

Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting Report 8th September 2019.

Climate Change under Scrutiny.

In July, Stratford-on-Avon District Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' with councillors pledging to take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets through the development of practices and policies, with an aim to being carbon neutral in the District by 2030.

Following this, a new Climate Emergency 'Task & Finish Group' has been setup by the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).

This Group is currently exploring what practical steps the District Council can take and how it can team-up with residents, partners and local businesses to tackle Climate Change.

A key focus will be understanding how the District Council can build on its current work to tackle Climate Change.

Recent environmental initiatives have included:

- Installing Electric Vehicle charging points at car parks
- Efforts to maintain the District Council's position as one of the top 10 performing local authorities in England for the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
- Joining a nationwide water bottle refill scheme to cut plastic waste

New Management Structure at Stratford District Council

A meeting was held regarding a new Management Structure at Stratford District Council.

It is proposed that the new structure will revert back to having a Chief Executive which is a departure from two Executive Directors that is Head of Paid Services and a Section 151 Officer.

It was explained during the meeting that the resignation of the former Head of Paid Services Isabel Edgar Briancon earlier this year, who made allegations of a sexist behaviour at Stratford District Council had not motivated the changes but provided the Council with the opportunity to look at altering its structure.

The Council confirmed that the independent investigation into those allegations due in September had been delayed and were now expected late October.

A spokesman explained that the investigator was exploring some further lines of inquiry.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet approves Council Plan

The Council Plan detailing the priorities and aspirations for 2019-2023 was approved at [The Cabinet](#) on Monday 7 October.

Council will be asked to approve the Council Plan on 23 October 2019. Following this the Council Plan will provide the direction for the Council over the next four years and will be a critical document in guiding the District Council's allocation of resources to priorities.

Council Plan 2019-23

The plan sets out our vision for Stratford-on-Avon District as a place in 2030 and for local government in 2030.

The core of the plan is a set of ambitions and actions for the Council over the next four years under five key objectives:

- **Working on regional, national and international stages**
- **Responding to the climate emergency**
- **Enhancing the quality of Stratford-on-Avon as place**
- **Nurturing a thriving, innovative and inclusive economy**
- **Putting residents and communities centre stage**

Cabinet to consult on introducing chargeable garden waste service

On Monday 7 October, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet approved a proposal to begin a consultation on introducing a chargeable garden waste service.

Cllr Ian Shenton, Operations Portfolio says: "The District Council is facing significant financial and environmental pressures. Since 2010, there has been a 60% reduction in central government grant funding which means that the District Council must consider a number of options to close the budget deficit in future years.

"One option is to introduce a chargeable garden waste service to help the Council reduce the costs of this service. Although many residents find the garden waste collection service very convenient, it is a discretionary service, not a statutory service that we must provide.

"By looking to introduce a charge of perhaps around 80p a week, the District Council would be able to continue to provide a cost effective, efficient service for households that want it, while minimising the overall cost of the service and encouraging more environmentally friendly ways of dealing with garden waste, such as home composting.

"Without considering introducing a charge for this service, the District Council may have to look at discontinuing the existing garden waste service."

The consultation will aim to find out:

- Whether residents would continue to use the garden waste service if it became chargeable.
- If so, how much would they be prepared to pay for the service.
- If not, how would they dispose of their garden waste.

The consultation will be available on the District Council website from Tuesday 8 October to Tuesday 19 November at:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/GardenWasteConsultation/>

The proposal

From 1 June 2020, the District Council proposes to introduce an annual £40 charge per wheeled bin or equivalent sacks for the fortnightly collection of garden waste throughout the year.

Additional bins/sacks would be charged at the same rate.

A 5% discount in the first year would be offered to those residents who set up an annual Direct Debit for the service.

The payment terms would be a single annual subscription fee payable in advance and non-refundable.

A free compost bin will be offered to residents who are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and who choose not to participate in the service.

Residents will be required to 'opt-in' to the service on an annual basis. They will receive a branded sticker/tag each year so that the crews are aware of the bins to be emptied.

Residents who do not want to opt into the service, but still want to receive a food waste collection will be provided with a food waste caddy, on request, free of charge (if they do not already have one). This caddy will then be presented on the scheduled garden waste collection day and the contents emptied and composted.

- The District Council has provided a garden waste service since 2003.
- Garden and food waste is collected together.
- Currently, a maximum of two green bins or six green sacks are collected per property free of charge on a fortnightly basis (all-year round). There is a charge for the emptying of third or subsequent bins of £45 for 1 year; £62 for 2 years; and £80 for 3 years. No charge is made for green sacks.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet approve investment in Regional Materials Recycling Facility

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet has today, Monday 7 October, agreed to join other local authorities in building a £35million recycling superplant **in Coventry.**

The District Council has agreed to invest in the Regional Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) alongside other authorities in Solihull, Nuneaton and Bedworth, North Warwickshire, Rugby and Walsall.

“The MRF project offers an opportunity to use the District Council's investment power to reduce the long term cost of a key statutory service whilst potentially improving the quality of the recycling service we offer and reducing the impact of climate change.”

Development costs of £2.8million will be shared between councils for the 120,000 tonne-a-year plant, in addition to council loans to the facility of £316million. The District Council will loan £5million to fund plant operator AssetCo and a share of development costs will be taken from the District Council's reserves.

General Election coming – are you on the electoral register?

With the speculation of a General Election, residents are being asked if they have completed the forms sent to them recently by Stratford-on-Avon District Council, to ensure they are on the electoral register.

Those who have not responded will be visited by District Council officers reminding them of the importance of submitting their details.

Although residents are not obliged to vote in the forthcoming election, it is a legal requirement that their details are submitted for inclusion on the register. It is used to provide credit checks and jury service selection.

District Council officers will visit residents at home to ask them to complete their details. Residents will be asked to complete the HEF form and maybe an Invitation to Register as well, for this their date of birth and national insurance number will be required to confirm their identity for the register. Officers will be identifiable with photographic identification which can be confirmed by calling the District Council on 01789 260208

For more information or to register details online visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Alternatively please call 01789 260208 to register over the phone.

1. Each household in the District was sent a *Household Enquiry Form (HEF) at the beginning of August. These will outline who is currently registered to vote in the household, it is not a registration form. New residents will be asked to complete a registration by completing a further form or going on-line.
2. **The electoral register** lists the names and addresses of everyone who is registered to vote in public elections. The register is used for electoral purposes, such as making sure only eligible people can vote. It is also used for other limited purposes specified in law, such as:
 - detecting crime (e.g. fraud)
 - calling people for jury service
 - checking credit applications.
3. To be eligible to register to vote in England a person must be:
 - Aged 16 or over (a person may register to vote at 16, but may not vote until they are 18)
 - A British or qualifying Commonwealth citizen who has leave to enter and remain in the UK or does not require such leave.
 - A citizen of the Republic of Ireland or other European Union (EU) member state.
 - British citizens, Irish citizens and qualifying citizens of Commonwealth countries (including Cyprus and Malta), as well as citizens of other EU member states can vote in local government elections and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales.