



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 for Henley in Arden Joint Parish Council as of 6th October 2024

As some will already know, I made the decision a few months ago not to seek reselection by the Party and re-election by the residents of the County Council Arden division. I will remain as District Councillor covering Wootton Wawen, Ullenhall, Bearley and Mappleborough Green which from now onwards will take priority over the other 6 parishes I cover as a County Councillor. I am stepping down due to the time commitments of being a County Councillor which do not allow me to spend as much time with my family as I want to.

Winter Fuel Allowance and Pension Credit

I'm worried about how I will manage without the Winter Fuel Payment. What can I do?

On July 29th the Government announced that the Winter Fuel Payment - of £200 for those aged 65-79, and £300 for those aged 80 or over - will be restricted to those people in receipt of Pension Credit - so what is Pension Credit and who can claim it? **It is estimated that up to 880,000 households are entitled to Pension Credit but not currently receiving it.**

Pension Credit
Is a means tested benefit which is paid to help with the cost of living, it can also bring entitlement to additional financial support, including housing benefit, Council tax support, and winter fuel payment. Pension Credit can be backdated by up to 3 months (subject to meeting qualifying criteria).

The deadline to claim to be entitled to this year's winter fuel payment is 21st December 2024

To get help making a claim
You can get further information and make a claim by calling the Pension Credit Hotline: 0800 99 1234

You can check if you are eligible for Pension Credit using the Pension Credit calculator here
<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>

If you believe you are entitled to Pension Credit you can claim online here
<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim>

If you require further advice or help to make a claim you can call Citizens Advice on 0808 250 5715 or visit one of our drop-in sessions. For further details of our opening hours visit www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk

Claiming Pension credit, or indeed any benefits, which might also mean that pensioners will continue to receive the winter fuel allowance can be difficult to negotiate through due to the volume of questions on the forms.

Stratford District Council have been sent the attached from South Warwickshire Citizens Advice to help pensioners access Pension Credit to help with the cost of living.

To help try and reach as many eligible people as possible and for those without internet access, would you be able to display the attached poster on the local noticeboards in your area or include the information in any parish publication that is distributed locally?

We have also been posting the information on our social media accounts, which you can also share:

- <https://x.com/StratfordDC>
- <https://www.facebook.com/StratfordDC>

Alternatively, please promote the helpline number and the assistance available from Citizens Advice by calling a landline number:

- You can get further information and make a claim by calling the Pension Credit Hotline: 0800 99 1234
- If you require further advice or help to make a claim, you can call Citizens Advice on 0808 250 5715 or visit one of our drop-in sessions.

Drop-in sessions are held at the District Council offices, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon from 10am to 2pm, Monday to Friday.

Report flooding For flood advice or to report a flood, please visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding.

County Council report

Councillor Grant Fund is open again for applications - Warwickshire County Council is inviting community and voluntary groups across the county to apply for the Councillor Grant Fund, which is now reopen for round two of funding. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5583/warwickshire-county-council-s-councillor-grant-fund-is-open-again-for-applications> Each of the 57 councillors in Warwickshire is allocated £8,000 annually to support small-scale projects within their divisions. These projects should align with key areas such as improving access to services, reducing loneliness and isolation, enhancing physical and mental health and wellbeing, or supporting the local environment to help the county achieve its goal of becoming Net Zero by 2050.

Henley Medical Centre – Flu and Covid vaccinations commenced on Saturday 5th October. Eligible residents should have received an invite to make an appointment. If you feel that you are in the eligible group but haven't received an invite, then please contact the medical centre. The flu vaccine is recommended for people at higher risk of getting seriously ill from flu. It's offered on the NHS every year in autumn or early winter. You can get the free NHS flu vaccine if you are: aged 65 or over, have



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certain long-term health conditions, are pregnant, live in a care home, are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance, live with someone who has a weakened immune system. For more detailed information about flu vaccinations please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

Devolution Agreement confirmed by the current Labour Government – Izzi Secombe issued the following statement - "The Warwickshire Devolution Agreement is a significant long-term milestone for the County. It provides a strong foundation from which to secure further powers and resources. It will help us further strengthen our economy, and our continued drive to improve the life prospects for all who live, work or do business in Warwickshire. This Deal is without doubt an endorsement of our County. In delivering on this deal, Warwickshire will continue to contribute strongly at a regional and national level."

Committee meetings are increasing again with me sitting on the Licencing Panel, on site meetings, training, adult social care committee, Audit & Standards committee, Regulatory committee in the last week alone.

Costs of Childrens social care, Adult Social Care , Home to School and SEND provision continue to escalate and are well over budget at present with plans to reduce this overspend. Reserves will need to be used to plug the hole unfortunately and they can only be spent once.

The Adult Social care committee was interesting because a contentious item regarding the Ellen Badger community Hospital in Shipston has implications for us as any beds placed there would mean a reduction in rehabilitation beds in Stratford (Nichol suite) or in Leamington as only 35 beds across the three sites can be funded. A six-week public consultation is coming out in December, and I would urge everyone to look at this and respond. I made my feelings known about the public consultation as the question is only do we want or need beds at Shipston, if so, the data should show that, in which case the solution is three centres otherwise its two. The public need to know the implications of both scenarios to make an informed decision. I worry, as I expressed, that the Integrated Care Board could be seen to be paying lip service to the consultation.

In addition, the future of Dentistry services was discussed, and representatives of the Integrated Care Board highlighted what they want to do to increase the number of Dentists who will take NHS patients.

In February 2024, the government published Faster, Simpler and Fairer: our plan to recover and reform NHS dentistry. This contains several initiatives to improve oral health and access to dental care. This includes plans designed to incentivise dental teams to provide NHS dental care and take on new patients and plans to increase the dental workforce to make it easier for practices to recruit new staff.

My main challenge was centred around funding of Dentist practices because they don't have to take any NHS patients and when you consider that, for instance, the NHS will pay £26.80 to the practice but they can get £85 (on average) for private patients you can see very quickly, as I pointed out, without a massive overhaul of funding the incentive for dentists to take NHS patients is not high. Most Dentist practices are concentrated in Coventry with the more affluent areas suffering.

In addition, case of oral cancer within Warwickshire are slightly above the West Midlands and National average as this table shows: Whilst there is a caveat that provision and cancer cases are not necessarily linked further work needs to be carried out.

3. Oral Cancer

Indicator	Period	England	West Midlands region	Birmingham	Coventry	Dudley	Herefordshire	Sandwell	Shropshire	Solihull	Staffordshire	Stoke-on-Trent	Telford and Wrekin	Walsall	Warwickshire	Wolverhampton	Worcestershire
Oral cancer registrations	2017 - 19	15.4	14.8	16.8	17.9	12.8	15.5	14.4	12.9	11.7	13.1	16.1	13.5	17.4	15.0	14.8	14.8
Mortality rate from oral cancer, all ages	2017 - 19	4.7	4.9	6.4	7.1	5.4	5.4	4.6	3.7	2.9	3.6	6.1	5.2	4.7	5.2	4.3	4.5

- The oral cancer diagnosis rate in Warwickshire (age-standardised rates for oral cancer 15.0 registrations per 100,000 population) is similar to other UTLAs in WMs
- It is lower than the national rate (15.4)
- Age-standardised mortality rate 5.2 per 100,000 population which is higher than both the WM (4.9) and national (4.7) figures.

If you'd like to see a full report of any of the above, then just let me know and I'll send you copies of the reports via email



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Police and Crime Commissioner Survey 2024 - Help to shape the Future of Policing in Warwickshire 📢

Warwickshire's Police & Crime Commissioner, Philip Secombe, has launched a public survey seeking vital feedback on the key priorities that will shape the next Police and Crime Plan. Have your say: <https://warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/shape-the-future-of-policing-in-warwickshire-public-survey-now-open/>

Small works - 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, if you record these through the Parish Clerk 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>.

In addition, over the last few months I have asked whether a Parish Council could pay for the gully cleaner and employ them to clear specified gullies and the answer is positive . The cost would be £1,000 per day plus an extra £500 per day if traffic management were required. Please let me know if you would like to take advantage of this and send me a list of the gullies that need to be jetted. I will then liaise with the team at County and ensure that the route needed to clear these would be feasible in the time allowed and whether traffic management would be required.

I have committed an extra £3,000 to be used as a top up fund if the JPC commit at least £5,000 to gully cleaning. I walked around Henley last week with the Chair and we noted areas where the gullied needed cleaning (parts of Warwick Rd. School Rd by the ice cream parlour, Liveridge Hill). The JPC will need to approve the £5,000 and the locations that I noted need to be agreed by the JPC, the area surveyor will then calculate how many days are required to complete this task and when it can be carried out. It is important to state that this

- Does not replace the normal cycle of gully cleaning by the WCC
- Does not tackle the issue of the River Alne over topping its banks

Small Works

The JPC will let me know if there are 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](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportaproblem).

Tree planting funding

The application window for community groups to apply for funding to create new orchards and micro woods has been extended until the end of 2024.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5509/community-groups-given-longer-to-apply-for-tree-planting-funding-in-warwickshire>

Other issues

- **20mph Scheme** – All lining issues should now be complete
- **Patient parking at Henley in Arden Medical centre** – After applying pressure on the Cabinet, I have now got agreement for one extra parking space for medical centre users and an additional disabled bay.
- **Wall in Wootton Wawen by the Church on South side of WW, south of the village centre A3400** – Repairs have now started and are well under way. The lights should be removed well before the end of October the planned finishing date for the work.
- **Crab Mill** – No further news on what is to happen with the land.
- **Mayswood Rod/A4189** – I noticed work being carried out on a field last Thursday (26/9/2024) adjoining that gave me cause for concern. I reported this to planning enforcement who are investigating.

Other news and information

Climate Change- *Communities around Stratford are being challenged to increase the pace in "going green" as the local authority takes stock of progress in reducing carbon since it declared a climate emergency in 2019. Stratford District Council staged what it termed a "community-led climate change local engagement event" in September to showcase best practice across the area and as a springboard for more action.*



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There are examples of heat pumps and solar panels serving privately owned property, and new developments incorporate the latest energy-saving techniques, but such buildings remain in a minority. So, the discussions also featured the need for improvements in the application of insulation and heating and more evidence of how schools and businesses are responding.

I have long been an advocate of pragmatic climate change measures that don't necessarily involve cost as there are other examples of the ways in which residents can help, for instance by continuing to separate waste and recycling as much as possible. The inverted pyramid highlights the waste hierarchy with the largest reduction in waste possible being to reduce consumption.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Landfill



Whilst we continue to be one of the best local authorities at recycling and have one of the lowest tonnages of waste going to landfill, there is always more that we can do. It is still too easy to put waste in the grey bin rather than separating it into the blue bin. By thinking of the waste hierarchy and putting more recyclable material into the blue bin we use less of the Earth's valuable resources to create, for example, packaging.

Food waste caddies were given to every resident, not everyone uses them but using them can help you save money as well as preventing it going to landfill where it rots and creates methane which is over thirty times worse than CO2 for damaging the environment (and the ozone layer). They can save you money because you can see how much food you are throwing away. It has been fantastic to see just how many residents use the caddies but again, more can be

done to reduce food waste. The food waste goes to an anaerobic digester in Coleshill where the methane is syphoned off and pumped back into the gas grid/network. The remaining soup/solids are turned into soil conditioners.

Green waste follows a similar pattern in that methane is drawn off and the solids left are turned into a soil conditioner.

Looking at the refuse trucks that we use, these are about to use HVO fuel (hydrotreated vegetable oil) as from November (possibly sooner) which produces less Co2 and is better for the environment but there is controversy over this due to the facts that some countries are deforesting to grow palm oil plants that are the source for HVO. In other words, destroying trees that we need for oxygen and which store Co2 at the expense of profit. This is a difficult argument and not for this article.

There has been much made of the lack of bees, butterflies, and moths and this is also where we, as residents, can do more by planting more flowers and shrubs that provide the habitat that they thrive in. We also need to plant more trees, lots more trees. Bees, butterflies, and moths are only a small part of the insect world, but surveys tend to highlight these as they are a good indicator of the general health of the insect world. The last few years have not been good partly because of prolonged periods of rain or cooler weather, insects need a period of warm weather to increase their numbers.

Schools have taken a keen interest in the above and children have become the best advocates of recycling being the gatekeepers of the bins ensuring that more waste is in the correct bin.

There are many other ways that we can help the climate without having to invest large sums of money by using buses, bikes or walking instead of the car, reducing the number of trips we make for small items, reusing packaging, turning the heating down a degree or two for some might be possible, turning the thermostat down in rooms that are not being used, buying more local and less packaged fruit and vegetables.

Bigger ticket items that help the environment but not everyone can afford due to the investment over an extended period such as insulating our homes to a better standard, installing heat pumps and electric cars. More subsidies are required to incentivise homeowners.

Local and national government needs to invest in infrastructure as the electricity grid needs to be upgraded to cope with the increased numbers of electric vehicle chargers that are required, they may also need to offer subsidies, possibly a scrappage subsidy, to encourage more vehicle owners to switch to electric vehicles.

I talk about pragmatic climate change initiatives such as those mentioned above, recycling, food waste, flowers etc and no mow May because they cost residents truly little and can save them money whilst at the same time creating a better world for everyone, especially future generations.



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Other County Council News

Supporting young carers on Youth Mental Health Day

Warwickshire County Council is taking the opportunity to remind young carers of the importance of keeping their mental health in check.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5571/warwickshire-county-council-supports-young-carers-on-youth-mental-health-day>



Stoptober 2024

Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council are calling on smokers across the area to quit for good this Stoptober. Find out what support is available:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5603/smokers-across-coventry-and-warwickshire-five-times-more-likely-to-quit-for-good-for-the-28-days-of-stoptober>



Warwickshire Fostering Celebration

Warwickshire Fostering is excited to announce a special celebration event on Thursday 7 November at the historic Old Shire Hall in Warwick. Find out more about this event:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5601/warwickshire-fostering-celebration-awards-art-support>



Specialist support for children with SEND

More children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Warwickshire are now receiving tailored support within mainstream schools. Find out more about specialist resourced provisions: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5600/warwickshire-county-council-expands-specialist-support-for-children-with-send>



Summer success for Stratford Park and Ride

Stratford's Park and Ride bus service and car park – managed by Warwickshire County Council – has continued to see an encouraging surge in visitors using the service over the summer months.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5598/stratford-park-and-ride-sees-significant-increase-in-visitor-use-following-latest-summer-promotion>



Warwickshire Business Energy Advice Service

A growing manufacturing business in Warwickshire is much more productive and using a fraction of the energy following bespoke support from the Warwickshire Business Energy Advice Service.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5602/wbeas-support-takes-brakes-off-harry-burrows-growth-plans>



LCE Fund

A funding scheme created by Warwickshire County Council has lent more than £4 million to small businesses across the county in its first two years. Discover more about the fund:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5597/lce-fund-pumps-more-than-4million-into-warwickshire-businesses-in-two-years>



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Rugby pay and display scam

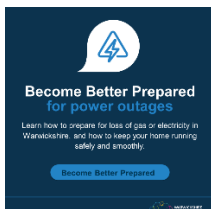
Please be aware, some of the Pay and Display machines in the Rugby area have had stickers attached directing drivers to bogus sites. Motorists should be cautious scanning any QR codes that may appear on Warwickshire County Council Pay and Display machines.



The Baby Box Project

The Baby Box Project initiative from Warwickshire County Council is pleased to announce a new partnership with Baby Basics in Warwick. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5608/a-warwickshire-project-to-support-care-experienced-parents-goes-from-strength-to-strength>



Better prepared for the loss of gas or electricity

Many of us rely on gas and electricity every day. But would you know what to do if you lost power for a few days? Learn how to prepare for power outages, loss of gas supply and more at

<https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/risks/loss-of-gas-or-electricity/>

Green Libraries Week bookmark competition

Warwickshire County Council's libraries service is delighted to announce the winners of its 2024 bookmark competition, after receiving hundreds of entries during the summer holidays. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5613/warwickshire-libraries-announces-winners-of-latest-bookmark-competition-and-invites-residents-to-enjoy-free-green-libraries-week-events>



Early years education funding - Warwickshire is exceeding national and regional averages for early years education take up. Are you accessing this important funding for your child? Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5580/don-t-miss-out-on-early-years-education-funding-for-your-child>

Warwickshire Youth Council grant fund

Warwickshire's Youth Council is pleased to announce the launch of its Youth Council Project Grant Fund, aimed at supporting the county's community and voluntary organisations that provide essential services for young people aged 11-17.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5595/warwickshire-youth-council-launch-grant-fund-to-support-local-youth-projects>



Apply for secondary school places

Parents and carers of children who have just started in Year 6 are being asked to apply for their child's secondary school place by the deadline of 31 October 2024. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5570/warwickshire-year-6-children-are-invited-to-apply-for-their-secondary-school-place>



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Become a Warwickshire Food Champion volunteer

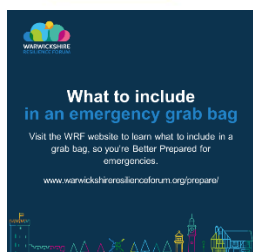
If you are passionate about helping others, why not get involved in a volunteering opportunity to become Food Champions across Warwickshire?

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5589/new-opportunity-to-become-a-warwickshire-food-champion-volunteer>



A new Smoke Free website has launched to help anyone in Coventry and Warwickshire quit smoking.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5591/new-smoke-free-website-launches-to-help-people-in-coventry-and-warwickshire-quit-smoking>



Preparedness Month 2024: Medicines and grab bag items

If you had to leave home for a few days in an emergency, would you know what to bring with you? Think about medicines, copies of prescriptions and home insurance documents.

Learn what to include in a grab bag at: <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/prepare/>



Preparedness month 2024 – WRF Website

The Warwickshire Resilience Forum website has lots of information on how to become #BetterPrepared for a range of key risks in the county. Spend a few minutes becoming #BetterPrepared today, at <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/>

#PreparednessMonth



Nature Recovery Strategy

Did you know England is widely considered to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world following historic and ongoing declines? The natural world needs all our help to recover.

Complete the survey today: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/bi/nature-recovery/>



Counter Terrorism – Vigilance

Out and about today?

Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. If you see anything that doesn't feel right report online in confidence at <http://gov.uk/ACT>

In an emergency always call 999.