

I attended Full Council on Monday 24th February, which was a 4 hour meeting to discuss all things budget. District council tax will be going up 3.1% this year and money is being allocated towards projects such as;

£30,000 for Women's Aid Domestic Violence project support, training, community awareness and work with partners to ensure the availability of their services within the district.

£50,000 additional funding for the Economic Recovery Reserve to encourage economic activity through one off schemes.

£50,000 Trees for Parish Councils scheme.

£50,000 for a Business Conference, to stimulate the local economy, increase networking opportunities, showcase local talent, innovation and promote education and training for local businesses.

£70,000 to fund the temporary closure of the High Street in Stratford.

£80,000 to fund a screening programme in partnership with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) which is focuses on prostate cancer awareness and early detection.

£100,000 for the Gateway scheme.

£100,000 to support Cycle Schemes aimed at promoting sustainable transportation.

£100,000 for an Economic Development Officer to support the Economic Development activity for a period of two years.

£150,000 for a new splash pad at the Stratford Recreations Ground play area.

£222,000 additional funding for Environmental Street Scene Improvement promoting public safety and security.

£250,000 to fund various projects with the aim of enhancing and improving community facilities, services, and overall infrastructure, thereby fostering a stronger and more vibrant local community.

£500,000 for various Council construction projects.

£520,000 for the Climate Change Fund ensuring the Council can continue its commitments to climate change for next year.

£600,000 to be used to directly target cost-of-living hardship through selected partners.

£2.5m for affordable and temporary housing to help reduce temporary accommodation costs.

Your council tax bill 2025-26 for a Band D property

Stratford District Council: £169.12

Warwickshire County Council: £1,822.95

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner: £303.71

Town and Parish Councils (average): £84.13

Total: £2,379.91 (+ 5.13%)

A final reminder from me that comments for the SWLP consultation need to be in by this Friday

Since I last saw you also I've been busy with site meetings for those wanting to expand their businesses within the ward, chasing enforcement issues across the ward, attending other Parish Council meetings. I'm looking to attend Regulatory committee tomorrow as I hope that a question that has been put forward by a neighbouring parish will be asked and I would like to know that answer to.

