

Ward Report – Tysoe Ward.

Including the Parishes of Compton Wynyates, Halford, Honington, Idlicote, Oxhill, Pillerton Persey, Pillerton Priors, Tysoe, and Whatcote.

Overview for July

As I write, we remain in the pre-election “purdah” period until 9 July. During this period, politically sensitive decisions are not made. The main topics this month remain the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) and Devolution and Local Government Reform (D-LGR).

SWLP

Following the PINS feedback report, both Councils (SDC and WDC) needed to address questions about the development viability of sites, particularly in relation to the proposed levels of build headroom, density, infrastructure, biodiversity and carbon net zero requirements beyond Government policy and statutory requirements. A considerable amount of work has been completed since then by Officers, and the draft Regulation 19 SWLP was published late on Friday 3 July. It is now being reviewed by members of both Councils and is due to be either ratified or rejected next week. Both Councils must agree the draft before it can proceed to public consultation. At SDC, the dates are:

- Monday 13 July: SDC Overview and Scrutiny
- Tuesday 14 July: Joint Cabinet at WDC, Leamington Town Hall
- Wednesday 15 July: Full Council

For the joint SWLP to carry weight, both District Councils will need to demonstrate individually that they have a viable five-year housing land supply (5YHLS) to support the Soundness of the Local Plan which will be tested at Regulation 19 by the Planning Inspectorate. This will also depend on the outcome of the D-LGR changes outlined below.

If both Councils agree the draft, the SWLP will be made available for public consultation for six weeks only. Please use the following link to read the draft plan contained in the Joint Cabinet Agenda pack: [Appendix 1 - Publication draft South Warwickshire Local Plan.pdf](#)

5YHLS

The 5YHLS remains unmet in both the WDC and SDC areas.

The 5YHLS is very important. Without meeting the land to build required number of homes, and business developments to support occupancy, neither the current Local Plan, the Core Strategy (CS) in SDC, nor the SWLP can be considered up to date or carry full weight in Planning determinations. This means that the “tilted balance” referred to in the current NPPF (paragraph 11) applies, with a presumption in favour of granting planning applications.

The current Local Plan is out of date in relation to housing policies, locations and numbers because there is no demonstrable 5YHLS.

Regardless of which Local Plan is being considered, we need to secure a demonstrable 5YHLS to avoid a “development free for all” in our District. This is the critical objective. Achieving it will help us maintain and protect our part of the County while providing homes, environmental protection and employment opportunities for our children.

Devolution and Local Government Reform

The Government’s decision on the future shape of local government in Warwickshire is eagerly awaited. A decision has been promised before the Summer Recess. At that point, we will know whether there will be a continuing Warwickshire authority, a single Warwickshire unitary authority, or separate North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire unitary authorities. The last option would allow for the establishment of a Warwickshire Mayoral Strategic Authority, with additional responsibilities devolved from central government and increased funding to support them. It should be noted that WCC already has some devolved responsibilities.

Malcolm Littlewood

Stratford District Council Tysoe Ward Member