

District Councillor report Butlers Marston Parish Council Meeting 14th July 2022

Update on the £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has now paid out over £4.26m to 28,445 eligible households for the £150 Council Tax energy rebate. These payments have been made to those residents who currently pay their Council Tax by direct debit. For those eligible households that don't pay their Council TRax by direct debit, they will be receiving a letter providing them with all the information needed to make a claim. Those 9,000 residents will be required to complete an on-line form, which is now available on the District Council's website www.stratford.gov.uk/energyrebate

Stratford District Council feel that it's essential that the residents who are hardest hit receive help, which SDC are delighted to say that they are achieving this rebate to send to thousands of households in the Stratford-on-Avon District

Please note: The District Council will not telephone, e-mail, or text anyone to ask for their bank details

Environmental Health, Food Safety Standards

The Environmental team at SDC have been very active across the District. As an example, in one establishment, hotel guests had been hospitalised due to an outbreak of sickness this resulted in a full scale investigation by the SDC Environmental Health team.

Following advice from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to check smaller retailers for recalled Kinder Eggs, Officers found products still on sale in the retailers they visited. The majority of the smaller retailers that were visited were unaware of the Salmonella outbreak in the chocolate but following the Officers visits the Kinder Eggs were all removed for sale.

Officers are also finding more premises that do not have a working hot water supply. The increase of the cost of energy resources may be a contributing factor for this, along with boilers not being serviced during the pandemic. Officers will now be inspecting gas safety certificates.

The number of Service Requests by SDC's Environmental Health from March to May total 1118. As an example, this includes 232 Food Hygiene inspections, 24 Dog Fouling complaints, 155 Noise complaints.

SDC's Environmental Health Team say, "as we are approaching the tourist season, it is vital that all the business relating to food are of a high standard and it is of great importance that they maintain a high standard of hygiene for our residents across the District"

2021/22 Year end performance

The 2021 Year end Performance was reported at the Cabinet meeting on 20th June. There are 31 Key Performance indicators set to monitor performance in year 2. 18 of these are related to the Council Plan objectives and 13 are Corporate Health Indicators.

As an example, units of Bed & Breakfast in use as temporary accommodation has a paused target due to ongoing effect of the pandemic. However, it has been reported that numbers are decreasing.

County Lines

The percentage of County-Lines high-risk victims in the District reduced the risk to a lower level through coordinated multi-agency interventions within 6 months. The case management approach and process for County Lines has been reviewed. The previous process focussed on a small cohort of up to 12 individuals seeking to put in place bespoke targeted interventions; the process is now focussing on over 100 individuals, so a different approach is being deployed.

Legal/Human Rights Implications

Interestingly, there were no legal/human rights implications arising from the report.

The conclusion/reasons for the recommendation on the report say that 75% of the Council Plan actions have been achieved. 58% of Key Performance Indicators achieved target.

Covid Fund drives District jobs boost

Approximately 850 jobs have been created or safeguarded in the District as part of a £1.2m government funding scheme to help business with their post-Covid recovery plans. The District Council Collaborated with the CWLEP Growth Hub to identify companies in a wide variety of sectors that wanted to accelerate their expansion plans. 703 jobs were safeguarded and 133 jobs created

123+ New refuse Collection

The new 123+ new refuse collection will start on 1st August. Kineton Parish Council will be hosting a representative from Stratford District Council who will be making a presentation on Climate Change and the new 123+ refuse collection system at Kineton Village Hall on 26th July.

Census 2021 first results release

The population of Stratford-on-Avon District, as of March 2021, was estimated by the census to be 134,700. The population of the District is estimated to have grown by 11.8% between 2011-2021. This is well above the average for both England and the West Midlands. With a growth of 11.8%, Stratford-on-Avon sits in the upper half of all authorities for growth. Rugby at 14.30% Wychavon at 13.3%. As a comparison, Tower Hamlets in London saw the largest growth over the last ten years at 22.1%, with Dartford in Kent second with a growth of 20%.

Residents' Survey 2022

From February to April, the District Council carried out a Residents' Survey which was sent to 6,000 households. For the 1,875 residents who completed the questionnaire their top 3 priorities were:

58% Health Services
57% Level of Crime
41% Access to Countryside

Satisfaction with Services

83% Refuse Collection
72% Doorstep recycling
71% Parks and open spaces 59% Play areas
59% Grass cutting.

Areas for improvement

Roads/pavements 48%
Traffic 43%
Teenage activities 33%
Affordable housing 30%
Public transport 29%

Chris Mills
District Councillor
Kineton Ward

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SEND Inspection Framework

Warwickshire has been selected as one of the local areas across the UK to take part in a pilot to support Ofsted and CQC to develop a new SEND inspection framework.

Warwickshire will pilot the new inspection framework to inform its development and provide feedback on the methodology. As part of the pilot, the inspectors will follow their new draft framework to help to inform future inspections.

Ofsted and CQC have identified the features of effective local SEND arrangements from research, previous inspection evidence and consultation with children, young people, families, leaders, and practitioners. During the pilot, inspectors will evaluate the impact for children and young people and how the local area partnership work together to plan, evaluate, and develop the SEND system.

For more information, please go to: duanechappell@warwickshire.gov.uk

Part-time Fostering in Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council is asking residents who have thought about fostering to consider becoming a family link carer, which offers a level of fostering on a part-time basis. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3010/help-to-create-a-child-friendly-warwickshire-by-fostering-part-time>

Conviction rates for domestic abuse perpetrators

Warwickshire County Council and its partners, including Warwickshire Police, saw domestic abuse conviction rates rise above the national average during the first half of 2022.

Counselling for victims-survivors of domestic abuse

Warwickshire County Council has commissioned a new therapy service to help support victim-survivors of domestic abuse, across the County

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3016/new-counselling-service-available-for-victim-survivors-of-domestic-abuse-in-warwickshire>

Green Shoots Fund open to applications

Community and voluntary groups. Get your applications in now for the second round of funding for Warwickshire County Council Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3008/the-green-shoots-community-fund-is-open-for-applications-from-climate-positive-projects>

Early Years Education Funding

Parents of young children across the county are being encouraged to contact their local early years provider and find out how they can access their child's Early Education Funding.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3029/are-you-accessing-your-child-s-early-years-education-funding->

Tackling loneliness funding

58 groups and individuals have received a total of £47,000 in grant funding, as part of a project which aims to reduce loneliness and social isolation throughout the county.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3035/funding-awarded-to-community-groups-tackling-loneliness>

All Age Carer Wellbeing and Support Service

Following a rigorous tender process, Warwickshire County Council is pleased to announce Carers Trust, Heart of England, will continue as a provider for carers support. Read more; <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3038/new-all-age-carer-wellbeing-and-support-service-for-warwickshire-carers>

Updated COVID-19 guidance

The UKHSA has issued an update to confirm that in recent weeks the West Midlands has seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. The recent press release contains the latest information and data.

To continue to support our residents to reduce their risk of catching and spreading COVID-19 we ask you to share messages encouraging people to:

- *Get vaccinated*
- *Wear a face covering in indoor public places*
- *If you feel unwell, stay at home and avoid contact with others*
- *Let fresh air in if you are meeting indoors* For further information, visit www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19 For a list of all bookable and walk-in vaccination clinics, please visit www.happyhealthylives.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination or www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/

Plastic Free July 2022

Residents are urged to ditch the plastic with a series of helpful tips as part of Warwickshire County Council's support for the Plastic Free July campaign. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3041/be-a-part-of-the-solution-this-plastic-free-july-2022>

Warwickshire County Council outlines support and services available from Shire Hall

Shire Hall Meet and Greet can offer support with:

- WCC Library services: Including printing & photocopying, accessing computers, and providing general local information.
- Taking post for Warwickshire County Council departments: For example, Blue Badge and concessionary travel applications.
- Signposting to online information and contact numbers: For WCC and Warwick District Council services and other local services.
- Assisting with Concessionary Travel Applications: Appointments must be pre-arranged.
- Greeting people for their registrar appointment.
- Providing WCC-issued documents for public collection.
- In addition, Warwick Library and Warwick Post Office are also based on the ground floor of Shire Hall.

A full list of services is provided here: <https://bit.ly/shire-hall-services>

Shire Hall Meet and Greet is open Monday to Thursday: 8:00am to 5:30pm and Friday: 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Warwickshire MJ Awards

Monica Fogarty has been selected as National Chief Executive of the year for Warwickshire County Council.

Nigel Minns was selected as National Corporate Director of the Year for Warwickshire County Council

Chris Mills. Kineton and Red horse