

Lighthorne Parish Council 10th November 2020 County Councillor's Report

Free School Meals

There has recently been debate in parliament about the lack support available to children during the half-term holiday. I would like to clarify that Warwickshire County Council's position is one that we should be rightly proud. Records show that during the period 26th October – 29th October, School Holiday Support was given to 1,124 children. I confirm that Warwickshire children will not go hungry over holiday periods.

Funding for this family support is through the Warwickshire Welfare Scheme which has to date provided £520,000 of support through the COVID period. Foodbanks within the County have also been supported by this scheme including goods and support to volunteers. We now intend to increase the WWS fund to support those children and families who may have relied on free school meals and this wider scheme reaches many more vulnerable people. Our commitment to this is not just over half term but will extend through the Christmas period and beyond, as COVID lives with us and causes need.

Please see attached a map '**Tackling Food Poverty**' which demonstrates that the distribution of support throughout the County according to demand caused by the Covid 19 pandemic.

School Attendance as of 4th November 2020

All 246 Warwickshire schools have returned and are open following the half term break.

DfE guidance continues to apply and expects that all pupils and school workforce will attend school on a full-time basis and during lockdown. Previously disappplied attendance legislation has been reapplied by the government. A pragmatic approach is being adopted in Warwickshire during the autumn term with support for families/children who present uncertainty about return.

Attendance rates in Warwickshire schools across both maintained schools and academies have been high during the first 6 weeks of the autumn term with pupil attendance in Primary schools being slightly higher than secondary. Overall a very good level of pupil attendance is currently being maintained by schools and is continuing at a high average rate (90+%).

Laptops for Disadvantaged Children

In addition to tackling food poverty, we have provided help to disadvantaged children during the Covid period by supplying laptops to 1,036 children plus 150 reconditioned laptops were also distributed.

Warwickshire County Council has worked hard to ensure all disadvantaged pupils have access to the curriculum and high-quality learning materials via laptops and networks. This was been particularly important when many schools were closed and pupils had to rely on networked devices to keep up to speed with their studies.

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Covid 19 Update

The number of COVID cases are continuing to rise not only across Stratford on Avon District but across Warwickshire with some sharp rises in Warwick and North Warwickshire districts, which could have implications on us all in terms of the overall numbers for Warwickshire, with the potential to move us up to Tier 2 across the county if these trends continue over the next couple of weeks. As we know, Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham are all now in Tier 2. (**Currently, whole country in Lockdown**).

The number of cases therefore reported across the county are now 5379 up from 4550 on 16th October – an increase of 829 cases over the previous seven days.

The situation regarding the 423 SWFT Hospital Beds has seen an increase of inpatients with 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and two patients in ICU.

The cumulative deaths across Stratford District has again sadly increased by one to 170 with the deaths in care home rising by one to 83 from a cumulative of 1231 'all cause deaths' in the district. The cumulative total of all COVID-19 deaths in Warwickshire has increased by two to 606 and over the same period there have been 4309 non COVID-19 related deaths in Warwickshire. Across the county there has been a total of 212 COVID-19 deaths in care homes settings (an increase of one in the last week) compared to 1399 'all cause deaths' in care homes over the same period.

There are 46% of SWFT hospital beds occupied by Non-COVID-19 patients, 3% occupied with confirmed COVID-19 patients and 20% beds occupied with suspected COVID-19 patients and a spare capacity of 31% beds.

The following link leads to a mapping service available on the government website

<https://coronavirus-staging.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

From a Stratford on Avon District perspective over the last seven days our rolling rating is based on around 123/100,000 – the county average is now 141/100,000 so let's keep focused in doing the right things to protect our communities' safety and avoid a local lockdown.

Cllr Chris Williams

Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division

08.11.2020