

## **District Councillor report Butlers Marston Parish Council 17th November 2022**

### **Financial Plan**

Stratford District Council have just started looking at their five-year Medium Term Financial Plan and there will be many tough decisions to take. SDC are doing their planning and decision making without the benefit of knowing how much funding they will get from Central Government.

### **Local Plan**

SDC are in the early stages of developing the Local Plan which will run through until 2050. SDC are developing a South Warwickshire Plan together with Warwick District Council. The scale of the impact, this plan will have by 2050, at a very conservative estimate will be approximately £7 to £8 billion.

### **Economic Growth**

SDC are laying the foundation for economic growth, the work of the Council supports the local economy and has paid £73 million supporting over 7,000 businesses through 13 different Covid Grant Schemes and reliefs. SDC received £1.227 million in additional resources grant to provide support to businesses.

### **Local Enterprise Partnership**

SDC are working closely with the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub. Together we helped 39 businesses, created 135 jobs, and safeguarded a further 703 jobs. Businesses all across the District were helped.

### **University of Warwick**

Stratford District Council are working with the University of Warwick to enable the development of the Innovation Campus at Wellesbourne. This is a development of national significance and will, over time, have a huge positive impact on not only the District but also the West Midlands

### **Wellesbourne Airfield**

SDC are working hard to enable the development of the Wellesbourne airfield site for industrial and commercial uses whilst at the same time retaining an enhanced airfield operation.

### **Porterbrook Rail Innovation Centre**

Stratford District Council are co-operating with the Porterbrook Innovation Centre at Long Marston where they are developing a hydrogen powered train. We are cooperating with them on the potential enhancement and development of the site. We have also introduced them to a senior representative from the University of Warwick which will probably lead to cooperation between Porterbrook and the University.

### **Help with Energy Bills**

The cost of energy bills this winter is very worrying for many, many people – and especially for those with higher energy use. The payments available which are designed to help with energy bills. **If you are struggling, please contact our partner Act on Energy for full advice and support.** You can call them for free on **0800 988 2881**.

The **Energy Bills Support scheme** is now underway and people should have received their first monthly payment; this is a part payment in the £400 grant that the government has committed for everyone with an electricity meter. How you receive the money will depend on your supplier and what type of electricity account you have (for example if you pay by Direct debit or a prepayment meter). If you haven't received your payment, follow up as soon as possible with your electricity supplier. Be very aware of scams though – your electricity supplier is arranging the payment and you will never be asked for bank details. If you're unsure, contact your electricity supplier – the contact details will be on your electricity bill.

The £400 grant which you don't need to repay, is in addition to the **wider package of help** for people on certain means-tested benefits (often referred to as the £650 benefit payment). The second part of this payment is in November. Contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) if you think you should have received this payment.

The **Winter Fuel Payment** is also payable to UK households with someone over the state pension age. You can find out more here: [www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](http://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment)

If you are of pension age, you may also be getting the **Warm Home Discount**. The Discount is available from the larger energy suppliers to help those with vulnerabilities pay their energy bills over the winter. The money is now paid *automatically* if you fit the criteria. Contact your supplier if you think you should be included and be scam aware.

**The Energy Price Guarantee** was brought in on 1 October to help with energy costs. The £2,500 ‘cap’ is not a cap on total bills; that figure is based on a typical user – so the more you use – the more you pay. The Guarantee puts limits on unit rates so your final bill will still be determined by the amount of energy you use. When the scheme was announced, it was due to run for two years. But changes announced in the last couple of weeks mean that the **Energy Price Guarantee will now run until April 2023** – and what happens after April is currently under review.

Chris Mills  
District Councillor  
Kineton Ward

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### **The Sure Start Maternity Grant**

The Sure Start Maternity Grant is a one-off £500 payment to help with the costs of having a child if you’re expecting your first child, or expecting a multiple birth and have children already, and you or your partner already get benefits.

Find out more: <https://gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant/how-to-claim>

### **Warwickshire SENDIAS Review**

Residents’ views are being sought on the Warwickshire SENDIAS Service, which provides information, advice and support to disabled children and young people, and those with special educational needs and disabilities

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3357/tell-us-your-views-about-warwickshire-sendias>

### **Support Fund**

£421 million has been made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. The objective of the Household Support Fund is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs, specifically food, energy and water bills. This phase of the grant runs from 01 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 and Warwickshire has again been allocated £3.47million, which is being distributed through the existing Local Welfare Scheme.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

### **Green Business Grants**

Businesses can benefit from a new Warwickshire County Council grant scheme offering up to £20,000 towards the cost of installing energy efficiency measures.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3462/green-business-grants-supporting-a-greener-business-sector>

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/costofliving> <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

### **Cost of living Advice**

There is a lot of support available for families in Warwickshire. Warwickshire’s Family Information Service (FIS). You can contact FIS by phone on 01926 742274 or via email [fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk) Family support workers are also available across Warwickshire Call the Family Support Helpline on 01926 412412 visit [warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies) Food and energy Help is available if you are struggling to afford food or pay household bills this winter.

Warwickshire County Council’s Cabinet has also agreed a package of measures to relieve the financial burden on residents who may be struggling with rising living costs.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3430/up-to-4-5m-cost-of-living-support-package-for-warwickshire-residents>

## **Stratford Energy Support Fund/Energy Efficient Grant**

£500 for households with children

£300 for households without children

### **Eligibility criteria**

A gross annual household income under £30,000 **and** no savings **and** at least one of the following

A long term diagnosed and treated health condition e.g., COPD

Self-employed but unable to work/ income impacted by Covid 19

Households with unmanageable debt

Recently made redundant

Pregnant

In receipt of DLA or PIP

In receipt of free school meals

Grants for Boiler Replacements

Grants for Boiler Servicing & Repairs

Loft and Cavity Wall Insulation Grants

Solar PV panels

Loft insulation

Cavity wall insulation

External wall insulation

Air source heat pumps

Smart heating controls

*This funding is available to residents living within Stratford upon Avon District (subject to eligibility and availability):*

For more information call us on **0800 988 2881** or visit the website [www.actonenergy.org.uk](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk)

### **Reporting abuse**

If you think that an adult with care and support needs is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, contact Warwickshire County Council on 01926 412080.

Our adult social care teams can offer advice and support to the person and/or their carers and, where necessary, arrange appropriate services.

Depending on the type of abuse, you may wish to contact Warwickshire Police on 101. If it is an emergency, always dial 999.

### **Domestic abuse cost of living support**

In recognition of the impact of cost-of-living concerns on victims and survivors of domestic abuse, Warwickshire County Council and partners are raising awareness of support.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3460/cost-of-living-support-for-those-affected-by-domestic-abuse->

### **Adult Safeguarding**

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect.

At the same time, it is about making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted. This includes, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

Due to illness or disability, many adults may be unable to protect themselves from abuse. Adults with care and support needs include some people from each of the following groups:

older people, people with learning difficulties, people with physical disabilities, people with mental ill-health issues and people with a short or long-term illness.

The Council will make enquiries, or ask other agencies to make enquiries, whenever we think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect in Warwickshire.

For more support information on many topics, go to: Warwickshire County Council Homepage [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk)

## **What3words App when call emergency Services**

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is launching an online campaign to raise awareness of ‘What3Words’ in a bid to get more residents in Warwickshire using the app to provide emergency services with the location of a collision or emergency. What3words has divided the world into 3 metre squares and given each square a unique combination of three words – what3words address. For example, ///[silver.label.smile](#) will take you to a precise 3 metre square for Warwick Castle.

If a collision or emergency occurs, callers can give the call handler the three words and this will help dispatch emergency services to the precise location. This is even more important in rural locations where it’s even more difficult to communicate location accurately. The app gives the caller a simple way to describe precisely where help is needed, enabling responders to find and get resources to the scene as quickly as possible. It is hoped that this simple change, could help save more lives and reduce the seriousness of some injuries due to patients getting treatment more quickly.

The system works offline, making it ideal for use in areas with an unreliable data connection. what3words addresses cover the entire world and can be used in over 40 languages.

This is just one of many initiatives being developed by Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership to help achieve our target of a 50% reduction in those killed or seriously injured on our roads by 2030.”

To read more about our strategy and safe systems approach please visit our website: <https://warksroadsafety.org/our-strategy/>

## **Avian Influenza – Dead bird warning**

Warwickshire County Council has issued advice to residents on what they should do if they find a dead wild bird.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3472/avian-influenza-what-to-do-if-you-find-a-dead-wild-bird>

Chris Mills.

Kineton and Red Horse