

# Stratford *View*

Summer 2021

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**Working together with Warwick District Council**  
New play area at Stratford Rec  
**Community Safety News**  
Protect against dog theft



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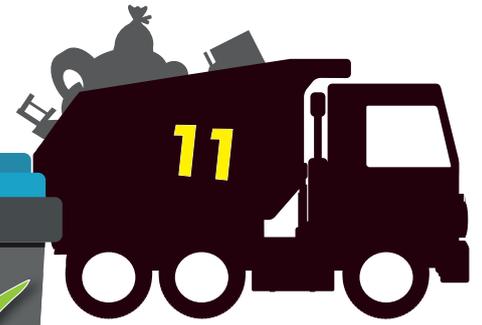
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# Stratford View



## Welcome

to the summer issue of Stratford-on-Avon District Council's magazine, Stratford View. This magazine is produced twice a year to keep you informed about Your District Council services. The cost of producing the magazine has been covered by advertising income and only a small amount of money has been spent on distribution. We are always keen to receive ideas for content in future issues and receive feedback on the magazine, contact us at [corporate.communications@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:corporate.communications@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

let's do the  
**right thing**  
for Stratford-on-Avon

### Thank you for continuing to play your part to reduce the spread of COVID-19



**Have the vaccine**



**Take regular tests**

**Follow the guidance and get your vaccine to help keep everyone safe.**

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)





# Working Together

Your District Council is continuing to work closer with Warwick District Council

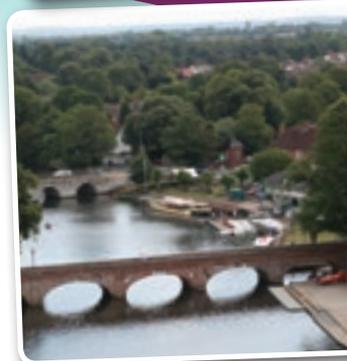
“To create a single statutory South Warwickshire Council covering all of the activities currently carried out by Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Councils by 2024.”

During the past year, Your District Council has been working with Warwick District Council in a number of areas to respond to the coronavirus pandemic in the wake of substantial losses to income and budgets. This is coupled with the ambition of both Councils to preserve, improve and expand the valuable services provided to residents across south Warwickshire.

Work has already started on the production of joint local plan, a joint procurement process has started for a joint refuse and recycling contract and the Councils will have a joint management team in the very near future.

Working towards merging the two Councils builds on a long-term strategic trend of significant collaboration between the two organisations. It also builds on strong foundations as there are similarities between the two Councils. Both Councils face significant financial pressures and need to make savings; merging the Councils provides the potential to improve the financial position and ensure that local government can continue to deliver or improve services for local communities.

The two Councils coming together will create a super-district which will be well placed to address some of the significant strategic issues facing South Warwickshire including climate change, the economy or housing.



## There are many similarities with Warwick District Council:

- Shared economic geography
- Shared sense of community between authorities
- Strong political relationships between Leaders
- Within the same County Council area

Your District Council and Warwick District Council will be consulting with the public, the business community and key partners on the proposals for achieving shared goals in the coming months.

Your views will be crucial in determining whether a submission is made to government to request that the two Councils formally merge. Proposals will include reviewing the services provided, jointly commissioned contracts and investigating joint political leadership to create a stronger, unified voice for residents and businesses in South Warwickshire.



# Helping businesses across the district

Your District Council has helped more than 4,300 businesses in Stratford District affected by the coronavirus pandemic by processing and administering a range of Government grants to keep them on their feet.

Businesses in all sectors and of all sizes have been applying for different grants through Your District Council, and more than £70 million in grants have been issued as a result.

The grants date right back to the start of the pandemic in March 2020, grants relating to the Tier system introduced later in 2020, through to the Restart grants.

Your District Council has made things easier for businesses by not making them reapply for newer grants if they had already applied for a previous grant.

Every effort has been made to make it as simple as possible for business owners as Your District Council continues to receive further guidance and instruction from central government.



Despite the high volume of applications from all sorts of businesses in the district, Your District Council has been working extremely hard to process and pay the grants.

Your District Council is hoping to receive additional funding this summer to help those businesses looking to diversify or expand and provide support to wider business initiatives.

For further details please visit:  
[www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk)





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# Clip and collect Garden Waste Service

In January 2021, subscriptions opened for our new 'Clip and Collect' Garden Waste Service which runs from 1st April to 31st March each year.

Over 45,000 permits were ordered by June 2021.

If you would like to sign up for the Garden Waste Service, please visit Garden Waste Service at Your District Council or call 01789 260628.

If you decide not to sign up for the service, the most environmentally friendly way to dispose of garden waste is home composting.

Warwickshire County Council offer a range of discounted home compost bins. To order, please visit [www.getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com) or call 0844 571 4444.

If you decide not to sign up for the service and would like to get your food waste collected, please contact [streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or call 01789 260628 to order up to three food waste caddies (free of charge).

## Your guide to household recycling



Items that **CAN** be recycled from your blue-lidded bin or black box (Please put items loose in the bin and not in carrier bags or black sacks):

- Empty, clean plastic pots, tubs and trays of any colour
- Empty, clean cartons and Tetra Paks
- Empty, clean glass jars and bottles with or without lids
- Paper and cardboard
- Empty, clean tins and cans
- Empty aerosols
- Clean foil and foil trays
- Empty plastic bottles

Items that **CANNOT** be recycled from your blue-lidded bin or black box:

- Nappies
- Shredded paper
- Metallic plastics used for crisp packets and pet food pouches
- Any sort of food waste
- Scrap metal, such as baking trays, pans and car parts
- Plastic bags and film
- Electronics
- Expanded polystyrene
- Textiles
- Crockery, cutlery and drinks glasses

! Batteries and small electrical goods can be recycled by putting them in a tied, standard-sized carrier bag placed next to any wheeled bin on your normal collection day.



Could YOU be fly tipping?

# FLY TIPPING IS THE ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ITEMS

IT CAN BE AS SMALL AS  
**A SINGLE BAG, TO...**

AN ENTIRE  
**TRUCK LOAD**  
OF RUBBISH



AROUND  
**TWO-THIRDS**

of fly tips are household waste

## Items and bags left...

beside street bins and recycling banks, on the floor of communal bin areas,



outside closed Household Waste Recycling Centres and charity shops ...are all **FLY TIPPING!**

If bins or banks are full, or the shop or centre is closed, take YOUR items away with you – DO NOT leave them behind, or YOU could receive a **Fixed Penalty Notice up to £400** or face an **UNLIMITED FINE.**

# Live life your way at Ambleside

At Ambleside, Care UK's care home in Stratford-upon-Avon, residents who are living with dementia enjoy fulfilling activities and experiences every day.



The highly trained team focuses on what a person can do, rather than what they can't, and supports them to do the things they love.

Keeping active and independent is key. The home has its own café, cinema, hair salon, plus large and accessible gardens for residents to enjoy. The dementia suite itself has themed areas

where residents can do familiar tasks. There's a doll nursery, DIY and sports-themed areas, and popular sensory items, like a multicolour bubble lamp.

The lifestyle team organises daily activities, from baking and movement and music, to crafts, carpet bowls and afternoon teas. Residents are enjoying the virtual world trip with its themed food, and the 'Halloween hoedown' was a great opportunity for a dance.

One relative says, "Mum's general health has improved considerably due to the care, support and excellent diet provided by the home. She's extremely happy."

Living at Ambleside brings something different every day. In fact, one gentleman who is living with dementia, who joined us for respite care, decided he'd be staying permanently!



Julia, the home's manager, says, "We support him to do as much as he can for himself, and he loves the lifestyle – the friendships, the food and the fun we have."

**To find out more about dementia care at Ambleside, please call Gary Hulme on 01789 863 595 or email [gary.hulme@careuk.com](mailto:gary.hulme@careuk.com)**

**Ambleside care home  
Evesham Road, Dodwell,  
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9TG  
[careuk.com/ambleside](http://careuk.com/ambleside)**



## Warwickshire Library and Information Service

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<b>Shipston</b>	Mon, Sat: 9.30 - 12.30. Tues, Thurs: 9.30 - 12.30, 13.30 - 17.30
<b>Southam</b>	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9.30 - 17.30. Sat: 9.30 - 12.30
<b>Stratford</b>	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 9.00 - 17.00. Sat: 10.00 - 15.00
<b>Wellesbourne</b>	Mon, Sat: 9.30 - 12.30. Wed, Fri: 9.30 - 12.30, 13.30 - 17.30



[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries)  
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# Local organisations receive grant to support young people's mental wellbeing

Your District Council has awarded grants to four local organisations to support young people across the district who have had difficult lockdown experiences.

Young people have had their lives turned upside down by the pandemic and have had to adjust to major changes in their education, leisure and home life.

Good mental wellbeing is important to help young people develop the resilience to cope with life.



The grants will support:



**Lifespace Trust** (£3,000), based in Stratford-upon-Avon to deliver workshops for girls throughout the district to build confidence, better understand their mental health and the strategies that can help with anxiety and ultimately set goals for the future.

Rachel Key, Chief Executive of Lifespace Trust, said: "After a year that has tested many people's resilience and self-esteem, Lifespace's RECOVERHer/Their workshop programme gives young women the chance to explore their strengths and appreciate how incredible they are."

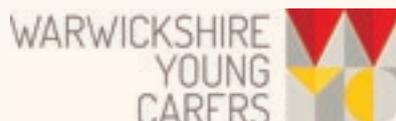
[www.lifespace.org.uk](http://www.lifespace.org.uk)

**Escape Arts** (£3,000) from Stratford-upon-Avon will use the grant to deliver a Dungeons & Dragons society where collaboration to overcome obstacles is crucial. Young people from across the district will meet in a supervised online platform to play the game.

Karen Williams, Chief Executive of Escape Arts, said: "Escape Arts are delighted to receive this funding for a new Dungeons and Dragons project for young people aged 13-16. The Escape Arts Dungeons and Dragons Society opens up a world of

adventure, camaraderie and excitement. Young people work together to complete objectives like rescuing a town from a rampaging dragon or saving a princess from an evil tyrant as well as enjoying a few tales and laughs with fellow adventurers. The project encourages team building, decision making, and inclusivity. It develops social and other life skills which can be used in the real world."

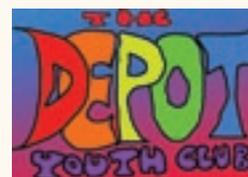
[www.escapearts.org.uk](http://www.escapearts.org.uk)



**Warwickshire Young Carers** (£1,939) will purchase outdoor equipment so they can bring young carers together for small group activities, providing a safe environment where they can relax and learn new skills.

Amy de Ville, Fundraising and Engagement Lead at WYC, said: "The funding for the Recover and Reconnect project enables us to begin to bring young carers back together in small groups to provide activities within localities across Stratford. These activities will have a specific focus on reducing isolation and increasing wellbeing after the huge impact that has been felt as a result of the pandemic."

[www.warwickshireyoungcarers.org.uk](http://www.warwickshireyoungcarers.org.uk)



**The Depot Youth Club** (£2,800) run by Alcester Town Council will train volunteer mentors to work at the club, offer workshops and mentoring to attendees who need some additional support.

Wendy Sherwood, Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinator at Alcester Town Council, said: "We know that local youth clubs can provide vital early mental health support and it is important that young people know there is a place where they can go and find support or services that they may need. This funding allows us to provide some specific mentoring and resilience support alongside our programme of social activities to provide a full package of provision that will help reduce loneliness and social isolation for young people in Alcester."

[www.alcester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.alcester-tc.gov.uk)

The grants have been awarded from Your District Council's annual funding to the voluntary and community sector which targets the priorities detailed in the Council's Social Inclusion Statement.

## Warwickshire against Domestic Abuse

The COVID-19 pandemic has been detrimental to individuals and community groups up and down the country. The lockdown restrictions, and associated periods of isolation, has meant that people suffering Domestic Abuse have been particularly vulnerable at this time.

Warwickshire County Council and its partners are reaching out to women and men to ensure they know they are not alone and urging anyone in an abusive relationship to get help. The abuse could be from a partner or a family member. Domestic Abuse includes coercive and controlling behaviour, stalking and

harassment, technological abuse, financial abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and honour based violence.

The Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service is provided by Refuge and can be contacted on: 0800 408 1552. The service can support all victims over the age of 16.

Warwickshire is here for anyone who is suffering at the hands of a perpetrator. Support is available for victims looking to escape an abuse environment.

In addition to the Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service, our Talk2Someone website provides a range of local and national organisations that are able to help: [www.talk2someone.org.uk/support-services/](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk/support-services/). This includes specialist male domestic violence charities and LGBTQ+ domestic violence charities.

Victims of Domestic Abuse may not have the opportunity to safely reach out for support themselves, so as a friend, family member relative or colleague, please report any concerns you may have. Contact the Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service provided by Refuge on 0800 408 1552, or get in touch with the police by calling 101. Please always dial 999 in an emergency.

**#YOUARENOTALONE**

**CALL 999  
FOR URGENT HELP**

**IF YOU CAN'T SPEAK,  
DIAL 55 WHEN PROMPTED  
BY THE OPERATOR  
(MOBILE ONLY)**

**FIND SUPPORT AT: [GOV.UK/DOMESTIC-ABUSE](http://GOV.UK/DOMESTIC-ABUSE)**

## Community Crime Prevention scheme

Your District Council's Rural Crime Advisors, funded by the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, are working with Crime Reduction partners to offer a number of Crime Prevention toolboxes to villages and communities in south Warwickshire.

### The boxes include:

- Crime prevention materials, including property marking kits
- Crime prevention advice and a variety of different types of equipment
- Signposting to a wide range of community safety advice and support

This initiative will give our communities the tools and knowledge of how to help protect themselves, increase their knowledge of community safety partner services and the support available.

For more information or if your community would like to join the scheme please contact Baz Bains or Bob Church at Your District Council on 01789 267575 or email [baz.bains@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:baz.bains@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or [robert.church@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:robert.church@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



# Criminal gangs are harming your community.



Community intelligence is key, the information you provide may be the missing piece of the jigsaw that leads to a conviction.

County Lines drugs gangs are exploiting vulnerable people in Warwickshire. They take over their homes by using intimidation and violence, this is a term known as Cuckooing. Here are some of the signs to look out for:



Is a tenant getting more visitors?



Do visitors come at unusual times of the day or night?



Are curtains or blinds almost always shut?



Has a tenant stopped leaving their house?



Are there suspicious smells around the property?



Has anti-social behaviour increased around the property?

If you have concerns that a vulnerable tenant is being exploited, you should report it to Crime Stoppers on **0800 555 111**.



**CrimeStoppers.**



## How to protect against dog theft

Sadly, dog theft is on the increase, especially with the rise in demand for puppies during the pandemic. Criminals see dog theft as an easy way to make a lot of money.

### Here are some ways to protect your dog from theft

- Ensure your dog is microchipped, your contact details are up to date and they have an ID tag
- Have clear photos of your dog showing any identifiable marks, in case you need them for identification purposes
- Do not leave your dog tied up outside a shop or unattended in a car
- If you do let your dog off a lead, keep them close to you, always within sight and ensure they have good recall
- Ensure your property is secure and do not leave your dog unattended in the garden
- Vary where you walk, including the times and locations
- Be careful what you post on social media, especially if you have puppies, and ensure your privacy settings are up-to-date
- Consider a GPS tracker collar

If you are thinking of buying a dog, ensure it is from a reputable breeder or centre. If you are buying a dog online or through social media, please consider where the pet has come from and ensure that it is being purchased legally.

The Blue Cross website has a wide range of advice on how to prevent theft of dogs and steps to take if this happens - [www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/protect-your-dog-against-theft](http://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/protect-your-dog-against-theft)



**Inspector Allison Wiggin, Warwickshire Police:** “We’ve also seen a small increase in reports of suspected suspicious behaviour (relating to dogs), which may be due to increased vigilance from owners. While these reports can sometimes turn out to be innocent, we would still rather be made aware. So if you do see or hear anything you feel is suspicious, please do let us know.

“We never underestimate the devastating impact the theft of a cherished pet can be to both the owner and the animal, and while it is still a rare crime, it’s sadly something we are seeing an increase in nationally.”

Report any suspicious behaviour to Warwickshire Police by dialling **999** or Call **101** for non-emergency enquiries. You can contact Crimestoppers to anonymously report a crime or suspicious behaviour online at <http://crimestoppers-uk.org> or by dialling **0800 555 111**.

### Police Advice on cable ties not linked to dog thefts

There have been rumours on social media that cable ties have been placed on lampposts which alert thieves to those houses with expensive dogs.

Warwickshire police can confirm that they are not aware of any such incident in Warwickshire.



## New safety and security services from Your District Council

Your District Council's CCTV has recently undergone significant investment and improvement, including new replacement cameras across the district.

The CCTV control room's upgraded technology can now potentially be used for CCTV remote

monitoring and response and can incorporate different types of CCTV into the control room.

Enquiries are welcome about how the CCTV system could help your business or organisation's safety or security needs, email: [cctv.consultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:cctv.consultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



## Hate.

### Never tolerate it. Always Report it.

If you, or someone you know, are targeted by a crime because of your disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation, then this may be a hate crime.

Even if an incident doesn't cause physical harm or damage, it doesn't mean the Police and local agencies won't be interested in knowing about it. Reporting any hate can help you get the support you need, and help agencies get a clear picture of what is going on in an area.

To report any hate crime please call the Police on 101.

If it is an emergency, dial 999.

Alternatively, you can report any non-emergency hate incidents to the Warwickshire Hate Crime Partnership via [www.reporthatenow.com](http://www.reporthatenow.com) where you can also find more information about hate crime and details of support services.

## General Cyber Safety Awareness

With lockdown restrictions people have been online more than ever before! Due to this, fraudsters now have new avenues to manipulate and scam people online.

Warwickshire County Council's Cyber Crime Advisors offer a FREE one-hour session that covers all aspects of online safety and discuss cyber-crime that is most prevalent in Warwickshire and how to fall victim.

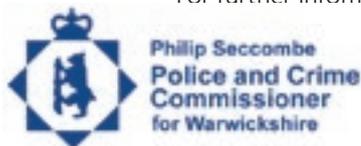


### The session includes:

- What a cyber crime is
  - How to spot phishing emails
  - Viruses
  - Phone scams
- Social media safety
  - Passwords
- Where to report
  - ...and more!

Sessions are open to businesses, organisations, community groups and the public.

For further information or to arrange a session please contact: [communitysafety@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@warwickshire.gov.uk)



For the latest cyber safety information visit:  
[www.cybersafewarwickshire.com](http://www.cybersafewarwickshire.com)



# Helping to keep rough sleepers safe and off the streets during coronavirus pandemic

The start of the pandemic in March 2020 was a difficult time for everyone, but one group of people who were especially vulnerable were those sleeping rough on our streets.

Your District Council played a key role in helping the district's rough sleepers find emergency accommodation through the government's 'Everyone In' initiative. Under this initiative, the government asked local authorities to provide emergency accommodation to anyone found on the streets, including those who would usually be ineligible for help.

In total, Your District Council helped 66 vulnerable individuals that were rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping into emergency accommodation since the pandemic started.

This involved identifying and contacting the rough sleepers Your District Council was already aware of, and placing them into accommodation such as B&Bs, hotels or other types of emergency housing.

Your District Council also worked with P3's street outreach team to locate any new rough sleepers who needed help, and to assess whether anyone claiming to be a rough sleeper was actually bedding down outdoors.

The housing team also maintained contact with accommodation providers throughout the pandemic to assess whether they had rooms available, and to spring into action to find alternative accommodation if a hotel needed any rough sleepers staying there to leave.

The Homelessness Reduction Manager at Stratford District Council, said: "When the government directive came in, we had to get organised very quickly to get rough sleepers in the district into accommodation where they would be safe.

"Many of our rough sleepers have complex issues that they are currently dealing with, such as drugs, alcohol and poor mental health, which has meant it

has not been easy to engage with them.

"However, our team has been working to ensure that every rough sleeper in Stratford District has somewhere to sleep during the pandemic."

For some rough sleepers, the Everyone In initiative has been very helpful, as Your District Council has been able to house some permanently through housing associations and other providers.

Your District Council has also exercised its powers in order to continue to accommodate some rough sleepers where in normal circumstances there may have been no statutory duty to assist them.

"In a way, the Everyone In initiative encouraged some of our rough sleepers to engage with the help we have offered them in the past.

"Because accommodation was guaranteed when it might not have been before, it meant the rough sleepers who were reluctant to take up offers of help previously were more likely to do so.

"In addition, rough sleepers who may have been asked to leave accommodation in the past and then would go back out onto the streets, have been rehoused by us thanks to the initiative.

"I'd say our response as a council has been very successful, if challenging at times. We're still working very hard to find sustainable solutions for rough sleepers, and engaging with the government's 'Next Steps' programme which will help some of our rough sleepers into settled accommodation with intensive support.

"Due to the complexities and challenges in relation to the rough sleeping cohort, finding sustainable housing solutions can be hard. However, we have already helped some find settled accommodation, which is absolutely fantastic, and will be continuing to work with those we have engaged with during the pandemic to try to work towards a positive housing outcome for them."

## Contactless donations for Meaningful Change

Contactless technology is now available in Stratford-upon-Avon to make donations to support homeless people and those at risk of homelessness in the area.

The new contactless giving points at the Visitor Information Centre at Bridgeway and HR Coffee Bar on Windsor Street, enable centralised fundraising in Stratford town centre, as part of the \*Meaningful Change campaign.

This will make it easier for people to donate money for those who are homeless, providing a simple and effective way to raise funds so organisations working with vulnerable individuals can support them to change their lives in a meaningful way.

Funding donated through the scheme is being managed by Stratford Town Trust and The Fred Winter Centre. All money raised will be distributed between local organisations, for local individuals, focussing financial support to help to positively change the lives of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Stratford-upon-Avon.

*\*Meaningful Change is a multi-agency campaign to positively change the lives of those who sleep on the streets or beg in Stratford-upon-Avon.*

For more information visit: <https://meaningfulchange.org.uk/stratford/>



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“

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“

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“

*Who wouldn't want to get paid for something they enjoy?”*

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*The hands on nature of an apprenticeship means that you do a lot more than you would just sitting in a classroom”*

# New play area at Rec



Your District Council has helped transform an unused part of Stratford Recreation Ground into a new play area to help children get active this summer.

And a cycle training track for budding cyclists is also undergoing construction at the time of writing.

The new attractions are on an area of the Recreation Ground near to the Tramway footpath heading out of Stratford.

The play area is aimed at children aged between seven and 14, and is made out of 100 per cent Robinia timber for a more natural look compared to metal or plastic.

It features a 30m zipwire, a group swing, a climbing unit with a bridge, totem poles, and a fast 'embankment slide' which can be accessed from the Tramway.

And the cycle track will have imitations of pedestrian crossings, roundabouts and other road features to enable children to learn the basics of cycling in a safe environment.

The work is part of the wider Riverside Green Corridor Project, which aims to

help Stratford's economy recover post-Covid by reducing traffic congestion, providing green routes into the town centre, and revitalising the riverside area.

Your District Council decided to make the improvements after it was felt that there was not a lot of provision for older children in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Although there was already a play area in the Recreation Ground, it was predominately for younger children aged between two and six.

The new play area is much more appealing for older children, whether they are local to Stratford or visiting with family and friends.

Since construction was finished, the new play area has proved popular, with many children trying out the new facilities.

Your District Council also wanted to create a safe area for children learning to ride a bike without them having to practice on or near roads when they are starting out.

Without the dangers of nearby vehicles, children who are learning to cycle without stabilisers or those

looking to get experience of features they will see on the road will find the new cycle area very useful.

Both the play area and the cycle track are part of Your District Council's Riverside Green Corridor Project, which aims to enhance the space and encourage more people into Stratford town centre, all while easing traffic congestion.

The Riverside Green Corridor Project has been provided with £1.5 million of funding from the Government's Getting Building Fund through the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) to help make the project a reality.

It will connect the riverside from the north at Fisherman's Car Park to Lucy's Mill to the south, creating a natural green corridor along the River Avon.

The increased provision for exercise and recreation created by the scheme will encourage both residents and visitors to spend quality time outdoors, while also giving easy access to the town centre.



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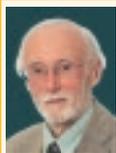
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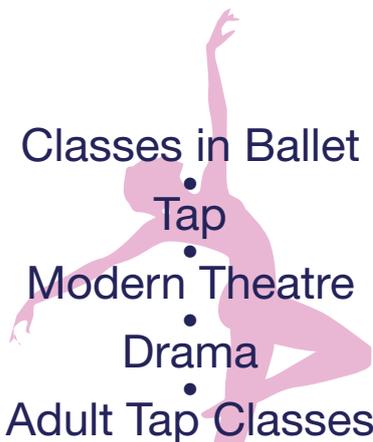
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REBEL

BUSINESS

SCHOOL



Venture  
HOUSE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



# New-style business support for rebellious entrepreneurs

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a massive impact on the working lives of our residents, with many being made redundant or furloughed or stuck in long-term unemployment and needing to think about a new work direction or supplementary income.

Your District Council's business centre, Venture House, wanted to help those who were keen to explore the idea of setting up their own business but who perhaps wouldn't normally engage with the business teams at the District Council or its partners. Rebel Business School (formerly PopUp Business School) was brought in during February to help over 100 budding businesspeople from across Stratford-on-Avon district to learn the basics of starting their own companies and allow their entrepreneurial spirit to flourish.

Funded by Your District Council and Venture House Business Centre, the week-long online business programme saw its trainees attend a specialist virtual training and development course.

The free sessions connected the district's aspiring business owners with training specialists from the Rebel Business School, who delivered a range of topics including website building, online marketing and building confidence.

Lower Quinton resident and recent course attendee Nina Heath, who has set up her own photo editing and retouching business, said: "I've learnt so much about how to start a business in 2021. The whole week has given me such insight and confidence, especially in building my own website ([www.barnphotomagic.com](http://www.barnphotomagic.com)) and social media presence, all from the convenience of my own home."

The course was completely free and aimed at everyone with an interest in business, including a number of young entrepreneurs from the local colleges. There was no experience required and no need to have an oven-ready business plan. The sessions were highly motivating and passionately led by successful entrepreneurs and professionals.

The Rebel Business School was held as a direct response to the need for additional support to residents who may have been affected directly by the pandemic and who are seeking a new or alternative income stream. This course was in addition to other popular business support programmes that are currently delivered across the county by the CW Chamber of Commerce and CWRT.

For more information about all the support available to small businesses, including Venture House's free networking events and monthly business e-updates, go to [www.venturehousestratford.co.uk](http://www.venturehousestratford.co.uk) or email [info@venturehousestratford.co.uk](mailto:info@venturehousestratford.co.uk).

Although the hotdesking and meeting space at Venture House is still closed, the serviced offices remain open. There are currently two modern and flexible small office space available for let (of between 11m<sup>2</sup> and 16m<sup>2</sup>) – please contact [info@venturehousestratford.co.uk](mailto:info@venturehousestratford.co.uk) for more details.

To book your place at our free monthly small business networking event: [www.bit.ly/vhdonuttime](http://www.bit.ly/vhdonuttime)

To sign up for our free monthly small business updates: <http://bit.ly/VentureHouseSubscribe>



# Rebel Case Study: Katie Wilber, Cotswold Connected



## “Before attending the Rebel Business School, the thought of having my own business was a distant dream.”



Katie Wilber came to the Rebel Business School for help to start her social media management business, Cotswold Connected.

Cotswold Connected takes the stress out of social media by managing accounts, creating content, boosting brand visibility and driving online traffic - having

worked with event venues, photographers, hospitality, travel and clothing designers.

“Before attending the Rebel Business School, the thought of having my own business was a distant dream. Luckily for me, the most recent lockdown happened to coincide with their virtual Stratford-on-Avon District course. Originally, I hoped to pick up a couple of skills... I definitely didn't expect a whole business to come out of it!”

“Rebel's enthusiasm, structure and content was very useful giving an excellent groundwork for anybody to start a business within any genre. The concept of my business actually originated from a breakout session within the course. Attendees had lots

of questions around social media marketing and showed a gap in the market for my business - thus Cotswold Connected was born.”

“Since the course I have used the website builder suggested by the course and am getting consistent views and enquiries, including from other Rebel attendees! Without the Rebel Business School, I doubt I would ever have thought to turn my scrolling habit into an actual business. Even if I had I wouldn't have had the knowledge they provided to give such an empowering start!”

Katie is working on her social media management business alongside her current part-time retail role and hopes to eventually go full time with Cotswold Connected. Katie has gone on to receive business mentoring support from the Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and hopes to work with the Princes Trust too.

Find Cotswold Connected at:

- [www.cotswoldconnected.com](http://www.cotswoldconnected.com)
- [www.facebook.com/Cotswoldconnected](https://www.facebook.com/Cotswoldconnected)
- [www.instagram.com/cotswoldconnected](https://www.instagram.com/cotswoldconnected)

# Quinton House

NURSING HOME



Step inside Quinton House Nursing Home and Quinton Gardens Specialist Dementia Unit and you will know you've arrived somewhere special. Over the years, we have given each resident a home from home family life.

Quinton House is a family-owned home and has been for over 20 years. This continuity coupled to our team's dedication enables us to deliver even more impressive levels of compassionate care; the best Warwickshire has to offer, recently been awarded the GOLD STANDARD FRAMEWORK for compassion and care for end of life .

At Quinton House, we are passionate about what we do and how we care for the older people we work with. We understand the value of maintaining our residents' independence along with their privacy and choice. Our dedicated and highly trained staff knows that no two people are the same. We are committed to providing all of our residents, with exactly the right level of care and support, where and when needed.

## Top 20 Small Care Home Groups 2020

We are pleased to announce that we have won this award for the second consecutive year and we couldn't be any happier. Our staff have worked hard over the year to not only make a difference to our residents but to also assure families that their loved ones are in safe hands.

The carehome.co.uk Group Award 2020 highlights the most recommended Care Home Groups in the UK. The Awards are base on over 120,000 reviews from care home residents as well as their friends and family.



Quinton House Nursing Home,

Main Road, Lower Quinton, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 8RY

## New Sensory Room

Our new sensory room is a specially designed environment that provides a sensory experience to our residents who have a wide variety of different abilities.

We have sand, sea, seagulls and seaside background music. Chips in a cone or ice cream. We aim to engage and re-lift the senses of all our residents



01789 720247

[info@quintonhouse.net](mailto:info@quintonhouse.net)

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We also provide durable removal boxes, packing papers, bubble wrap and packing tapes. It's all part of the service.

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