

District Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 14th February 2023

Voter ID.

legislation has changed in that everyone wishing to vote at polling stations from 4th May 2023, must show an accepted form of photo ID such as a passport, photo driving licence or bus pass (the full list of documents is on the SDC website).

On 16th January, the Government portal went live so that anyone without photo ID could apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. People wishing to vote on 4th May have until 5pm on 25th April to apply for one of these Certificates whether on-line, by paper application or in person at the SDC offices. Those electors that have photo ID or a postal vote, do not need to apply.

Stratford District Council have commenced a publicity campaign to get the message across to a wide range of people via different media and we will continue with this until 25th April. The two initiatives with the greatest coverage are:

1. A leaflet to go out with every Council Tax bill (see attached)
2. An e-mail to every elector where SDC have an e-mail address (approx. 30,000 electors)

See attached a copy of the Voter ID FAQ for your information.

Health & Wellbeing

£250k per year for the next two years helping our most vulnerable citizens with cost-of-living pressures. The plan has been published which shows more money to CAB, Foodbanks and Act on Energy.

County Lines

In response to escalating concerns raised by the Community Safety Team, a CIOG was initiated. There is now a greater police presence in Stratford due to county lines activity. This is currently assessed as one of the highest risk areas in the county.

Stratford and Warwick Councils celebrate success of new separate food waste collection service.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council have proved themselves ahead of the game when it comes to collecting food waste. The [Environment Act 2021](#), which comes fully into effect on 1 April this year, introduces changes to waste collection which means that food waste – must be collected separately from other household waste at least once a week. The District Council introduced a new joint separate food collection service on 1 August 2022. The [123+ service](#) has been delivered through a waste contract with Biffa Waste Services Ltd and has already proved highly successful.

Since the inception of the scheme in August 2022, a total of 4,412.48 tonnes of waste has been collected. The forecast food waste tonnage for this contract means that Warwickshire residents will be powering the equivalent of 1,024 homes for a year with green energy, this is also the equivalent of 8,997 tonnes of carbon not emitted to the atmosphere compared to the same amount of food waste going into landfill.

South Warwickshire Local Plan: Issues & Options public consultation

Further to the decision by the Joint Committee to approve the South Warwickshire Local Plan Issues & Options document for public consultation, the public consultation on the issues and options commenced Monday **9th January**. We have extended the public consultation period as recommended by the Joint Committee from six to eight weeks. The consultation will now **close on 6th March 2023**.

For more information go to www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp.

Lessons to be learned from the proposed SDC and WDC Merger

Although the merger between Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council did not take place, lessons were learnt based on an independent report by a company, Shared Intelligence, Three Tuns House London SE1. There was a strong strategic case for the merger, or at least closer working between the two local authorities. However, a set of differences in how the Councils operated day-to-day created cultural barriers to the merger. Nevertheless, there are opportunities for future collaboration which continues in four main areas: Creation of a Local Plan, a Joint Waste Collection Contract, Legal Services, and shared Climate Change Officer. Benefits identified: Financial savings of £500k (as a one-off saving) have been recognised with joint technical expertise

specialisms coming from each Council. A joint waste contract has shown financial savings at an estimated at £300k. Corporate services, a financial saving of £150k recurring.

Chris Mills
District Councillor
Kineton Ward