

District Councillor Report (07/03/2022) – Matt Jennings

SDC Covid Cases –

Stratford District 411 per 100,000 (was 1227 last time)

Warwick 412 (1355 last month)

Solihull 253 (1034 last month)

Redditch 298 (1130 last month)

People aged OVER 12 who have been vaccinated in the District : (No change)

1st dose numbers : 88 %

2nd dose numbers : 85 %

3rd dose number : 73 %

District News

Market Prize

The Stratford-upon-Avon Victorian Christmas Market has picked up one of the top prizes at the Great British Market Awards. The market was named the country's '**Best Large Speciality Market**' during a ceremony in Birmingham at the National Association of British Market Authorities, awards.

Festival of Motoring

After a two year break the Festival of Motoring is returning to Stratford-upon-Avon with the welcome addition of an extra day.

The hugely popular 3-Day festival will take place on Saturday 30th April, Sunday 1st and Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2022. It will be open from 10am until 5pm daily.

Over three hundred vintage, classic, and super cars will be gloriously exhibited throughout the three days, with the town centre streets closed to traffic to accommodate the festival. Bridge Street, High Street, Wood Street, Henley Street, Union Street and Sheep Street will all host various aspects of the motoring event, including family entertainment and free entry for all. The town's markets will complement the occasion with all the regular stalls on Waterside, the popular and well loved street food court, and as an additional attraction this year an artisan market will be located down the centre of Bridge Street.

Green Bins / Garden Waste subscription

Garden Waste online subscriptions service for 1st April to March 2023 is now open - the link is www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/subscribe-for-garden-waste-service.cfm

Council Tax

Council Tax Level for Stratford District has now been set

The Council Tax from Stratford-on-Avon District Council for residents for 2022/23 for each of the valuation bands is:

A	£102.75
B	£119.87
C	£137.00
D	£154.12
E	£188.37
F	£222.62
G	£256.87
H	£308.24

Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent for Council Tax, it only receives 7.4% of the Council Tax paid by residents. Warwickshire County Council receives the lion's share of 76.7%, the Police 12.7% and Towns/Parishes 3.2%.

Where your Council Tax goes :

Total Band D Council Tax	2021/22	2022/23	% Increase / (decrease)	% of the Council Tax
Warwickshire County Council	£1,533.51	£1,590.93	3.74%	76.7%
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£252.96	£262.71	3.85%	12.7%
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£149.12	£154.12	3.35%	7.4%
Town and Parish Councils (average)	£65.17	£66.08	1.40%	3.2%
TOTAL	£2,000.76	£2,073.84	3.65%	100.0%

Anyone who thinks they could be struggling to pay their Council Tax is encouraged to contact the District Council as soon as possible by calling 01789 260990 or email revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk, where the team will be able to advise what help is available.

Government Energy Prices Help

You will be aware of the statement made by the Chancellor regarding the help with Energy Prices and a £150 Council Tax Rebate for properties in Bands A-D. Councils have been given the task of administering the rebate for eligible household.

Unfortunately Whitehall assumed that this would be simple process via an electronic refund... what they didn't realise was that over 30% do not pay their council tax via debit debit ! This means SDC do not have 30% of people bank details ! We therefore need to work out who these 30% are, write to them and request their bank details. As you can imagine this is not an easy process and there will be the usual number of scammers jumping all over this... This means a lengthy process will be required to go through security, data retention issues, permissions etc and of course some may not want to give their bank details.... So an alternative way / method of payment will also be required... Previously it was thought that this was going to be actioned in April but this date looks unlikely.....

Help for residents affected by Energy Price Increases

Following the announcement of the price cap increase on energy charges which will impact millions of households, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are continuing to work with local charity Act On Energy to promote the grants, advice and support available to residents in South Warwickshire. Act On Energy can be contacted on 0800 988 2881 with a range of advice on their website <https://actonenergy.org.uk/>

Venture House

After Covid if you are looking at changing / reassessing your work life balance / change of career your first port of call should be to visit the Venture House website – it offers a wide range of links for Business support, advice, business programmes, learning & skills opportunities.

Go to : www.venturehousestratford.co.uk/what-we-offer/business-support/

Local networking

Take a look at our [list of local networking groups](#) to see what you might like to get involved with. If you run an online networking group that does not appear on this list, please tell us about it and we can add your listing.