

## **District Councillor Report (06/06/2022) – Matt Jennings**

### **SDC Covid Cases**

In the Henley & Claverdon area we have had 16 cases reported in the last 7 days – there is an upturn and the graph is going in the wrong direction. The recommendation is still to be cautious, wash your hands etc

### **District News**

#### **Fake News**

I would like to address some mis-information being distributed regarding the District Councils handling of finances. The District Council have falsely been accused of wasting £320,000 of tax payers money on the merger exercise with WDC !

As I have previously reported, even though the merger did not happen it still generated both Councils a considerable amount of savings - a total of £572,000 in year 1 and will continue to do so for at least the next few years. SDC are still running a number of joint projects with WDC – for example on waste contracts, SWLP and Legals.

SDC's administrative costs for the merger exercise came to a total of £160,000 but our share of the savings is £ 271,000 annually – this meant a net saving in savings £109,000 in year 1 alone and roughly £250,000 ongoing.

It is important to point out that these figures are in the public domain and are a matter of record.

#### **123 + Bin System - going live**

Hopefully, you have by we have all received our new food caddies, calendars and information booklet about the new 123+ waste service ready for the start on 1st August.

Given the complexity of all the information being distributed, we are doing as many checks as possible to ensure everyone has received the right information. Any issues please call our contact centre on 01789 260123 (preferably before 10am Monday to Friday when they are less busy).

#### **Support for Businesses**

Sam Yair ([sam@cw-chamber.co.uk](mailto:sam@cw-chamber.co.uk)) is the new CW Chamber of Commerce business advisor for this area. She is after local contacts in order to be able to maximise her support to businesses in the Henley area.

Sam will be delivering the New Business Startup Programme, providing mentoring and advice to entrepreneurs and young businesses. Her team members also provide support to more established businesses and organisations. If you are interested please touch base with her.

#### **E-Cargo Bike**

We continue to push this scheme for a free 3 month trial for local businesses, organisations and community groups looking to deliver goods locally, journeys between businesses easier (and cheaper) whilst helping reduce emissions.

Email [ecargobikes@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:ecargobikes@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

## Tourism

In advance of schools across the region breaking up for the summer holidays on and around July 22 until September 5, Shakespeare's England will be running a campaign to highlight events you may be hosting during this time. They are looking to help publicise and showcase events for all ages. Details of these will be featured on their website, social media channels and in a blog/press release.

Sian, Shakespeare's England's content and digital executive ([sian@shakespeares-england.co.uk](mailto:sian@shakespeares-england.co.uk)) is the contact and would love to hear from you with any press releases, information, special events, offers and photos.

## Council Tax Energy Rebate £150 (Council tax Bands A-D)

SDC have paid out over £4.26 m so far – To anyone paying via Direct Debit you may well already have already received this – I have spoken to a number residents who have got theirs. If are eligible will have been sent a letter and been told to go online to [www.stratford.gov.uk/energyrebate](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/energyrebate) to fill in the online form. The District Council has also received additional money in the form of a Discretionary Grant from the Government for those in most need of help towards rising energy bills. Information on this is available on the same page [www.stratford.gov.uk/energyrebate](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/energyrebate)

## View magazine

The Summer edition is out – hopefully coming through your letterbox soon... lots of contact information and details on what SDC are doing for you.

## 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.

## Events

[Commonwealth Games Baton Relay](#) comes to Stratford - 22 July

## Workshops

[Get Set for the Games](#) - 4 July, On Zoom

[Jumpstart for new entrepreneurs](#) - starts 5 July, CWRT

[Built to Last or Built to Change](#) - 6 July, Aston University

[E-machines and Drive Technology](#) - 6 July, Coventry University

[Carbon Accounting](#) - 7 July, Coventry University

[Sustainability 5 Day Challenge](#) - 11-15 July, Facebook & Teams

[How to Navigate Farming Support Schemes in 2023](#) - 12 July, The Andersons Centre

[How to Generate Sales with Effective Digital Marketing](#) - 12 July, On Zoom (CWCC members)

[Practical Financial Essentials for Business Leaders](#) - 13 July, Aston University

[Road Map to Net Zero: Improve your Competitive Edge](#) - 14 July, Coventry University

[Intellectual Property and What You Need to Know](#) - 19 July, Aston University

[Kickstart your TikTok business journey](#) - 20 July, Online

[Clean Growth and Sustainability](#) - 26 July, Aston University

Go to : [www.venturehousestratford.co.uk/what-we-offer/business-support/](http://www.venturehousestratford.co.uk/what-we-offer/business-support/)