

District Councillor Report (06/06/2022) – Matt Jennings

SDC Covid Cases –

Stratford District	85 per 100,000
Warwick	99
Solihull	73
Redditch	61

It has been a 'short month' with bank holidays, annual assemblies & councils etc. On my side I have also had yet another change in my portfolio so I am busy trying to catch up with new officers and get an understanding of new responsibilities.

District News

Site Allocations Plan

The SAP is going out to its next stage of consultation. While it identifies potential reserve sites, it must be remembered that these sites would only ever come into play in very limited circumstances, for example to meet Birmingham unmet need under the duty to co-operate. The message is that this is **NOT** a new raft of sites to be brought on line for development. We do **NOT** need them to maintain our five year housing land supply. The message also needs to get out that these sites will **NOT** just be lifted and shifted into the new local plan.

Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding

The member Task and Finish Group has completed its work and we will be implementing its recommendations, subject to consultation. We have some particularly astute developers in the market who appear to be gaming the system. Our new policy will support true self-build but will deter developers from building housing estates dressed as self-build or custom housebuilding in inappropriate places e.g. outside BUAB's and to avoid their usual S106 and CIL obligations. We intend that our regime will be among the most robust and defensible in England.

Food safety

Following advice from the Food Standards Agency (FSA), a recall of Kinder Eggs has been made as there was a Salmonella outbreak. Officers visited smaller retailers such as European Food Stores and newsagents, etc. and found that these items were still being sold. Officers made the management aware and removed these items from sale. Some managers didn't even know about the Salmonella outbreak!

Food Hygiene Standards

Officers are continuing to find a drop in standards as businesses struggle. Feedback from business owners is that finding experienced staff is the biggest issue they face and this is having an effect on ensuring standards are maintained.

Trees

SDC have been successful in our joint bid with Wychavon, Warwick DC, and the Heart of England Forest for around £500k of funding. This is the second grant with which we have been successful.

Working together to identify suitable areas for trees to be planted, facilitate tree planting, and support woodland maintenance, new woodlands will be created that benefit the environment, boost biodiversity, and provide havens for communities to enjoy. As we grow the level of tree cover then more skilled people are needed to plant and maintain the new woods. The project will create four full-time roles, in addition to four forestry apprenticeships, and will provide training for local volunteers, increasing the number of people with the requisite skills and ensuring sustainability of these new woodlands.

Venture House

After Covid if you are looking at changing / reassessing your work life balance / change of career your first port of call should be to visit the Venture House website – it offers a wide range of links for Business support, advice, business programmes, learning & skills opportunities.

Events

[Hope4business](#) - 7 June, Coventry Cathedral

[Virtual Food and Drink Meet the Buyer](#) - 8-29 June

[Midlands Connect A46 Conference](#) - 14 June, Coventry Uni Tech Park

[The Big Zero Show](#) - 21 June, CBS Arena Coventry

[Rail Live 22](#) - 22-23 June, Long Marston Innovation Centre

Workshops

[How to Improve Efficiency and Reduce Energy Costs](#) - 15 June, on Teams

[Innovation-bringing new products/services to market](#) - 28 June, Ramada Hotel, Coventry

[An Update on UK Customs in 2022 and Beyond](#) - 14 June, Zoom

[Hydrogen Energies Technologies](#) - 24 June, Coventry Innovation Village

[Metrology for Sustainable Manufacturing](#) - 29 June, Institute for AME, Coventry

[Carbon Accounting](#) - 7 July, CUE Business Solutions

Go to : www.venturehousestratford.co.uk/what-we-offer/business-support/