

County Councillor Report Butlers Marston Parish Council Meeting 16th March 2023

New Fund Launched to give Warwickshire Economy a £40m Boost

Businesses looking to grow in, or relocate to, Warwickshire now have access to £40m of financial support as the latest pillar of a major economy-boosting initiative goes live. The Property and Infrastructure Fund is the third and final strand of the Warwickshire Recovery Fund. This major £100 initiative was launched to provide access to debt finance and safeguard business in, or those expanding to, Warwickshire from any of the adverse economic effects caused by the pandemic.

Council Tax / Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner/Parish Councils

The total Band D Council Tax will be as follows: 2022/23 2023/24

Stratford-on-Avon District Council 2022/2023 £154.12

2023/2024 £159.12. Increase 3.24%

Warwickshire County Council 2022/2023 £1,590.93

2023/2024 £1,653.57 Increase 3.94%

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner 2022/2023 £262.71

2023/2024 £276.71 Increase 5.33%

Town and Parish Councils (average) 2022/2023 £66.08

2023/2024 £69.26 Increase 4.81%

Voter ID.

legislation has changed in that everyone wishing to vote at polling stations from 4th May 2023, must show an accepted form of photo ID such as a passport, photo driving licence or bus pass (the full list of documents is on the SDC website).

On 16th January, the Government portal went live so that anyone without photo ID could apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. People wishing to vote on 4th May have until 5pm on 25th April to apply for one of these Certificates whether on-line, by paper application or in person at the SDC offices. Those electors that have photo ID or a postal vote, do not need to apply.

Stratford District Council have commenced a publicity campaign to get the message across to a wide range of people via different media and we will continue with this until 25th April. The two initiatives with the greatest coverage are:

1. A leaflet to go out with every Council Tax bill
2. An e-mail to every elector where SDC have an e-mail address (approx. 30,000 electors)

See attached a copy of the Voter ID FAQ for your information.

Household Support Scheme

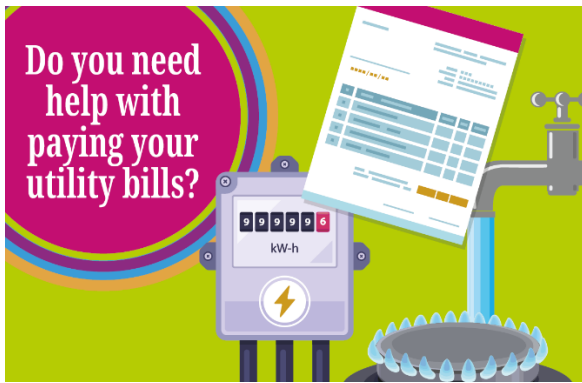
The Government has recently announced details of the Household Support Scheme for 2023-24. Warwickshire will receive £6.9m.

A county wide utilities voucher campaign was launched on Monday 6th March. Short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment will be available to help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis. All applications for the payment must be made by 24 March 2023. Anyone entitled to benefits and eligible for free school meals have already received this support. For more information: www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Residents struggling to pay utility bills

Warwickshire residents financially struggling to pay their utility bills can look to the County Council for support.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3994/help-for-warwickshire-residents-struggling-to-pay-utility-bills>



UK Says No More to Domestic Abuse 2023

Warwickshire County Council and partners are uniting to say NO MORE to Domestic Abuse as part of a national campaign.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3996/warwickshire-supports-uk-says-no-more-to-domestic-abuse-2023-campaign>



Women's Tour 2023

Warwickshire will welcome back the Women's Tour, the UK's leading international women's cycle race, when the county features in two of the 2023 event's five stages, including the Grand Depart.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4015/women-s-tour-2023-to-return-to-warwickshire>



THE WOMEN'S TOUR

Warwickshire welcomes extension to £2 bus fare cap

Warwickshire County Council has welcomed news, released by the Government, that bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months.

Read more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3964/-2-bus-fare-cap-to-be-extended-in-warwickshire

Chris Mills

Kineton and Red Horse

District Councillor report Butlers Marston Parish Council Meeting

16th March 2023

Council Tax / Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner/Parish Councils

The total Band D Council Tax will be as follows: 2022/23 2023/24

Stratford-on-Avon District Council 2022/2023 £154.12

2023/2024 £159.12. Increase 3.24%

Warwickshire County Council 2022/2023 £1,590.93

2023/2024 £1,653.57 Increase 3.94%

Council Tax Elsewhere in Warwickshire

The levels of Council Tax to be charged by the other Borough/District Councils in the county for a Band D property in 2023/24 are:

	2022/23	2023/24	Increase	%
North Warwickshire	£222.30	£228.86	£6.56	2.95
Nuneaton and Bedworth	£248.51	£255.94	£7.43	2.99
Rugby	£204.72	£210.84	£6.12	2.99
Stratford	£154.12	£159.12	£5.00	3.24
Warwick	£176.86	£176.86	Nil	Nil

Other than Warwick DC, all district and borough councils chose to increase their Council Tax rates by the maximum permitted without triggering a referendum. Despite WDC not increasing its Council Tax, SDC remains the district in Warwickshire with the lowest level of Council Tax.

Stratford and Warwick Councils celebrate success of new separate food waste collection service.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council have proved themselves ahead of the game when it comes to collecting food waste. The [Environment Act 2021](#), which comes fully into effect on 1 April this year, introduces changes to waste collection which means that food waste – must be collected separately from other household waste at least once a

week. The District Council introduced a new joint separate food collection service on 1 August 2022. The [123+ service](#) has been delivered through a waste contract with Biffa Waste Services Ltd and has already proved highly successful.

Since the inception of the scheme in August 2022, a total of 4,412.48 tonnes of waste has been collected. The forecast food waste tonnage for this contract means that Warwickshire residents will be powering the equivalent of 1,024 homes for a year with green energy, this is also the equivalent of 8,997 tonnes of carbon not emitted to the atmosphere compared to the same amount of food waste going into landfill.

Pest Control

The decision has been made to withdraw from directly delivering the pest control service. Pest control has been a challenging service to deliver over the past twelve months, especially with only one member of staff and has consumed considerable resources. Our pest control officer is, however, continuing to service the existing commercial contracts, all of which will end by 1 April 2023.

Taxi driver has licence revoked for refusing a disabled passenger.

A taxi driver who refused to take a disabled passenger has had his licence, issued by Stratford-on-Avon District, revoked following a meeting of Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Licensing Panel. Licensing Officers at the District Council received a complaint from a member of the public who was on a Mobility scooter, that the driver, Mr Parker, refused to carry him in his Hackney Carriage vehicle whilst plying for hire on a taxi rank within Stratford on Avon town centre.

Mr Parker breached his duty under s165 of the Equality Act 2010 which requires drivers of a designated wheelchair accessible taxi to carry a wheelchair user without charging extra, and any non-exempt driver to provide reasonable assistance to any wheelchair user. Section 164a of the same Act imposes a duty on drivers to provide reasonable mobility assistance.

Mental wellbeing grant funds online mentoring and Dungeons & Dragons group

As the financial year ends, Stratford-on-Avon District Council is looking at how some of the recipients of its annual funding to the voluntary and community sector have been using grants to bring about the changes in their local communities that the Council seeks to bring. At the start of last April, with the mental health of young people still a potential major problem following the isolation of the lockdowns, Stratford-on-Avon District Council awarded grants to two local organisations to support the mental wellbeing of young people in the District. Stratford District Council is committed to putting our residents centre stage, whatever their age and regardless of the issues and challenges that they face. Creating resilience in young people is very important and we know that the impact of lockdown will continue to be felt for some time to come by many, particularly some of the most vulnerable.

Chris Mills
District Councillor
Kineton Ward