

Wellesbourne and Walton Parish Council – April 2021

Covid19 Response

WCC and Public Health Warwickshire continues to play a vital role in managing infection rates, testing and the vaccine roll out across the county and this intense effort will be continued and carefully monitored particularly with the adult social care and education sectors. I shall of course continue to provide my weekly updates on the local scene.

We have witnessed increases in the rates of infection across the district over the last few weeks – which is not unexpected in view of the returning to school, but most importantly the numbers in the hospitals have dropped dramatically, emphasising that the vaccine is doing its job to minimise the seriousness of this awful disease.

Recent spikes have incurred in schools and a large car dealership in Stratford. Businesses are also being encouraged to get their employees tested twice a week and Lateral Flow Tests for people without symptoms can be collected free of charge from the LFT Centre in Stratford at the Other Place Theatre or can be ordered online.

I will of course provide an update on figures at our meeting.

Health and Wellbeing

Warwickshire County Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the next five years has been approved by Warwickshire's Health and Wellbeing Board.

Following this consultation from the public, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2021-26 identified three priorities for the next two years:

- Help our children and young people have the best start in life
- Help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities
- Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health

As Warwickshire continues to support communities and services in recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, importance is being placed on tackling inequalities in health and creating engaged and cohesive communities that can thrive despite the ongoing challenges we all face.

For more information visit: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/health-and-wellbeing-strategy/>

District Council

Green Waste Collection

The charged for green waste collection service commences in April and over 32,000 permits have been issued to date across the district.

Environmental Health & Licensing Team

The EH and Licensing Team is currently swamped by new applications for temporary licenses for outdoor meetings and events. These have doubled in recent weeks as plans following lockdown restrictions are scheduled to ease. The Team is working through these as well as they can but are currently overloaded with a continual flurry of applications. Whilst the Licensing Act is fit for purpose, the Team will be responding positively in terms of granting licenses for events, meetings and pavement/roadside extensions where current legislation and Covid regulations permit.

New Era for Land Charges Service

SDC is approaching the final stages of its planned transfer of its Local Land Charges Register (LLCR) to HM Land Registry (HMLR). Since formally signing a collaboration agreement in January 2019, SDC has been working with HMLR to migrate its data to enable customers to access an LLC1 search reply on-line via HMLR's portal.

This has been an ambitious and challenging programme of work. The journey is close to an end with HMLR expected formally to serve notice by 29 March 2021, leading to the new service going live by mid-May 2021. The main objective has been to update and enhance over 91,000 local land charges that were previously held in a variety of paper and digital formats. The task has been additionally challenging with the onset of the pandemic, remote working, dealing with numerous data sets and integrating these with the HMLR online portal. When fully transferred, anybody requiring local land charge searches within SDC's area will be able to access those directly from HMLR and not from SDC.

Benefits of the new system will be faster response times to search requests and a foundation to enable officers to work with more accurate data, accessible systems and continuously improve its processes. SDC will continue to be responsible for updating and maintaining the LLC register to provide replies to CON29 enquiries. This will allow a potential purchaser of a property to find out specific information relating to that property such as road schemes, planning history, and building regulations.

This is part of a national transformation programme that will eventually see all 314 registers held by English local authorities transferred to HMLR under the Infrastructure Act 2015.

SDC Licensing Team Wins Appeal v. Shakespeare No1 Bar

The owner of a local bar in Stratford-upon-Avon has been ordered to pay SDC £4,000 after losing an appeal at Birmingham Magistrates.

Following a decision to review the premises licence, SDC's Licensing Panel took the decision to suspend the premises licence of Shakespeare No1 Bar for a period of six weeks for the continued failure by the management of the premises to promote the licensing objectives and the prevention of public nuisance, of crime and disorder and public safety concerns.

The Panel stated that the public had been exposed to unacceptable risks and unacceptable impacts as a result of poor management practices at the premises and breaches of licensing conditions. The owner appealed the Panel's decision.

At the appeal hearing, the judge dismissed the appeal and said: *The restriction on the hours for Thursday, Friday and Saturday were 'necessary and proportionate' and that he agreed with the Licensing Panel's decision stating that they had conducted the hearing in an appropriate way and had come to reasonable conclusions.*

The decision to suspend the licence was originally put in place to provide the business suitable time to make the premises compliant with its licensing conditions. The owner was ordered to pay costs of £4,000. This case demonstrates that SDC considers licensing issues seriously, as well as public safety and welfare. Whilst the importance of having a vibrant night-time economy is recognised, this has to reflect that members of the public are entitled to enjoy a night out in a safe environment. It is equally essential that local residents shouldn't be unduly disturbed by this venue's activities and reinforces the original decision taken by SDC's Licensing Panel.

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