



## County Cllr. Ian Shenton

Proud to represent Claverdon, Earlswood, Henley in Arden, Langley,  
Preston Bagot, Ullenhall, Wolverton, Wootton Wawen  
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### County Councillors Report as at 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

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#### 123+ Waste collection

This does appear to be settling down now with the number of complaints falling but there are still many residents across the district who are not using the food caddies, which is a shame as it helps reduce methane emissions that are up to 30 times worse for the atmosphere than Co2 emissions. It also has the added benefit that the methane is captured and reintroduced into the gas network.

Don't forget if your bin is not emptied then use this link.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm>

If you don't use or can't access the internet then call 01789 260123 or call me and I will get in touch with Streetscene for you.

#### Henley specific news

##### Small works schemes (Delegated budget)

Ref	Date	Parish/Town	C or D	Issue	Action 1
8	27/07/2022	HIA	C	Speeding on Liveridge Hill - see e mail	1/11/2022 at a separate meeting with Elaine Field (Chair at that time) the speed report/data was going to be given to me to review
16	08/08/2022	HIA	C	Monkey run (Birdcage Walk) damage to surface, electrical cable exposed - Dylan knows about this email sent to DW my PC on 8/8/2022	22/10/2022 Refer to Richard Barnard Public right of way (per GS)
31	15/08/2022	HIA	C	Drains issue - water is over flowing due to blocked drains outside 185, 187, 189, 191 High Street, Henley photos available reported by Shelagh Clitherow <a href="mailto:she.teach@btinternet.com">she.teach@btinternet.com</a>	04/10/2022 Jetting job raised and issued by Dylan
36	05/09/2022	HIA	C	Plastic bollards outside Co Op have been damaged	22/10/2022 temp repair done by Dylan- these are to be replaced with new ones 6/8 weeks i.e end of November

Cllr Bryn Turner also asked about a rolling program of footpath repairs which I have asked to be broken down into “chunks” as I cannot commit my budget for years in advance as it may be “tying” the hands of any future County Councillor. The last communication I have was my email dated 13/10/2022. Let me have a detailed proposal so I can progress this if it is still wanted.

**If there are any other items of work outstanding, please let me know.**

#### EV Chargers

My thanks go to a resident who made a FOI request on the above.

I have read the TFL guide to installation and have asked County Council officers to consider the following questions:-

- Did the County Council or the District Council commission a Health and safety survey of its own?
- If not, why not?
- Were the District Council consulted at all? I have to say I think not as it didn't come across my desk as the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change ( at that time) or generally in any Cabinet meeting



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- As BP Pulse abide by the IET guidelines were any checks carried out by the County Council to ensure that the chargers followed and comply with all H & S and IET guidelines and if so, can this be demonstrated?
- Do the County Council follow, in broad terms, the TFL guide to EV installation and do the County Council feel the current EV chargers in Henley in Arden meet the same standard as outlined in the TFL document.

**I am awaiting a response form the Portfolio Holder on this.**

A copy of the TFL guide can be found using this link

<https://lruc.content.tfl.gov.uk/london-electric-vehicle-charge-point-installation-guidance-december-2019.pdf>

### **Application to the Councillors Grant fund for purchasing recycle bins**

Cllr Bryn Turner has made an application on behalf of the JPC for the above and I will be meeting with Officers at County later this month to review all the applications received. I hope to be able to give you an answer before the end of the month

### **Neighbourhood Watch Groups (if applicable)**

Neighbourhood Watch groups. Applications are now open for the Autumn round of funding, closing on 30th of November. The Neighbourhood Watch organisation want to help you kickstart, improve or expand your community work as part of Neighbourhood Watch. For this round, 100% of available funds will go towards activities or one-off development projects that help your group or Association promote and support the work of Neighbourhood Watch. They're also interested in funding events which address crime prevention and those that draw out some of our hard-to-reach communities, connecting them with neighbours in a social setting – it could be a street party, or a coffee morning – anything that helps address loneliness in your area. The size of grant you can apply for in the Autumn round is between £100 - £500. Applying couldn't be easier – just visit [ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants](http://ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants) read the guidance, download the application form, and budget form and return to [fundraising@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ourwatch.org.uk) by 30 November 2022.

### **VAS signs**

I'm not certain whether you have any Vehicle activated signs but if so, you need to be aware that if the data shows that the signs have not made any improvement to speeds and accidents generally County are advising that the cost for an inspection to determine the fault will be £200 + VAT whilst new signs would be in the region of £3,500 which the Parish would have to fund.

### **General information**

#### **Energy payments for park homes**

I am trying to establish when this will be forthcoming for the residents on Allen's site and the many other sites within the Division. Unfortunately, whilst the Government department responsible seem to favour District Council's administering the scheme, they don't seem to realise that we don't know what type of residence is involved as we only know what bands dwellings are in. Whilst the Allen's site is self-contained and postcodes could be used the problem elsewhere is not so clear cut. I am pressing our MP and Grant Shapps the Minister for BEIS for more detail. In fairness BEIS did state that they would come up with a workable scheme in the autumn so they have until the 21<sup>st</sup> December to come up with a scheme

#### **Housing Land Supply (HLS)**

The 5-year HLS is currently 10.06 years. We expect housing completions to fall because of the wider economic picture we are confident that this sets up to have a robust HLS until we move to the new local plan.

### **Planning**

As I am now the portfolio holder for planning, I have had meetings with the Head of Planning and with senior managers to look at how we might improve efficiency and to consider improving the data and information so that we can all see how well they are performing and average lead times.



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What is clear is that householder and minor applications have fallen during 2022 and by the end of this municipal year may be as much as 20% lower than the previous municipal year.

### Council Tax support

This concerned the £150 towards fuel bills to properties in council tax bands A to D and a discretionary scheme. We have paid out £5.74m regarding the main scheme whilst we have paid out a further £252k in discretionary payments.

### SW Local Plan

Work on this continues and subject to the sign off the evidence gathering work that has been taking place over this year to date, the next round of consultation could begin by the end of the year.

### Investment Zones

HM Government recently announced this initiative and we have expressed an interest in being involved in this. At this stage there is no commitment as the information documents have only just been published and our interest at this stage is to ensure that if we are aware of the process and benefits involved.

### Asylum Seekers

You may be aware from the local press that HM Government is using a hotel in Stratford to house up to around 110 asylum seekers mainly families and children. If you want to help them, please get in touch with local charities, please don't go the hotel as you will be turned away by the security tea due to vulnerability issues.

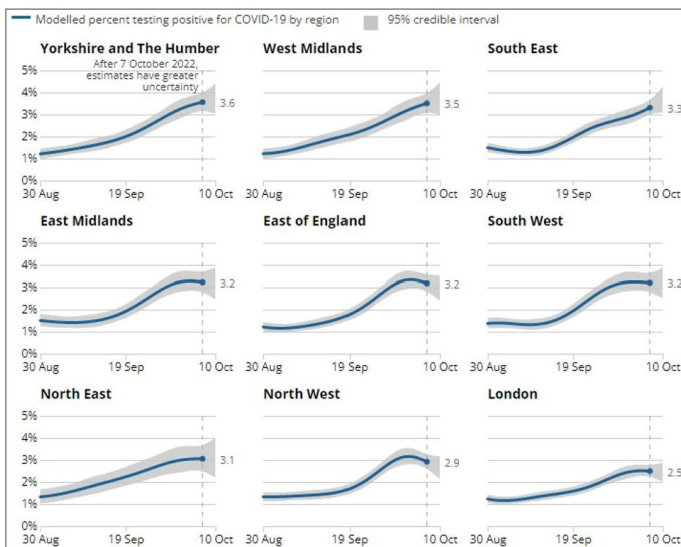
### Tourism

Numbers of visitors on down on pre pandemic levels and businesses are reporting a lack of international visitors to the town.

### Economic Impacts

The West Midlands has one of the highest fuel poverty rates in the UK and around 40% of West Midland businesses are due to renegotiate energy prices within the next 6 months. Business confidence fell in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and investment plans are starting to be put on hold, vacancies are being withdrawn. Due to production delays the average delivery time for a new vehicle (in the Automotive Trade) has increased from 2 months to 6 months

### Covid update



I thought I would put the full set of charts in here so you can see that whilst the incident rate is still increasing (as part of the West Midlands cohort) other areas are decreasing. The reality is that Warwickshire is at around 2.8% but compare that with 7.5% in March 2022. There is, however, no room for complacency.

Across South Warwickshire Trust (SWFT) one bed is being occupied in intensive care with Covid as the cause. Bed occupancy in South Warwickshire is around 86%, having increased steadily since August but fallen back in the last few weeks.

Residents are being invited to come forward now for the next phase of the Covid vaccine programme. The oldest and most vulnerable will be the first to receive the booster. Please encourage residents, friends, and neighbours to take up the booster.



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### Arden Clerks and Chair's meeting

I restarted this with the first meeting being on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October and the next one is planned for December. It was only attended by 4 out of a possible 8 PCs plus Cllr. Matt Jennings but I am hopeful that we can improve on this.

It is an opportunity to hear from the Police, the Minor works team (Graham Stanley and Dylan White) and at the meeting last Tuesday from WRCC who spoke about Warm Hubs. This meeting is open only to Parish Clerks and Chairs so if you have any issues that you would like them to raise then get in touch with your Parish Clerk.

### Statistics about the district

State of the District:

Every year there is an update report on how the District has fared over the past year.

There are several factors in the report that SDC cannot influence, for example housing prices and fuel prices. The data is as of the 31st March 2022.

Headlines:

- The population stands at 134,700, an increase of 2300 (+8%) with 48.5% female and 51.5% male.
- The majority of the population is in the 18-64 age category
- The median house price is now £340,000, the highest in Warwickshire and has a house price to income ratio of 10.17. There are 62,200 properties in Stratford District.
- Over 80% of people are in employment, either full or part time with 86% as employees and 14% as self-employed. Manufacturing jobs account for the largest proportion of employment at 17.32% and is a higher proportion than the West Midlands (10.9%) and for GB (7.9%)
- The average weekly wage is £533.4 for women and £794.10 for men
- 49.1% of residents over the age of 16 have an NVQ level 4 or higher qualification making Stratford the 5th highest qualified district in the West Midlands. However, 4.2% of adults have no qualifications at all.
- The median age in the District was 48.2 years with England standing at 40 years making Stratford the 55th oldest District in the country
- Crime. The total number of crimes recorded in the year to June 2022 was 7,343, equating to 56 crimes per 1000 people. Although a rise on last year, the rate is still the lowest in the West Midlands.
- Economy. The Gross Value Added (GVA) shows that the Districts economy relies on two major areas of manufacturing (34.59%) and real estate (15.54%). This imbalance makes the economy less resilient to major societal changes.
- Health. Mortality rates for cardiovascular and cancer are much lower than the West Midlands or Great Britain. Those people diagnosed with dementia stands at 52.5% meaning that 47.5% of people with dementia were undiagnosed. This is under the Warwickshire rate of 54.5% and significantly lower than the GB rate of 62.1%
- Poverty & fuel poverty. The historic increases in fuel costs has left many people in an unsustainable situation. Many energy companies went bankrupt (e.g. Bulb Energy). Measures have been put in place to help mitigate the impact:
  - Houses in tax bands A-D have a £150 one off discount
  - All households will receive a £400 discount on their fuel bills
  - Households on means tested benefits will receive a payment of £650 paid in two instalments.
  - Those on disability benefit will receive a one-off payment of £150
  - Pensioners will receive an extra on-off payment of £300 + other grants are available. 13.3% of households in Stratford were identified as being in fuel poverty compared with 14.3% in Warwickshire and 13.2% in England.

**As always feel free to contact me at any time to discuss any issues that you feel I can help with and I will do my very best to help.**