



Where has a year gone! Firstly I just want to start by saying I have had the most educational and rewarding first year representing our area of Salford Priors and Alcester Rural. It's been a real joy to work alongside the Parishes and although we don't yet have answers to all the questions I feel like we make progress along the way and have built good relations. I also want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience as I have settled into this role. This year has seen me attend 3 planning committees for applications in Temple Grafton, Salford Priors and Exhall, I've been to all but 3 or 4 Parish Council meetings across the 6 active Parishes in the Ward. I've attended 13 of 18 major meetings at the District Council (this doesn't include smaller meetings I go to on a regular basis). I've fought for Station House in Salford Priors, I've fought for our Arden Special Landscape area in between Temple Grafton and Ardens Grafton. On various occasions I have also been in touch with our MP regarding issues in the ward where help has been received gratefully every time to any queries I have raised. I will continue to be the listening ear and voice for all residents in our beautiful part of Warwickshire.

What's happened at District this past year? So as you know May was a massive change in the administration at Stratford District Council, I was one of if not the only Conservative councillor to gain a ward. Because of this change its fair to say there has been a lot of settling in time for the new administration which has lead to delays on certain projects within the District such as the South Warwickshire Local Plan, and the Gateway project.

Some of the major approved policies and projects that have been happening or are set to happen from this past year are as follows:

- **Community Climate Change Fund Decision:**

To make awards from the £50,000 Community Climate Change Fund following appraisal of the bids received.

- **Notice of motion – Ecological Emergency (Biodiversity):**

Consideration was given to a response to a Notice of Motion presented to Council on 11 December 2023, requesting that an Ecological Emergency be declared.

In receiving the report, it was noted that many of the proposed initiatives in response to the points within the Motion fell within the business-as-usual activities of the Council, however, some of the initiatives required further exploration and, as a result, could have resource implications.

The options available to The Cabinet were to support some or all of the proposed initiatives or to reject some or all of the proposed initiatives, as set out in detail in the agenda report.

During discussion, it was reiterated that many of the initiatives detailed within the agenda report were already ongoing, but the report served to raise the profile of these.

The addition of a Green Spaces officer was welcomed.

Accordingly, it was RECOMMENDED to Council:

(1) That the Declaration of an Ecological Emergency be supported; and (2) That the responses to the Notice of Motion be endorsed.