

District Councillor's report

Lighthorne Parish Council 9th November 2021

Public urged not to touch sick or dead birds as Avian influenza is confirmed by Defra in Worcester and Warwickshire

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has now confirmed there is avian influenza A (H5N1) in wild bird populations in Worcestershire and the Stratford area of Warwickshire.

“The UKHSA has made it clear that the risk of the disease transferring from birds to humans is considered to be very low. To ensure this situation remains, the advice we have received is that members of the public should not touch or go near sick or dying birds and any dead birds found should be reported to the **District Council on 01789 267 575** to assist with disposal.

“The UK food standards agencies advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

Anyone who sees sick wildfowl should contact the **RSPCA on 0300 1234 999**. If you see any dead wildfowl in the Stratford area, contact **Stratford District Council on 01789 267 575 in office hours and 01926 339 577 out of hours**. Anyone who sees dead wildfowl in the Worcester area should contact **Worcester City Council on www.worcester.gov.uk/reportit**.

The Local Government Boundary Review

Have your say on a new political map for Stratford-on-Avon District Council **New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in Stratford-on-Avon District Council**. The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A 10-week consultation on the proposals will run until 08 November 2021, now extended until the 6 December 2021.

The extension has been extended because of a misunderstanding about the steps needed for the council to formally request, before the review started, that the review should proceed with a presumption towards single-member wards.

The Commission has published proposals for changes to Stratford-on-Avon. It is proposing that there should be 35 wards, one fewer than there currently are, and one or two councillors per ward. Most boundaries will change, two will remain the same.

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of wards and their boundaries.

[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Consultation Portal \(lgbce.org.uk\)](http://lgbce.org.uk)

People can also give their views by e-mail at reviews@lgbce.org.uk and by post:

Details of the Council's Submission can be viewed at: [Submission Document](#)

Climate Change

The ambitions paper was reviewed by OSC on 27 October and was put before Cabinet on 1 November for approval.

We can make a difference in simple ways - recycle more, don't waste food, reduce what goes to landfill by putting waste in the correct bin, don't leave the tap running whilst brushing your teeth, walk to the local shop (if you have one) rather than using the car, use reusable drinks bottles, not single use ones which invariably end up in the wrong waste stream. These are simple steps that all residents can take without impacting greatly on their normal way of life.

SDC has contributed video and photos to the LGA stand at COP 26 to show what has been done. SDC is showcasing the electric bike scheme.

Mop Job Fair

There were over 50 organisations exhibiting (from all over the District) at the Stratford Playhouse and approximately 200 attendees. SDC was contacted by one of the exhibitors the following day to inform Stratford District Council that they had made three job offers which had all been accepted... all were long term unemployed.

Merger between Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council

As we know, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are considering a proposal to merge, creating a new District Council covering the whole of South Warwickshire (the areas currently covered by Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils).

The public consultation on the plans to create a South Warwickshire Council has now finished. This is an extremely important consultation that relates to the future of both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils. This will be debated at the next Full Council Meeting on 13th November.

The findings from the consultation will be considered, along with any other evidence, at a meeting of the councils on 13 December 2021. A decision will be taken as to whether they want to formally ask government to allow the councils to merge.