

District Councillor Report (01/02/2022) – Matt Jennings

SDC Covid Cases –

Last time we spoke Henley-in-Arden & Claverdon had 85 cases – it is now at 39 (577 p/100,000).

Stratford District 1227 per 100,000 (was 1137 last time)

Warwick 1355 (1271 last month)

Solihull 1034 (1323 last month)

Redditch 1130 (1166 last month)

People aged OVER 12 who have been vaccinated in the District :

1st dose numbers : 88 %

2nd dose numbers : 84 %

3rd dose number : 72 % (doubled since last time)

The good news is most infections in the vaccinated are ‘mild’, which should keep the numbers ending up in hospital and dying low. That's because while protection against infection wanes, protection against serious illness is much more durable. It explains why there has been a huge drop in the death rate even though the number per 100,000 is so high.

In Feb 21 approx 13 in every 1000 resulted in death *

Jan 22 less than 1 per 1000 resulted in death *

** Contracted Covid 4 weeks prior to the death occurring – so not necessarily a direct result of Covid*

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

District News

Government Energy Prices Help

You will be aware of the statement made by the Chancellor regarding the help with Energy Prices and a £150 Council Tax Rebate for properties in Bands A-D. This is just to advise you that we are still awaiting the actual details of how this might work.

There was also the announcement of a £144mill Discretionary Scheme to help those who are not included in the £150 Rebate. Again as at today we have no details as to how this might work, what our share of the pot is or how it is to be paid.

I will of course keep you updated as the guidance is received.

Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant

Before Christmas the Government announced the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme to support Hospitality, Leisure and Accommodation businesses who had their trading impacted by the surge in cases caused by the Omicron variant.

This is a one-off grant scheme which must be paid to businesses by March 31st 2022. Please note following guidance from Government, the closing date for applications is **Sunday February 13, 2022**.

Grants are available for businesses that have a Business Rates account as of Thursday December 30, 2021 and operate within the Leisure, Hospitality and Accommodation sectors including:

Support Type	Types of Business
Hospitality	Food courts, Public houses/pub restaurants Restaurants, Roadside restaurants Wine bars, Cafés
Leisure	Casinos and gambling clubs, Cinemas Museums and art galleries, Stately homes & historic houses Theatres, Events venues, Night clubs & discotheques, Arenas, Concert halls Zoos & safari parks, Amusement parks, Tourist attractions, Theme parks Amusement arcades, Wedding venues Soft play centres or areas Clubs & institutions, Village halls & scout huts, cadet huts, etc.
Accommodation	Caravan parks, Caravan sites and pitches, Chalet parks, Campsites Coaching inns, Country house hotels, Guest houses, Hostels, Boarding houses Hotels, Lodge, Holiday apartments, Cottages, or bungalows Canal boats or other vessels B&Bs, Catered holiday homes, Holiday homes

Businesses will only be eligible where their main service falls within hospitality, leisure, or accommodation. If your business operates services that could be considered hospitality, leisure or accommodation, and falls into another category, the main service will be determined by assessing which category constitutes 50% or more of the overall income.

You will need to fill out the form so go online :

www.stratford.gov.uk/coronavirus/additional-business-support-grants.cfm

Garden Waste

New applications will be taken later in February, if Council approves the Budget there will be a £2 rise in the charge to £42. This rise is necessary for additional inflationary costs that the Council receives – it is still below the rate of inflation.

Riverside Project

Following the approval of planning permission for the Stratford Riverside project, preparations have been made and the project has now started. This marks an exciting stage as appointed contractors work over the coming months in the northern part of the scheme. It is hoped that the scheme will take approximately 5 months to complete.

Waste Contract

The new blue bins for WDC have been ordered along with the food caddies for both SDC and WDC. Delivery of the food caddies is likely to be around April/May time. The new fleet of trucks has also been ordered with the 26 tonne RCV's being manufactured by Dennis.

Coming Soon to Stratford Leisure Centre New Gamified Obstacle Course

Stratford Leisure Centre is kicking off the new year with an exciting announcement, as it plans to reveal several new features, including the launch of its new TAG active Arena.

TAGactive is a state-of-the-art, gamified obstacle course which fuses physical activity, gaming and technology. It is 2nd of Everyone Actives leisure centres across the country to launch TAGactive.

Tourism

Utilise TripAdvisor – it makes a difference when people search for recommendations / things to do in the area - use it as it helps your local businesses get recognised !

Venture House

Events

[National Manufacturing Summit 2022](#) - 8-9 Feb

[Midlands Business Network Live Expo](#) - Coventry, 10 March

[FSB Business Bootcamp and Networking](#) - Coombe Abbey, 28 March

Workshops

[Ten point plan for Green Growth-Green Buildings](#) - Midlands Engine, 8 Feb

[R&D Tax Credits](#) - TBAT Innovation, 9 Feb

[Email Marketing-Where to start?](#) - Business Ready, 10 Feb

[Net zero: Lessons from 2021 and plans for 2022](#) - Coventry City Council, 15 Feb

[Instagram Masterclass](#) - Business Ready, 17 Feb

[Selling More \(Pt1\)-Identifying and Utilising Routes to Market](#) - Business Ready, 18 Feb

[Pitching for Finance](#) - Business Ready, 28 Feb

Local networking

Take a look at our [list of local networking groups](#) to see what you might like to get involved with. If you run an online networking group that does not appear on this list, please tell us about it and we can add your listing.