

District Councillor Report (Feb 2023) – Matt Jennings

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SDC IT / Email Issues

Unfortunately SDC tech department have temporarily killed my email address ! They are working on reviving it... If you have tried to contact me and not received a reply – my apologies and please re-send to the hotmail address above...

Pandemic

Covid – No data is currently available – NHS do not produce these if there are less than 3 cases reported...

Avian Flu is back

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has confirmed there is avian influenza A(H5N1) in wild bird populations in the Stratford area of Warwickshire.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is advising people in Warwickshire not to touch any sick or dead wild birds - after avian flu was confirmed in the swan and Canada goose populations around the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon. Pets should also be kept on a lead and away from any potentially infected birds.

The UKHSA, Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council is working with APHA and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) to manage the situation and protect public health and reduce the risk to other birds, wildlife and pets.

The A(H5N1) strain is highly pathogenic to other birds, but the risk to human health is considered low. It is vital that people do not touch sick live birds or bird carcasses, and infection control measures may be necessary if they do.

Anyone who sees sick wildfowl should contact the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999. If you see any dead wildfowl in the Stratford area, contact Stratford District Council on 01789 267 575.

Help available to install & fix boilers

Living in a home with no - or broken - heating is miserable at any time of the year. This is particularly true in the winter of course and if you have an illness made worse by living in a cold home, it can have a devastating impact on your physical and mental health. But there is help at hand for those living in their own their homes in the Warwickshire area. Warm and Well in Warwickshire has got funding available to help install - or fix - boilers and central heating systems.

Anyone with a chronic or acute health condition or disability which is made worse by the cold (such as respiratory conditions, arthritis, diabetes or heart disease) can apply for help. Income criteria applies but it's well worth residents contacting our partner Act on Energy to see if we can help.

Call 0800 988 2881 or via the website www.actonenergy.org.uk

Local Business views required for SDC's Budget

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has a statutory duty to consult with businesses on the budget and the process of setting Council Tax levels.

An invitation has been sent out to local businesses to attend a meeting on Thursday 9 February at 6pm at the District Council's headquarters in Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon.

The meeting will be chaired by the District Council's Leader, Councillor Tony Jefferson and members of The Cabinet and other Councillors will also be there.

The meeting is largely informal; it will include a presentation of the Council's spending plans for the coming year and will also provide the opportunity for a discussion of any matter relevant to the District Council's services.

If you are a local business and have not received an invitation but would like to attend the meeting please contact Tina Brain at Stratford-on-Avon District Council on 01789 260802 or email tina.brain@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

Driving Innovation & Growth Summit

As previously mentioned SDC are hosting this event on the 17th Feb.

As a refresh, the three organisations involved in organising this event - Stratford-on-Avon District Council, the Growth Hub, and the University of Warwick - believe it is important that there is a focus on growth because scale up businesses represent only 0.6 per cent of the business base yet contribute 50 per cent of the whole SME economy, generating £1.2trn. From our networking events and meetings, we know that scale up CEOs see local Growth Hubs as a key enabler to access the raft of national resources available and the majority want to be relationship managed by a single point of contact.

That has been our SDC business model and we believe this is key to helping to drive forward growth in innovative businesses.

Garden Waste Subscriptions

Garden waste subscriptions for the period of April 2023 - March 2024 are open now. This £44 subscription covers April 23rd to April 24th and the link is www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/subscribe-for-garden-waste-service.cfm If you require any further information, you can contact us on streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk or 01789 260628.

Refuse, recycling and food waste collections

Bin collection schedules are back to normal (including your green bin) – if you haven't downloaded the SDC app yet please do so – it will alert you the night before and remind you which bin needs to go out.

Venture House

As always I would encourage anyone looking to take advantage of the opportunities that Venture House has to offer - there are live and online events – see below or visit www.venturehousestratford.co.uk

February events

7-8 [Low Carbon Agriculture Show 2023](#) - Stoneleigh Park

1 March [Venturefest](#) - Birmingham

February workshops

7 [Protecting your ideas - Beginners guide to IP](#) - Business Ready - online

Starting 7th for 6 wks - [Business for Good: Green Skills for Small Business](#) – Sustainability WM - online

8 [Energy usage and consumption](#) (Manufacturers) - University of Warwick

8 [How to get paid quickly and effectively](#) - Small Business Britain - online

15 [Strategy for startups](#) - Business Ready - Warwick Innovation Centre

15 [The net zero office](#) - Coventry CC - online

16 [Freelancers Unite! the power of co-ops & joint working](#) - Co-op Bank - online

21 - 22 [Innovation masterclass](#) - CUE - Wootton Wawen

Business Support

The CW Chamber of Commerce provides a full programme of startup and grow-on business support workshops and masterclasses - www.cw-chamber.co.uk/business-support/

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 they can add your listing.