

District Councillor Report

FAO Arrow with Weethley Parish Council

Councillor: Ashley Jones

Ward: Salford Priors & Alcester Rural

Parish Council Meeting: 09.09.26

Report Submitted: [05.09.26]



1. Overview of District Council Activity since our last meeting

- The South Warwickshire Local Plan was voted through to Reg19 consultation on July 15th (I voted against, and for an amendment to remove BID1 site). The public Reg 19 consultation is currently taking place. I have sent a reminder to all Parish Councils to engage with the consultation before it closes on 8th Sept. BID1, the large (~2,300) site in Bidford will have a serious effect on our ward, as will the wider plan. Consultation & map here: <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/publication-regulation-19-consultation.cfm> or if you're reading this on a paper copy, you can scan the QR below:



- Local Government Reorganisation has moved to the next stage – it has been announced that our area will move toward two unitary authorities, one North, and one South. District/County Councillors will be replaced by 2* new councillors per ward, whose roles will encompass both sets of responsibilities. Elections for these roles will be held in May 2027, with the new councils formally taking over responsibility from the current councils in 2028. There's still lots of uncertainty about this transition and how it will look, but officers are working on the process already. It will be interesting to see how the future plays out – there may be some efficiencies and economies of scale, though the 2 authority option has been costed as the more expensive of the two. I have some questions about the nature of the new councillor role and of the transition, and feel some disappointment that historic local institutions such as Stratford District/Warwickshire County Council will disappear.

- **Arrow Valley Solar project pre consultation is closing. Next step is the public consultation launching Sept 28th. According to website: "We are now preparing for our next key project milestone: a formal public consultation expected to launch in September 2026. In advance of this, we are refining our draft Scheme design and supporting environmental information, as well as preparing consultation materials and arranging local events. We look forward to sharing more information with communities shortly and will continue to provide updates as the project progresses." I would like to work with you to develop a joint response here.**

2. Councillor attendance & training

- I have attended Salford Priors, Temple Grafton, Wixford, Exhall, Haselor Parish councils as well as Arrow. I have maintained my 100% full council attendance record and continue to log training hours.
- Further training in planning based on my new committee role.
- Orbit workshop attendance – specific Orbit issues can be raised here in future.

3. Ward Specific Updates

- I have had further exchanges with officers regarding the Birch appeal site in Temple Grafton. Very long delays in enforcement have been explained as due to the council's weak position re: G&T sites. Eventually, a revised application has been submitted – outcome tbc.
- I and my County counterpart are seeking a resolution with Severn Trent regarding the use of lorries in Salford Priors/Wixford to transport water/sewage up from the village due to weak pumps – this causes disruption to residents. Has been ongoing for several years now. I have also raised the matter with officers, who have pointed me back to the relevant person at ST. Slow progress but I am now onto the right people, I believe.
- Continuing to scrutinise development in the area including working with various residents to move applications forward/oppose when appropriate.
- Enforcement notice served on Wixford Grange site – tricky situation as residents believe they were sold the plots for 12mth occupancy, which the notice makes illegal – they can only stay 10. Working with officers to try to navigate this.