

District Councillor report Upper Lighthorne Parish Council 6th July 2023

New Cabinet

Leader- Strategic Leadership Cllr Susan Juned, Deputy Leader Cllr Nigel Rock, Law and Governance Portfolio Cllr Natalie Gist, Environmental and Neighbourhood Service Portfolio Cllr Lorraine Grocott, Development Portfolio Cllr George Cowcher, Resources Portfolio Cllr David Curtis, Housing and Customer Services Portfolio Cllr Liz Coles and Cllr Susan Juned, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon.

Changes at Stratford District Council

As well as changes in the political side, there are also some changes to report on the District Council's Management Team. Phil Grafton who is the District Council's Head of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer is retiring as is David Platts who is the District Council's Head of Housing and Customer Services. Phil is leaving the District Council after over a decade, and he is being replaced by Marcia Eccleston in early August. Marcia is currently the Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer at Oxford City Council. Marcia is very experienced and has previously held the role of Head of Service – Legal, Governance and risk for the collaboration between West Mercia and Warwickshire Police.

David has been with the District Council for over seven years, and he is being replaced by Annette Homer in early July. Annette is currently the Head of Governance at the Extracare Charitable Trust. Annette has previously held the role of the Executive Director for Bournville Village trust, and before that worked for Bromford Housing, Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council.

Changes to Political Control

Out of the 41 Councillors elected, 21 were not of the Council prior to the elections. The District Council has moved from Conservative control to Liberal Democrat taking the District Council. Whilst the Lib Dems have run the District Council in the past this was in a coalition, this is the first time in the history of the District Council that they have had an outright majority. The result of the election was as follows: Liberal Democrats: 25 Councillors Conservatives: 12 Councillors Green Party: 3 Councillors Independent: 1 Councillor.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Applications open for UK Shared Prosperity Funding and Rural England Prosperity Funding Businesses and communities in Stratford-on-Avon District

are set to benefit again from funding secured by Stratford-on-Avon District Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

Stratford-on-Avon District Council The deadline for this round of applications is 5pm on Friday 14 July Applications are expected to come from statutory infrastructure providers and not-for-profit organisations such as state schools, community groups and registered charities for projects that demonstrate a wider community benefit.

Documentation and guidance required to complete the application can be found at: [UK Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\) Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Free Seated Exercise Sessions across Stratford-on-Avon District described as “Irreplaceable”.

Free activities across Stratford-on-Avon District to support older adults become more mobile have been described as “irreplaceable”. Attendees have described the half-hour seated exercise sessions as ‘extremely beneficial’ to both physical and mental health. Everyone Active, the operator of Stratford-on-Avon District Council’s five leisure centres, secured funding earlier this year from Sport England to deliver activities to support older adults across the community to become more mobile. Sessions are delivered in community venues in a group setting and are designed to improve mobility, fitness and wellbeing as well as help prevent falls.

Sessions are weekly at each venue and led by Everyone Active instructor, Steve Blake.

Chris Mills

Gaydon and Upper Lighthorne Ward