

District Councillor Report (09/05/2022) – Matt Jennings

SDC Covid Cases –

Stratford District 109 per 100,000 (was 1056 last time)

Warwick 136

Solihull 87

Redditch 101

District News

Merger with WDC

As you may have seen in various announcements – the merger with Warwick District Council is off ! This means that District elections will now be taking place in May 2023 instead of 2024. The recent Boundaries Commission report is changing the Henley ward boundaries – Henley & Beaudesert will be a stand alone ward and will no longer include Ullenhall which will go into the Wootton Wawen ward.

We will continue to work with WDC on various projects such as the South Warwickshire Local Plan, waste and climate emergency projects.

Energy Rebates

I wanted to update you on the Council Tax Energy Rebates of £150. What we thought was going to be delayed till September has already started. I am delighted that we have made our first payments to those Direct Debit payers who have paid their April Council Tax instalment.

We have paid out £2.7million to 18,400 households. We are now working on around 1500 Direct Debit rejections and will then be moving on to contact all those residents who do not currently pay by Direct Debit. We will be writing to all those households in due course.

Markets

Yet another award !!!! The NMTF at their national conference in Blackpool have just announced that the LSD Stratford markets manager, Ted Perry, has been declared the National Market Manager of the Year 2022. Ted had been in charge in Stratford since 2012 until 2015 and then again since 2017 up to date. A very popular manager, Ted was nominated by a number of traders as we came out of Covid and I understand he received a unanimous decision amongst the NMTF's judges.

Fly Tipping

Rates of fly tipping continue to run at a lower level than last year and lower than most other authorities. Whilst the perception may be different at times, we are doing rather well.

MRF

The new material recycling centre was on target and on budget however the operational date of June 2023 now looks it being pushed back by 3 months. Luckily we had negotiated fixed price contracts and 'forward bought' materials – effectively hedging our bets.

RSC

New Theatre Tours have started up at the RSC after Covid – an opportunity to explore the building on this newly launched one-hour theatre tour where you can hear all about the workings of the theatre with engaging stories of their unique history. The experienced team of tour guides will lead you on a journey through the building's public and behind-the-scenes areas, sharing the magic of the Royal Shakespeare Company. This will also include access to the newly developed Costume Workshop ! I had the pleasure of visiting the unveiling of the newly developed Costume Workshop, the largest in-house costume-making department of any British theatre. This a £7m refurbishment which adds yet another layer to the Tourist offering. A fascinating tour and well worth a visit.

Leisure Centre

Everyone Active undertook their QUEST Assessment at Southam beginning on April. The result back is back and a rating of 'EXCELLENT' was achieved. This is an extremely hard result to achieve and is an improvement on the last QUEST score which was VERY GOOD. Once again it shows that our investment of £3.1m in our Districts Leisure facilities was money well spent. Over £200k was spent at Studley leisure centre on the changing room upgrades & lighting for the swimming facilities.

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/

Events

[Midlands Business Network Expo](#) - 12 May, National Motorcycle Museum

Workshops

[Digital Marketing Programme for Startups](#) - 10 May, CUE Business Solutions

[Maximise your Social Media Strategy](#) - 11 May, Business Ready

[Innovation: Bringing products/services to market](#) - 24/25 May, Wootton Wawen

[Managing your Time and other Workplace Challenges](#) - 24 May, Business Ready