

## **District Councillor Report (08/03/2021) – Matt Jennings**

### **SDC Covid Cases –**

Here in the Stratford District our numbers are now at 50 per 100,000, Warwick is 69, North Warwickshire at 100, Solihull 54 & Redditch 141.

Henley & Claverdon in the week ending 24<sup>th</sup> Feb had less than 3 cases according to the NHS Digital website.

### **Book a Test**

The over 56's can now book their jab online now – go to <https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/do-you-have-an-nhs-number>

As you might be able to guess from the URL – you will need your NHS number. This should be any correspondence that you have received from your GP (a 10 figure number).

### **Business Grants update**

The Government has just announced further grants – Kick Start – we have not received guidance yet on this but will notify you as soon as we do.

Previous grants have been sent out including a further 6 week payment covering the period from 16<sup>th</sup> Feb to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

This brings the total paid out to local businesses to £16 million since the November lockdown and over £48m since the pandemic started.

### **The Budget Last Week**

Budget headlines referring to the new Business Rates offering, if this turns out to be the case when we get the guidance in the coming days, it looks like businesses will pay nothing from April to June then six months where rates will be discounted to two-thirds of the normal charge followed by 3 months at the full amount due. As yet we have not been sent the details or software yet – when we do we will be able calculate / bill / administer & collect business rates based on this scenario. We would normally be issuing Business Rate bills this weekend – this will be delayed now until we are in position to produce bills based on this new proposal.

### **Other Council News**

#### **Super District**

Update on exploring the creation of a South Warwickshire 'Super District' – This was passed by SDC almost unanimously (only 1 against) and at WDC all for apart from 5 abstaining.

#### **Green Bins**

We have had over 30,000 sign up ! This comes into effect in April. Early Bird has finished but if you forgot then ask and you might still get it...

## **New Political Map**

The Local Government Boundary Commission has decided that the number of councillors in Stratford-on-Avon should be 41 (currently 36) in order to give greater representations to members of the District.

The Commission is interested in views on which communities should be part of the same ward. What facilities do people share, such as parks, leisure centres or schools and shopping areas? What issues do neighbouring communities face that they have in common, such as high numbers of visitors or heavy traffic? Have there been new housing or commercial developments that have changed the focus of communities? And are there roads, rivers, railways or other features that people believe form strong boundaries between neighbourhoods?

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can give their views: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/24993> .

## **Business Survey**

It is now twelve months since the pandemic began to effect business in Stratford District. With the government road map setting out the expected dates for opening up the economy, Stratford District Council wish to gather your feedback in a short survey.

We are keen to understand, amongst other things, what effects the pandemic has had on your business, what you feel the next six months holds and what will help your recovery.

SDC are gathering key information to enable us to understand what we can do to support businesses through this difficult time.

Please complete this short online survey by clicking this

link <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/business>

The deadline for completion is 31 March. We appreciate your help with this.

## **Scams**

Bogus Banking Texts – these will ask you to input information on a link. Only log into your account from your banks normal website (which I am sure you have bookmarked).

NHS Vaccination Emails – these ask for £5 booking fee – as we know the NHS will not charge you anything for anything to do with vaccinations.

Driving Licence Renewal – These charge £100 for a process which should cost £14. Visit the [www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence](http://www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence) for the real thing !

## **PopUp Business School**

The PopUp Business School (PUBS) was on the week before last – Over 100 people attended. The team of experts helped people eager to start-up their own businesses or help those already in business get a grasp of the latest on-line marketing techniques to rapidly grow their customer base.

This was a tremendous success with very positive feedback from participants - It is a testament to how good this course was that the same number of people who started on Monday morning were still online participating on Friday afternoon, with pretty much all of them having web sites, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram marketing accounts by the end. On top of that they made friends, business contacts and were collaborating on projects together.

There are courses run almost every working day by [Venture online](#), for the current list see below.

## Venture House

Visit the website – [www.venturehousestratford.co.uk](http://www.venturehousestratford.co.uk) - for other free business seminars !

## March events

[Branding Webinar - Focus Digital](#) - CUE - 9 March

[Health, well-being & sustainable communities](#) - Thrive at work/Green Business Programme - 9 Mar

[Virtual Donut Time Networking](#) - Venture House - 10 March

[Action planning for success virtual workshop](#) - CWRT - 10 March

[Start up Workshop - Winning and keeping customers](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 16 March

[Get your business visible on Google](#) - BT Skills for Tomorrow - 17 March

[Start up Workshop - Creating marketing content & where to use it](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 18 March

[West Midlands Business Expo](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 22-26 March

[Create Better Content - Focus Digital](#) - CUE - 23 March

[Instagram for your business](#) - BT Skills for Tomorrow - 24 March

[Cash flow forecasting virtual workshop](#) - CWRT - 24 March

[Start up Workshop - Business planning](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 30 March

[LinkedIn masterclass](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 31 March