

Lighthorne Parish Council. District Councillors Report.

14th January 2020

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Councillor Peter Barnes

It is with deep regret that Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been informed of the sad passing of Councillor Peter Barnes, on Friday 3 January 2020. Councillor Peter Barnes was the longest serving District Councillor with over 29 years continuous service.

He was also a County Councillor and was first elected for Bidford-on-Avon division as a Liberal Democrat on in June 2001, where he served continuously as such until he lost the seat in May 2013.

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SDC's Budget 2020/21

The Essential Facts

1. There are services SDC has to provide by law – e.g. emptying the recycling and general waste bins, looking after the homeless – and there are other services it chooses to provide - e.g. leisure centres.
2. Only 40% of SDC's income comes from the Council Tax. Most of the rest comes from Central Government.
3. Central Government is increasingly shifting the financial burden to district councils. In contrast, other public bodies (including WCC) will see their budgets increased re NHS, social care, education, criminal justice system. Central Government has already, and it will continue, to reduce the amount of money it will provide to SDC. For example, in 2020/21 SDC will receive £5.3m from the New Homes Bonus. In 3 years' time this will have been reduced to nothing from this source.

4. SDC is already budgeting to use £1.5m of its reserves to balance its budget in 2020/21. By the end of the year it will have reserves of £12.5m. Because of the reduction of Central Government funding over the next 3 years, SDC's reserves are likely to be halved to £6.3m. The absolute minimum level of reserves is £2.5m. If SDC proposes to set a budget with less than this level of reserves, our Section 151 Officer will not sign it off.
5. SDC only keeps a fraction of the Council Tax it collects. This is where it all goes:
 - Parish Councils 3.4%
 - SDC 7.8%
 - Police and Crime Commissioner 11.5%
 - Warwickshire County Council 77.3%
6. If SDC does not generate more money locally over the next 3 years, as the Local Government Peer Review in 2019 advocated it should, it will still be required to balance its budget over succeeding years, predominantly by reducing the level of discretionary services it is currently able to provide. Some residents will lose services as a result.
7. This is why the intention is to increase the amount of the SDC element of the Council Tax for 2020/21 by £5 per household, as well as introducing a charge of £40 per year for the collection of green bin waste for those residents who want to continue to use this service.
8. SDC is asking residents to pay more, not because it likes doing so, but to protect the services it currently provides and because it believes this is the responsible thing to do in the long term interests of all the residents of the District.

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Stratford District Council Plan 2019-2030

We are ambitious for the future of the District as an excellent place to live, work, learn, visit and invest.

The plan sets out our vision for Stratford-on-Avon District as a place in 2030 and for local government in 2030.

The core of the plan is a set of ambitions and actions for the Council over the next four years under five key objectives:

- Working on regional, national and international stages
- Responding to the climate emergency
- Enhancing the quality of Stratford-on-Avon as place
- Nurturing a thriving, innovative and inclusive economy
- Putting residents and communities centre stage

Stratford-on-Avon District Council 2030 Vision

In 2030 we want Stratford-on-Avon District to....

...be well-known internationally for the culture, heritage and countryside across the District, and for the quality of its visitor experience, as well as for being Shakespeare's birthplace.

...have used its international reputation to support and sustain the development of future technologies and innovative businesses of all sizes.

...be one of the UK's first carbon-neutral Districts supporting zero-carbon innovation, technology and construction and be at the forefront of climate change adaptation.

...benefit from the most advanced connectivity and accessibility across the District (including the best possible communications infrastructure) and an integrated transport system with excellent links to Birmingham, Oxford and London.

...enable all its residents to live safe and healthy lives, work, raise children and grow old in an excellent District for leisure, education and sport.

...have high quality, appropriate and affordable housing across the District.

In 2030 we want local government in Stratford-on-Avon to....

...put residents and communities across the District at the heart of what it does: providing high quality services in innovative ways, seizing opportunities and addressing challenges facing the District.

...have achieved long-term financial sustainability.
...make better use of technology to underpin new ways of working and new relationships with residents, businesses and local institutions.
...drive partnerships across all sectors and deliver seamless services with its local government partners.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council Plan 2019-23

Working on regional, national and international stages

We will promote Stratford-on-Avon externally and use our relationships and reputation to help deliver our vision for 2030 and our ambitions for 2023.

Enhancing the quality Stratford-on-Avon as a place

We will use our roles and powers, an ever-closer relationship with Warwickshire County Council and effective collaboration with other partners to enable us to ensure that Stratford-on-Avon is an excellent place to live, work, learn, visit and invest.

Nurturing a thriving, innovative and inclusive economy

We will work with the Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, West Midlands Combined Authority and Midlands Engine to support our local economy.

Responding to the climate emergency

We will do all we can locally to contribute to national carbon reduction targets, fulfil our aim to becoming a carbon-neutral District by 2030 and support measures to adapt to the impact of climate change.

Putting residents and communities centre stage

We will listen to and engage with residents and communities, use what we hear to shape what we do, and communicate the results.

In order to deliver this, we will become a more agile and resilient Council.

4.

The District Council has prepared new planning guidance on ensuring that new development adapts to and mitigates the effects of climate change.

The draft guidance is set out in Part V of the Development Requirements SPD. The SPD provides advice and guidance to applicants when submitting planning applications on the interpretation of a number of policies in the Council's Core Strategy. Parts A-U, which cover a range of topics, have already been adopted by the Council.

Whilst the existing SPD already incorporates some guidance in respect of climate change, this new Part V brings the advice and guidance together in one place, as well as providing new additional measures in respect of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Once finished (adopted), this new Part of the SPD will be used by the Council to help reach decisions on whether to approve or refuse planning applications.

How to View the Consultation

The consultation document can be viewed on the District Council's website at www.stratford.gov.uk/climatechangespd.

It is also available to view at the District Council offices (Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX) and at main public libraries across the District. Copies of the document can also be obtained from the Council.

The Council is also hosting a public drop-in session when officers will be available to answer questions and provide more information about the SPD:

- **Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX on Tuesday 4 February 2020 from 3-7pm**

How to Comment

Comments are invited on any aspect of the SPD. Responses can be made:

- Via the on-line comment form using the link above - or
- by downloading a comment form and:

emailing it to policy.consultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk – or posting it to Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX returning it to the District Council offices in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Comments must be received by the District Council by **5pm on Friday 21 February 2020**

What happens Next

The comments submitted during the consultation period will be assessed and used to amend, as appropriate, the final version of the SPD. This final version will then be agreed by The Cabinet before being formally adopted by Council. Once adopted, the SPD can be used by the Council to assess planning applications.

If you have any queries regarding this consultation please do not hesitate to contact the Policy Team.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

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