

District Councillor Report for Lighthorne Parish Council – April 9th 2024

1. Stratford Leisure Centre Hosts Prostate Screening Event

On Sunday 28 April 2024 Stratford Leisure Centre will host a prostate screening event. The event is being subsidised by SDC in partnership with The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) and Everyone Active. The event will run from 10am until 4pm and people are able to book at a discounted rate of £12.50. Spaces are limited, so make sure to book.

The aim of the event is to make the local community aware of the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer and to offer free prostate PSA screening blood tests. The statistics show that 1 in 8 men show positive signs of having prostate cancer but if caught and treated early, the results of treatment are extremely good.

2. Upper Lighthorne GP Services

The ICB has offered a contract to run the permanent GP service at Upper Lighthorne, subject to ratification by the ICB Procurement Panel and Finance & Performance Committee – which is due on 1st May. Formal confirmation is expected at a meeting between SDC, the ICB and Sir Jeremy Wright on 3rd May. Special thanks to Andy Smith for driving this project, which is greatly appreciated.

3. Appointment of Parish/Town Council Representatives to the Audit & Standards Committee

SDC values collaborative working with Parish and Town Councils through their representatives. Two representatives nominated by Parish and Town Councils are currently co-opted as non-voting members to the ASC. Their terms of appointment are due to end shortly and new appointees will be sought.

One area of activity with which the ASC is concerned is the Code of Conduct with which councillors are required to comply. The most recent report considered by the ASC on 25 March 2024 identified that thirteen of the sixteen complaints against councillors involved parish rather than district councillors.

All 81 parish councils within the District will be invited to nominate up to two parish councillors to be considered for these appointments. A sub-committee of the ASC will be established to consider nominations and to make recommendations to the ASC and subsequently Council on who should be co-opted.

4. Public Space Protection Order for Stratford Town Centre - Consultation

SDC is carrying out a 7-week Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) consultation in Stratford-upon-Avon town centre. A PSPO is a control measure created by the 2014 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act. The orders deal with specific nuisances or problems in a defined area that are '*detrimental to the community's quality of life*' and are designed to tackle anti-social behaviour in public places.

The District Council is consulting regarding anti-social behaviour anywhere within the Town

Centre when consuming or possessing alcohol. The behaviour SDC is seeking to prohibit has been identified as detrimental, persistent and unreasonable to the area.

For more information or to take part in this consultation, please visit the District Council's website: www.stratford.gov.uk/Stratford-PSPO-Consultation. The consultation runs until 8 May 2024.

5. SDC Receives Funding From Swimming Pool Support Fund

Rooftop solar panels will be installed at Stratford Leisure Centre, following SDC's successful bid in Phase II of the Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund. SDC has been awarded £283,000 to provide grant funding for capital investments to help swimming pools become more energy efficient.

The funding will be used to install Photo Voltaic (PV) panels on Stratford Leisure Centre's roof. This will help to reduce the Leisure Centre's energy bills and save carbon emissions. It is anticipated that the size of the rooftop solar panel system to be installed will be 202.50kWp, housing 405 panels, yielding 849 kWh.

It is also anticipated that the Year 1 energy savings will generate 172,090kWh in electricity reductions. At the current rate, the annual forecast savings post intervention will be £51,627. Based on the costs of the project, the expected payback period is just under 5.5 years. No start date for the work has been agreed, but the installation needs to be completed by no later than 31 March 2025.

6. New Eligibility Criteria for Energy Efficiency Schemes

The income eligibility criteria for Home Upgrade Grant - phase 2 (HUG2) funding has increased to £36,000 a year. Some residents who may not have applied previously because they were over the first £31,000 threshold may now be eligible. Residents are encouraged to apply to grants as soon as possible because there is a three to six months' time frame from application to installation.

Cllr Anne Parry
Wellesbourne North and Rural
Stratford on Avon District Council

6 April 2024