

Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting

14th July 2020

Reclaiming the Recreation Ground for families

The play area reopened last week, although the sandpit and paddling pool remain closed for safety reasons, due to the difficulty of keeping it clean. The outdoor gym also reopened last week.

The Observation Wheel is now open and operational until the end of August.

The mini golf facility has also reopened.

The Children's Fair opened on Friday 10 July – the freshly painted carousel horses include a tribute **to Captain Tom and a Louis Vuitton designer horse**. Social distancing measures are in place and the rides are also coated with a 30-day anti-bacterial coating.

- **New Pavement Licenses**

On Monday 6 July, Cabinet agreed a new mechanism for determining the new pavement licence, which is being operated by District Councils in Warwickshire.

The Business and Planning Bill, introducing the new '*pavement licence*' is currently progressing through the parliamentary process and is due to receive Royal Assent before the end of July.

Food and drink businesses can now apply to the District Council for authorisation to put furniture such as tables and chairs on the highway adjacent to their premises to sell food and drink from and/or for their customers to use.

As the country emerges from lockdown, pavement cafes have assumed a new importance given the scientific evidence of a lower risk of spreading coronavirus outdoors. With the re-opening of restaurants, cafes, bars and public houses, the pavement licensing regime set out in the Business and Planning Bill, will offer the hospitality sector a simpler administrative route to providing an outdoor environment for customers and giving a boost to the hospitality sector, which has been particularly badly hit by coronavirus, allowing premises to trade to as full an extent as possible given the constraints placed on capacity by social distancing.

The new licensing regime in the Bill provides a fast track procedure for the grant of a pavement licence which bypasses the existing regulatory regimes.

Pavement licences are a temporary measure and no licence will extend beyond 30 September 2021, they will not alter the permitted operational hours of premises on an associated planning permission or premises licence. Licence applications must be determined within 7 days and can cost up to £100.

Traders will be able to apply (once the Bill has received Royal Assent) by visiting the District Council's website: www.stratford.gov.uk

• **Reopening Elizabeth House to the public**

The District Council's offices reopened to the public on Monday 6th July and received 94 customers in the first two days.

Main reception is open Monday to Friday between 10am and 2pm and numbers will be limited at any one time. Social distancing measures are in place within the Customer Service area.

The majority of staff are still working from home, but duty officers for services will be available on the telephone.

If you are threatened with homelessness you should call 01789 260861 to make immediate contact with the Homelessness Duty Officer.

The District Council has continued to provide services even though Elizabeth House has not been open to the public.

If you don't want or need to visit the offices, help is still available from our customer services team during our normal office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.45am to 5.15pm and Thursday to Friday 8.45am to 5pm) on 01789 267575 or email info@stratford-dc.gov.uk and services can still be accessed online at www.stratford.gov.uk

• **Business Rates and Discretionary Grants**

Total amount paid out in Business Grants: Almost £32m (£31,857,165) paid out to 2,611 businesses across the District, including £237,000 Discretionary Grants paid to 39 businesses.

The Council received 402 Applications for the Discretionary Scheme (which is now closed) and we expect to make further payments on Friday 10th July

Covid-19 deaths in the District

The figures are now showing that there have been a total of 516 cases within the District, an increase from the 372 previously reported. There have been 165 deaths in the District.

Council Hardship Fund

The Council received a payment of £660,000 to provide assistance to those who are in receipt of support with their Council Tax. So far £594,521.30 has been allocated to our 3,963 claimants. SDC still hold c£65k in reserve, however, this will only allow us to support a further 436 cases, it may be if the current rate of claimants continues then we will require additional funding from central government.

Stratford-on-Avon District's community shielding hub closes

Stratford-on-Avon District's community shielding hub has closed following the relaxation of Government guidance to vulnerable residents.

The new guidelines came into effect this week on Monday 6 July, bringing to an end the 'shielding' period when residents considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable during the coronavirus pandemic were instructed to remain in isolation at home.

The District Council's food distribution responsibility started on the 30 March 2020, when the service was established at the Council's leisure centre in Stratford-upon-Avon. A number of District Council staff were redeployed to run the hub, packing and distributing food parcels.

Since March a total of 1,300 food parcels have been delivered to the extremely vulnerable residents of the district who have had no other means of accessing food during the lockdown. The service has operated five days a week and Bank Holidays up until mid-June when the service was reduced to one day a week.

In addition to delivering essential supplies, the hub team also carried out welfare telephone calls to shielding residents who had not registered via the NHS helpline,

offering support and advice and were on call at weekends to arrange emergency deliveries.

Since Monday 6th July, Government guidance means shielding residents can now socialise outside with a group of up to six people and form a ‘support bubble’ with another household.

Details of the updated guidance, together with information about the support available now the shielding hub has closed, have been included in a letter from the Government delivered with the last supply packages.

Residents on the NHS shielding list who have concerns about food deliveries or other support can contact the District Council on 01789 260980. Community and Operational Services 48/2020

Date: 10 July 2020

e-mail: karin.stanley@stratford-dc.gov.uk

District Council and Police aiming to target anti-social behaviour in Stratford

Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire Police will be working together to try and reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB).

It follows recent reports of littering and drug use, as well as late-night vehicle noise and general nuisance behaviour at Fisherman’s car park. Complaints have also been received relating to inconsiderate parking in the area, camping and incidents of public urination and defecation.

A series of measures are set to be implemented over the coming weeks at the Warwick Road car park.

These include installing a lockable gate to prevent people from entering the car park in the evening, putting up information signs, marking bays to ensure safer parking, installing temporary CCTV and increasing local police patrols.

Works to install the gate began on Wednesday (8 July) and from Monday 3 August onwards, the car park will be closed to the public overnight in a bid to prevent anti-social behaviour from taking place there.

The closure will be from 8.30pm to 6am between April and September and from 5pm and 6am between October and March however the 6am opening time will still allow canoeists, swimmers, runners, dog walkers and fishermen the opportunity to enjoy their activities all year round.

Officers from the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) will continue to carry out patrols in the area and will take action if they receive any reports of anti-social behaviour or see anyone behaving inappropriately.

A review will be carried out in three months to see the impact and whether further steps need to be taken.

“If you do use Fisherman’s car park during the day, be mindful of others, please remove your litter when you leave and try to avoid parking in an area that could block or be a danger to other road users.

“We hope reminding people of their personal responsibility will help to combat some of the recent issues but we won’t be afraid to take action where necessary.

“Our team will be patrolling the area regularly so if you have any concerns about anti-social behaviour, please speak to them in person or get in touch via our website.

“We continue to work hard to prevent and disrupt further incidents of anti-social behaviour and hope the public are reassured both ourselves and the council are taking the issue seriously.

“By implementing these measures and working together with the council, we believe it will allow people to enjoy the town while enabling our officers to continue protecting people from harm.”

Anti-social behaviour can now be reported online. If you need to report an incident of anti-social behaviour and it is not an emergency, please visit the Warwickshire Police [website](#) but in an emergency, always call 999.

District Leisure Centres prepare to reopen

Stratford-on-Avon District Council’s five leisure centres are preparing to reopen on Saturday 25 July following the Government’s announcement yesterday.

Since the leisure centres in Alcester, Shipston, Southam, Stratford and Studley were closed in March, Everyone Active who operate the centres have been putting the necessary social

distancing and extra cleaning and hygiene measures in place to make the facilities COVID-safe for all users and staff in preparedness for when they were allowed to open again.

A number of social distancing measures are in place at each of the leisure centres:

- Sneeze screens
- Hand sanitisation units
- A-frame displayed at the entrance
- Social distancing floor stickers
- Gym signage – Foamex boards / window clings
- Gym equipment – Swing tickets (*'Not in use'*)
- Staying COVID-19 Secure posters

Additional cleaning measures have also been put in place at each leisure centre and these include:

- Deep clean prior to reopening.
- Public areas to be cleaned thoroughly, including additional cleaning regimes during and at the end of the day for all areas that are open and accessible.
- All high contact surfaces to be cleaned and disinfected on a more frequent basis, including areas/objects such as toilets, door handles, grab rails in corridors and stairwells, water fountains and shared equipment.
- Fogging machines to be used in all areas, especially high contact surfaces.
- Customers to be asked to clean down equipment before and after each use. Cleaning stations to be located around fitness suites and studios.
- Ventilation levels to be maximised in all areas in line with the CIBSE guidance.

Customers and centre users will be made aware of all the changes and expected behaviours before they use the facilities via digital communication, centre signage and public address announcements (where available).

Gyms at the centres will open on Saturday 25 July with swimming pools opening the following week on Saturday 1st August

Impact of Covid-19 on the District

As in previous reports, Stratford District is the 4th hardest hit local economy in the UK due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Tourism is worth half billion pounds to the local economy. This will be slow to recover and not expected to get back to 2018 levels until 2022.