

January Report

At the time of writing this Covid-19 management is still crowding out most other activity. There are hopes the review of Tiers on December 16 will have moved Warwickshire out of Tier 3. However this is dependent on the performance of Coventry and Solihull as well as Warwickshire. The reason is that the three authorities are in the same public health province and the Government does not want to sub-divide. Henley and Claverdon data area had 5 new cases in the week up to December 8 according to the Government statistics.

There had been an increase in scams during lockdown. One recent activity is for a gang of workmen approach private building car park operators and telling them they have spare road paint and could refresh the parking bay markings for a very reasonable price. The price increase when the work is completed. Cyber criminals have been having a field day and people need to ensure that feeling isolated at home does not make them more vulnerable to friendly offers of help.

The County will be using the Council Meeting on December 15 to announce that they will be developing a policy on the Stockholm Declaration that commits UK to 20 mph speed limits where pedestrians, cyclist and motor vehicle mix. <https://www.roadsafetysweden.com/> has more detail.

I have suggested Henley in Arden High Street and Ullenhall Street be the first scheme proposals to be considered for 20 mph. If implemented, a lower speed limit will encourage pedestrian activity in and about these roads. However the parish Council need to write to the County Chief Executive asking for a speed limit and enforcement needs to be addressed by the Parish Councils. It appears that the Police are struggling to manage the increase in costs caused by the collapse of the West Mercia/Warwickshire alliance and won't be keen on additional work.

Global climate change mitigation took a back seat last year due to Government's focus on Covid-19. Climate change is now back on the agenda and the Government has extended the Green Homes Grant. Work must be completed by 31 March 2022. Information is on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme#contents>.

In summary there are two types of measures, Primary and Secondary:

Primary Measures

The award of a Green Home Grant will be dependent upon residents installing at least one primary measure. These include:

- Insulation – solid wall insulation (internal or external), cavity wall insulation, under-floor insulation (solid floor, suspended floor), loft insulation, flat roof insulation, pitched roof insulation, room in roof insulation or insulating a park home.
- Low carbon heat – air source heat pump, ground source heat pump, solar thermal (liquid filled flat plate or evacuated tube collector), biomass boiler, hybrid heat pump.

Secondary Measures

If residents install at least 1 primary measure, their voucher can be used to help cover the cost of any of the following secondary measures:

- Windows and doors – draught proofing, double or triple glazing (where replacing single glazing) secondary glazing (in addition to single glazing) or energy efficient replacement doors (replacing single glazed or solid doors installed before 2002).
- Heating controls and insulation – hot water tank thermostat, hot water tank insulation or heating controls (such as, appliance thermostats, smart heating controls, zone controls, intelligent delayed start thermostat, and thermostatic radiator valves).

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