

Report Stow Town Council September 2025.

I am sorry not to be able to attend the meeting. I will be in Broadwell Village Hall at a preview evening for our pre-loved charity clothes sale tomorrow to which all are welcome!

I am writing this before the full council meeting which is on Wednesday 24th September. The main item in the agenda is to review the updated corporate plan. The purpose of the plan is to set out the council's aims and priorities and to develop an action plan to meet these priorities. The current plan was agreed in early 2024, and following the general election in July 2024, the current government has introduced changes which have had a significant effect on local government, in particular the significantly increased housing target and the English Devolution White Paper with its plans for local government reform and the move towards unitary authorities. The council's priorities in the proposed update to the corporate plan are:

- Preparing for the future
- Delivering good services
- Responding to the climate emergency
- Delivering housing
- Supporting communities
- Supporting the economy

You can find more details about the council's performance against the current plan and action points for the future in the agenda pack for this month's full council meeting. You can of course watch the live stream on Wednesday or the recording.

Ben is planning to raise the state of our public toilets and the closure of the Mangersbury Road toilets as a public question. I have submitted a member question about the continuing deterioration of the Old Funeral Directors in Well Lane and the adjacent Shepherds Cottage where rat infestation is now a problem.

We continue to have our unsung heroes awards at each full council meeting and now a young unsung heroes award has been introduced. Please do submit the names of anyone you would like to be recognised in this way to the council.

Stow Fair. We have had two meetings about the fair in the last few weeks. The first was a response to the letter from Stow Town Council & Mangersbury Parish Council to ask about the legal status of the fair and potential enforcement options. The second was a meeting of the safety advisory group which happens before every fair. The traveller liaison officers

will engage with the fair organisers to broker a meeting to discuss local concerns, to see if they are willing to restrict the number of days when the field is open and to contribute towards the expenses incurred. There will be an increased police presence in the three days preceding the fair, the mobile police unit will be in the Square from the Tuesday and the receptionist will staff the police station for the whole day in the week running up to the fair. I hope that this will reduce the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour and also make it easier for residents to report concerns to the police. Marie and Liz have the minutes of both these meetings and a further meeting is planned for 9th October. I hope that the provision of toilet facilities at the Mangersbury Road carpark will be resolved by then.

Street signs. I know that one or two of the old street signs were not replaced when the new ones were installed around the town. Please let me know if there are any which you think should be replaced, I am aware of some tatty looking signs in Shepherds Row and Park Street.