



County Cllr. Ian Shenton

Proud to represent Claverdon, Earlswood, Henley in Arden, Langley,
Preston Bagot, Ullenhall, Wolverton, Wootton Wawen
Mob: 07721 487897 E Mail: ianshenton@warwickshire.gov.uk

County Councillors Report as of 8th August 2022

I have started to send a weekly report to all Clerks for onward transmission to members so I will only add other news on this report

At the back end of July, I did attend full Council on one of the two hottest days of the year. There is no air conditioning in the chamber, so cooling was provided by around 20 fans strategically placed, unfortunately it was still incredibly uncomfortable.

There are no meetings during August at Shire Hall, but I have spent some time with Izzi Seccombe (the Leader of the Council) and Monica Fogarty (the Chief Executive) so that we got to know each other better and I understood the philosophy that prevails through the Officers and Members.

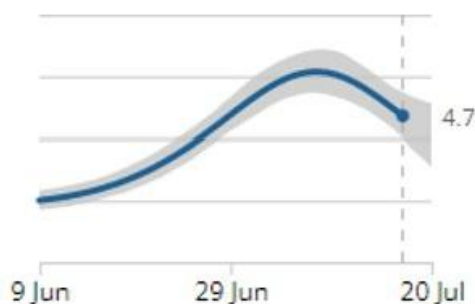
Educational Attainment between district councils/boroughs

It is obvious that there are anomalies between say the north of the county and the south and I was asked if I wanted to join this taskforce whose role is to investigate and report back.

Having grown up in a poor area of Stoke on Trent and then moved to a deprived area within Birmingham I am very interested in this. I was lucky because my junior school really encouraged me, and I eventually went to grammar school. I don't know what the factors or drivers are that account for the anomalies in educational achievement and attainment, but I want to find out as the great phrase "levelling up" should include and start with children's education. I will keep you updated on progress over the next 6 months.

Covid update

West Midlands



You can see from this chart that the latest peak is now over and that rates are falling again. The number of intensive care beds being occupied with Covid listed as a symptom is 3 across the whole of Warwickshire.

123+ update

Your District councillor will cover of most questions regarding this plus I have put a brief reminder of the app. in my weekly report but whilst SDC are the collection authority County is the disposal authority and I would urge residents to put their waste food into the caddy for collection each week. This is then taken via a smaller and separate truck to one of two centres where it is bulked and then taken to the Severn Trent's facility at Coleshill. Millions of tonnes of waste food from households, supermarkets and restaurants are thrown away in the UK every year, a large proportion of which ends up going to landfill or travelling miles to treatment facilities. Rather than letting this food waste go to waste, Severn Trent is capturing it locally and using it to generate green renewable energy to help reduce carbon emissions and landfill waste.

If you have ever wondered what happens to food and swage and how it's treated, then follow this link.

<https://www.stwater.co.uk/businesses/recycling-and-treatment/food-waste0/>



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As a County we are working on reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and are well ahead of the government's targets of no more than 10% by 2035 to landfill as we are already less than 10% but the aim is to get to net zero to landfill.

Arden Clerks and Chair's meeting

I am aiming to restart this but interestingly I had some feedback last week from another PC who indicated that they rarely attended as they felt it didn't achieve anything so I'm asking town and parish councils to feedback to me on this. If this is a widely held view then maybe, we should hold it only every six months or revert to surgeries to deal with specific matters. Let me know what you think as I will read and collate all replies. Email your thoughts using the email address above.

20 is plenty scheme

I am here to help, and I have let John Clarke and Peter Glaze know that if they need my help or support then just ask.

Delegated Budget

The Delegated Budget scheme has been very popular with members since it was introduced in 2015. It is an annual £2M budget shared amongst Members which they can use to deliver minor highway works which benefit communities. It provides a good way of involving members in the prioritisation of local works and has offered opportunities to undertake works that would not have otherwise been possible given highways prioritisation towards safety and maintenance need or budget constraints. It can often be used to address local issues raised by parishes, wards, community groups and residents which would otherwise not be prioritised. I am in the process of creating a spreadsheet of what has been spent and what is remaining of the budget plus a list of all the projects that have benefitted from this, so far this year. I have to split this over the whole division so I am always looking for match funding as well so that as many schemes as possible can be considered.

At present I can't see anything in the lists for Henley, but I am told by Scott Thompkins that the website is being updated and will be complete with costs soon plus timescales. Let me know if you feel that a project was submitted so I can follow this up.

The following seems to be areas that we are asked to consider:

Footway	Carriageway	Green scape	Drainage	Other
Resurfacing	Safety markings	Tree planting	Repairs to improve resilience	Repointing walls
Slurry Seal	Refresh markings	Verge Maintenance	Drainage schemes	Sign replacement
Replace Bollards	Surface Dressing	Tree maintenance	Additional jetting	Sign Cleaning
Dropped Kerbs	Patching	Weed spraying		Fencing / furniture repair
Clearing footway		Hedge flailing		Staggered barriers
Siding out		Staggered barriers (motorcycle control barriers)		Find and fix gangs
Slab maintenance				
Tactile paving				