

District Councillor report

Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 10th May 2022

Rough Sleepers in Stratford-on-Avon District

The number of rough sleepers across the District on a weekly basis, using figures based on intelligence, along with a weekly spotlight street count, is pleased to be able to advise that in the last four weeks, there has been no evidenced rough sleepers. The District Council and partner agencies have worked hard to eliminate rough sleeping across the District since 2017, at which time it's annual rough sleeper count reported 17 rough sleepers. The District Council has been able to achieve this result using a combination of solutions, including:

Offers of Housing First tenancies.

Intensive floating support for former rough sleepers who are in emergency accommodation.

Support and engagement from P3's street outreach team, usually the first agency to encounter someone on the streets.

Residents struggling with energy bills

Free energy advice and Home Visits on a one-to-one basis Tailored energy support and impartial advice for everyone, including benefits advice through Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Services call free: 0800 988 2881. Email: advice@actonenergy.org.uk

Process for Council Tax rebate

Following The Governments announcements that most households in England in Council Tax Bands A to D will be eligible for a £150.00 rebate on their bill, Stratford-on-Avon are putting all the necessary procedures in place to ensure that those who are eligible receive their one-off payment well ahead of the September deadline. Stratford-on-Avon District Council is urging bill-payers to set up a direct debit to pay their Council Tax to ensure they get their £150 energy rebate payment quickly as possible. Stratford District Council has also produced a [leaflet-2007 Energy Price Rise Leaflet MARCH22](#)

New 123+ Waste Collection Service for Stratford

Food Caddies for the new 123 collection service will start to deliver across the District by next week in preparation for the new service on 1st August 2022. From 19th April, two food caddies will be delivered to over 62,000 households over four weeks to residents across the District together with an information booklet - [123+waste collection Service-Information Booklet](#) – explaining how

the waste collection service works and what you need to do. Residents will be provided with a small 7 litre caddy and a larger 23 litre external food waste bin. The small caddy is designed to be kept in the kitchen for collecting food waste which can then be transferred into food waste bin for collection. The external food waste bin is designed to be stored outside and has a lockable lid to contain any smells and prevent vermin getting in. The food waste will be collected every week which will also help prevent smells.

UK households waste 6.5 million tonnes of food every year, 4.5 million of which is edible. The average family of four can save over £60 per month by reducing their food waste. For hints and tips visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

For more information visit: [123+waste Collections Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Council Tax energy rebate payments update

Payments have started to be made to residents eligible for the £150,00 energy rebate, worth £4.06m paid out so far to 27,083 households. This will be for residents who pay by direct debit. The payments will appear on bank statements as “SDC Energy Rebate”. For those residents that don’t pay by Direct Debit, they will soon receive a letter confirming what they need to do to claim their payment.

For more information and updates please visit: [Energy rebate Scheme 2022 Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE MERGER TALKS END

Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) and Warwick District Council (WDC) have jointly decided to end their political merger talks to form a South Warwickshire District Council, without securing an agreement.

Whilst there was a clear strategic logic to the merger, the move to bring matters to a close recognised the significant differences in the approaches of the two Councils in respect of financial risk and borrowing.

The context for the due diligence request was the level of borrowings WDC has at an estimate of £405 million this showed a £100 million increase in 12 months. At a time of rapidly rising interest rates this appears to be an area of a very substantial risk. Therefore, the Cabinet at Stratford District Council felt that under the circumstances, it would not be in the interest of its residents to continue with the merger.

Chris Mills

District Councillor

Kineton Ward