

District Council Report January 2024

AD Site

The latest news is that the new ARUP report is delayed due to a change in SDC purchasing system. This is unfortunate and I am pushing for this to be given a priority for the benefit of all concerned. My overall feeling remains as it was, and I do not believe the additional information provided by the Applicant to be reviewed by ARUP will change my position. I still fervently hope that this should all be resolved by the end of this financial year.

Travelling Show People Site at Pillerton Priors/Hersey

I have not been notified that the Applicant for the site has registered an Appeal against SDC Planning Refusal. If the applicant does look to appeal, I will inform PHPC, but you should be send a notice in any case. The conditions for such a site are more stringent than for a Traveller/Gypsy site and the application as received came nowhere near what is required.

Retirement Age Parking scheme in Stratford upon Avon

As of a week ago, the number of retirement age [66+] permits sold was 110 at £50 each. The scheme offers 4 hours per day parking, but not at the recreation ground carpark. This scheme seems to be far less popular than the previous version.

HVO fuel for refuse collection vehicles.

You may have read that the Administration has resolved to convert all the council owned refuse vehicles to run on Hydrogen-treated Vegetable Oil at an additional cost to the council Tax payer of up to £1,000,000 over four years. The argument is that the emissions are more climate 'friendly' than diesel. The current fleet of vehicles is however already powered by very efficient engines that have low particulate outputs and relatively clean burning. The costs of HVO is of concern as there is no information with regards to sustainability of feedstock supply. The process relies on recycling used vegetable oil which is of uncertain supply and costly to collect. Where a shortfall occurs in the supply, palm oil is the main source. The Hydrogen treatment process is energy intensive as I understand it and palm oil production drives rainforest de-forestation which is hardly Green. I have strongly counselled against this move on the following basis;

- The fleet of SDC vehicles adds an insignificant emission in terms of global climate.
- £1,000,000 raised from Council Tax for Climate mitigation purposes would have a more significant effect on bolstering local flood defences.
- Other technologies will soon be available that produce far less emissions on an 'end to end' basis than HVO.
- The cost and green credentials of the manufacturing process to produce HVO is questionable and uncertain.