

District Councillor Report (21/06/2021) – Matt Jennings

SDC Covid Cases –

Last time we spoke Henley-in-Arden & Claverdon had 3 cases – it is now at 6
Stratford District 33 per 100,000

Warwick is 25

Solihull 67

Redditch 34

Numbers are going up – but hospitalisations & deaths have not – we are still below the normal range of deaths for this time of year compared to the past 5 years.

1st dose numbers : 80%

2nd Dose numbers : 62%

Business Grants update

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

I was hoping to have some news on some additional funds from the ‘Welcome Back Fund’ which we were looking at allocating to the main rural centres. However in light of the push back of the ‘re-opening’ it has been muted by central Govt that there may be a new tranche of funding.

Unfortunately at this stage we have not been told how this is going to operate and where this money is coming from....and it may well be that Whitehall is going to ask us to use these funds... Hopefully I will know more soon...

Projects :

I visited the British Motor Museum at Gaydon last week. They have some very exciting expansion projects – including new showrooms, a hotel, a ‘Future Tech’ hub and Apprentice centre. This is a potential large scale investment in excess of £20m and will be the gateway into South Warwickshire. We have introduced them to the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub If you haven’t visited – a great day out !

Fly Tipping

This is higher than last year – 612 incidents in the whole of the district – This is a reflection that the Tips were closed and that a booking process was then introduced. It reflects an 80% increase... compared to Warwick’s 130% increase ... Whilst these figures are never good it could be a lot worse !

Homeless donations

Last week the Community Safety Team launched the “Meaningful Change” initiative. This will provide visitors / residents wanting to support the homeless on the streets with the opportunity to give electronically, through contactless devices, rather than handing over cash. The funds can then be used to supply their real needs of food, clothing or other support rather than risk being spent on alcohol or other substances. Card readers can be placed on any location. It is the hope and intention

that businesses, initially in Stratford but eventually across the District, will promote the initiative by hosting one of the card readers by their sales tills.

New Era for Land Charges Service

SDC transferred its Local Land Charges Register (LLCR) to HM Land Registry (HMLR) on 10 May. This follows the completion of the challenging project over the last two years to data cleanse and digitise approximately 95,000 records held in a variety of paper and digital formats.

Benefits of the new system are already delivering faster response times to search requests. SDC will continue to be responsible for updating and maintaining the LLC register to provide replies to CON29 enquiries which are currently being turned round in less than three weeks and will continue to improve further once the rush before the stamp duty holiday ends.

Venture House continues to offer Online Business courses - venturehousestratford.co.uk – for further information.