

District Councillor Report (04/10/2021) – Matt Jennings

SDC Covid Cases –

Last time we spoke Henley-in-Arden & Claverdon had 17 cases – it is now at 25.

Stratford District 464 per 100,000 (was 203 last time)

Warwick 482 (245 last month)

Solihull 444 (320 last month)

Redditch 603 (291 last month)

Since the start of September we have unfortunately had a 1 death in the District where coronavirus is mentioned on the Death certificate.

1st dose numbers : 87 % (not changed in the last month)

2nd dose numbers : 83 %

Usual message - If you know of anyone who has not been jabbed – please encourage them to do so.

District News

Elizabeth House

It is now open till 5pm for access to residents so they can drop off forms etc.

Still time to get involved in public consultation :

Local Boundaries Commission

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/warwickshire/stratford-on-avon>

SDC & WDC Merger to create a South Warwickshire Super District

<https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/>

Finances

Based on results for the period April to July, the current forecast is that there will be shortfall in net income by the end of the financial year of about £1m. Rather than hoping to make some contribution towards rebuilding SDC's reserves this year, there will be a need to finance the shortfall against budget by again drawing on reserves. The pressure remains on SDC's finances simultaneously to generate additional revenue and to make savings, both through its own operational decisions and through the advantages that the merger with WDC hold in prospect.

Markets

We have recently had two very successful events :

- (i) The National Young Traders Market Final – Stratford has been home to the final for the last few years (cancelled in 2020). This is a showcase for the talent and ingenuity of young market traders from all around the country. The event was a tremendous success with the NMTF agreeing to bring it back to Stratford next year.

- (ii) Food market & Dragon Races – both on the same day. It brought in thousands of domestic tourists and once again, it was a real success.

Welcome Back Project Update

This is progressing at pace. Projects are beginning to take shape with the eight main rural centres including purchase of Gazebo's for new local markets, animated displays for Christmas markets and village centre improvements such as planters.

Planning

In the wake of Full Council signing up to a Climate Change Emergency, there has been a flurry of both pre-applications and planning applications for solar farms by developers who have been targeting landowners. Consequently, difficult decisions lie ahead for those of us in rural wards as we look to balance arguments from residents with the benefits of renewable energy sources and the terms of SDC's policies. A review of these planning applications from a cumulative site perspective is currently being undertaken. Guidance for ward members will be produced and circulated soon – I will pass a copy to the parish when I get it.

Land Charges

The service has been transformed since the transfer of the register to HMLR. The team is fulfilling an eleven days' performance turn around against a target of fifteen days, despite search requests remaining high throughout August and September.

Do Not Drop Litter Roadshow

It was due in Henley on the 23rd September but due to lack of space (as there were road works ongoing outside the old Barclays Bank site) this was postponed – when I get the details of the re-scheduled date I will let you know.

Stratford Herald Covid Awards

The *Stratford Herald* has launched the Covid Response awards that will recognise the achievements of the District's businesses and organisations over the past 18 months. The Awards will be a celebration of the positives to flow from the hardship, isolation, loss and worry caused by the coronavirus. There are eight categories covering a wide range of areas and SDC will be sponsoring the **Community Response Award** – focusing on the many organisations, large and small, that stepped up to help people in the community during the last eighteen months.

Nominations close at 5pm on Thursday 14 October with the winners announced at the ceremony on Thursday 25 November at Alveston Manor.

For more information please visit: <https://www.iliffmediapromotions.co.uk/covid-response-awards/>

Mop Job & Apprentice Fair

October 12th at the Playhouse Theatre – at the entrance to the Mop – if you know of anyone looking for work tell them to put that in their diaries and if you are an employer and want a stand then get in touch with me at recruitmentfair@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Venture House

Forthcoming Venture House 'online' events & Networking opportunities in October :

Events

- [Webinar: Progressing to net zero business through energy](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 6 October
- [Webinar: Passing wealth onto the next generation](#) - Warwickshire Rural Hub - 7 October
- [Start and grow a beauty business](#) - Enterprise Nation - 8 October
- [Webinar: The Ultimate Utopia, the future of the workplace](#) - Coventry Uni - 12 October
- [Webinar: Supply chain opportunities and more with HS2](#) - FSB - 12 October
- [Webinar: Grants and funding for innovation](#) - CU Business Solutions - 13 October
- [Webinar: Progressing to net zero through the circular economy](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 14 Oct
- [Policy hour with Nadhim Zahawi](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 15 October
- [Webinar: Make UK-boost productivity and growth with Made Smarter](#) - Make UK - 15 October
- [Webinar: Investment readiness](#) - CU Business Solutions - 20 October
- [Webinar: Progressing to net zero business through transport](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 20 Oct
- [Webinar: Progressing to net zero through sustainable business management](#) - Chamber - 27 Oct

For further information go to www.venturehousestratford.co.uk