

Wellesbourne and Walton Parish Council – District Councillor Report for November 2021 Meeting

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South Warwickshire District Council

The extensive public consultation in respect of the proposed merger has now closed and the outcomes will now be analysed in order for members of council to make a decision at Full Council on 13th December 2021. As well as the public consultation, discussion groups are being undertaken by the research agency (Opinion Research Services) with businesses, the voluntary/community sector and town/parish councils. They are also conducting 600 telephone interviews with a sample of residents matched to the profile of the districts, plus undertaking focus groups again with residents matched to the profile.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England

I have responded to the LGBCE consultation expressing my concern that Wellesbourne and Walton is being proposed as part of three ward areas and not two as is currently the case. This has also been emphasized to SDC which is preparing their own submission response on those wards affected. At Full Council members were unanimous in recording the need for single member wards as well.

Change to the Scheme of Delegations in relation to Planning Decisions

Full Council approved the recommendation to a change to the Scheme of Delegations in respect of Planning Decisions. This means that where a parish council or ward member changes their consultee's response of objection or support with the result that the application no longer satisfies the committee trigger, it will now be authorized to be determined under delegated powers – subject to consultation by the Head of Development and the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

As the reasons for the application being referred to committee will have fallen away, this will avoid the preparation of a presentation and attendance of officers at planning committee, enabling them to spend more of their time on live applications.

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople SPD

This paper, referred to as Part W (Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) was adopted as a Part of the Development Requirements Supplementary Planning Document at Full Council in October.

State of the District

Full Council was presented with a report which summarized the state of Stratford-on-Avon District which is considered as part of the budget-making process for 2022/23. Key findings reported:

- Population of SoA District was estimated to be 132,402 in mid 2020 – an increase of 2304 or 1.77% on mid 2019

- Over 65s make up just over 25% with 58% aged between 18-64 years and 17% under 18 years
- The male to female ratio is roughly equal, with slightly more woman aged 65 years and over than men
- There are 62,705 households and the median house price is £325,000. Owner occupied is 72.9% and the average household size is 2.3
- 1342 dwellings were added to the total number of dwellings in the district to the year ending March 2020. Main rural centres and local service villages have seen the majority of new house building over the last four years
- SoA District has the lowest crime rate across Warwickshire at 6726 incidents reported - a rate of 52 crimes per 1000 people. This reflects a slight fall on the last two years
- In July 2021 there were 2440 claiming unemployment benefits of these 54% were men, 46% women. Compare to the West Midlands, SoA District remains comparatively low in terms of the proportion of working age adults claiming benefits
- Manufacturing accounts for the largest number of jobs at 13,000; second highest was wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles with 10,000 jobs. In third place were tourism-related jobs at 8963
- 13.6% of households in the District were in fuel poverty according to latest data for 2019 compared to 14.5% in Warwickshire and 17.5% in the West Midlands. Wellesbourne South (West) has the lowest variation at 4%
- SoA has experienced one of the highest furlough rates of all district authorities - which reflects the impact on the tourism and hospitality sector

Revised Arrangements for Processing of Domestic Dry Recycling

SDC has negotiated a revised recycling service from 1 November 2021 to 31 July 2022 with Biffa following the fire which caused the total loss of the Pure recycling plant at Ettington in July 2021, together with the financial arrangements needed to support this service.

Anne Parry

25/10/21