



Wootton Wawen Ward District & Arden Division County Cllr. Ian Shenton

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

Mob: 07971 343074 E Mail: ianshenton@warwickshire.gov.uk

County Councillor's report as of 3rd June 2024

The last couple of months have been challenging as I have 10 parish councils to serve with Annual Parish meetings plus AGM's as well as the ordinary meetings. It has meant that most nights during May I was attending at least one meeting, sometimes up to 4 meetings, which has meant that I have not always been able to attend one or more of the meetings.

June should have seen this return to normal but with the **General Election** having now been announced and our selection meeting being tonight I find that yet again I am unable to attend the Henley meeting as I will be at the selection meeting that commences at 7.30pm, clashing with Henley's meeting. After that all the way to the 4th of July will be challenging once again as I will be expected to deliver leaflets and canvas, but I will give you this assurance that I will attend the July meeting come what may.

As always please email or call me if there is something that you wish to discuss with me. After the GE everything should return to normal again whoever is in control but in the meantime, I send my apologies for not attending tonight's meeting.

I have included, at the end of this report, the timetable for the General Election 2024

At the County Council Annual meeting held on Tuesday 14th May we appointed the Chair and Vice Chair along with Cabinet and Committee members. The procedure is the same as a Parish AGM, in principle, just more appointments. Nothing really changed as existing members of Cabinet and Committees were reappointed. The only other piece of business at that meeting was to approve capital expenditure for three schools.

1. The addition of £16.467m to the capital programme to deliver the scheme at Lighthorne Heath Primary School to be funded from developer contributions, the School Condition Allowance, and the Department for Education (DfE) Basic Need Grant.
2. The addition of £15.573m to the capital programme to deliver the scheme at Shottery St Andrews CofE Primary School to be funded from developer contributions, the School Condition Allowance, an education capital receipt, and the DfE Basic Need Grant; Page 9 County Council 14.05.24
3. The addition of £5.347m to the capital programme to deliver the scheme at Myton Gardens Primary School. This will be funded by developer contributions and the DfE Basic Need Grant.

The Chair announced that the Council's Business Intelligence Team was Highly Commended in the BI Solution of the Year category at the British Data Awards on 8 May. Councillor Yousef Dahmash, Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation explained that the commendation recognised the team's work in developing a Serious Violence Needs Assessment to identify areas of need in Warwickshire based on a wide range of available partnership data. Community Safety Partners in Warwickshire were actively using the tool to focus limited resources in a more effective way and the tool was also considered best practice locally, with other reports based on the report targeting other work streams such as suicide prevention.

On Wednesday 15th May it was the turn of the District Council to hold their AGM and apart from one of the Conservative members joining the independent group of Councillors, but was a relatively quiet affair, all done and dusted within an hour. The highlight for me was that afterward, as we were also celebrating 50 years of Stratford District Council a councillor from the very first administration 1974 was present, she lives in Henley, and it was a real pleasure for me to meet and talk to Cllr. Alma Hinton

Henley in Arden Specific

Crab Mill – I met the new owner of the Crab Mill last week at Preston Bagot's Parish meeting who informed everyone that at the moment he isn't sure what he will do with the property but that it was highly unlikely that it would become a public house again. Watch this space.

A4189 East of Claverdon – County have indicated that they are receptive to the speed limit of 50 mph being reduced from the Railway Station to Star Lane (both directions) to 40mph. Unfortunately, they are not so receptive at present to reducing the speed limit on the West side where the speed limit increases from 30mph to 40 mph and then to 50mph at Kington Lane. The intention is to keep pressing on this so that the speed limit on the west side is 30mph to Kington Lane where it changes to 50mph. Traffic coming from the west side, travelling East towards Claverdon would see the speed limit change from 50mph to 30mph from Kington Lane. This would allow traffic calming before vehicles entered Claverdon.

Gypsy and Traveller Site to the east of Claverdon by M40 motorway – I was made aware of an issue on Friday 24th May, via Claverdon Matters Facebook page and I went to investigate. Civil works were engaged on preparing the site and mobile homes waiting to go on the pitches. By nighttime, the pitches were occupied. The site is not within my county council area (division), so I let the relevant district councillor, the Chief Executive of Warwick District Council and their Planning Enforcement team know what was happening. The matter rests with them but as the site is now fully occupied it is going to take a long legal battle with no guarantee of success to remove them. Watch this space. My own view is that despite Warwick District Council being aware that something might happen on that site or within the area over the Bank Holiday weekend, they were caught out by the timing (early evening) and speed of the events.

Gully Cleaning and potholes – Please ensure that all gullies that need cleaning and potholes that need repairing are recorded on the County website using the link mentioned below. In the case of potholes, you will automatically receive a message when the repair has been carried out. This is a more efficient way of handling issues going forward as we have installed new software which is more dynamic in what it can do. Potholes should be reported through the directly on the WCC website <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4085/warwickshire-county-council-encourages-residents-to-report-road-issues>.



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Small works - Let me know if you have any small roadworks, white lining, or Rights of Way issues I will investigate these for you and get a quote for any works that need to be conducted. To report a Highway fault, use this link <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportaproblem>. I will be forwarding a separate schedule of the small works items outstanding with the update on each item.

Longer summer opening makes recycling easier at your friendly local recycling centre

Warwickshire County Council is reminding residents that recycling will become even easier with extended summer opening times in operation from 3 April. **Summer opening times for Burton Farm, Cherry Orchard, Hunters Lane, Judkins, Lower House Farm and Princes Drive.**

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday - 9:30 am to 3:15 pm
- Wednesday - 9:30 am to 6:15 pm
- Saturday and Sunday - 8:30 am to 5:45 pm

County News

The Great Big Green Week – This runs from the 8th to the 16th of June around various locations within Stratford upon Avon and includes Bat, plant, dawn chorus and foraging walks, repair cafes, farming for the future, green gardening, water pollution, sustainable shopping, volunteering, young foresters. There are over 30 events plus exhibitions. **To Find out more and to book tickets at the events use this link –** www.greatbigweek.com/green-week-events or <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

County Council's Councillor Grant fund Warwickshire County Council's Councillor Grant Fund is now open for applications from community and voluntary groups across the county. Each year, Warwickshire County Council allocates £8,000 to each of its 57 councillors for them to support small-scale projects within their division, whose aims align with the some of the many following areas: improve access to services; reduce loneliness and isolation; improve physical and/or mental health and wellbeing or improve the local area to support the ambition of becoming a Net Zero county by 2050. The full category list can be seen on the website: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants>. Applications can be submitted on the council's website, and there are two different forms depending on whether the grant needed is over or under £350. Applications can be submitted from Monday 20 May at 9am, and the deadline for submission is Sunday 30 June at 5pm. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5246/warwickshire-county-council-s-councillor-grant-fund-is-now-open-for-applications->

Reminiscence Loan Boxes available -Do you remember buying blue bags of sugar at Woolworths? Or watching the Atherstone Carnival football game? Heritage and Culture Warwickshire (HCW) has a new range of reminiscence loans boxes containing items from the Warwickshire Museum and County Record Office collections. The Reminiscence boxes are designed to stimulate memory through objects, pictures, and activities. Themes include The Mop Fair, Treasures of Warwickshire, and Woolworths, and include historical artefacts and high-quality replicas that have been chosen to engage the senses through careful handling and promote conversation about people's lives. All boxes also come with a supporting booklet of activities and information about the objects. Six new boxes across three themes are being added to the existing boxes available to be borrowed through the Warwickshire Library Service, which are designed to be used at home with a loved one or with small groups. In addition, HCW is now offering five boxes for larger groups available on a 2-week paid loan. These boxes follow the same themes as the library boxes but contain more objects, more copies of sharing images, and a copy of a related dementia-friendly "Pictures to Share" book.

New Electric Vehicle Parking Policy - Warwickshire County Council's commitment to achieving net zero across the county has taken a step forward as its Cabinet approved a new Electric Vehicle Parking Policy. **Warwickshire County Council's commitment to achieving net zero across the county has taken a step forward as Cabinet approved a new EV (Electric Vehicle) Parking Policy.** - This policy allows the council to make on-street EV charging bays 'EV-Only.' They can currently be used by all car types. Limiting availability to charging EVs only will enhance their availability for EV drivers across the county. The updated parking policy comes as electric vehicle ownership in the region continues to steadily increase and directly aligns with the council's transport and environmental aims of prioritising sustainable travel and reducing harmful emissions.

Plans to improve life opportunities through education in Warwickshire - Warwickshire County Council Cabinet have on Thursday 9 May endorsed a series of recommendations aimed at tackling disparities in educational attainment rates across the county.

These important recommendations come from a working group established in July 2022 to investigate the issue and include:

- **Lobbying for legislative change to allow automatic enrolment for free school meals:** This would help schools to identify disadvantaged pupils and access additional funding to support them.
- **Establishing a sub-committee of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee:** This sub-committee will monitor the implementation of new and existing education strategies.
- **Enhancing the promotion of opportunities for pupils:** This includes more communication about the different pass rates in 11-plus examinations and the additional free tutorial support available to Pupil Premium children.
- **Continuing the progress of the Warwickshire Education Partnership Board:** This board will ensure a strategic approach as well as facilitate collaboration and sharing of best practices between schools across the county.

The working group also identified the long-term ambition of improving mental health for children as a potential factor towards achieving higher attainment levels.

The next step is to develop an action plan to implement these recommendations."

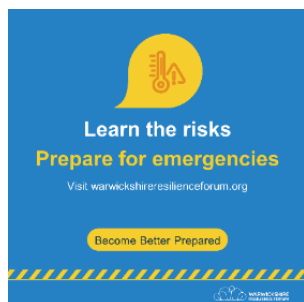
The full report of the working group, including a detailed explanation of the recommendations, is available on the Warwickshire County Council Website: <https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/s36725/Educational%20Attainment%20Working%20Group%20Report.pdf>



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Warwickshire Resilience Forum launches new website to boost emergency preparedness - Warwickshire Resilience Forum's new website aims to help you prepare for emergencies across the county. Warwickshire Resilience Forum (WRF) is a partnership of public, private, and voluntary sector organisations. These include Warwickshire's emergency services, Warwickshire County Council, and the county's five Borough and District Councils. The new WRF website shares simple advice to prepare for the risks considered most likely to affect Warwickshire. The website identifies who you should contact if one of the key risks occurs in your area, or if you are particularly likely to be affected. You can enter your postcode, and the site will direct you to your key local contacts for the selected risk. These risks include extreme cold weather, flooding, and animal disease, identified from the government's National Risk Register as most likely to affect Warwickshire. Local resilience forums (LRFs) are activated to assist response to large-scale emergencies when a combined multi-agency co-ordination would lead to a more effective and efficient outcome. WRF Co-Chair, and Chief Fire Officer at Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, Ben Brook, said: "We're all very excited to launch the new website for Warwickshire Resilience Forum. The site is a great resource to help people prepare for the county's key risks. It's a big part of our ongoing work to encourage our residents to help themselves prepare and keep each other safe." Learn how to prepare for the key risks to Warwickshire at www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org



Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is proud to support the annual Child Safety Week campaign, which runs from 3rd to 9th June 2024. - It's natural for children to have accidents as they grow, develop, and explore the environment around them, but there are lots of small steps parents and carers can take to keep their children as safe as possible in the home and avoid accidental harm. Once again, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is proud to support the annual Child Safety Week campaign, which runs from 3rd to 9th June 2024. Organised by the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), this year's national awareness campaign is themed "Safety. Sorted!" and aims to raise awareness about child accident prevention while providing parents and carers with practical safety tips. As a child-friendly county, one of WCC's aims is to ensure that all children and young people in Warwickshire are safe. Services within the council have planned an exciting week of events to promote child safety to professionals, partners, and residents.

WCC, in collaboration with the Warwickshire Child Accident Prevention Group, representatives from Rospa, and other partners, will be hosting an online 'Lunch and Learn' event for professionals working with families in Warwickshire. The virtual event, taking place during Child Safety Week, will be offering valuable insights and strategies for preventing accidents and keeping children as safe as possible.

Child Safety Week is the flagship annual campaign from the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT), the UK's leading charity committed to reducing the number of children and young people killed, disabled, or seriously injured in preventable accidents. The charity strives to secure a safer environment for children of all ages, so they can live life to the full while protected from serious injury or death. Child Safety Week enables the council, alongside CAPT, to do this by promoting safety messages to families in an engaging way.

Police News - These are the latest incidents reported for the week ending 2nd June by Alcester North Police

- **BIDFORD** -ASB. The Big Meadow. 1 quad bike and 1 motorcycle seen riding across the football pitches / field. Concern for the safety of the park users. 12.30pm Sunday 2nd June. 0129 02/06/2024
- Suspicious Circumstances. Waterloo Road. White high-top van seen acting suspiciously in the area. No number plate seen. Drove away from business that had scrap metal in their compound. 8.35pm Sunday 26th May. 0301 26/05/2024
- **ASTON CANTLOW** - Suspicious Circumstances. Bearley Road. Two males wearing face coverings / balaclavas seen running across the tennis court area. They then got into a vehicle (possibly a Seat) and left the area. Area search made by police. No further offences disclosed. 9pm Sunday 26th May. 0311 26/05/2024
- **STUDLEY** - Burglary. Redditch Road. Damage caused to fence and then rear doors by offender(s) trying to gain access to premises. Occurred over the last two weeks. 0132 31/05/2024
- **HENLEY** - Suspicious Circumstances. Tanworth Lane. Occupants of Blue Citroen vehicle seen acting suspiciously near to fields containing sheep. They left the area towards the Stratford Road. 3.35pm Thursday 30th May. 0174 30/05/2024
- **CLAVERDON** - Suspicious Circumstances. Langley Road. Black Ford Ranger vehicle seen acting suspiciously in the area. Evening of Thursday 30th May. 0291 30/05/2024

New Police Constable - PC 1348 Sean Lovatt, has replaced PC Hope as the beat manager for Alcester North. Over the coming weeks he plans to be out across the region and introducing himself to the community.

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 absolute best to help.

Child Exploitation in Warwickshire

Do you know the signs to look out for and what to do if you think something's not right? There are many different types of child exploitation. Visit <https://somethingsnotright.co.uk> for advice. Child Exploitation is happening. Don't ignore it. #SomethingsNotRight



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Other County Council News



11+ Test registration

Registration for the Warwickshire 11+ test is now open and must be done by 30 June for your child to sit the test this September.

Register online at: <http://warwickshire.gov.uk/grammar-schools-11-test>



Child Benefit Changes

The threshold people start paying the High-Income Child Benefit Charge has increased to £60,000. If you haven't claimed for your child, the new threshold will apply to any claims made from 6 April. Find out more about the change and how to claim online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-high-income-child-benefit-charge>

Be Water Aware

As the weather, albeit slowly, begins to heat up Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging all residents to Be Water Aware.

Find out more about staying safe around water: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5154/be-water-aware-campaign-launches-in-warwickshire>

Child car seat check and vehicle maintenance advice events - Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is inviting residents to attend free child car seat check and vehicle advice events being held throughout Warwickshire between 28 May and 1 June. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5228/free-child-car-seat-check-and-vehicle-maintenance-advice-events-are-back-this-half-term>

Animal attraction hygiene

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is reminding families of the simple steps they can take to make sure they enjoy visits to farms and petting zoos safely throughout spring and summer. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5157/the-importance-of-hand-hygiene-when-visiting-animal-attractions>

The Teenage Market North Warwickshire – Apply for a Stall

The Teenage Market gives young people a free platform to showcase their creative talents. It's easy to sign up to have a stall at The Teenage Market, all they need to do is follow this link: <https://bit.ly/4cYiESG>

The Teenage Market North Warwickshire – Apply to perform

Do you know a young person that can sing, dance, or are part of a band? If so, The Teenage Market would be perfect for them to showcase their talent, and put on a show. They can apply here: <https://bit.ly/3Q5cqGB>

Podcast – Rugby and Stratford Climate Eco hubs

The Climate Eco hubs in Rugby and Stratford are featured in the very latest episode of the Sustainable Warwickshire podcast. Find out more and listen: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5205/rugby-and-stratford-climate-eco-hubs-featured-in-sustainable-warwickshire-podcast->



Clean Air Day Kenilworth

Why not visit Kenilworth Abbey End on Sunday 16 June from 10am as the town celebrates Clean Air Day!

- Traffic free route
- Food and drink stalls
- Make a smoothie on a bike!
- Information on improving air quality

Visit <https://kenilworthweb.co.uk/clean-air-day-2024/> to find out more.



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Social Care and Support recruitment event

People will be encouraged to choose a career with Warwickshire County Council at an Adult Social Care and Support recruitment fair and showcase event later this month.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5210/warwickshire-recruitment-event-for-people-looking-to-advance-their-career-in-social-care-and-support>

A439 Warwick Road in Stratford update

Warwickshire County Council continues to make significant progress on the A439 Warwick Road safety improvement scheme in Stratford-upon-Avon. Find out about the work completed over the last two weeks:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5252/a439-warwick-road-in-stratford-upon-avon-update-mid-may-2024>



"Hey, we hear you!" Fostering project WCC Fostering is thrilled to announce the launch of the "Hey, we hear you!" Program This innovative project, designed in collaboration with dedicated foster carers, empowers them to connect with the children in their care. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5256/-hey-we-hear-you-warwickshire-fostering-listens-to-children-in-care->



World No Tobacco Day

As part of World No Tobacco Day on Friday 31 May, Warwickshire County Council is encouraging more smokers in Warwickshire to quit and make use of the free stop smoking services available to residents.

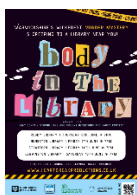
Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5270/smokers-encouraged-to-make-use-of-stop-smoking-services-in-warwickshire-for-world-no-tobacco-day-



Volunteers' Week

Next week (3-9 June) is Volunteers' Week, a time to recognise all it is that volunteers do for their community, and this year marks 40 years since Volunteers' Week began.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5273/warwickshire-county-council-extends-its-thanks-ahead-of-volunteers-week



"Body in the Library" murder mystery events -Warwickshire County Council's libraries service is inviting you to solve an exciting murder mystery at "Body in the Library" events this June! -Find out more:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5271/get-involved-in-thrilling-body-in-the-library-murder-mystery-events-this-june-at-warwickshire-libraries

Kingsbury Water Park conservation work

Colleagues from across Warwickshire County Council's Country Parks service pulled together last week to install 240 linear metres of coir rolls around sections of the perimeter of three lakes at Kingsbury Water Park.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5268/country-parks-team-wade-in-to-install-240-metres-of-coir-rolls-at-kingsbury-water-park-as-part-of-on-going-conservation-and-habitat-creation-work

Sensory smoke alarms

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is reminding deaf residents of the importance of installing sensory smoke alarms this Deaf Awareness Week. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5196/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-reminds-deaf-residents-of-the-importance-of-installing-sensory-smoke-alarms-this-deaf-awareness-week->

Specialist resourced provision in Warwickshire

The expansion of the Specialist Resourced Provision offer at several schools in the county has been approved by Warwickshire County Council Cabinet. Find out what this means: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5212/cabinet-approves-the-expansion-of-specialist-resourced-provision-in-the-county>



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North Warwickshire Business and Skills Event - The North Warwickshire Business and Skills Event is on the horizon 🌅 This in-person event in Coleshill on 11 June is perfect for entrepreneurs, professionals, and jobseekers looking to network, learn, and grow with others 🤝 Join the Facebook event: <https://facebook.com/events/933239311835354/>



Secondary school applications

Parents and carers of children who will be starting Year 6 in September are being encouraged to prepare early for their child's secondary school application.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5266/warwickshire-parents-and-carers-encouraged-to-get-ready-for-secondary-school-applications

Mental health support services

Suicide is preventable through education and intervention, which is why Warwickshire County Council is highlighting the support available for those struggling with their mental health and wellbeing.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5264/council-promotes-support-services-available-to-residents-struggling-with-their-mental-health

The image shows a row of five NHS leaflets titled 'HERE COMES THE SUN'. The first leaflet is for Hay Fever, explaining it's a common allergy that causes sneezing, coughing, and itchy eyes, with symptoms peaking in late March and September. The second leaflet is for Asthma, a common lung condition causing breathing difficulties, advising on identifying triggers and using inhalers. The third leaflet is for Thunderstorms, noting they can trigger asthma-related symptoms and advising on staying indoors and using rescue inhalers. Each leaflet includes a cartoon illustration of a person affected by the condition and provides contact information for NHS support.

2024 election timetable				
Day	Event	Date	Day	
0	Dissolution of Parliament and return of writs	30-May	Thursday	
1	Returning officers receive writs	31-May	Friday	
3	Last day for publishing notice of election (by 4pm)	04-Jun	Tuesday	
6	Deadline for submitting or withdrawing a nomination (4pm) Publication of statement of persons nominated (5pm)	07-Jun	Friday	
13	Deadline to register to vote (by midnight)	18-Jun	Tuesday	
14	Deadline for new postal vote applicants or amending existing absent voting arrangements	19-Jun	Wednesday	
19	Deadline for new applications to vote by proxy (5pm). After 5pm it may be possible to apply for an emergency proxy in certain circumstances, but they are not available on demand. Deadline for applications for voter authority certificates (VACs, by 5pm)	26-Jun	Wednesday	
21	First day voters can apply for a replacement for a lost postal vote	28-Jun	Friday	
25	Polling day – 7am to 10pm Deadline for emergency proxy applications (5pm) Deadline for re-issue of spoilt or lost postal votes (5pm) Deadline for production of temporary VACs (10pm)	04-Jul	Thursday	