

WDC ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Presenting a report for WDC this year is of course overshadowed by COVID-19. During this unprecedented year WDC has worked alongside WCC in the response to the virus, delivering groceries and medication to those shielding, overseeing the distribution of Government Grants to local businesses and offering support in many other ways to WDC residents. Hundreds of volunteers have come forward during the past months to give their help wherever needed. Many of these volunteers have given valuable support to those in our communities who are living alone, by making regular phone contact and giving that much needed personal engagement, much needed at this difficult time. As we move into the Winter months WDC will continue to give this support.

Within WDC area over £24 million of Business Grant Support have been processed and allocated to local businesses. In addition to this £2.5 million of Discretionary grants were also made to businesses suffering hardship during the crisis.

The Community Economic Recovery Fund (CERF) was also launched, this gives Community Organisations grants of up to £3000 to organisations who are continuing to support the WDC Community through challenging times.

Within our Ward the following amounts have been approved and allocated.

Bubbenhall-£55k

Baginton - £320k

Stoneleigh and Ashow - £690k

Cubbington - £380k

Leek Wootton - £95k

The estimated total of grants to businesses in our area amounts to over £1.5million

In the past 12 months we have worked hard for our communities across the board to improve facilities within our communities and by taking advantage of local grants from HS2.

The Community Forum has given grants for induction loops AV equipment furniture for village hall to name but a few.

WDC has remained focused on reducing the level of homelessness on our streets both before and during the Pandemic lockdown. In the past year we have increased the number of night beds available in the area for rough sleepers and introduced new policies to help and support this ongoing issue.

WDC has an objective to both increase and improve the levels of social housing. 25 houses have been purchased in Barford along with a further 17 are planned in Cubbington. WDC continues to increase and improve their housing stock.

As you can imagine staff and Councillors have been heavily involved with everything around the pandemic issue for the months since the end of March. However, notwithstanding this we are moving on with some of our Green Policies.

Targeting planting 160,000 trees in WDC area

Revise building standards to incorporate Green Technologies

Revision to recycling opportunities through waste, including the use of Biomass facilities.

Encourage the improvement of cycle lanes.

Reduce vehicle emissions in “Hot Spots” around Warwick and Leamington.
Facilitating decarbonisation within Warwick District by local businesses, and residents so that carbon emissions within WDC area are as close to zero as possible by 2030.

October 2020 will see the introduction of a local People’s Forum which will provide both ideas and information on key areas WDC should focus on in the next 5 years, plus climate-based activities.

As your District Councillors we will continue to work on your behalf.

Cllr Pam Redford and Trevor Wright.