



County Cllr. Ian Shenton

Proud to represent Claverdon, Earlswood, Henley in Arden, Langley,
Preston Bagot, Ullenhall, Wolverton, Wootton Wawen

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County Councillors Report as of 3rd October 2022

During August and the beginning of September there have been very few meetings at the County Council which has given me more time to catch up on more local issues. Family is important, as is our health and striking the balance between these and the need to balance the household budget can be difficult especially when all costs are rising especially food and energy costs. I have therefore included some useful contacts for residents who are struggling now or will possibly struggle with bills and costs in the coming months.

To make this rather long report (6 pages) a little easier to negotiate these are the various sections of it.

- **Help with the rising costs of living** **Page 1**
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Help with rising costs of living

There is help available though and Warwickshire residents who need help with the rising cost of living can access support locally from Warwickshire County Council and at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/costofliving> and by contacting the following:

The Household Support Fund is available until 30 September 2022, which is designed to provide short-term financial support for people to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford to pay for energy. To enquire or to apply for support, call the Local Welfare Scheme on 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182 or via the website <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

If you are struggling to pay bills or manage energy debt, residents can phone **Act On Energy**, who provide free and impartial advice to householders on 0800 988 2881, or [visit the Act on Energy website](https://www.actonenergy.org.uk/) for energy advice <https://actonenergy.org.uk/>

Help and support is also available on the County Council website for other housing problems you may experience, including paying your council tax or homelessness at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/managing-money-debt/housing/1>

If you need help with **childcare costs**, you may be entitled to, or be able to claim a certain number of hours of free childcare if you meet the required criteria. Your child may also be eligible for the **Early Years Pupil Premium** if you are in receipt of specific benefits or credits, or find out if you are eligible to receive support from The Disability Access Fund (DAF), which helps providers to make reasonable adjustments to their settings for 3 and 4 year olds. **For help or more information please contact the Early Years Entitlements Team Email: 2help@warwickshire.gov.uk or <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/help-childcare-costs>**

Multiple **foodbanks** are available across Warwickshire, and typically use a voucher referral system so that you can receive the right kind of help for you and your family. Details on the nearest foodbank can be found here <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/foodbanks>. If you need a food parcel because you're



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experiencing financial hardship, please contact your local food bank. Food supply help and advice is available for low-income families whose children are eligible for free school meals, people who are homeless, and those who are isolating. More details can be found at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/managing-money-debt/coronavirus-food-supply-advice>

Warwickshire Library and Information Service can also help people to access the support they need by providing free internet access, library membership, and signposting to community services. You can find out more about the library offer by visiting the library or via this link: <https://librariesblog.warwickshire.gov.uk/2022/05/23/how-your-library-can-help-as-the-cost-of-living-increases/>

Citizen's advice can help with advice and point you to agencies and organisations that can help. Citizens Advice South Warwickshire (Stratford upon Avon), 25 Meer Street, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6QB but more local ones can be found at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/> where the full range of services they offer can be found.

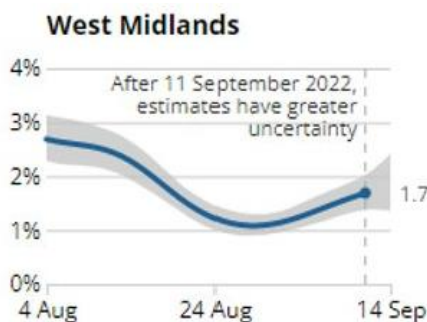
If you have any problems accessing any of the above, please let me know and I will help to put you in touch with them.

General

Meetings at both SDC and WCC have started to pick up from this week with me due to attend the following meetings over the next two weeks and just to give you flavour of some of the meetings I will be attending.

- Educational Attainment between district councils/boroughs
- Earlswood Community Interest Group – Anti social behaviour
- Children & Families presentations
- Regulatory Committee
- Training sessions, updates
- Parish Council meetings
- Planning Committee (District Council)

Covid update



You can see from this chart that there has been an uptick in positive cases but across Warwickshire only 1 bed is being occupied in intensive care with Covid as the cause. There are 120 patients in non-intensive care beds. Occupancy in South Warwickshire is around 96%, having increased steadily since August and having attended a meeting with the NHS Tuesday 21/09/2022 it is clear that they are concerned about hospital bed occupancy levels and the effects that a cold winter may have. On the positive side they are looking at how they can get patients through the system quickly, increasing the number of beds available, ambulance waiting and handover times

Residents are being invited to come forward now for the next phase of the Covid vaccine programme. The oldest and most vulnerable will be the first to receive the booster. Please encourage residents, friends and neighbours to take up the booster.

Arden Clerks and Chair's meeting



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I am aiming to restart this with the first meeting being 18th October. Whilst face to face meetings are good it also means that the Police and County Council Officers can lose a couple of hours travelling there and back and so the meeting will either be online for the first meeting or a hybrid meeting based in the Chamber at Elizabeth House where we have the facilities to run a hybrid meeting. The meeting will be for a maximum of 1.5 hours.

Grant/Funding available

I currently have three funds available that Parish and Town Councils can apply for (Delegated budget, CC Grant Fund Round 2 & The Green Shoots Fund) and whilst I did put these in the weekly newsletter number 6, I have included them here for completeness and to emphasise that there are time limits on at least two of the funds.

Delegated Budget

I mentioned in the weekly newsletter that I want Parish and Town Councils that I have over £30,000 left in my budget unallocated and if we want certain work to be carried out before the end of the financial year, I must have your applications over the next couple of weeks.

I have the following issues recorded for Henley so please let me know if this is incorrect and bear in mind that I have these funds available.

8	27/07/2022	HIA	C	Speeding on Liveridge Hill - see e mail	Liveridge Hill, Henley
16	08/08/2022	HIA	C	Monkey run (Birdcage Walk) damage to surface, lectrical cable exposed - Dylan knows about this email sent to DW my PC on 8/8/2022	Birdcage walk
31	15/08/2022	HIA	C	Drains issue - water is over flowing due to blocked drains outside 185, 187, 189, 191High Street , Henley photos available reported by Shelagh Clitherow she.teach@btinternet.com	
36	05/09/2022	HIA	C	Plastic bollards outside Co Op have been damaged	High St Co Op

Ref 8 Speeding

I have spoken with Highways about the new cameras between Studley and Alcester and the response I have had is that this is one of a few locations where they are experimenting with average speed cameras in (presumably) the configuration they have on that stretch of road. The experiment will run for 3 years and there are no plans to roll out further average speed cameras.

As the speed limit is currently 50mph unless you have an up to date survey that you can share with me then I would suggest paying for a new survey at a cost of £500 + VAT. The Police support this as it would give us the data on numbers of vehicles exceeding the 50mph speed limit and in time bands. This would need to be approved by the JPC before I can arrange it. Once we have this I can analyse it and present the results of the analysis to you as members and then decide whether to make a formal application to reduce the speed limit or look at traffic calming measures such as vehicle activated signs or other measures.

Funding

It would be helpful if you could let me know of any projects where you might want funding (through my delegated budget) in October as all of the requests are due to be reviewed towards the end of October and scheduled for completion during the current financial year.

The County Councillors Grant Fund - Round 2

Initially in round 1 Cllr. John Horner had £8,000 available of which there is £6,700 left for round 2 that is aimed at community and voluntary organisations to support small-scale projects within the division that support the following outcomes:

- A thriving economy and places that have the right jobs, skills, education and infrastructure.



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- A County where all people can live their best lives; where communities and individuals are supported to live safely, healthily, happily and independently.
- A County with a sustainable future which means adapting to and mitigating climate change and meeting net zero commitments.

The Communities and Partnerships Team will be delivering three workshops across the county, one in North (at Henley Community Library provisionally set for 7th October 9.30am to 11.30 am), one in South and one in Rugby, which will provide organisations with more information about the application process.

WRCC Warm Hubs

If you've had chance to look at this then, hopefully, you will be able to get answers to any questions that you may have when a representative from the WRCC at the Arden Clerks and Chairs should be present at the meeting on the 18th October. They haven't confirmed attendance yet but I am confident that they will. Further details at www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/wrcc-warm-hubs/

Tree Nursery

Cabinet Approves Tree Nursery: Warwickshire is set to get a lot greener as WCC Cabinet approve the business case for a tree nursery to meet the county's tree-planting needs. Warwickshire County Council has ambitious tree planting plans for coming years that will see a tree for every resident planted across the county. This tree planting has been strategically planned to restore parts of forests and wooded areas that have been long lost to time, such as the ancient Forest of Arden, which once covered most of the county and beyond into Staffordshire and Worcestershire. This tree planting will play a significant role in contributing to the Council's commitment to address the global climate change emergency and will restore the Ancient Arden Landscape and other landscape character areas while improving biodiversity by creating extensive new habitats for wildlife. The site selected for the tree nursery will be centrally located close to Warwick and Stratford to provide minimal transportation throughout the county and where the soil and climate will meet the needs of the tree species to be grown and supplied throughout Warwickshire. The tree nursery does not need to cover a large surface area as seedlings do not require a large amount of space during their early years of development and the proposed polytunnels will be able to house up to 8000 trees depending on the species of tree. As a result, the nursery will not be a substantial loss to the council's leased farmlands. In addition to helping Warwickshire County Council to meet its tree-planting aspirations over the next eight years, the tree nursery will also provide a valuable income stream with surplus whips and saplings being sold to other organisations and businesses in the County

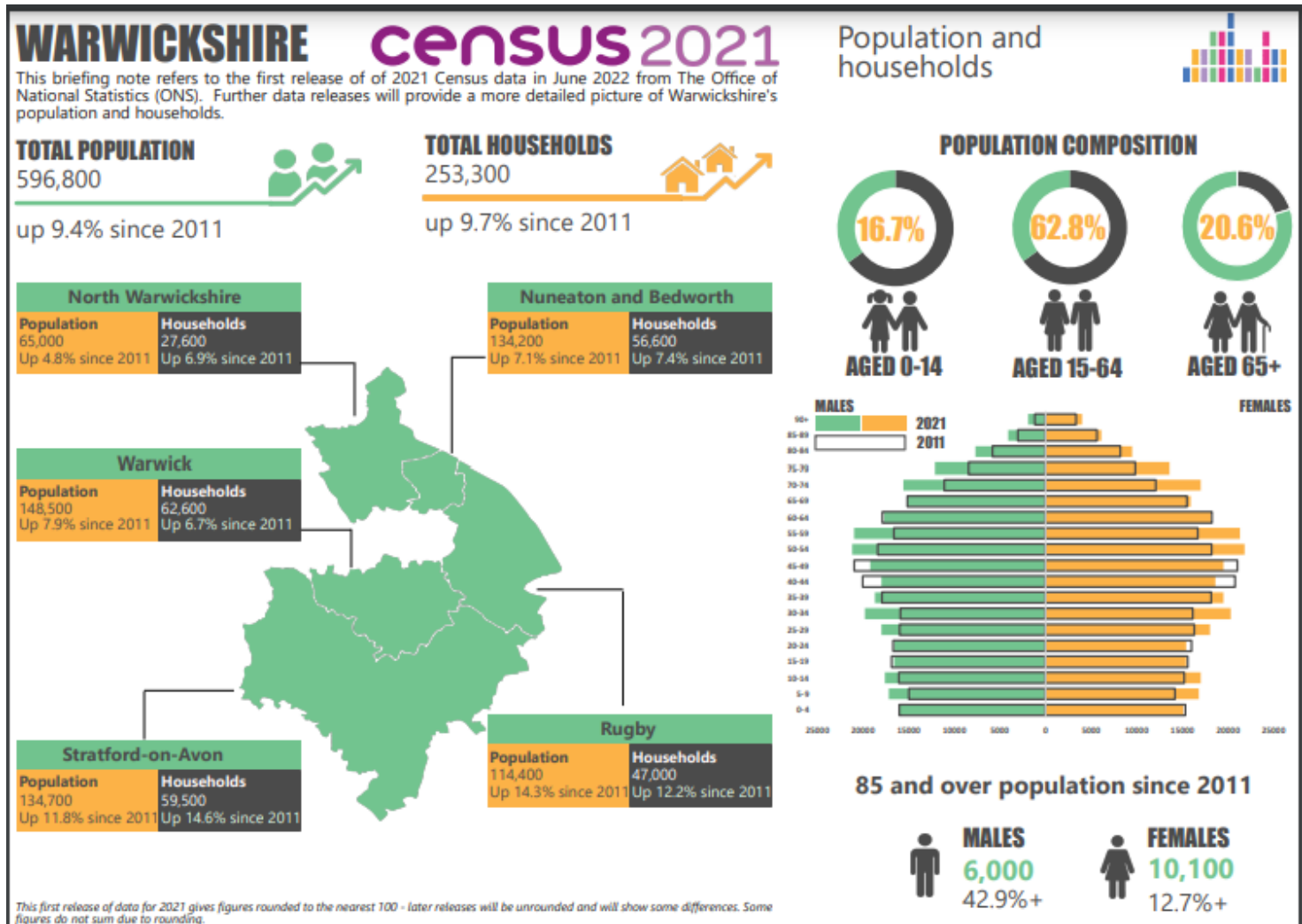


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Census 2021 – I’m not sure if you have seen this release but it shows in an easy form the changes in Warwickshire in terms of numbers and how we have a higher average age demographic than the England average.

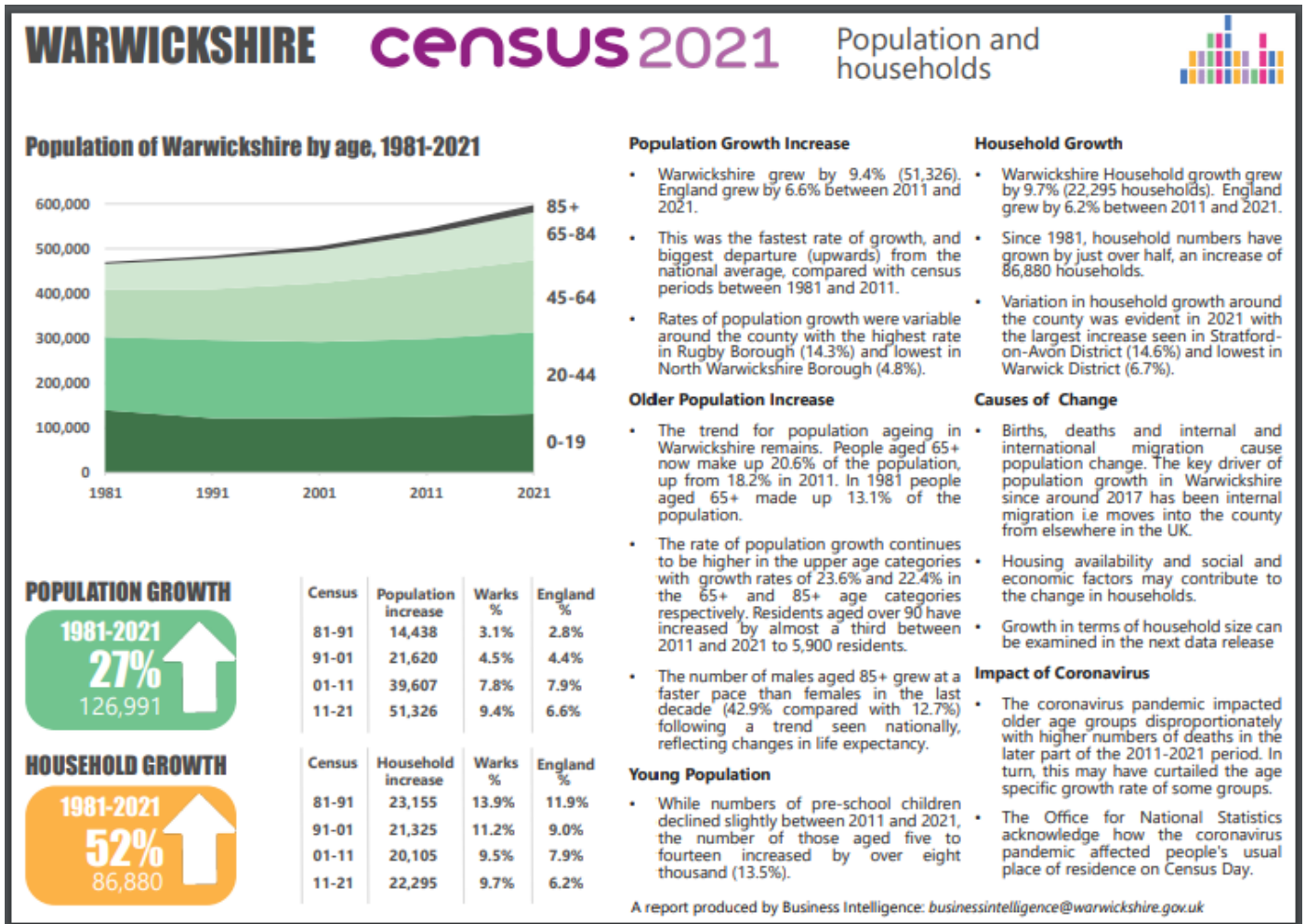




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As always feel free to contact me at any time to discuss any issues that you feel I can help with and I will do my very best to help.