

## **District Councillor Report (24/05/2021) – Matt Jennings**

### **SDC Covid Cases –**

Henley-in-Arden & Claverdon we are at 'fewer than 3'  
Stratford District 8 per 100,000  
Warwick is 9  
Solihull 12  
Redditch 9

### **Business Grants update**

The last business grants have been paid out - over £61m has been distributed since the first lockdown started.

### **Re-Opening Outdoor Hospitality**

The District Council's Environmental Health and Licensing teams are continuing to advise cafes, pubs and restaurants on how they can safely promote the use of their indoor & outdoor space for drinking and dining in line with the Government's roadmap out of lockdown.

Temporary changes mean that businesses such as pubs can set up a marquee for up to 56 days without the need for planning permission until 31 December 2021

### **Annual Council Meeting**

We had our Annual Council meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Councillor Tony Dixon handed over the chain of office to Councillor Edward Fitter. At 27 years old he now holds the record for being the Youngest Chairman of Stratford Council.

We also had a re-arrangement of the Cabinet portfolio's in order to synchronise / align with Warwick District Council. I am now Portfolio Holder for Culture, Tourism & Leisure (this also encompasses Events & Markets).

### **Riverside Project**

This went to Cabinet and the concept design & identified schedule of projects was endorsed.

### **Trails Trust**

I recently attended an interesting meeting with Trails Trust – they try and set up permanent rights of ways to create trails linking up new towns and villages ([www.thetrialstrust.org.uk](http://www.thetrialstrust.org.uk)). They involve all stakeholders - for instance - walking & cycling bodies, Landowners, Defra and local government. We are looking at ways to incorporate this into our Climate Change strategy Creating thereby cycle and walking routes to link up rural communities.

## **Shakespeare's' Birthday**

A celebration that honours the birthday of The Bard and all his work has been hailed a huge success after it went online for 2021.

Since it premiered on April 23, the video special has had a total of 1,856 views and is still available on YouTube for people to watch.

The event went online this year to be able to mark William Shakespeare's birthday safely due to the Coronavirus pandemic and to avoid attracting large crowds.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzS1-lped0I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzS1-lped0I)

## **Reuse Shops**

The reuse shops at Warwickshires recycling centres are open again - these popular shops are a treasure-trove of bargains and curiosities, selling a vast range of house and garden goods. Donations of good quality items are sought, including furniture, soft furnishings, garden equipment, tools, electrical equipment, toys, bikes, books, music and films.

Forthcoming Venture House 'online' courses in May :

### May events

[Start-up Workshop - Winning & keeping customers](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 25 May

[Start-up Webinar - LinkedIn Magic](#) - CUE - 25 May

[Start-up Workshop - Finance & accountancy for start-ups](#) - Chamber of Commerce - 26 May

[Webinar - Creating your marketing strategy part 1](#) - Business Ready - 26 May