

## **Newbold Pacey & Ashorne PC Meeting – July**

### **District Councillor's Report**

#### **New Era for Land Charges Service**

SDC transferred its Local Land Charges Register (LLCR) to HM Land Registry (HMLR) on 10<sup>th</sup> May which follows the completion of a challenging project over the last two years to data cleanse and digitise approximately 95,000 records held in a variety of paper and digital formats.

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 which are currently being turned round in less than 15 working days.

The initiative 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.

#### **Planning and Enforcement**

The planning teams continue to be swamped by householder applications for extensions which reflects the increase of homeworking during Covid and the new hybrid model of working that is being adopted by many businesses to look at greater flexibility of working routines amongst staff combining a mix of office based with home working routines. Whilst applications have recently been taking 5 weeks to validated this has now reduced to around 2 – 3 weeks despite the volume and staff shortages within the planning team.

In my new role as Planning Portfolio Holder I have had an information sheet produced for councillors and parishes which highlights material planning reasons together with the relevant Core Strategy policies which NPAPC may find useful in the determination of planning applications. This is attached as a PDF to this report.

#### **Local Enforcement**

The Council has recently reviewed its existing Local Enforcement Plan with a view to better targeting the investigation resources at the most serious issues. Whilst this was highlighted in last month's report the revised draft is still available to view although the consultation concluded on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

[Draft Local Enforcement Plan Consultation | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Complaints have been made by local residents regarding the Willett Gardens development in terms of construction traffic and its parking arrangements but there have been no breaches to the planning permission granted. The good news is that this development is nearing completion which will be welcome news to residents.

### **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils have commenced the initial stages in the development of a Local Plan and have undertaken a Scoping and Call for Sites consultation, which closed on Monday 21 June 2021. This is the first stage in a long process and the consultation asked a series of questions about what issues the new Local Plan should cover and sought views on how we should tackle these issues. In our part of the District, we have received nearly 3,000 responses and nearly 400 potential sites.

Further details can be accessed via the dedicated website at [www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp](http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp)

### **Business Grants**

Throughout the pandemic local government has been responsible for the administration and payment of the various and numerous Central Government Grant Schemes. To date SDC has paid out over £70 million in grant funding and it is great news that Wellesbourne businesses and the village hall has been able to benefit from these grants over the last 16 months.

SDC has worked closely with Coventry and Warwickshire LEP Growth Hub to ensure that payments of grants have reached those in most need. SDC has subsequently received a further indicative funding of £1.4 million from July which was only available to those local authorities who had spent their original allocation. This new tranche will consequently be used to support existing businesses to flourish post-pandemic. Further details awaited.

Anne Parry

19 July 2021