

Ian Shenton

Wootton Wawen Ward District Councillor

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Wootton Wawen Ward - District Councillor's report as at 20/03/2022



Garden Waste subscription

The new rate that I have proposed and has been accepted by full Council is £42 per year which is a 5% increase on last year's rate. There won't be an early bird discount this year as it was an introductory discount to the scheme. The lines and website are now open for applications. Remember that you need a new permit from 1st April 2022 and we need at least a week to set up so renew now to ensure that your green bin continues to be emptied after 1st April

General

I can't be with you tonight as I will be recovering from a minor operation and apparently after a general anaesthetic you can only go out for the following 24 hours with a responsible adult plus you can't drive.

Ukraine

No one could fail to be moved by the pain and suffering of the people of Ukraine and the atrocities they are suffering from the invasion and war that Russia have inflicted upon them. Their brave soldiers and ordinary citizens are putting up an amazing resistance to this barbaric onslaught and our thoughts and prayers must be for this war to stop and the peaceful citizens of Ukraine be allowed to rebuild their lives. The impacts of the invasion will be felt across the world.

Community Speedwatch

I am having difficulty in getting members of Wootton Wawen speedwatch out as many work Monday to Friday. It might be useful to members of Bearley if they joined two of us from WW to get some experience of what actually happens when we are out, the paperwork and how the speed gun works. Let me know if you would be interested in joining us.

Revenue & Benefits

The £150 payment to everyone on Council Tax Bands A-D from the Government is proving to be a monster to administer. Over 20% of people don't pay by DD so we don't have their bank details. Revenues & Benefits section will have to write to those residents, so it's not going to be quick or easy. If any resident pays by their council tax any other way than by direct debit I would suggest that you contact the customer service team at Stratford and check that they do have your bank account details. The number to call is 01789 267575.

Climate Change

I am the Chair of the Climate Change Panel and a few weeks ago I held the 3rd public question time which was well received and is broadcast live on YouTube. The next one is due to be held in May. It is broadcast live on YouTube or you can attend in person (subject to conditions and pre booking at this moment in time) so if you have any questions regarding the SDC response to Climate Change then get in touch and ask your questions either in person at the meeting or over the internet via Teams as I have changed the format to allow for a hybrid meeting where attendance can be in person or virtually. Questions must be submitted by approx. two weeks before the meeting and if accepted you will be asked whether you want to ask the question yourself or whether you want me as the Chair to ask the question on your behalf. The public sessions are always a great opportunity for you to have your say and ask the panel of six, specific questions about Climate Change.

I attended and presented at the Warwickshire County Council conference held on Friday 11th March at Warwick University. What I made clear is the adaptation is now more important than it has ever been due to the general acceptance amongst the experts that any hope of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 degree C or below has now all but disappeared so it is essential that we learn to live with what is happening

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now because in many ways it is as good as it gets. Why do I agree with the experts well it's because the fallout from the energy crisis, the war in Ukraine and that a number of countries including ourselves are now rethinking whether we should in the short to medium term use more coal and allow further exploration in the North Sea plus the unthinkable, fracking. We really do have no choice as renewables cannot provide a secure source of power at the moment that meets all of our needs. Even the Net Zero commitment to 2050 looks like it may be watered down. This makes more sense as I have been clear that we are trying to move to Net Zero before we have security of power supplies. The energy policy is flawed and we must be pragmatic and sensible about this and if that means slowing down the move to Net Zero at this point and increasing the pace in later years once we have energy security (or a greater level of energy security).

Waste and the 123+ service (reminder)

There has been increased interest in this but very little information given out and this is deliberate. Communications are now coming out and you will see a lot of messaging and during April the new food caddies will be delivered to every address, a smaller 7ltre caddie for in the house plus a 23l caddie for outdoors. Whilst they could be sued now we are asking residents to save them until the 1st August onwards. Inside the caddie will be a booklet with the new collection calendar and further details of how the system will work. This new service is good for the environment as the food waste will be sent to anaerobic digester and the methane siphoned off to produce power whilst the green waste will not have to be treated at such high temperatures (to kill off pathogens) as putting food into the green bin will be ended.

Tourism

Shakespeare's England Tourism Forum and our portfolio holder for Tourism (Matt Jennings – Henley) have issued the following message.

Utilise TripAdvisor to help your local tourism – it makes a difference when people search for recommendations / things to do in the area - use it as it helps your local businesses get recognised

Planning

I know that some applicants have complained about the lack of progress of their application but there has been welcome progress on planning recruitment with the appointment of a new Interim Head of Planning together with some internal promotions to fill a number of vacancies.

Proposal to merge with Warwick DC

Both district councils have agreed to submit an application to the Secretary of State asking for permission to merge. The application was submitted at the end of December and the indications are that we might get an indicative decision around May, in the meantime it is always possible that the County will be invited to submit their proposals for a single unitary. Where the process differs is that the two District Councils can apply to merge but the County have to be invited. In the meantime we continue to talk with our opposite numbers at Warwick district council and will be aiming to set up a joint Cabinet that will look at certain issues that affect both Councils. This has yet to be agreed but it is a logical step forward.

Council Tax

The budget for the next municipal year has been approved and I thought comparison of what the district council band D charge will be compared to other district councils within Warwickshire might be useful.

The levels of Council Tax to be charged by the other Borough/District Councils in the county for a Band D property in 2022/23 are, to the best of my knowledge:

	2021/22	Increase	2022/23
North Warwickshire	£217.30	£5.00	£222.30
Nuneaton and Bedworth	£244.66	£4.95	£249.51
Rugby - Town Area	£230.25	£5.00*	£235.25
Warwick	£176.86	Nil	£176.86

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Stratford	£149.12	£5.00	£154.12
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* Assumed.

You can see that compared to other councils with the County the district council charge is actually low and therefore offers great value.

Feel free to contact me if you need further details.

Cllr Ian Shenton

**District Councillor for Wootton Waven Ward (Wootton Waven, Langley, Preston Bagot,
Billesley, Bearley, & Wilmcote) – Tel 07971 343073 or 01564 795360**