

District Councillor Report (05/09/2021) – Matt Jennings

SDC Covid Cases –

Last time we spoke Henley-in-Arden & Claverdon had 28 cases – it is now at 17

Stratford District 203 per 100,000 (down from 350 last week but was 234 last month)

Warwick 245 (335 last month)

Solihull 320 (459 last month)

Redditch 291 (360 last month)

Since the start of August we have unfortunately had a 4 deaths in the District where coronavirus is mentioned on the Death certificate.

1st dose numbers : 87 % (not changed in the last month)

2nd dose numbers : 80 %

If you know of anyone who has not been jabbed – please encourage them to do so.

District News

Local Boundaries Commission

The Local Government Boundary Commission published its recommendations for changes to the Districts warding arrangements last week. Their publication marks the beginning of a consultation period (from 31 August) which will end on 8 November. The relevant documents are available via the following link:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/warwickshire/stratford-on-avon>

Some headlines from the recommendations:

- the number of councillors should be increased from 36 to 41
- the number of wards should be decreased from 36 to 35
- 29 wards should have a single ward member; 6 wards should have two ward members
- the recommended double ward member wards are (using the recommended ward names and boundaries) - Bidford-on-Avon, Bishop's Itchington, Fenny Compton & Napton, Gayden, Kineton & Lighthorne Heath, Shipston-on-Stour, Stratford West and Studley with Sambourne
- the boundaries of every existing ward should change, with the exceptions of Brailes & Compton and Tanworth-in-Arden which should remain unchanged

It would appear that SDC requests for single member wards has been ignored as has our proposals for boundaries – including that our ward remains the same and continues to include Henley, Beaudesert & Ullenhall.

My personal view - I have always felt that people like local representation and I feel that Henley & Ullenhall have a synergy. I am struggling to see what link Ullenhall has with Sperrall, Langley and Mappleborough Green (which some consider as Redditch).

The report makes reference (para 30) to the argument that this review should not take place until the decision of whether or not SDC and WDC are to merge has been taken. The implication seems to

be that if the merger does proceed, these recommendations will have been overtaken by events. If the merger takes place the process will start all over again.

I would however recommend that you take part in this consultation and make your feelings known whatever your thoughts on their proposals.

SDC & WDC Merger to create a South Warwickshire Super District

Public consultation is to begin on proposal to create a South Warwickshire Council
Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are considering a proposal to merge, creating a new District Council covering the whole of South Warwickshire (the areas currently covered by Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils).

Why we are doing this? Both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick councils are facing a very uncertain financial future. Government funding for all councils has reduced in recent years and it is estimated that both councils will have shortfalls increasing to around £4-6m per year by 2025/26. Across the two councils this means that annual savings of around £10m each year are needed over the next five years. This level of annual savings is about one-third of the combined costs of the councils.

The consultation document and online questionnaire can be viewed and completed at:

<https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/>

Alternatively questionnaires are also available to be picked up at Elizabeth House.

Do Not Drop Litter Roadshow

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is going back on the road with a series of roadshows in **Alcester, Southam and Henley-in-Arden**.

The roadshows will encourage people to not drop litter and to be more responsible for their own litter, to switch to reusable products, to recycle and learn more about the Refill scheme, to help reduce single-use plastic, a major source of litter in communities.

The roadshows will be taking place at:

- Thursday 9 September 10am to 2pm Moorfields car park. Alcester
- Thursday 16 September 10am to 2pm Wood Street car park, Southam
- Thursday 23 September 10am to 2pm Outside the old Barclays Bank, Henley-in-Arden

Leisure Centres supporting Autism

Local leisure centres in Stratford-upon-Avon, Shipston, Southam and Alcester are encouraging more people with autism to stay active by introducing 'quiet hours' in their gyms.

Stratford Leisure Centre, Shipston Leisure Centre, Southam Leisure Centre and The Greig Leisure Centre (Alcester), which are all managed by leisure operator Everyone Active in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, will introduce dedicated hours of no music or loud noise in their gyms in an effort to create calmer environments for people with autism.

Mop Job & Apprentice Fair

October 12th at the Playhouse Theatre – at the entrance to the Mop – if you know of anyone looking for work tell them to put that in their diaries and if you are an employer and want a stand then get in touch with me at recruitmentfair@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Venture House

Forthcoming Venture House 'online' events & Networking opportunities in September :

Events

[Webinar: What is digital automation and how can you use it?](#) - EnterpriseNation - 2 Sept

[Amazon Bootcamp: Young Entrepreneurs](#) - Amazon - 7 Sept

[Marketing & Digital Activity Health Check](#) - CWLEPGrowthHub - 7 + 27 Sept

[Brexit Clinic: Import One-to-One Sessions](#) - WMGrowthHubs - 9 Sept

[Brexit Clinic: VAT One-to-One Sessions](#) - WMGrowthHubs - 14 Sept

[Jumpstart workshops for those thinking of starting a business](#) - CWRT - 16 - 30 Sept

[Webinar: Blockchain - Just a Buzzword?](#) - ICAEW - 20 Sept

[Webinar: What does Net Zero mean for SMEs?](#) - CWCC - 30 Sept

For further information go to www.venturehousestratford.co.uk