

Lighthorne Parish Councillor – Report from your District Councillor, Anne Parry

Green Bin Subscriptions

The green waste subscription has been launched by Stratford District Council (SDC) for 2024/25, effective from April 2024, at a charge of £46 per green bin. Green waste is then collected fortnightly together with the dry recyclable bin collection. To renew your subscription or initiate a new one, please go online to www.stratford.gov.uk or call 01789 260628.

Upper Lighthorne Community Hub and Healthcare Facility

SDC's Cabinet has given the go ahead in principle for the undertaking of a joint project with the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Warwickshire Police for the development of a Community Hub and Healthcare Facility at Upper Lighthorne.

The ICB are progressing forward with the tender to select a GP practice for the Upper Lighthorne Community Hub – for further updates, there is an excellent website created by Andy Smith which is: [Upper Lighthorne & Surrounding Parishes Primary Healthcare \(smithdom.uk\)](http://smithdom.uk)

In terms of timescales, it is unlikely that these new facilities will be up and running until 2027 at the earliest, unless the ICB will reconsider a temporary facility for GP services to be operational before this date.

The developers are funding the construction of the building through a Section 106 agreement, but the ICB will have a significant role in the appointment of GP's and the funding that will be required to deliver the GP services.

Alternative Fuel (HVO) for Refuse Vehicles

SDC's Cabinet has committed to spend an extra £1million over the next five years on using HVO fuel instead of diesel for the refuse vehicles. as part of becoming a net zero carbon council.

Council Tax

Budget proposals to be agreed at Full Council in February are likely to see an increase in SDC's element of the Council Tax by £5. In order to meet the increased cost of services and additional expenditure SDC will need to use its General Reserve Fund over the next five years which will see this reduce from £10,758 million to £3.079 million.

Forecast increases by Warwickshire County Council are expected to be 4.99% with increases proposed by Warwickshire Police of £13.

On a positive note, Stratford on Avon District Council is in a financially stable position, unlike many other district and borough councils in England.

Deeres Leap Solar Farm

Innova, which is proposing a solar development on the land of Church Hill and Grange farms on the West and East side of the B4455 (Fosse Way) is holding a public consultation event on Wednesday 21st February in The Room at Moreton Morrell from 12pm – 3pm and in Lighthorne Village Hall from 5pm – 8pm.

Innova is the same developer behind the solar farm under construction on the Newbold Road at Newbold Pacey. There is also another solar farm near Bishops Tachbrook, which means Moreton Morrell would effectively be surrounded by solar farms.

Whilst the energy generated would supply approximately 4662 homes, the local community will not benefit from cheaper electricity as it will go straight into the grid.

As the site extends to three parishes – just crossing into Ashorne, it will be important to identify the level of benefit to each parish community, which incidentally is low and also if Innova sell the site, will the community and chosen charity benefits continue each year for 40 years? How and who chooses the chosen charity?

These are all questions which will need answers together with the route for connecting the Deeres Leap Solar Farm if approved to the one in the Newbold Road – whose land and which roads will require digging up?

The landowners will be receiving £1k per acre per annum – so over £150k will be paid out to the landowners.

Views of both parishes are awaited and unfortunately, I am unable to attend the public consultation as I shall be away overseas.

Anne Parry

Ward Member for Wellesbourne North and Rural

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