

Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 12th May 2020

1.

Warwickshire County Council has announced that it will be reopening the majority of its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to the public from Monday 18 May.

The decision follows guidance from Government earlier this week giving local authorities the green light to reopen HWRCs when they were able to safely do so, with staff and visitors able to follow social distancing rules. Work has been ongoing to ensure that sufficient staff are available to open and supervise the safety of centres.

Three of the smaller HWRCs at **Stockton, Wellesbourne and Shipston** will not, however, be reopening on 18 May. A date for their reopening will be announced in the coming weeks.

Although it has given permission for local authorities to reopen HWRCs, Government guidance advises that centres should only be used where essential; if possible, waste should either be stored safely at home or put with kerbside collections which have been maintained by the district and borough councils.

In order to safely manage numbers at the centres when they reopen, and to minimise the effects of traffic in the areas, the county council is finalising an online booking service which must be used to book a slot at a centre before turning up. Further details of that will be announced next week along with guidance on how to make a booking.

2.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is now beginning to shift its focus from dealing with the medical emergency and initial support phase into thinking about and planning for the future.

Operationally we have, since the start of the lockdown:

- Delivered, with the help of volunteers some 800 food parcels
- Provided grants of £25.4 million to 2,074 businesses (as at 4 May)
- Taken up to 800 calls per day in our contact centre at the peak
- Purchased 200 laptops enabling over 200 staff to work from home
- Kept the organisation running effectively by using 'MS Teams' and Zoom
- Participated fully in regional and national fora using video conferencing

- Issued daily press updates and social media posts

The rolling 7 day average for daily Covid-19 cases in Warwickshire shows a decline from about 800 cases on 8 April to fewer than 400 at the end of April. The entire infrastructure that needs to be in place is now well established and running pretty smoothly. In the early days there were numerous glitches that had to be sorted but it is a tribute to staff and volunteers that these were, in the vast majority of cases sorted swiftly.

We are now turning our attention to economic recovery, and as Stratford-on-Avon District is the **4th hardest** hit Council in the country this is vital. We do not expect a rapid recovery.

We also have to face a challenging financial position for the District Council. We estimate that COVID-19 has cost us £8.1m in lost revenue just in the first half of this municipal year alone. This lost revenue will NEVER be recovered. In addition, extra costs incurred to date are at £337K and rising. We have received £1,343,110 from central government leaving a gap of over £6.75m.

Stratford District Council is still urging businesses that have not applied for a Business Rates Grants to do so as soon as possible. <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/business-rates-grant-form.cfm>

Business Rate Grants – we have now reached a total of £26.07m of grants paid to 2,122 businesses. We are doing all we can to get these payments out as quickly as possible, as with previous messages if you are approached by a business seeking payment please direct them to the Council online form this is the only.

3.

Digital Inclusion Funding

Decision:

To approve the revision of Digital Inclusion Grant Funding.

Reasons for the decision:

To approve a revised grant scheme for Digital Inclusion funding that will enable voluntary and community groups within Stratford-on-Avon district to purchase IT equipment and/or software enabling them to deliver services virtually in response to Covid 19. Funding will be aligned to Stratford-on-Avon District Social Inclusion Statement Priorities 2019-2024.

Alternative options considered:

Whether the scheme meets the needs of the communities across Stratford-on-Avon District.
Whether the scheme meets the priorities identified within the Stratford-on-Avon District Social Inclusion Statement 2019-2024.

Accompanying Documents:

Contact [The Democratic Services team](#)

4.

From the Community Safety Team at Stratford on Avon District Council for dissemination to your contacts and networks

The Community Safety Team have experienced greater demand for service due to the lockdown measures.

Domestic abuse, neighbourhood disputes, business and cybercrimes have all risen during this period and we wanted to raise awareness of ways in which people can protect themselves and their communities. We have recently updated our website with all the current Covid 19 crime prevention advice and information would really appreciate it, if you could send the link to all your voluntary/community groups/local stakeholders please.

To access the webpage click - <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/crime-nuisance/coronavirus-important-advice-and-information.cfm>

We are also regularly tweeting crime prevention advice, follow us- @SDC_Safer