

District Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council 8th February 2022

Stratford-on-Avon District Council Cabinet budget proposals out for consultation

On Monday 17 January Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet agreed the draft budget proposals for consultation for the next five years (2022/23 to 2026/27).

The proposed council tax increase this year is £5 per household, the maximum allowed by the Government. This means a Band D property would increase in April this year from £149.12 to £154.12.

Although the collecting agent for Council Tax, **the District Council only receives 7.5% of Council Tax paid by residents**. Warwickshire County Council receives 76.6%, the Police 12.6% and Towns/Parishes 3.3%. This means the District Council only receives just under 8p of every £1 paid in Council Tax to provide services.

PUBLICATION OF THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

The 2nd of February marked the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper which sets out a programme of change to reverse the geographical disparities which remain such a stark feature of this country.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>

Climate Change

Businesses and organisations encouraged to get on their e-Cargo bikes

A new FREE-trial scheme aimed at encouraging businesses, organisations, community, and voluntary groups across Stratford-on-Avon District to use electric bikes instead of cars and vans for local deliveries, is to be launched in the Spring.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's eCargo bike scheme will see the District Council buy ten e-Cargo bikes – five EP2 e-Cargo bikes and five ALECS e-Cargo trikes, after securing £60,000 in Government funding.

The District Council will be providing match funding of £60,000 over a five-year period to cover the ongoing costs for maintenance, servicing, repairs and induction training.

The scheme allows local businesses and organisations to have the bikes on trial for free for up to three-months; meaning they don't have to make a financial commitment to purchase their own e-Cargo bikes until they have seen whether

they will benefit from them or not. The scheme has been set up in collaboration with the Energy Saving Trust and local company, Pashley Cycles who are providing the e-Cargo bikes.

Arranging Vaccination transport for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or booster doses

Transport to COVID-19 vaccination appointments has been arranged with the volunteer transport providers that cover Warwickshire, they are working to a standard operating process that includes use of PPE and appropriate cleaning schedules. Currently, this transport is being provided free of charge. It can be requested if residents have no other way of accessing vaccination sites, including initially asking households and bubbles support. This to retain capacity in the system. For residents in Warwick and Stratford areas contact VASA 01789 262889. E-mail transport@vasa.org.uk

Warning after batteries spark fire

Stratford District residents are being reminded to dispose of batteries properly after a fire occurred in a recycling collection vehicle.

The recycling crew were carrying out their rounds in Wilmcote when the lorry caught fire on a Tuesday morning in January - prompting renewed concerns about the dangers of batteries being thrown into household rubbish and recycling bins.

The crew were unhurt, and the vehicle fortunately was not damaged but the situation could have been so much worse. Although the definite cause is not known, it is believed that the batteries were put in an Ariel Capsule tub.

Used batteries placed into general waste or recycling bins and mixed with paper, cardboard, plastic, or other recyclable materials such as cardboard can pose a risk.

Any batteries placed into general waste will likely be compacted or punctured during transportation to their final waste treatment facility or damaged during handling. When batteries are damaged, they can become hot and ignite, potentially resulting in fire causing damage and a risk to life.

The District Council does provide a separate kerbside collection service for household batteries – they can be placed next to or on top of any bin on scheduled collection days in a standard sized carrier bag for collection and recycling.

Batteries need to be recycled separately from other materials and there is a large network of free-to-use collection points in supermarkets, at recycling centres, and many other shops, so there is no need for old batteries to find

their ways into household rubbish and recycling.

Chris Mills
District Councillor