

Butlers Marston Parish Council 19th January 2021
County Councillor's Report

Budget 2021/22

It is difficult to remember that when the budget was set last year, Covid-19 had just broken out in China and all the plans we made in budgetary planning for savings were ultimately absorbed by the increased costs we have incurred. One of our problems in setting the budget for next year is that the government have not yet indicated as to how much will be allocated to local authorities to help with their budget problems. The government has indicated that WCC can allocate in our budget calculations an increase of 3% towards Adult Social Care. The feeling in the Council that this increase should be amortised across two years rather than incurring a one-off imposition on our residents. At this point of the deliberations all budgetary thoughts are towards restoring employment levels in the area. Warwickshire was fortunate that last year our reserves were sufficient to withstand the impact of Covid-19.

The budget will be decided on 8th February 2021 and I will advise you of all our proposals in my next report.

Covid-19 Update as at 8th January 2021

The government changed the category for our area from Tier 3 to Tier 4 Lockdown. This has imposed severe restrictions within our hospitality trade. We had had hoped that we would be reduced to Tier 2 by events proved otherwise.

In line with national figures the rates of infection have continued to rise. Monday 4th January and later figures show that for our area the seven day rate/100,000 is now 338.2/100,000 and the over 60's day rate is 278.2/100,000 (with 116 cases over the last seven days), which when compared to other areas in Warwickshire for all ages is Nuneaton & Bedworth 485.8/100,000, North Warwickshire 455.1/100,000, Warwick 392.3/100,000 and Rugby 489.3/100,000. The big jump in cases suggests there may have been a slight time lag in getting the positive case figures with the New Year bank holiday.

The situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds has also increased with 107 (79) confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 5 (3) patients in ICU (figures in brackets are from 4 Jan). However, the capacity has increased to 12% from 9% on 4 January, which also reflects an increase of 'open' beds up to 369 from 286 earlier in the week, which is welcome.

The cumulative deaths across our area from the start of this second wave (28th August 2020) have sadly increased by a further seven since last report to 41 with 11 occurring in care homes, 27 in hospital and three at home, out of a total of 440 all cause deaths in our area for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now jumped to 202 from 173 for a total of 1939 all cause deaths. The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in our area is 209 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 802; over the same period there have been 5485 non Covid-19 related deaths in Warwickshire.

A new locally led Lateral Flow Testing facility for people without coronavirus symptoms is opening in Stratford at the Courtyard Theatre, with the aim of protecting those most at risk, using rapid testing to speed up the process.

Cont'd...

The vaccine rollout has now started and is increasing in GP practices together with the Hospital sites; and WCC is involved with the setting up of a mass vaccination site which will be located in Stoneleigh in due course and will compliment another vaccination facility in Birmingham at Millennium Point. 24,000 vaccinations will have been delivered by the end of this week in Warwickshire and the county is doing 'quite well' at a local level than some other counties.

Essentially the three hospital hubs will be using the Pfizer vaccine and local GP's will be administering the OxfordAZ vaccine. Roving teams are carrying out vaccinations in care homes amongst staff and residents and it is anticipated to have all care homes in Warwickshire vaccinated by the end of the month, as this is a priority area.

The NHS has the capacity locally to deliver 47,000 vaccines per week and the plan is for all the over 50 and clinically vulnerable to be vaccinated by the end of March.

There are currently around 10,300 children still in school across the county representing those who are either vulnerable or children of key workers across Nursery, Primary and Secondary facilities and WCC is working with all schools on establishing Lateral Flow Testing for pupils.

I know none of us enjoy being classified as Tier 4 but the only way this pandemic can be controlled is for us all to follow the guidelines.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a successful New Year and that hopefully before too long we can look back at this period of time and reflect on how much we have learnt from the experience.

Unfortunately, as you know I am undergoing chemotherapy treatment at the moment and not enjoying the best of health. I will not be joining you at your meeting but should you have any queries or issues that I can help you with please do not hesitate to contact me by email and I will reply as soon as I am able.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division
chriswilliams@warwickshire.gov.uk
17.01.21.

Butlers Marston Parish Council Meeting

District Councillors Report

January 19th 2021

Update on the payment of Business Rate Grants.

SDC have made payments of £1,915,333.49 paid to 1182 businesses.

SDC are not asking any business who have already claimed under any of the schemes – Tier 3 Restrictions Open or Closed Schemes / Tier 4 Open or Closed Schemes / National Lockdown Scheme / Wet Led Pub Scheme or the Chancellors New Scheme to complete another form as we are going to use the details we already have.

However if a business who for whatever reason have not claimed yet at all then if they fill the form in our website we will cover all the periods / Tiers and amounts due.

SDC have plans in place to start paying the 6 weeks National Lockdown Scheme from 11 Jan 2021

SDC are adopting an approach of paying those businesses who have had no grants first and then stepping back in to provide subsequent payments for various schemes.

Garden Green Waste Charge

Garden waste subscription service opens – residents encouraged to take advantage of early bird offer

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's 'Clip and Collect', garden waste subscription service opened on Monday 11 January 2021.

For garden-loving residents who are interested in signing up to the scheme, there is an early bird offer of £35 for each green bin for a 12 month subscription starting on 1 April 2021.

The annual charge is £40 for each green bin, but if residents sign up between 11 January and 28 February 2021, they can take advantage of this early bird offer.

"It will give you peace of mind that you will still have your garden waste collected for 12 months and at the same time save you money by signing up early for a weekly fee of 67p. "It's an entirely optional service and this is not a compulsory charge, but from April our garden waste collection will only be available to residents that register and subscribe. If you do not have a garden or do not want to pay for the collections you do not need to do anything.

"The collection of garden waste is a discretionary service – i.e. one that we do not have to provide. Given our budget pressures last year and this year we had a choice to charge for the service or possibly stop it completely. We felt it would be fairer for residents to have a choice to pay for a service or not, rather than not having a service at all."

To subscribe and find out more about this service, please visit: www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste

The current cost of providing the service free for all 61,386 properties in the district is £1,152,525 a year.

The introduction of a charge is part of a package of measures to offset a cut in funding from central Government.

Householders who pay to have their garden waste taken away will be issued with a non-transferable permit to attach to their green bin.

Householders who choose not to take part in the scheme have the choice of home composting or taking their garden waste to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Warwickshire County Council offer discounted home composting bins on their website: [Composting – Warwickshire County Council](#)

Food waste will still be collected on recycling collection weeks, even if you don't subscribe to the garden waste service using a food waste caddy. Free food waste caddies are available on request by calling 01789 260628 or emailing: streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk . Other Councils already charge

for this service. For example, Rugby Borough Council, Nuneaton Borough Council and Redditch Borough Council already charge £40.00 per year and Whychavon District Council charge £53.00 per year.

Further afield, the Isle of Wight charge £60.00 while Harlow charge £96.00 per year for the green waste collection

Stratford District Council is asking residents to pay more, not because it likes doing so but to protect services it currently provides and because it believes this is the responsible course of action to take in the long term interests of the District. The Council from time to time has to make difficult decisions but if we do not act now we could jeopardise our essential services.

Unfortunately, under Governmental rules, we are not allowed to increase the Council Tax for this service.

Stratford District Council only keeps a fraction of the Council tax it collects. This is where it goes:

Parish Councils 3.4%
Police and Crime Commissioner 11.5%
Warwickshire County Council 77.3%
Stratford District Council 7.8%

"SDC are not allowed by law to make a profit out of Green Waste Charge".

Frontline Workers should get a regular Covid Test throughout Lockdown

Public Health Warwickshire is urging residents, especially those working on the frontline and within our communities, to use the community testing service.

There are now six test centres located across Warwickshire in Bedworth, Nuneaton, Rugby, Leamington and Water Orton and the Leisure Centre Stratford.

Please note, only people without Covid-19 symptoms should book a test. Anyone with symptoms of Covid-19, that is a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a change to their sense of taste or smell – must self-isolate and book a test via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 as usual.

If you are working in one of the following groups and do not currently have access to testing, we would encourage you to visit any one of our test centres on a weekly basis:

Health or social care. Education or childcare. Essential shops, supermarkets or financial services. Food production or processing. Warehousing, packing or distribution. Transportation.

Essential public sector services including waste, bin collections, security etc. Construction, utilities or communications Agency workers.

Tests for those without symptoms of Covid-19 are available for booking between 8.15am and 8pm, Monday to Friday and 10.15am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday. The service uses the fast turnaround lateral flow test kits, which can deliver results in around an hour. Tests can be booked here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/covidcommunitytesting>

For more information or for details on the steps you need to take before attending your test, please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/covidcommunitytesting>

Concern on Polling Stations for Elections

One of the main areas of concern has been the consideration of some of the smaller venues in our more rural areas which will be incredibly difficult to ensure that they are COVID secure. We have referred back to previous reviews undertaken by our Polling Station Inspectors and have also written to all venues, asking for up to date layout plans and their current COVID-19 secure arrangements (by way of a questionnaire). We have taken into account access and egress of these venues and whether there will be enough space to maintain social distancing, we cannot put people at risk.

Butlers Marston (EN), Combrook (HF) & Compton Verney (HG)	Kineton Village Hall	Butlers Marston Church of St Peter and St Paul and Combrook Village Hall – Both small with narrow entrance. One way in, one way out.	Mills Williams
--	-------------------------	---	-----------------------

Please note, this is only a temporary move we are suggesting, for the May 2021 elections only.

All electors who will be affected by these changes will be written to and informed of the change. We would also take the opportunity to offer them a postal vote or proxy vote for this /all future elections and, we will be identifying any change of Polling Station on their poll cards and would communicate this through a press release and social media outlets.

Could I therefore, please ask you whether you know of any reasons why these proposals should not be supported? If you have any concerns on the logistics of these proposed changes, please contact either Caroline Nash or Graham Raspin from the Election Services Department on 01789 260236 who will be able to address these with you.

Please could you forward any **comments by 21 January 5pm** that you may have, so that they can be incorporated within the report to be considered at the Audit and Standards Committee in February.

Once again, please be assured these are temporary measures only and for all future elections we will revert back to the original locations, as long as they remain suitable. These changes will allow us to manage expectations and provide reassurance that electors will be able to participate safely in the May elections.

Information from Izzy Seccombe WCC

Addressing digital exclusion among school learners

I know that a number of you are concerned about support for schools and learners during the lockdown where they lack the right equipment and/or connectivity to support remote learning.

I wanted to let you know that officers are working hard to support learners and schools with laptop and internet access, and to help schools handle Covid risks, while we await expansion of the national device scheme.

We are in close contact with schools about demand for laptops and connectivity, and are also awaiting guidance on the next distribution of laptops from the national scheme.

In the meantime, to support our ambitions around education, digital exclusion and outbreak management I can inform you that today we will be placing an order for a substantial number (1,000) of additional devices for an initial distribution to schools and young carers and a smaller number of mi-fi dongles with unlimited data that will last until the end of the school year in July. When we have completed the demand assessment exercise with our schools, and understand more about the timescales for the national scheme, we will place any further orders we require to fill gaps, whether for devices or dongles.

Izzi Seccombe OBE
Leader
Warwickshire County Council

PopUp Business School

The PopUp Business School – an exciting new opportunity for residents across the Stratford district. SDC/Venture House have invited the Pop Up Business School to deliver a **FREE** week-long online course to help and inspire people to have the confidence to start their own business.

Date: 15 to 19 February 2021 (for 5 days, 10am-3pm)

If you want to take control of your life, are in a full-time (but unsatisfying) job, if you're unemployed and looking for the right path, been working on your own business for years or are already established and want to find out how to become adaptable, PopUp's unique and alternative method will help you to take action and make it happen.

For more information and to book on then click here: <https://bit.ly/StratfordPUBS2021>