

# **Lighthorne Parish Council**

## **District Councillors report 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

### **Cabinet review off-street car parking charges and parking permits**

On Monday 11 November, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet considered a proposal to review off-street car parking charges and parking permits for over 65s.

The report set out proposals for The Cabinet, to increase parking charges and withdraw a concessionary parking permit for over 65s.

However during the meeting an amended recommendation was put forward:

1. That the introduction of the proposed changes in parking charges as outlined in this report, be approved, subject to consultation being carried out as part of the statutory process of revising the Council's (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2013.
2. That changes for Concessionary parking permits for the over 65's be reviewed as part of the proposal and subject to consultation being carried out as part of the statutory process of revising the Council's (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2013.

Cllr Ian Shenton, Operations Portfolio says: "The amended proposals before The Cabinet reflect the views, opinions and representations that have been received. So taking on board and listening to the comments, at this stage we will now not be considering the withdrawal of the concessionary parking permits for the over 65s. The permits will now be reviewed as part of the overall process."

The proposal to increase car park tariffs across all Stratford-upon-Avon car parks only is as follows:

- £1.00 to £1.20 for under 1 hour's parking (NB: Bridgeway car park would still provide 1 hour's free parking)
- £2.00 to £2.40 for 1-2 hours
- £3.00 to £3.50 for over 2–3 hours
- £4.00 to £5.00 for over 3–4 hours

- £6.00 to £8.00 for over 4–9 hours

This proposal for the Council's Fees and Charges Schedule and the District Council's (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2013, will now be subject to a statutory process, consultation, (with Warwickshire County Council and the Police among others) and timeframe before amendments can be made.

The Council has eight chargeable car parks, seven in Stratford-upon-Avon and one in Shipston-on-Stour, but this proposal only refers to car parks in Stratford-upon-Avon:

- Arden Street car park
- Bridgeway car parks
- Church Street car park
- Leisure Centre car park
- Swan's Nest Lane car park
- Recreation Ground car park
- Windsor Street car park
- Telegraph Street car park (Shipston-on-Stour)

*The decision was taken not to withdraw the concessionary parking for the over 65's*

## **Stratford-on-Avon District Council appoints Chief**

### **Executive**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has appointed David Buckland to the role of Chief Executive following a management restructure.

David has been Interim Chief Executive since June this year.

On Wednesday 23 October, Full Council agreed a new management structure, to consist of a Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and five Heads of Service.

Councillor Daren Pemberton, Deputy Leader said: “I would like to take this opportunity to thank David for all of his hard work as Interim Chief Executive, and to congratulate him on his appointment.

“The Leader and Cabinet are looking forward to working with David and the Senior Management Team to continue to deliver excellent services to the residents of the district and to deliver our ambitious Council Plan.”

David Buckland, Chief Executive of Stratford-on-Avon District Council says: “I am delighted to take up this role as a permanent position – it is an honour and privilege to be appointed. The District Council faces a number of challenges, but I am confident that together as a team we can achieve our ambitions.”

David’s role as Head of Paid Service will be ratified by Council at its meeting in December.

David started his career in local government at Colchester Borough Council in 1990 where he trained as an accountant. Following four years at North Norfolk District Council, as Chief Accountant, David joined Stratford-on-Avon District Council as Head of Finance in May 2002 until March 2008. He was then appointed Director of Resources at Wyre Forest District Council. David then returned to Stratford in his role as Assistant Chief Executive in April 2012 before assuming the role of Executive Director in April 2016. David has been the Interim Chief Executive for the Council since June this year.

He is 47 years old and has been married to Helen for 28 years, and they have three children. Away from work David is a keen follower of both cricket

through his home county of Essex and football as a lifelong West Ham supporter. David and his wife are keen travellers and often tour Europe on holidays.

## **Stratford-on-Avon District Council appoints Deputy Chief Executive**

Tony Perks has been appointed as Deputy Chief Executive of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

Tony has been Head of Technical and Community Services at the District Council since June 2012 and has a wealth of experience in Building Control and project management. Key projects include the remodelling of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, remodelling of Stratford Leisure Centre and the creation of Venture House.

Following the appointment by the Employment and Appointment Sub Committee, Tony will be starting in post today, Monday 11 November 2019.

Daren Pemberton, Acting Leader says: “I am delighted to announce Tony’s promotion to deputy Chief Executive. This new appointment is part of the District Council’s management re-structure.”

Tony started his career in local government at Tewkesbury Borough Council in 1987 where he trained as a Building Control Surveyor. Following seven years at Cotswold District Council, Tony joined Stratford-on-Avon District Council as a Senior Building Control Surveyor in 2000. He was then appointed Interim Head of Planning in 2010 and has been part of the District Council’s senior Management Team since this time.

He is 48 years old and has been married to Louise for 18 years, and they have two children. Away from work Tony is a keen cyclist, cricketer and a member of Pershore Choral Society.

## **Businesses encouraged not to miss out on Business Rate Relief**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is contacting around 60 businesses across the district this week to help ensure they don't miss out on a reduction in their business rates.

In March all qualifying businesses were sent a declaration to complete and return with their reduced annual bill and a note on the bill to sign and return the form. Reminders were then issued in July.

Cllr Jo Barker Portfolio Holder for Revenues says: "Unfortunately as the funding for this scheme comes from Central Government, there is a stipulation that the business must confirm it is eligible to receive the relief. All they have to do is sign it and send it back to the District Council and receive 30% off their Business Rates.

"However, if no signed form has been received then the requirement from Central Government is for Councils to remove the relief and this in turn will generate an increased bill.

"We want to help these businesses receive the business rate reductions they are entitled to, but in order to receive it they need to complete the relevant paperwork and we are encouraging businesses to do this."

If you are a business and want to find out more or to see if this affects your business please email: [ndr@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:ndr@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or call: 01789 260993.

## Grants available to help revive empty properties

A common obstacle to renovating an empty property for rental, sale or occupation is lack of funding.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is committed to reducing the number of empty properties across the district and has grants available up to a maximum of £20,000 towards the renovation or improvement of empty homes, or the conversion of an empty non-residential property into residential accommodation.

Cllr Jo Barker, People Portfolio says: “There is a real value in bringing empty homes back into use for our communities. Empty homes are seen as blighting a neighbourhood because they are left to fall to rack and ruin and they can be a source of vandalism, antisocial behaviour or can become unsafe over time.

“There are many reasons why properties become long term empty. Sometimes owners of homes need support in being able to face how to sell a home or bring it back into use, or alternatively resolve family issues. The District Council offers support where it can to encourage people to bring their empty homes back into use and by using funding effectively to bring empty properties back into use, additional, affordable housing will be created for those in housing need.”

Contact the Empty Property Officer to see if you are eligible to apply for an Empty Property Assistance Grant – email [sheree.johansen@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:sheree.johansen@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or call 01789 260848.

### Notes to editors

Empty Property Assistance Grants are available to help towards the renovation costs of bringing empty property back into residential use.

Properties eligible for the Empty Property Assistance Grant will:

- be located in the district in an area with community anchorage points such as a school, public transport and shops

- be located within a community that is in an area of housing demand, as identified by Stratford-on-Avon District Council
- have been empty for at least six months

The maximum grant award is £20,000 for each self-contained housing unit delivered by grant-assisted works.

The grant will be registered as a legal charge against the property at the Land Registry for five years and, on completion of the works, the District Council will require nomination rights for an agreed period of time.

## **Sexist Behaviour.**

Due to the allegations that has been made by Isabel Edgar Briancon, two District Councillors have been found to have breached the code of conduct. Peter Barnes Independent and John Feilding Conservative.

John Feilding has been suspended from the Conservative Party for 6 months and is now acting as an Independent.

## **General Election**

The General Election takes place on **Thursday 12 December 2019** and poll cards notifying residents of this election are now being sent out.

The poll cards inform residents in the Constituency where their polling station is and when they can vote from, 7am until 10pm. Electors do not, however, have to produce their poll cards at the polling station to be able to vote - it just makes it easier if they do.

The majority of the district falls within the Stratford-on-Avon Constituency. However, part of the district is in the Kenilworth and Southam Constituency. Electors should be guided by the information on their poll card as to where they should vote.

To be able to vote at these elections residents must either be on the electoral register or have applied to be so by **Tuesday 26 November**. It's easy to register to vote, just go on-line to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) - it only takes 5 minutes.

If you are in doubt as to whether or not you are on the electoral register at your current address, please contact Stratford District Council's Elections Office on 01789 260208.

If you are on the electors list and able to vote in this election, you may request a postal vote. This is especially useful if you are unable to get to a polling station on polling day, due to health reasons or maybe on holiday or working away.

All completed application forms for **postal votes** must be submitted before **5pm on Tuesday 26 November**. Alternatively, you may apply for a **proxy vote** before the deadline of **Wednesday 4 December**.

For all elections enquiries please contact Stratford District Council's election office on 01789 260208.

### **Contact details**

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