

## Seasons Greetings

Now we are in the Christmas period, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year. I hope everyone has an enjoyable and happy time with lots of presents and festive cheer!

As 2007 draws to a close it is time to reflect, as well as look to the future. For the District Council, 2007 was a mixed one. In the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) inspection the hard work and effort of councillors, staff and partners paid off with the welcome news in October of our 'Good' rating. However there were lots of other things that impacted on our communities, not least the floods in July and the tragic fire in Atherstone on Stour in November. Other notable events included:-

- The first Local Area Agreement for Warwickshire;
- The start of the redevelopment of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre;
- Introduction of electronic newsletters for Parishes.

Change is always with us these days. Major decisions this year will lead to altered arrangements for area community committees, one stop shops and waste collection. Things will also change in how the Council is judged by the Audit Commission now as we move to Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

– the new approach to assessing outcomes delivered by councils and local partners focusing on local peoples' views. We will develop a shared view about the challenges facing an area, such as crime, community cohesion, a sustainable environment or public health issues such as obesity, and will also create a more joined up and proportionate approach to public service regulation.

For further information please follow the link below - [A councillor's guide to the new local area agreements](#)

While this Council's focus will remain on 'achieving excellence' in terms of the services we provide, April 2008 will see the start of our new corporate strategy with new aims and priorities:

- Aim 1** A District where everyone shares in an improved quality of life
- Aim 2** A clean and green District
- Aim 3** A District where business and enterprise can flourish
- Aim 4** An excellent Council that is well managed and respected by the community

There will be further updates in future Parish Talk newsletters.

As always we welcome your contributions and the deadline for the next issue of Parish Talk is 2 January with publication at the end of January.



For Christmas this year the District Council is supporting the Atherstone Firefighters Appeal by sending out the appeal's Christmas cards and making a donation to the appeal fund. The fund will just be a small way to help those families out for what I'm sure is going to be a difficult Christmas.

Once more Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours.

Paul Lankester  
Chief Executive

Handwritten signature of Paul Lankester.

## 2007 Year Review

### JANUARY



Sports Awards Ceremony

- The District Council's Annual Sports Awards
- Retained the Disability Two-Tick Standard
- Housing Inspection - 'Good with promising prospects for improvement'

### FEBRUARY



Scores on the Doors

- Scores on the Doors Awards Ceremony - a scheme for all food outlets

### MARCH



CCTV Control Room

- CCTV Awarded British Standards Accreditation
- Awarded Regional Centre of Excellence for Digital Inclusion
- Hosted West Midlands Intergenerational Network Conference
- Supported National No Smoking Day
- Launch of FLAME Bus (Flexible Local Access Through Mobile Enquiries)

### APRIL



Shakespeare half marathon

- **Parish Newsletter launched**
- Community Links Social Transport – 1 year old
- Corporate Strategy target of 40% recycling achieved
- Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations
- Officers compete in Shakespeare half marathon/marathon in aid of CLIC Sergeant

## 2007 Year Review

### MAY



Electronic  
Vote Counting

- Local Elections - Joint Electronic Voting pilot with Warwick DC
- Talking Partners Newsletter launched
- **Cllr John Hobbs, Chairman Luddington Parish Council awarded the Fred Parrott Award (presented at October Council)**

### JUNE



West Midlands  
Member Development Charter

- Partnership Event at Stratford Racecourse
- CPA Inspection
- Bike to Work Week
- Corporate Strategy target of helping 250 new people receive benefit achieved
- Corporate Strategy target for Home Energy Efficiency achieved
- West Midlands Member Development Charter - primary milestone achieved

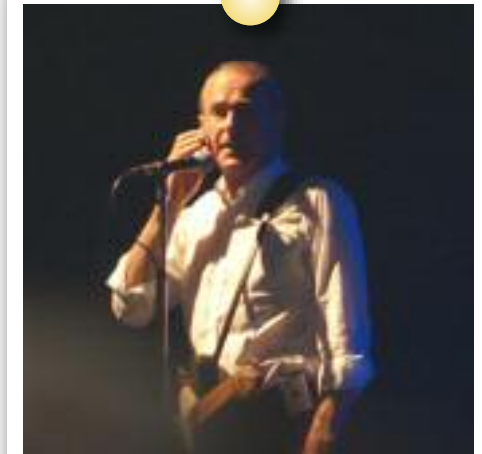
### JULY



Global Gathering

- District Floods - major emergency declared
- No Smoking legislations comes into force
- Joint publicity campaign with Warwickshire Police at Global Gathering
- **New Code of Conduct for Councils**

### AUGUST



Status Quo  
at the Bulldog Bash

- Bulldog Bash
- Flood recovery work
- **Wixford Parish Council achieved Quality Parish status**

## 2007 Year Review

### SEPTEMBER



Stratford  
Food Festival

- Major fire at Ufton landfill site
- Stratford Food Festival
- Built in Quality & Celebration of Excellence Awards
- New electronic committee system

### OCTOBER



Councillor Speed Dating  
during Local Democracy Week

- CPA Result – Officially GOOD
- National Customer Service Week
- World Class Stratford Urban Design Framework launched
- Local Democracy Week
- **Lighthorne Heath Parish Council winner of Community Empowerment Award for Housing**

### NOVEMBER



Atherstone warehouse fire  
photo courtesy of Warwickshire Police

- Atherstone-on-Stour warehouse fire
- Quest accreditation for Sports Development Team
- National Award for Health Promotion campaign
- Police and partners celebrated a year of Safer Neighbourhoods

### DECEMBER



Stratford Christmas lights  
photo courtesy of Aerial-Camera

- **Stockton Parish Council achieved Quality Parish status**

### Things to look out for in 2008 ....

**March** - New Road Traffic Regulations

**April** - New Corporate Strategy  
National free bus pass scheme

**May** - Local Elections

**August** - New Refuse & Recycling Contract



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