

Chief's Intro

Welcome to issue 3 of Parish Talk. Thank you for all your suggestions for future articles which we will try and accommodate. In this issue you will find an update on Awards for All, the FLAME bus, Planning news, Hi-5 activities for youngsters, a message from Warwickshire Police and of course the floods.

The emergency situation tested the Council and its partners, and it was only the efforts of the emergency services and staff from the local authorities, including parish councils and the voluntary sector that stopped the situation from being worse than it was.

Before this June was an important month for the District Council with the inspection from the Audit Commission for our CPA rating. This will probably be the last time we will have to undergo a CPA inspection as the system changes and we've got everything crossed for an improved rating. The result will be published in October.

District Councillors will shortly be provided with posters of themselves to display on Parish notice boards. The posters will have a picture of the local District Councillor together with their contact details. Where there is more than one Councillor for each Parish the posters will have all the Councillors for that Parish on. This is something that we used to provide and feel that we need to reinstate this as information for local residents.

Our main Committee cycle shortly goes on summer recess but returns in September with a full [diary of meetings](#).

I hope you enjoy this issue and if any of you are planning a holiday over the summer I hope you have a good one.

Regards
Paul Lankester, Chief Executive



Message from the Queen

I have been shocked and deeply concerned by the extent of the devastation caused by the most recent severe flooding across large parts of the country. Please extend my sympathy to all the many people whose homes have been damaged, livelihoods threatened, or who have been affected by the water and power shortages. May I also express my continued admiration for the emergency services, military personnel, local authorities, and volunteers working tirelessly and selflessly to bring people to safety and avert further damage. To all those concerned, I send my heartfelt thanks.

ELIZABETH R

24th July 2007



John Maples with Stratford District Council Strategic Director, Dave Nash

Thanks for our efforts have been received from many quarters including the Minister for the West Midlands, Liam Byrne, who visited the Council on Monday 23 July, the Leader of the County Council, Cllr Alan Farnell, as well as our own members and our Local MP John Maples who visited the Council on Friday 27 July.

Any parishes who would like more information on emergency planning procedures please contact Jeremy Lee at Warwickshire County Council email jeremylee@warwickshire.gov.uk

BritishRedCross Flood Appeal

The National Red Cross Flood appeal is helping to support and assist people affected by the flooding – visit the [National Red Cross Flood Appeal](#) if you would like to make a donation

Combined flood operation

A huge combined operation between Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police, parish councils and other agencies was operating throughout the weekend of 20, 21 and 22 July to try and help the county's flood victims.

At 8pm on Friday evening Warwickshire Police, in consultation with Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council, declared the floods a 'major emergency'.

The operation saw agencies from highways and care services, through to the fire and police, working together to ensure people received help quickly and efficiently.

"The Council and its staff together with partner agencies have worked tirelessly to help people during this emergency. It's been a real team effort and I would like to congratulate all those involved including the voluntary sector,"

says Paul Lankester Chief Executive of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

"The information and pictures we received from Councillors and staff through out this operation has been invaluable to us in finding out what the situation was like across the District. There was a real sense of the community coming together against the odds. There have been endless reports of people in need being helped and true community spirit shown."

During the peak of the flooding on Friday night into Saturday morning, the Royal Air Force worked with the county council's emergency planning team and the police to carry out three separate helicopter rescues in the south of the county.

Rest centres were available at Stratford High School, Henley High School, Shipston High School, and Wellesbourne Conservative Club to try and provide a warm and dry respite for people caught in the floods. Approaching 150 people spent the night in rest centres on Friday evening.

People caught in cars and unable to get home, and those whose homes were flooded, took advantage of the rest centres, provided by Warwickshire County Council with hot drinks and food provided by the local authority's county caterers service.

The District Council's emergency centre was operational on Friday 20 July at 1.30pm and a flooding hotline was set up at 2.30pm. During the emergency operation the District Council's emergency contact centre took 250-300 calls.

Warwickshire County Council's fire and rescue service received more than 500 calls, and similarly Warwickshire Police received 450 calls.

Impact on the Communities

- 50+ Communities reported flooding of premises
- Over 500 Residents' homes flooded
- ?? Businesses flooded – still assessing
- 250-300 Calls received on the flooding hotline
- 70 formal road closures
- Suspended all Council services on 20 July 2007 except main reception, contact centre and emergency centre.

Now for the clear up operation.

Please visit the [Council's website](#) for further help and advice on flooding issues from health advice, insurance and rogue traders. Also visit [Warwickshire County Council Emergency Planning](#) for further information.



