

District Councillor Report (Jan 2023) – Matt Jennings

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Wishing a warm, happy & prosperous new Year to all and ‘welcome back’ to the JPC to the 2 ‘Davids’ !

Pandemic

Covid - In the Henley & Claverdon area we have had 4 cases in the last 7 days – this equates to 59.2 per 100,000.

Once again I am happy to report no cases of Monkeypox !

I have been doing these figures for nearly 2 years – Please let me know if you want me to continue supplying them ?

Budgets

The amount allocated to ‘Act on Energy’ will increase from £50k to £100k plus £250k will be made be made available for a cost of living discretionary grant fund. We continue the commitment to increase the amount under the ‘cost of living banner’ should further funds become available.

I always like to remind everyone – there is no SDC ‘Magic Money Tree’ and our resources are very limited. SDC funding comes from taxes and we only keep 7p in every £1 of Council tax. There are many Councils in the country who have borrowed huge sums and now face the prospect of paying it back with larger interest bills – this will mean they have to slash services. Stratford District Council is not one of those – we have no debt and works prudently to provide first class services within tight budgets constraints. Of course if any residents want to give us extra funding we will gladly accept it (paying in slips available on request) and will continue to spend it wisely !

More will be coming out on Budgets over the next few months which I will keep you updated on.

Driving Innovation & Growth Summit

SDC are once again being proactive and supporting economic growth with a one-day conference in February to promote the area as a centre of high-tech research, innovation, and growth. Partnering SDC are Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Growth Hub and the University of Warwick.

This will focus on innovative companies, which need to be the drivers of this much-needed growth, to boost our economy for the benefit of everyone who works and lives in Stratford District.

There are a remarkable amount of companies that fall into the categories of innovative and high-tech across a wide range of industry sectors in Stratford District. This event has allowed us to identify such businesses and in turn support them going into the future.

This will also be a catalyst to attract new investors to Stratford District and demonstrate that as a Council we really are ‘open for business’.

It is intended that this will be the first of a series of events to support innovative and high-tech companies in South Warwickshire because we want to become the leading forum for high-growth industries in the region.

Refuse, recycling and food waste collections

Bin collection schedules are back to normal (including your green bin) – if you haven’t downloaded the SDC app yet please do so – it will alert you the night before and remind you which bin needs to go out.

Census Results

As promised...more census information !!!

- Even with an 11.8% growth in population - In 2021, Stratford-on-Avon was home to around 1.0 person per football pitch-sized piece of land, compared with 0.9 in 2011. This area was the joint 3rd **least densely** populated local authority area across the West Midlands (out of 28). In case you were wondering Herefordshire and Shropshire were the top 2.
- Average age in the District has risen from 46 to 48 (average West Midlands median was 40)
- The number of people aged 50 to 64 years rose by just over 4,000 (an increase of 15.4%), while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by around 1,800 (7.2% decrease)
- In 2021, 35.9% of Stratford-on-Avon residents reported having "No religion", up from 21.2% in 2011.
- Country of Birth percentages have remained almost the same as 10 years ago with only a slight flex – 88.3% were born in England, 1.5% born in Wales and 1.4% born in Scotland.
- In 2021, 1.8% of Stratford-on-Avon residents (aged 16 years and over) said they were unemployed. This figure decreased from 2.2% in 2011. It is worth remembering that the Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of rapid and unparalleled change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market and our ability to measure it.
- Economically active 57.4% compared to 59.4% in 2011.

I will continue to provide more data as it come through....

Venture House

As always I would encourage anyone looking to take advantage of the opportunities that Venture House has to offer - there are live and online events – see below

January Workshops

4th - [Lunch and Learn: The confidence to thrive in 2023](#) - online
From 10th - [How to write a business plan](#) - online
10th - [How to network successfully](#) - online
From 12th - [Entrepreneurial mindset](#) - online
12th - [A business culture for high performance](#) - online
17th - [Coventry and Warwickshire Bank of England roundtable](#) - Coventry Uni Tech Park
19 & 20th - [Digitise or die, evolve your business & get connected](#) - Coventry Uni
24th - [Agriculture: Diversification Breakfast Briefing](#) - The View, Wootton Wawen
25th - [Building your sales pipeline](#) - Binley Business Innovation Centre
31st Jan & 1st Feb - [Innovation Workshop](#) - Eliot Park Innovation Centre

The CW Chamber of Commerce run the **New Business Start-up Programme** and **Accelerate Business Growth Programme**. [See here for details and workshop dates.](#)

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.

Upcoming events

7th-8 Feb - [Low Carbon Agriculture 2023](#) - Stoneleigh Park

1st March - [Venturefest West Midlands](#) - Birmingham

14-15th March - [The Distributed Energy Show](#) - Telford International Centre

27th March - [FSB Business Bootcamp and Networking](#) - Coombe Abbey

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