District Councillor Update 16th March 20222

Covid

INFECTION RATES GRADUALLY FALLING

The rate of infections across the district has decreased to 569/100,000 from 713, the over 60’s rate

has decreased to 409/100,000 (414 last week) with 174 cases over the last seven days. Other

districts rates in Warwickshire, for all ages, are Nuneaton &amp; Bedworth 375/100,000, North

Warwickshire 295/100,000, Warwick 545/100,000 and Rugby 513/100,000.  Warwickshire overall

has 478/100,000. England 422/100,000.

HOWEVER WE MUST NOT BE COMPLACENT – IRRESPECTIVE WHETHER WE HAVE 70 OR 700 CASES

per 100,000 we must all STILL be sensible and follow guidance etc,

There have been several further Covid related deaths since my last report across Stratford District

(total now 258 from the start of this second wave (28 th August 2020) 60 occurring in care homes,

170 in hospital, three in a hospice and 24 at home and one in a communal establishment, out of a

total of 2,685 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 increased since my last report to 930

with a total of 8,944 all cause deaths.  The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is

426 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 1,531 (13,328 total deaths).

Two items were discussed at Overview and Scrutiny (OSC) recently :

South Warwickshire Local Plan our feedback to cabinet was as follows:

* Members were supportive of the SWLP, especially its commitment to place climate change at its heart. They also supported the more holistic approach the plan will take.
* Furthermore, members were supportive of the 20 Minute Neighbourhood initiative but would like more information on this to go to Councillors to help garner support for the initiative.
* There was support amongst members for business incubator centres and asked that these be explored within the plan.
* However, there were concerns about whether local priorities would be overridden by the plan. Members felt that currently sometimes there is a disconnect between residents and advice given to councillors on planning decisions.
* The committee would like, when possible, for a more detailed timetable of the SWLP to be provided so that timely and affective scrutiny can take place.
* When possible the committee would also like an agreed schedule of available powers relating to Climate Change to be provided to ensure that the SWLP is as strong as possible in this area.
* Finally, members raised that some **parish councillors** were concerned about the SWLP and implications for neighbourhood plans. The committee would like more information to go to residents and parish councils to make sure that they understand that this is not going to be the case and that the plan still takes into account local priorities.

Self Build Applications

You will be aware that a planning application granted in Ettington re self build caused concern amongst both myself ,residents and the PC when it differed markedly from the original application. As a result of the idiosyncrasies around Self Build process I requested as Chair of OSC along with the portfolio holder and officer lead for a task and finish group to investigate further how this can be prevented in other parishes.

Therefore at OSC

* The committee has agreed the membership and the Chairmanship of the task and finish group on custom and self-build housing.
* It will report back to OSC in late April and this report will go to cabinet in May. I will update as the findings are reported.

Rough Sleepers

The District Council and its partner agencies have worked hard to eliminate rough sleeping across the District since 2017, at which time its annual rough sleeper count reported 17 rough sleepers.

The District Council has been able to achieve this result using a combination of solutions, including:

* Continuing to operate according to the principles of the '*Everyone In*' initiative, launched by the Government at the start of the COVID pandemic. Once individuals are confirmed as rough sleeping in the area, they will either be assisted to reconnect to their home area if safe to do so, or provided with emergency accommodation.
* Support and engagement from P3's street outreach team - usually the first agency to encounter someone on the streets.
* Offers of Housing First tenancies - this is where accommodation is provided along with intensive support.
* Intensive floating support for former rough sleepers who are in emergency accommodation.
* Offers of housing association homes from the Home Choice Plus register, where local housing association landlords can provide tenancies.

Elements of the work, accommodating rough sleepers, has been funded via successful bids, made by the District Council to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) as part of the government's Rough Sleeper Initiative programme, with £496,131 awarded since 2019.

if local residents are concerned about someone they believe to be rough sleeping, they can report this via the Street Link website: [www.streetlink.org.uk/](about:blank)

Residents who wish to donate in order to help those on the street can do so via '**Meaningful Change**'.

**Stratford Meaningful Change** provides an alternative way for the public to give to people rough sleeping or begging. By donating to Meaningful Change, rather than directly to the person on the street, you can be sure your money will go towards making a *meaningful change*. The money is pooled and will be used to provide for the specific needs of individuals on the street in Stratford.   
  
You can now make your donations to **Meaningful Change using the contactless donations points** available at: Roly's Fudge, Henley Street; HR Café, Windsor Street; Lush, High Street and Tesco Express, Bridge Street or you can donate via the Meaningful Change website [https://meaningfulchange.org.uk/](about:blank)

There are several organisations in Stratford that can help and support those sleeping rough.

**P3 Charity**: housing-related floating support service to over 25s in Warwickshire: 0808 164 6220

**St Basils**: housing-related floating support to those aged 16 to 25 in Warwickshire: text NEED ST BASILS to 62277 or call 01789 332 540

**CGL**: alcohol and drug treatment centre: 16 Court St, Leamington Spa, CV31 2BB Tel: 01926 353513

**Spring Housing**: providing accommodation and support services to individuals who are at risk of homelessness: 0121 663 1443.

Spring are also be managing the Fred Winter Centre in Stratford-upon-Avon - a community hub supporting local people with a focus on providing housing plus a range of services which address homelessness and hardship - [https://fredwintercentre.org.uk/](about:blank)

**Citizens Advice Bureau**: 25 Meer Street, Stratford-upon-Avon. Tel: 01789 200136

**JobCentrePlus**: Martin Raff House, Alcester Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9DA. Tel: 0345 604 3719

**Financial hardship**

We know that sudden unexpected costs can create real challenges for people experiencing financial hardship. If this is you or anyone you know, help is available.

Vouchers for fuel are being offered to families and households until 10 March. Apply now by calling 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182 to speak to someone in confidence about your circumstances.

This support is provided by the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme and funded by the Department for Work and Pensions’ Household Support Fund.

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme](about:blank)

If you are self-isolating or at higher risk to COVID-19, you can access help from the council and partners.

For practical and wellbeing support go call the hotline 0800 408 1447 or go to [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirusvulnerable](about:blank)

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme supports the most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help. The scheme provides basic and essential help for food and energy in the form of emergency food parcels or credit for energy. Call 0800 408 1448.

If you’re finding it hard to feed your family help and advice is online at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/foodsupport](about:blank) and

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/foodbanks](about:blank)

If you don’t know where to turn and are in need of financial or emotional support visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship or call 01926 410410](about:blank).

Keeping warm is a vital part of keeping well this winter particularly for older people, the young and those with chronic illness.

Check-in on those living alone, heat your home to at least 18 Celsius, and keep up-to-date with the weather forecast.

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepwarm](about:blank)

For people struggling to afford heating bills, Act on Energy provides free advice on energy efficiency and grants and projects available in your area to help keep you warm this winter.

Find out more at [https://actonenergy.org.uk/](about:blank)

You can help others in your community by donating food via supermarket collection points or clothes and toys to charity shops.

**People affected by suicide**

Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council would like to remind people affected by suicide that free and confidential support is available to help them through this difficult time.

Read more: [https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2772/support-is-available-for-anyone-in-coventry-and-warwickshire-affected-by-suicide](about:blank)

**Warwickshire’s youth conference**

Booking is open for young people to grab their spot at Warwickshire’s annual youth conference, ‘Future Ready’, held on Thursday 21 April 2022.

Find out more: [https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2771/be-future-ready-with-warwickshire-s-youth-conference](about:blank)

**Plant a tree for the Jubilee**

Warwickshire County Council and the Warwickshire Lieutenancy are encouraging people to get involved in The Queen’s Green Canopy.

Read more: [https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2768/-still-time-to-plant-a-tree-for-the-jubilee-says-warwickshire-s-lord-lieutenant](about:blank)

**Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in Libraries**

Libraries in Warwickshire are appealing for help with their displays to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June this year.

Find out more: [https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2769/help-warwickshire-libraries-in-celebrating-the-queen-s-platinum-jubilee](about:blank)

**Commonwealth Games Jobs**

Birmingham’s best summer jobs are up for grabs.

With roles in housekeeping among the 20,000 paid jobs on offer, you could be part of the #B2022 team.

Find out more: [http://birmingham2022.com/jobs](about:blank)

**Adult Community Learning**

There is nothing better than getting better. Keep learning and growing with this GCSE maths courses from ACL. This course covers the entire GCSE maths curriculum in under 75 hours of teaching. Visit: [http://warwickshire.gov.uk/acl](about:blank) and click Find a Course

**Support with access to food**

If you’re finding it hard to feed your family help and advice is online at  [http://warwickshire.gov.uk/foodsupport](about:blank) and [http://warwickshire.gov.uk/foodbanks](about:blank)

**Gender-based violence**

There are many different types of Harmful Practices such as FGM, honour based abuse and Forced Marriage. These are serious criminal offences. Report anything suspicious to the Police by calling 101.

For more information visit [https://safeinwarwickshire.com/harmfulpractices/](about:blank)

Do please let me know if any matters arise I can be of help with.

Kindest Wishes

Penny-Anne O’Donnell

Ward Member Ettington

Chair Overview and Scrutiny.