

Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting

13th April 2021

District Councillors Report

Official Statement on behalf of Stratford-on-Avon

It is with great sadness that Stratford-upon-Avon acknowledges the death of HRH, The Duke of Edinburgh. On behalf of the community, the Town Mayor and District Chairman have expressed their sincerest condolences to The Queen and other members of the Royal Family.

Due to Covid restrictions, Public Books of Condolence cannot be opened at the present time. However, it is hoped that an e-condolence facility will be available very shortly.

The following arrangements will also be made to offer residents the opportunity to reflect and show their respect:

- From the date the death is announced to the day after the funeral, Union Flags will be flown at half-mast.
- Those wishing to lay wreaths or floral tributes are invited to do so in the Garden of Remembrance, College Street, Old Town. They will remain there until the day following the funeral.

Residents Struggling to pay energy bills

Warwickshire residents financially affected by the pandemic and struggling to pay their energy bills can seek support from Warwickshire County Council.

The county council's Local Welfare Scheme is offering a one-off payment to families and households finding it difficult to pay for fuel. Applications for the payment, in the form of a voucher, must be made by 16 April 2021.

Families and households in Warwickshire can apply whether they use pre-payment meters, pay by direct debit or on receipt of an energy bill if they can evidence eligibility through the impact of COVID-19 on their income.

Circumstances eligible for support include redundancy, furlough before payment, or being self-employed with unpredictable income or prior to an application for payment from the Government. Residents are invited to contact the Welfare Scheme team for a confidential discussion about their situation.

The support is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions' COVID Winter Grant Scheme which supplements ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis.

Since December 2020, the council has used its allocation from the Government's COVID Winter Grant Scheme to help families and individuals facing financial hardship to afford food, fuel and household essentials. Anyone entitled to benefits eligible free school meals automatically receives this support and applications are welcome from others in financial difficulty at this time.

This funding has provided a boost to efforts from the council and its partners throughout the pandemic to ensure people have access to vital aid including practical, financial and emotional support.

To apply please call 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182 to speak to an advisor in confidence. More information about the Local Welfare Scheme is online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme.

Covid-19 cases.

The number of cases in the district has reduced. The 7 day rate per 100,000, based on the figures published on 1st April with a three day lag is now 35.4, this has halved in the last nine days. The rate in the over 60s has now fallen to 7.2,

this is the lowest it has been since last September and in the under 60s the rate is 61.1.

The areas of England estimated to have the highest and lowest COVID vaccination rates for over-50s have been revealed.

Top of the list is the Stratford-on-Avon council area, where everyone aged over 50 is believed to have had a first dose.

Coventry Recycling Facility

Last week a further milestone was reached with the contracts signed to build a new world-leading next generation Material Recycling Facility (MRF) on the edge of Coventry.

A new city-based company overseeing the project, Sherbourne Recycling Limited, has been established, creating new jobs for the local economy; with further expected in 2022 when commissioning of the new facility begins.

The new company, which is wholly owned by eight local authorities (Coventry City Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, North Warwickshire District Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford District Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Council and Warwick District Council), will provide the capital for the construction, with each partner also committing to a long-term waste supply agreement to commit all items collected from homeowners for recycling.

The new facility will be located on former allotment land adjacent to the Energy from Waste facility that is operated by The Coventry & Solihull Waste Disposal Company Ltd (CSWDC). It will be just over 12,000 sqm's; set on 4-acre site allocated for waste use in Coventry's Local Plan back in 2017.

Works are scheduled to begin on site in early summer, taking approximately 15 months for the initial building construction to be completed, ahead of the arrival of Machinex to install the waste processing equipment. The facility is expected to be fully operational by summer 2023.

The Council taxpayer, the end user of the recyclate and most importantly, the environment all benefit as the facility will be more efficient at extracting high quality recyclable product and it will be flexible enough to cope with any new products that can be recycled.”

Once operational the facility will be able to process 175ktpa recyclate from both domestic and commercial sources. By investing in technologies to achieve exceptionally high purity rates and tackle a wider range of waste materials, including single use plastics, the facility will be able to target UK based end processors and command a higher market price for the material streams created.