Ufton Parish Council Meeting – April 1st 2025

District Councillor Report: Susan Ostrander

Headlines:

1. Rural policing and resilience – focus group needed
2. Community Climate and Nature Fund – new round
3. District Council Newsletter – The Online View
4. Election Results
    a. By-elections for District Council
    b. County Council elections

1. Rural Policing and Resilience – focus group

The Rural Services Network, an Executive Board Member of the **Rural National Crime Network**, is encouraging rural residents to have their say on policing in their communities.

The **Rural Resilience Research Group** at Harper Adams University is conducting important research into **rural confidence in the police**, and they want to hear from local people. This project will explore how rural residents feel about their interactions with the police and help develop recommendations for future practice. It is the first initiative of its kind to create robust, evidence-based insights on what drives trust and confidence in rural policing.

Why Take Part?

- Share your experiences and thoughts on policing in rural areas.
- Contribute to meaningful research that could drive real improvements.
- Help create evidence-based recommendations for policymakers.
- Ensure rural voices are heard and rural issues are addressed.

What's Involved? Participants will take part in a single focus group discussion (video recorded) and offer input on guidance documents based on their experiences. A small recompense is available for full participation.

Where? Focus groups will be held across:

- North and South Shropshire
- North and South Worcestershire
- North and South Herefordshire
- North and South Warwickshire

Interested? This is a vital opportunity to influence future policing policy and practice in rural areas. Please get in touch with the project lead, **Kreseda Smith**, at: **kresedasmith@harper-adams.ac.uk**

2. Community Climate and Nature Fund – 2nd Round

On Monday 7 April, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet approved more funding for round three of the Community Climate and Nature Fund (CCNF).

£150,000 has been allocated from the Climate Change Reserve to the CCNF, previously known as the Community Climate Change Fund (CCCF), for the next round of funding.

The fund will provide opportunities for the following groups to apply for grant funding:

- Town and parish councils
- Properly constituted community and charity groups operating within the Stratford-on-Avon District
- Sports clubs

It is interesting to see where the previous funds of funding were allocated. It can be viewed here along with information on some case studies: Community Climate Change Fund Case Studies | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

3. **District Council Newsletter – The Online View**

A recent resident survey, considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 April 2025, highlighted a strong preference among respondents to receive updates about the work of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and its committees via email.

This facility is already in place through the 'Online View' newsletter which I have already alerted you to but thought a reminder could be useful. Residents and councillors can subscribe by visiting the District Council's website and entering their email address. The newsletter provides regular updates on council news, decisions, consultations, and service changes. Sign up for this here: Email Newsletter | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

4. **Elections:**
    a. **By Elections for District Council:**

Alcester West - Turnout 44.77%
Tom Ballinger - Liberal Democrats - 403 Elected
Emma Daniell - Conservative Party - 265
Andrew Foster - Labour Party - 241
Ashley Jones - Reform UK - 278
John Stott - Green Party - 37

Number of votes cast: 1,224

Welford-on-Avon - Turnout 41.64%
Cliff Brown - Liberal Democrats - 485 Elected
John Hartigan - Labour Party - 29
Neil Lawrence - Reform UK - 330
Christian Reeve - Conservative Party - 190
Penny Stott - Green Party - 32

Number of votes cast: 1,069

b. County Council Elections

65 candidates contested 13 divisions on Warwickshire County Council in the Stratford-on-Avon District area on Thursday 1 May 2025.

Feldon - Turnout 37.26%
Louis Adam - Liberal Democrats - 1126
Rachel Frenguelli - Labour Party - 192
Joshua Hearne-Wilkins - Reform UK - 783
Christopher Kettle - Conservative Party - 1133 Elected (by just 7 votes!!)
Michael Mordue - Green Party – 159

Overall:

Total Declared	Total Seats
57	57

Total seats by party

Conservative Party	9
Green Party	7
Labour Party	3
Liberal Democrats	14
Reform UK	23
Whitnash Residents Association	1

