

## **District Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council 11th October 2022**

### **Housing Land Supply**

Stratford District Council are about to publish a new 5yr HLS figure of 10.06 years. While we expect housing completions to fall in 2023-24 because of wider economic and supply chain issues, we are confident that this will have a robust HLS until we move to the new Local Plan.

### **Local Plan**

Evidence gathering work on the new Plan continues and, subject to receipt and sign off for that evidence, the next round of consultation could begin by the end of the year.

### **All money paid for Council Tax Rebate Scheme**

Over **44,700 households across Stratford-on-Avon District** have been helped with the **Council Tax Rebate Scheme** – the £150 non-repayable rebate for households in England in Council Tax bands A to D. Stratford-on-Avon District Council has paid out over £5.74million in the Government provided grant. All the grant money provided by the Government has been allocated, with the District Council overspending by £17,850 as there were more eligible properties than advised by the Government. This additional money will be paid back by the Government in due course. Councils were set a deadline to ensure all payments are made by 30 September 2022. In addition, there was also a Discretionary Scheme which totals £252K and runs until the end of November – to date £245K has been paid out, with the remainder being paid soon.

For further help and advice please visit: [Financial and Wellbeing Support | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) and complete the customer referral form to access free help and support with money or housing issues, training, finding a job and general wellbeing.

### **Environmental Health**

In light of the Commonwealth Games coming to the Midlands this summer, food and safety officers carried out sampling in outlets preparing and serving ready-to-eat foods to ensure that food safety standards were being maintained. The majority of premises had satisfactory results, which offered a high degree of confidence in our food outlets throughout the District. Additionally, 108 hotels and B&Bs were sent an advice pack to remind service providers of their

food hygiene and health and safety obligations during this busy period.

The food team are seeing a rise in new food premise registrations, and they are working through these inspections. Given the increased number of food inspections, the food team are extremely stretched. They are, however, up to date with the post-Covid food inspection recovery plan and all non-compliant C and D category premises will be completed by the end of December 2022.

The majority of SDC's food premises are broadly compliant category C and D premises which have not been visited for a few years and will require an inspection before the end of March 2023. This inspection burden should become easier when the food team returns to full capacity in October 2022.

### **Air Quality**

Both air quality monitors are now in position in Stratford-upon-Avon and Studley where we have Air Quality Management Areas. The Council's ICT team are working with the manufacturers of the equipment to get the information downloaded directly on to the SDC website.

### **Animal Welfare**

Following some joint working with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the RSPCA, licensing officers have stopped a man in the south of the District from importing bully breed dogs from a breeding facility in Romania for onward sale in the UK.

Following a complaint from a member of the public, regarding poor standards at a licensed animal boarder in the north of the District, licensing officers undertook an inspection of the premises. Officers were concerned with the standards they observed, and the premises received a written warning and had their star rating reduced. This in turn reduces the period between the next inspection period and the number of dogs that could be held at the premises was reduced.

Licensing officers are receiving a high volume of calls from the dog breeding community, about them being confused around the dog breeding regulations. Several complaints have been investigated and warning letters have been sent out, in accordance with our enforcement policy. Some members of the community continue to think that they can still have three litters per year without the need for a licence. However, if they have one litter a year and advertise this publicly, then they are required to have a licence.

### **Boats**

Avon Boating are now in possession of their wheelchair accessible 'wheely boat', one of the first wheelchair accessible boats to be licensed in the country. The company are in the process of making their wheelchair loading ramp facility as safe as possible, and once constructed, this new venture will enhance disability facilities within the District.

Avon Boating are still on track with replacing the petrol motor boats to electric ones by the end of 2025, having received some setbacks during the last year due to Covid-19.

## **HS2**

Tunnel boring machine Dorothy is now through the one tunnel on the HS2 development. The huge tunnel boring machine is now being disassembled and transported back to the start for the second tunnel. A section 61 under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (prior consent) application has just been approved for the stretch of track from Ladbroke to Southam. This calls for the contractors to apply to SDC to approve hours of work and methods benchmarked against agreed levels in central approved guidance.

## **Stratford-upon-Avon Mop Fair 2022**

The annual Mop Fair returns on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 October, bringing one of the biggest and brightest street fairs in the country to the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon.

### **But why is it called the Mop?**

*The event has an historic tradition. The original Charter for the fair was granted by Edward VI on 28 June 1544. The event has its origins in the hiring of agricultural and domestic labour when potential labourers would attend with a mop to signal their skills.*

Chris Mills

Kineton Ward