chair and/or their Clerk) to the meeting, with a maximum of two per Council. Additional Parish representatives may attend, subject to written notice being given to the District Council's Democratic Services Team (committeemanagers@stratford-dc.gov.uk) five working days prior to the Forum meeting and subject to the subsequent approval of the Forum Chair.

South Warwickshire Local Plan and Regulation 19 Public Consultation.

The SWLP was approved to be submitted for Regulation 19 at the last Council Meeting. I voted against the motion because I do not believe that the plan is ready and is flawed because the deliverability is based on getting some £400m funding for two new roads and bridges across the River Avon, and in my judgment is not "sound".

The next stage is now in progress and is a public consultation which closes on the 8th of September, although this is not very well publicised in my opinion. Below I have copied the list of face-to-face public meetings that are planned by SDC. You will note that none of the public briefings are scheduled for the South of the district. I have raised this with the Chief Executive, and his deputy has stated that our part of the District is not affected by the plan in so much as housing numbers are not allocated, but that is not the point. The plan will affect everyone, and everyone has a right to comment and express their view. One more face-to-face meeting is due to be announced, and I have requested it to be in Shipstone on Stour.

Meeting availability or not, it is important that our residents have the chance to make their feelings known and have them taken into account before the final submission of the Regulation-19 draft plan.

Comments can be submitted on-line at the link below, or by email, or by post.

Regulation 19 Consultation

The Regulation 19 consultation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan is now live until Tuesday 8 September 2026.

This Regulation 19 consultation is being undertaken on behalf the Government's Planning Inspector and is focused on specific issues, namely whether the plan meets legal requirements, shows effective joint working between councils and has been properly tested in terms of soundness. It gives residents, businesses and stakeholders the opportunity to have a final say before the document it is submitted to the government for independent examination.

Following the consultation, the plan is scheduled to be submitted to the Secretary of State by 31 December 2026, in line with Government deadlines.

There are a number of events being held for residents to ask questions to officers:

- ***Monday 10 August, 4pm to 7pm - Bidford Parish Council meeting room***
- ***Wednesday 12 August, 4pm to 7pm - Talisman Square, Kenilworth***
- ***Thursday 20 August, 4pm to 7pm - Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon***
- ***Wednesday 26 August, 4pm to 7pm - Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa***

Members of the public are encouraged to respond online via the South Warwickshire Local Plan Consultation Portal where possible.

Representations can also be emailed to swlp@warwickdc.gov.uk , or posted to the South Warwickshire Local Team, Stratford-upon-Avon District, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6HX.