

Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting

District Councillors Report

January 12th 2021

Update on the payment of Business Rate Grants.

SDC have made payments of £1,915,333.49 paid to 1182 businesses.

SDC are not asking any business who have already claimed under any of the schemes – Tier 3 Restrictions Open or Closed Schemes / Tier 4 Open or Closed Schemes / National Lockdown Scheme / Wet Led Pub Scheme or the Chancellors New Scheme to complete another form as we are going to use the details we already have.

However if a business who for whatever reason have not claimed yet at all then if they fill the form in our website we will cover all the periods / Tiers and amounts due.

SDC have plans in place to start paying the 6 weeks National Lockdown Scheme from 11 Jan 2021

SDC are adopting an approach of paying those businesses who have had no grants first and then stepping back in to provide subsequent payments for various schemes.

PopUp Business School

The PopUp Business School – an exciting new opportunity for residents across the Stratford district. SDC/Venture House have invited the Pop Up Business School to deliver a **FREE** week-long online course to help and inspire people to have the confidence to start their own business.

Date: 15 to 19 February 2021 (for 5 days, 10am-3pm)

If you want to take control of your life, are in a full-time (but unsatisfying) job, if you're unemployed and looking for the right path, been working on your own business for years or are already established and want to find out how to become adaptable, PopUp's unique and alternative method will help you to take action and make it happen.

For more information and to book on then click here:
<https://bit.ly/StratfordPUBS2021>

Garden Green Waste Charge

Garden waste subscription service opens – residents encouraged to take advantage of early bird offer

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's 'Clip and Collect', garden waste subscription service opens on Monday 11 January 2021.

For garden-loving residents who are interested in signing up to the scheme, there is an early bird offer of £35 for each green bin for a 12 month subscription starting on 1 April 2021.

The annual charge is £40 for each green bin, but if residents sign up between 11 January and 28 February 2021, they can take advantage of this early bird offer.

“It will give you peace of mind that you will still have your garden waste collected for 12 months and at the same time save you money by signing up early for a weekly fee of 67p.

“Over 3,000 residents have already shown an interest in the service last year and they will be sent text reminders about the service.

“It's an entirely optional service and this is not a compulsory charge, but from April our garden waste collection will only be available to residents that register and subscribe. If you do not have a garden or do not want to pay for the collections you do not need to do anything.

“The collection of garden waste is a discretionary service – i.e. one that we do not have to provide. Given our budget pressures last year and this year we had a choice to charge for the service or possibly stop it completely. We felt it would be fairer for residents to have a choice to pay for a service or not, rather than not having a service at all.”

To subscribe and find out more about this service, please visit: www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste

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.

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](#)

Food waste will still be collected on recycling collection weeks, even if you don't subscribe to the garden waste service using a food waste caddy. Free food waste caddies are available on request by calling 01789 260628 or emailing: streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk

SDC are not allowed by law to make a profit out of Green Waste Charge.

Frontline Workers should get a regular Covid Test throughout Lockdown

Public Health Warwickshire is urging residents, especially those working on the frontline and within our communities, to use the community testing service.

With cases of Covid-19 continuing to rise across the county, Public Health Warwickshire are urging residents, especially those working on the front line and within our communities to ensure that they take advantage of the community testing service available for those without symptoms of Covid-19.

There are now five test centres located across Warwickshire in Bedworth, Nuneaton, Rugby, Leamington and Water Orton. A sixth centre will be opening in Stratford next Tuesday on the 12 January.

Each centre is set up to undertake around 2,000+ tests per week and uses lateral flow testing. Lateral flow antigen tests are a new kind of technology that can be used to test a higher proportion of people without symptoms of Covid-19, better

enabling us to identify and isolate more people who are at high likelihood of spreading the virus and break the chains of transmission.

Please note, only people without Covid-19 symptoms should book a test. Anyone with symptoms of Covid-19, that is a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a change to their sense of taste or smell – must self-isolate and book a test via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 as usual.

If you are working in one of the following groups and do not currently have access to testing, we would encourage you to visit any one of our test centres on a weekly basis:

- Health or social care
- Education or childcare
- Essential shops, supermarkets or financial services
- Food production or processing
- Warehousing, packing or distribution
- Transportation
- Essential public sector services including waste, bin collections, security etc
- Construction, utilities or communications
- Agency workers

Tests for those without symptoms of Covid-19 are available for booking between 8.15am and 8pm, Monday to Friday and 10.15am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday. The service uses the fast turnaround lateral flow test kits, which can deliver results in around an hour. Tests can be booked here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/covidcommunitytesting>

For more information or for details on the steps you need to take before attending your test, please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/covidcommunitytesting>

Hello All,

I wonder if you could circulate this to your communities for their information? This is a letter I have sent out today.

Addressing digital exclusion among school learners

I know that a number of you are concerned about support for schools and learners during the lockdown where they lack the right equipment and/or connectivity to support remote learning.

I wanted to let you know that officers are working hard to support learners and schools with laptop and internet access, and to help schools handle Covid risks, while we await expansion of the national device scheme.

We are in close contact with schools about demand for laptops and connectivity, and are also awaiting guidance on the next distribution of laptops from the national scheme.

In the meantime, to support our ambitions around education, digital exclusion and outbreak management I can inform you that today we will be placing an order for a substantial number (1,000) of additional devices for an initial distribution to schools and young carers and a smaller number of mi-fi dongles with unlimited data that will last until the end of the school year in July. When we have completed the demand assessment exercise with our schools, and understand more about the timescales for the national scheme, we will place any further orders we require to fill gaps, whether for devices or dongles.

best wishes,
Izzi ..

Izzi Seccombe OBE
Leader
Warwickshire County Council