

Parish Talk

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 you all have an enjoyable and happy time with lots of presents and festive cheer! It looks like there is time for fun in the snow too!

As 2010 draws to a close it is time to reflect, as well as look to the future.

Something that we are facing in the public sector are these austere times and further tough decisions will have to be made as we move into 2011. The District Council is committed to maintaining a low Council Tax but the Local Government Grant Settlement means no promises can be made about existing services. In achieving a budget balance the District Council will concentrate on the delivery of services that residents value most.

The District Council has been working on a transformation strategy for the last 9 months and has already achieved a number of savings this financial year of £383,000 (which are ongoing efficiency improvements and cost reductions, not service cuts) and there has been a further saving of over £400,000 on a senior management restructure. Also, as predicted, the recent announcements mean Stratford District Council changing from a £14.7m net budget to about £12m.

The Cabinet has been clear it does not wish to see “cost-shunting” for services from District to Parish/Town Councils, but do expect discussions in 2011 how services can be run at better value for money.

As always we welcome your contributions and the deadline for the next issue of Parish Talk is 31 January with publication at the beginning of March. Also please feel free to forward this e-newsletter to Parish Councillors or anyone you think may be interested.

Thank you for your continued support, here's looking to 2011. Thank you to everyone who has sent me cards and good wishes for Christmas, they are much appreciated. This year, like many, I have decided to donate to Crisis at Christmas, what I would normally spend on Christmas Cards.

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

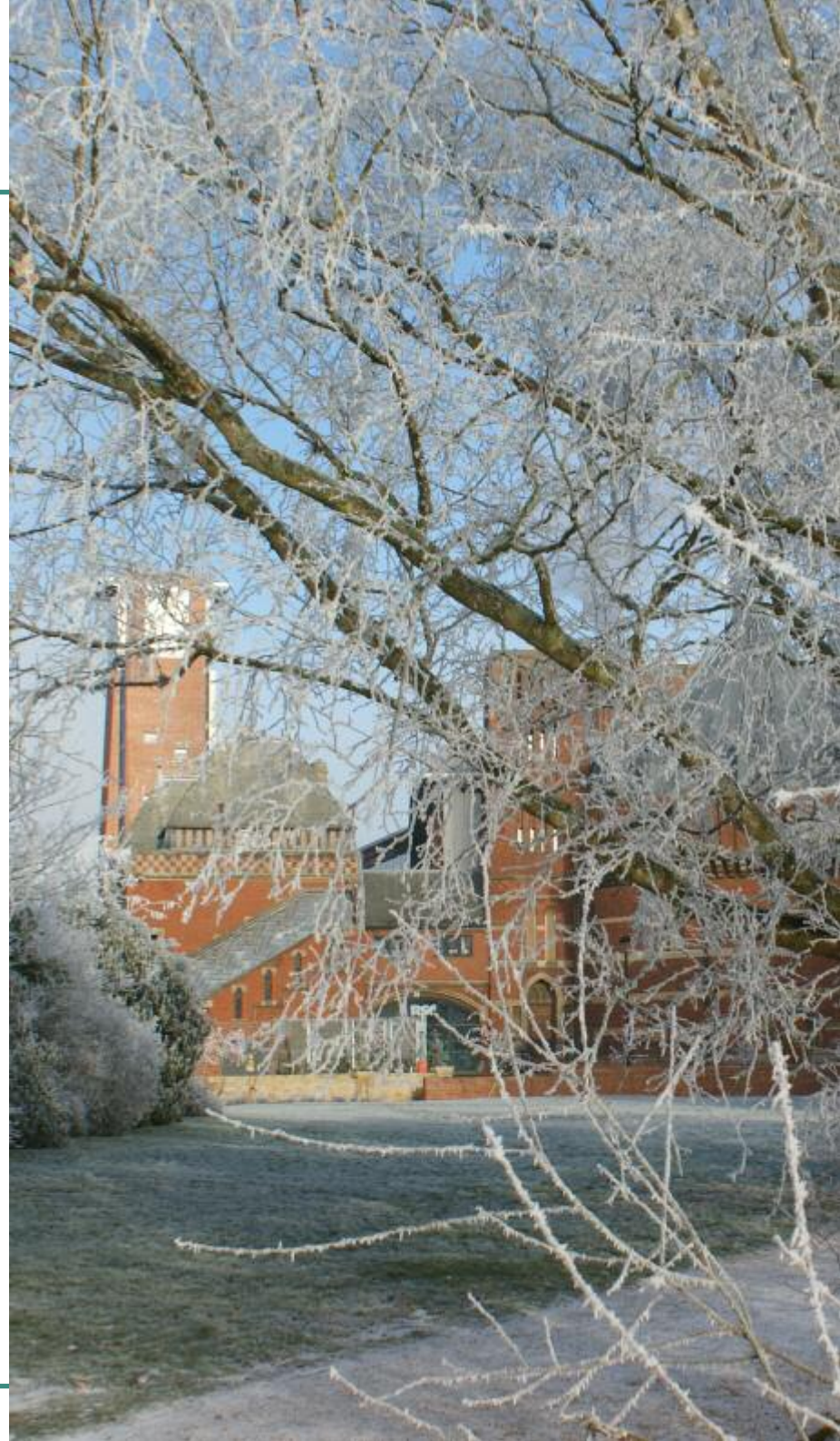


Paul Lankester

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2010 Year Review

January

- ◆ Severe weather
- ◆ Retained Investors in people Award with a higher grading
- ◆ 8th Annual Sports Awards – attended by 350 people



- ◆ Open evening on becoming a Councillor attended by 30 people
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – National Society for Epilepsy £152

February

- ◆ 1.5% Council Tax rise
- ◆ 2010/11 budget approved
- ◆ Fear of crime – lowest in county
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Haiti Earthquake Disaster Fund £960

March

- ◆ Warwickshire Peer Review
- ◆ Beacon Event at Gaydon



- ◆ 'Built in Quality' Awards
- ◆ Chairman's Charity parachute jump
- ◆ Visit by Polish delegation
- ◆ Closure of Tourist Information centre

- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Kidney Research UK patient Support Grant Service £152 & Sport Relief £123

April

- ◆ Opening of new temporary TIC at Stratford Leisure Centre
- ◆ Prospective parliamentary candidates debate at Stratford College
- ◆ Refurbishment of Stratford Ferry



- ◆ World Class Stratford Phase 1 completed on time and on budget
- ◆ Parking and CCTV retain British Standard accreditation
- ◆ Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Multiple Sclerosis Therapy in Coventry & Warwickshire £127

May

- ◆ General & District Elections 6 May
- ◆ Parish Elections 27 May
- ◆ New Chairman, Cllr Sir William Lawrence



- ◆ New Leader Cllr Stephen Gray
- ◆ New Tourist Information Centre opens in Henley Street
- ◆ Recycling road shows across the District
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Stratford Samaritans £148

2010 Year Review

June

- ◆ Launch of Stratford View
- ◆ Stratford & Warwick Strategic Alliance
- ◆ Civil Enforcement Officers take part in raft race
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Guide Dogs for the Blind £125

July

- ◆ Peer Review
- ◆ SDC 5th best recycling in country



- ◆ Review of Open Space
- ◆ National Play Day

- ◆ SLM retain Leisure Centre contract
- ◆ State of the District Debate



- ◆ Global Gathering, Long Marston
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Parkinson's South Warwickshire £105

August

- ◆ Team SDC run Stratford Big 10K
- ◆ Bulldog Bash, Long Marston



- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Help for Heroes & BLESMA £147.38

September

- ◆ SDC Open day
- ◆ Council Peer Review result
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Friends of Shopmobility £106



October

- ◆ Canvas time
- ◆ Investors in Excellence assessment
- ◆ Stratford Mop Fair
- ◆ Launch of budget consultation SIMALTO
- ◆ 1st dog fouling prosecution
- ◆ Senior management review
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Jeans for Genes £118

November

- ◆ Temporary closure of community one-stop-shops

- ◆ Launch of discover Stratford website
- ◆ Launch of corporate Strategy consultation
- ◆ Chip & pin service introduced
- ◆ Loo Awards
- ◆ National Empty Homes Week
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – BBC Children in Need £122

December

- ◆ Retained Investors in Excellence Award
- ◆ Appointments of new Heads of Service
- ◆ Local Authority Grant Settlement announced
- ◆ Dress Down Day money raised – Chairman's Charity (Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, Diabetes UK and Stratford and District Mencap) £153

Things to look out for in 2011

- ◆ **January** New Management Structure at District Council
- ◆ **February** Council Tax set for 11/12
- ◆ **April** Revised Corporate Strategy and Organisational Ambition
- ◆ **May** District and Parish Elections and Referendum on political reform and the alternative voting system

Stratford District Council Offices closed over Christmas and New Year

Stratford-on-Avon District Council offices will be closing over the festive period.

The opening hours for Stratford District Council offices over the Christmas and New Year holidays are:

Christmas Eve:	9am - 4pm
Christmas Day:	Closed
Boxing Day:	Closed
Mon 27 December:	Closed
Tues 28 December:	Closed
Wed 29 December:	Closed
Thurs 30 December:	Closed
Fri 31 December:	Closed
Mon 3 Jan 2011:	Closed

Office opening hours go back to normal on Tuesday 4 January that is: 8.45am – 5.15pm Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 8.45am - 5pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

District Council services can still be accessed online at www.stratford.gov.uk and emergency out-of-hours contact is available on 01789 267575.

The decision to close the Council offices on the two days between the public and extra statutory holidays of Christmas and New Year was agreed at the District Council's Cabinet meeting on Monday 6 September. The decision to close the offices will achieve a cost saving of approximately £1,000 through a reduction in heating costs and all staff have been required to take 2 days of their annual leave entitlement.

Changes to refuse & recycling collections over the festive period

There are changes to Stratford District Council's refuse and recycling collections over the festive period.

There will be no collection of rubbish, recyclables or green waste on Monday 27 December 2010.

Revised collections are shown below:

Normal Collection Day for rubbish, recyclables or green waste	Revised Collection Day
Monday 27th December 2010	Tuesday 28 December 2010
Tuesday 28th December 2010	Wednesday 29th December 2010
Wednesday 29th December 2010	Thursday 30th December 2010
Thursday 30th December 2010	Friday 31st December 2010
Friday 31st December 2010	Monday 3rd January 2011
Monday 3rd January 2011	Tuesday 4th January 2011
Tuesday 4th January 2011	Wednesday 5th January 2011
Wednesday 5th January 2011	Thursday 6th January 2011
Thursday 6th January 2011	Friday 7th January 2011
Friday 7th January 2011	Saturday 8th January 2011



Collections will return to normal week beginning Monday 10 January 2011.

In the event of adverse weather affecting collections please check the District Council's website at www.stratford.gov.uk/winter

The revised collection information is available on the Refuse and Recycling Collection Calendar which was distributed with the 2010 Council Tax bills; it is also listed on the back of the current Stratford View and is available on the District Council's website.

Christmas quiz just for fun Can you name these Christmas carols and songs? No prize but answers in the next issue.

1. The Ilex and the Hedera
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2. Excellent Duke of Bohemia
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3. Allow some frozen atmospheric vapour to fall
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4. Wanted in December: top forward incisors
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5. Oh Douglas Fir
.....
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6. The lad is a diminutive percussionist
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7. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
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.....
8. Decorate the entryways
.....
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9. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element
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10. Oh small Israel urban centre
.....
.....
11. Far off in a hay bin
.....
.....
12. We are Kong, Lear and Nat
.....
.....
13. Duodecimal enumeration of the passage of the yuletide season
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14. Leave and broadcast from an elevation
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15. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your yuletide season
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16. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully
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17. As the guardians of woolly animals protected their charges in the dark hours
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.....
18. I beheld a trio of nautical vessels moving in this direction
.....
.....
19. Jubilation to the entire terrestrial globe
.....
.....
20. Do you perceive the same vibrations which stimulate my auditory sense organs?
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21. A joyful song of reverence relative to hollow metallic vessels whichvibrate and bring forth a ringing sound when struck
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.....
22. Parent was observed osculating a red coated unshaven jolly person
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23. May the deity bestow an absence of fatigue to happy mild male humans
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.....
24. Uncouth oaf with rose-coloured proboscis is aware of the nature of precipitation, darling
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