

# **Tysoe ward Parish Council Report June 2025**

## **1. Private Management Companies operating Public Open Spaces, Flood Alleviation Schemes, and Estate Roads.**

A Motion on Notice has been posted by the Shadow Leader of the Council Daren Pemberton and seconded by the Leader Susan Juned. To be debated at the next Full Council meeting 14<sup>th</sup> July. There are many new developments that suffer from indifferent management and pay high costs for the privilege. Costs are unregulated and approaching unaffordability. The motion will enable a working group to accept evidence from residents and the MP's that represent the communities of SDC.

## **2. Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution.**

Warwickshire County Council and the District and Borough Councils are to be abolished and replaced with a Unitary Authority. The new Authority will take on the combined responsibilities of the existing two tiers of local government which was the preferred option of the WCC prior to the last local elections.

It now seems clear that it will not be possible for Warwickshire to join the West Midlands Combined Authority as the Mayor has clearly stated that the proposal will not be supported. Warwickshire can stand by itself as the population exceeds the 1.5m minimum set by the Government. There are two practical options that are being considered;

- a. A single Unitary Authority essentially replacing WCC without a Mayor.
  - b. Two Unitary Authorities; on North Warwickshire, and one South Warwickshire.
- The two new authorities would comprise North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby Borough Councils, and SDC and WDC respectively.

The financial case for a single unitary authority is compelling but other issues are to be considered of a more social and local economy driving cohesion to communities.

In my opinion a Bi-Unitary Authority would replace one two tier system with another. On the other hand, SDC historically has demanded the lowest Council Tax of the other current Authorities and consolidation into a single authority would require a unified Council Tax demand.

It appears that the current 'preferred option' is a Bi-Unitary option but this will come before the SDC Cabinet on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, and Full Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July to confirm the 'preferred option' and for work to commence on the submission that will be made to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

## **3. South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP).**

Work on the SWLP continues. It was recently announced at the Parish & Town Council Forum that the Housing Land Supply for SDC, originally quoted at some 24 years has now been reduced to 5 years and 22 days. This is due to increased housing demand loaded onto Rural Authorities with a corresponding reduction on Urban areas as well as a change to the standard method of calculating local Housing Need.

The consequence of this change is that Reserved sites, Grey-belt, and brownfield sites will be actively sort to full fill Local Authorities duty to deliver more housing.

Currently there is no Policy in SDC for this and we will need to have one before the SWLP will be ready. If we do not achieve this then the flood gates could well be opened to developers.

In addition, Announced yesterday: Government's Neighbourhood Planning Support program is not being renewed by MHCLG. This disappointing but not unexpected news means that Town & Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums can no longer secure grant funds or free technical support packages for Neighbourhood Plan projects.

#### **4. Ellen Badger Hospital**

I shall be attending a site visit as a member of SDC's Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) next month to see exactly what has been provided for the community and how SDC funds have been spent. I shall report back in September.

Cllr Malcolm Littlewood,  
Member for Tysoe Ward  
Stratford on Avon District Council

7 April 2024