

PING Stratford-upon-Avon – update to Town Council Members January 2021

Sadly, due to the second COVID-19 lockdown all tables are currently not operational they will become available again whenever we exit the current restrictions.

On a higher note Colin Eley from Table Tennis England has nominated “ Stratford upon Avon Town Council “ for the partner of the year award at the forthcoming pride of Table tennis awards organised by Table Tennis England regional awards will be confirmed in February 2021 and the National awards will be confirmed in June 2021.

Table Tennis England PING lead partner agreement renewal

Our initial lead partner agreement expired in March 2020 and we have now decided to continue, even though PING Stratford upon Avon has experienced many unforeseen hinderances our 2019 table activity figures were well above many of the more established operations. In opting to continue with a new lead partner agreement it has allowed us to access further funding for new tables. We applied for a grant to include a further five permanent tables along with 250 bats and balls. Our grant application was approved in December and we have already received the bats and balls, however due to the current lockdown situation we are not in a position to install the tables or utilise them. As soon as the situation changes the installation programme will begin.

Due to the current increase in empty retail units due to the effects of the pandemic we are also investigating the possibilities of converting an empty unit into a Ping Pong Parlour. This would provide assistance to the property owners while converting the unit into an area that would create a free activity in the town centre. This could obviously only take place once restrictions allow it to take place and the site would follow all of the relevant Table Tennis England guidelines with regards to COVID-19.

Table Tennis England will also be celebrating 100 years in 2021 and we are hoping that if restrictions allow us later in the year to assist in celebrating this in Stratford. They are also busy creating a promotional campaign for the Commonwealth Games in 2022 when all of our tables will be re-branded with the necessary Commonwealth games logos and again subject to restrictions events created to celebrate the games.