

Lighthorne PC – District Councillor Report – July 2023

Community Infrastructure Levy Spending Round (CIL)

Just a reminder that the deadline for this round of applications is Friday 14th July.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund

Just a reminder that the deadline for this round of applications is Friday 14th July.

Eligible local organisations are able to submit their expressions of interest to the District Council using the [online application form](#).

Documentation and guidance required to complete the application can be found at:

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\) | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

[Rural England Prosperity Fund - Call for projects | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Full Council – 10th July

Matters raised at Full Council:

1. Motions

The following motions were put forward to the Full Council by the Conservative Group:

1.1 Membership of Outside Bodies

Stratford District Council is represented on nearly 40 outside bodies by its elected members and officers attending numerous meetings. It was agreed to undertake a review of all these organisations to assess the importance and relevance of them to the district council. Once finalised these organisations and the relevant appointed council member will be featured on a separate page of the SDC website with further details.

1.2 Capitalising on Military Talent

Military service fosters leadership, organisational skills, resilience and many other unique qualities which would be a great asset to Stratford-on-Avon District Council. The motion to review the merit of SDC signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant will now be reviewed by Cabinet.

1.3 Protecting Local Pubs

This motion was put forward to recognise and give more protection to the district's public houses, especially in rural localities from being changed into residential dwellings. It was agreed that a task and finish group be set up to review measures that can be put in place in the emerging South Warwickshire Plan to consider the best way forward to protect these valuable assets in a balanced way and review the viability criteria that should be put in place prior to a change of use planning application from the owner of a public house being considered.

2. University of Warwick Wellesbourne Campus SPD

As the member for the new Wellesbourne North & Rural Ward, the University of Warwick Campus near Wellesbourne is now on my patch and as the former portfolio holder for Economic Development I have been extensively involved with this initiative over the last few years and in developing relations on behalf of SDC with the University of Warwick.

As a district we have a major shortfall of employment land, and economic development is crucial in terms of generating high calibre jobs. The University of Warwick Campus SPD is centred around the concept of creating innovation hubs within different zones and these hubs would be used to promote interaction, synergy and collaboration between different organisations and their specialisms operating throughout the site. It is also

focused on creating local jobs for local people and the creation of an innovative centre which aligns Stratford on Avon with a world class university.

Whilst I do have concerns about the villages of Hampton Lucy and Charlecote being used as vehicle rat runs to access the new campus, I am pleased that entry is from the A429 which leads into the Barford By-Pass and to Junction 15 of the M40.

3. Concessionary Parking

The new Cabinet have endorsed the reintroduction of concessionary parking permits for state pensioners at an annual fee of £50 for use at Bridgefoot Car Park for up to four hours, seven days a week. These were withdrawn by the previous administration on the grounds of discrimination and equality issues as the over 66's have access to free bus passes.

Further consultation is being explored and at Full Council the question of fairness in view of the cost of living crisis was raised for concessionary car parking rates, particularly for other residents who are dealing with increased mortgages, rental accommodation, student loans etc to be excluded in this way as they have not benefited from a 10% increase in their income this year as have pensioners.

CAB Moves into SDC

Citizens Advice South Warwickshire has moved into the District Council offices as a new tenant, allowing them to see more clients and reduce appointment waiting times.

Citizens Advice is first and foremost a charity, offering free, confidential and impartial advice to anyone who needs it.

Staff from Citizens Advice South Warwickshire together with a team of volunteers are on hand each weekday, Monday to Friday at Elizabeth House from 10am to 2pm. CAB advisers can meet clients face-to-face in the dedicated booths in the main reception area as well as the option of private meeting rooms.

In addition, a new Citizens Advice County telephone line, funded in part by Warwickshire County Council, launched in April and offers the opportunity for clients to receive telephone advice for any issue they may face. It offers advice across the whole of Warwickshire every day 9am to 5pm on 0808 250 5715 or on Mondays between 5pm and 7pm call 0800 995 6047 (Warwickshire Out of Hours Service).

Upper Lighthorne GP Facility

Local GP practices have been invited to submit an Expression of Interest to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to be selected to run a new GP facility at Upper Lighthorne. It is not known how many GP practices have expressed an interest and the next stage will involve those taking part to submit their comprehensive plans over the next few months. The importance of having a new GP facility at Upper Lighthorne will ensure that capacity for patients in Lighthorne and the surrounding villages is maintained by residents from Upper Lighthorne registering/transferring to a new facility when built.

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