

LIGHTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8TH DECEMBER 2020

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Stratford-on-Avon District Council to challenge Government's Tier decision

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is challenging the Government's decision to put Stratford-on-Avon District into Tier 3 after the current lockdown restrictions end.

Today, Tuesday 1 December, the District Council has sent a Judicial Review pre-action protocol letter to The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (the DHSC).

Tony Jefferson, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council said: "This is not an action we take lightly, however none of the data we see warrants Stratford-on-Avon District being placed in Tier 3. It is very disappointing that the government did not use much greater granularity in deciding on tiers.

"I know that they have looked at a number of factors including the rates in all age groups, particularly older people who are more vulnerable to the virus; and we have to take into consideration the pressure on our local hospitals and NHS services. However, none of the metrics for our District warrant it being placed in tier 3. The decision to put Stratford District in Tier 3 therefore appears arbitrary and irrational.

"There is widespread feeling of disbelief and anger locally at Stratford District being in Tier 3. Our hospitality businesses are devastated by the news. People know the relevant numbers for the area and fail to see the decision as either an accurate reflection of the situation or fair. Locally, Tier 3 is just not seen as credible.

"The prospect of a review as late as 16 December is no consolation. Most hospitality businesses will not now open before Christmas, I understand the effort and logistics make this very difficult. The consequences for business survival and unemployment could be significant. This against the context of Stratford-on-Avon being seen as the 4th hardest hit council area in the country.

“This is why we have taken the dramatic step of initiating a Judicial Review pre action protocol.”

The District Council is requesting the DHSC retracts the decision to put Stratford-on-Avon District into Tier 3 and put it into Tier 1 or 2 and/or to take all necessary steps to withdraw and/or amend the relevant regulations.

Notes to editors

- Based on the information that Government used in relation to the tiering decision, **the Council had a 7 day rate/100,000 of 118.4 – the number of cases over 7 days/100,000 from 20-26 November was 83 and as at 30 November was 73.**Of the 30 local authorities in the West Midlands, only Malvern Hills had a lower rate than Stratford District. **It has been reported that Stratford has the lowest case rate anywhere in the country allocated to Tier 3.**

The 7 days case rates/100,000 for the other areas in the same cluster as Stratford District are:

- - Nuneaton and Bedworth : 337.2
 - North Warwickshire : 311
 - Solihull : 269.4
 - Rugby : 264
 - Coventry : 218
 - Warwick : 209.4

The most significant problem in this group relates to Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire, neither of which share a border with Stratford District, and travel to work information shows that there is no link from the south to the north of the County or vice versa.

However, Stratford District does share a border with Redditch Borough Council which has been placed in Tier 2. Redditch Borough had a 7 day case rate/100,000 of 297.9, almost 3 times the rate for Stratford District.

Free car parking (in SDC pay and display car parks in town) on Christmas shopping nights in Stratford

Residents and visitors to Stratford-upon-Avon will not have to pay for car parking, in selected District Council car parks, in the town on Thursday evenings in the run up to Christmas.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is offering free parking in all Stratford District Council town centre car parks (excluding Bridgeway multi storey and Bridgeway surface) on the dates listed below:

- Thursday 3 December 4pm to midnight
- Thursday 10 December 4pm to midnight
- Thursday 17 December 4pm to midnight

The District Council car parks include:

- Arden Street
- Church Street
- Recreation ground
- Leisure Centre
- Swans Nest Lane
- Windsor Street

Please note: Not all town centre cars parks are Stratford District Council car parks, please check first.

“This year has been a very difficult year for everyone and as we are currently in a high tier it is now even more important that we shop locally, support our businesses and remember to socially distance – visit safe and stay safe.”

NEWS RELEASE: YOUR POLICE, YOUR VIEWS

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe wants to hear from the public about the future of policing in the county, as he launches a major new consultation ahead of deciding how funding should be prioritised in the year ahead.

The ‘Your Police, Your Views’ survey aims to get opinions from all parts of Warwickshire on how local people feel money should be spent on policing and community safety, including what types of initiatives should be financed through grants and commissioned services.

The questions also give the opportunity for people living and working in the county to provide further feedback on policing and community safety, to help understand the Commissioner understand what they feel works well and also what needs improvement.

The results will help inform the budget setting process for the 2021/22 financial year.

The survey is open now and will run until early January 2021
at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WPFundingSurvey>

NEWS RELEASE: CLIP & COLLECT GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

Clip & Collect Garden Waste Service

From April 2021, Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be introducing a charge for the collection of garden waste.

The current cost of providing the service free for all 61,386 properties in the district is £1,152,525 a year.

The introduction of a charge is part of a package of measures to offset a cut in funding from central Government.

Cllr Ian Shenton, Operations Portfolio Holder at Stratford-on-Avon District Council said: “The subscription service is being introduced as we can no longer afford to collect garden waste free of charge.

“Unlike household waste and recycling councils are not required by law to collect garden waste free-of-charge and not everyone uses the service. Making it self-funding will enable the service to continue for only those who want it.

“We were looking to introduce this in June this year, but made a decision to defer bringing this in due to the pandemic. But with the need to replace lost income and the financial impact of the pandemic, we can’t delay this any longer and need to bring in revenue to protect vital services.

“We think the new subscription service offers a good deal for gardeners and is the fairest option because only those using the service would be asked to pay.”

The annual charge is £40 for each green bin, however, if residents sign up between 11 January and 28 February 2021, there is an early bird offer of £35 per green bin.

Householders who pay to have their garden waste taken away will be issued with a non-transferable permit to attach to their green bin.

Householders who choose not to take part in the scheme have the choice of home composting or taking their garden waste to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Warwickshire County Council offer discounted home composting bins on their website: [Composting – Warwickshire County Council](#)

Cllr Ian Shenton, also pointed out that: “These proposals are separate from the ongoing contract negotiations that are currently taking place between ourselves and Warwick District – looking at joint refuse and recycling waste contract for the whole of south Warwickshire. Any of the changes proposed in a joint contract won’t start until August 2022.”

For more information please visit [Garden Waste Service | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) or email the Streetscene team: streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Work is also progressing on a joint refuse and recycling contract with Warwick District Council.

Both Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils are committed to improving their services for the residents of South Warwickshire and are investigating joint working and shared services. Management roles in ICT and Neighbourhood Services are already being shared across the two councils, as is the prospect of a joint Local Plan for our communities, to secure long-term benefits.

Combining waste collection under one contract, is the next service to be proposed for joint working by both councils. The contracts for both councils finish around the same time, which presents an opportunity to review procuring a combined service across the whole of South Warwickshire, serving 126,000 households.

A new contract would focus on achieving both environmental and financial benefits; encouraging residents to increase their household recycling, reduce residual waste and reduce the cost of treating and disposing of rubbish. In addition, it will support the ambition of both councils to achieve carbon-neutral status for their districts by 2030.

Part of the new contract proposals includes the introduction of a joint 123+ services – moving to a 3-weekly collection of residual waste to encourage further recycling. The next stage of the process, is the Full Council at Stratford District Council where this will be debated in December and if approved any proposed change in collection frequency will not commence until **August 2022**.

The new arrangements are aimed at increasing recycling, taking food waste out of the bins, reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions and keeping costs down.

