

Report for Stow Town Council March 2026 from ward District Councillor Dilys Neill

There was a full council meeting on 18th March. Most of the items were routine, minor changes to the constitution, review of committee membership etc. A motion which generated a lot of discussion was the proposal that CDC should ask the leader of the council and also the CEO to make sure that as Local Government Reorganisation progresses, food and farming should be central to the plans and discussions around climate change.

As at every meeting awards were presented for “Unsung Heroes” in the community and I am sure that there are people in Stow who deserve to be nominated. There was also a public question around identification and support for people, particularly pensioners, who have lost out financially under recent benefit changes. The Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) run by our benefits team continues to be successful in identifying people who are not receiving all the financial benefits to which they are entitled

Stow Fair. I think that this will take place on 21st May, but I am awaiting conformation. There is a safety advisory group meeting on 2nd April and there will be another meeting before the fair. This will be attended by one of our planning or enforcement teams. At the request of Maugersbury Parish Council, our planning and legal teams reviewed the legality of the fair. The conclusion was that the old injunctions are out of date and not enforceable but that a member of the paying team would make part in the SAG and also visit the fair to make sure that no planning law is being breached.

Visit by Cllr Mike Every and Helen Martin, head of development planning to Stow will take place on Wednesday 25th March. This is in response to the letter from Stow Town Council expressing concern about the lack of provision for Stow in the draft local plan. Alison and I will provide feedback at the town council meeting.