



**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



District & County Councillor's report for Henley in Arden JPC Meeting 3rd March 2025

Merger of Stratford District Council with Warwickshire County Council – There was a delay in announcing who would be in the first wave of unitaries, but we eventually heard that SDC and Warwickshire were not in the first wave of local authorities to become a unitary authority. Most of those that are in the first wave are from the south, these being

- East Sussex and West Sussex
- Essex and Thurrock
- Hampshire and the Isle of White
- Norfolk and Suffolk

It is likely that many more will be selected next year, and, in the meantime, we have been told to submit our first outline plan by the 21st March 2025 and a detailed plan by November 2025.

It is obvious that not all of the districts and boroughs want to remain as part of Warwickshire with the Lib Dems at Stratford and the Greens at Warwick preferring a north Warwickshire and a South Warwickshire unitary and are relying on the fact that the Devolution White Paper says that in exceptional circumstances that this will be allowed but it is also clear that the ideal size is at least on with 500,000 residents. Therefore, they do not and are unlikely to qualify or be allowed to go ahead. This split would not serve the residents well because all services in Warwickshire are delivered locally and get the benefit of economies of scale. Unpicking Adult Social care, Children's Care, Home 2 School transport, SEND, The Fire Service and Pensions funds would be costly and only benefit the politicians who seek to remain in control of an authority.

Interestingly The Lib Dems, Greens, Labour, the independents at County all voted last week to try and preserve Warwickshire identity as whole, despite representations at the meeting from the districts and boroughs.

My own view is that we have to find the best solution for the residents of Warwickshire, and I want to preserve Warwickshire as a County, I am proud to live in Warwickshire and I don't want us to be subsumed into another authority. Warwickshire has over 600,000 residents and therefor is the governments ideal size.

The debates at both SDC and County reflected the split between those who want the best for Warwickshire residents by creating a new unitary council using the 5 Districts and boroughs and County as the basis and those that are saying they can get a better outcome by merging with another authority without providing any evidence of who that would be with and why it would be a better fit.

I have volunteered to be on the working group that works up the outline case by 21st March 2025 as I am fascinated by this and honestly believe that our residents will be better served by a Warwickshire unitary.

As a final thought on this, it should be remembered that a new Warwickshire unitary would be created, not that Warwickshire County Council would take over. This is a chance to build a new organisation using the best practices and people from all the 5 districts and boroughs and the County, rationalising the systems and getting even better value for money for our residents.

I will update you next month on progress.

More details on the white paper can be found by clicking here [English Devolution White Paper - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper) . or by pasting this link into your browser - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper>

Council tax – At a full council meeting it was agreed that the County Council would increase the County Council tax burden on residents by 4.99% (2.99% general increase plus 1.99% ringfenced for Adult Social Care) – It is clear that all local authorities are under financial pressure especially upper tier authorities such as the county council due to increased costs caused in part by the increase in National Insurance and the greater demand on adult social care (ASC) services. ASC, Children's care, Home to school transport and special education needs and disabilities (SEND) costs account for around 70% of expenditure. Unfortunately, the government have decided to await the publication of yet another report which is not due until 2028. Many authorities are struggling with costs and have taken advantage of what is known as the Statutory Over ride . This is where over spending is carried forward into the next financial year, effectively making a local authority look solvent when it's



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not. The government have no solution to this issue currently so the overspends may continue until the money runs out and local authorities actively declare themselves bankrupt (known as a s114 notice).

The calculation of overall Council tax for Henley in Arden is as follows:-

	2024/25	increase £	2025/26	Increase
Parish Council	£84.25	£1.74	£85.99	2.07%
District Council	£164.12	£5.00	£169.12	3.05%
County Council	£1,736.19	£86.76	£1,822.95	5.00%
Police	£289.72	£13.99	£303.71	4.83%
Overall	£2,274.28	£107.49	£2,381.77	4.73%
Overall increse		4.73%		

County News

Property Flood Resilience Grant - Following widespread flooding from Storm Henk in January 2024, Ministers activated the Flood Recovery Framework to provide support to those affected. One of the schemes within this framework is the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Grant that allows eligible residents to claim back for up to £5,000 of improvement works to their properties that will make them more resilient to flooding. The closing date for new applications is approaching on Monday 31st March 2025 and to ask for you to encourage any eligible residents from your parish that you are aware of to come forward and contact the Flood Risk Management team on stormhenkpfrgrant@warwickshire.gov.uk before it is too late.

Eligible residents are those that suffered internal property flooding during Storm Henk (2nd to 12th Jan 2024.)

Whilst the Flood Risk Management team have twice written out to the 106 eligible properties that they are aware of, uptake remains lower than hoped. A further letter detailing the closing date will be sent out in the coming days, alongside a post on the WCC social media pages.

Warwickshire says NO MORE silence for victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - No More Week 2025 - Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and its partners are supporting NO More Week (2-8 March) to help shine a spotlight on help and support for victim-survivors of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. It is estimated that domestic abuse impacts *1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men, and sexual violence impacts **1 in 4 women and 1 in 18 for men. Domestic abuse or sexual violence can affect anyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, faith, age or disability.

For many victim-survivors, silence is a way of life when living with a perpetrator. Abuse can take many forms that includes:

- Physical Abuse: This includes physical harm such as hitting, punching, kicking and strangulation.
- Emotional Abuse: This involves actions that harm a person's self-worth or emotional well-being, such as name-calling, shaming, humiliation, and isolation.
- Psychological Abuse (Coercive control): This includes controlling behaviour and stalking, threats and intimidation.
- Financial Abuse: This involves controlling a person's financial resources, restricting access to money, or preventing them from working.
- Sexual Abuse: This is any non-consensual sexual activity, which includes rape and forced sex acts.
- Technological Abuse: This includes monitoring online activities, cyberbullying and distributing explicit photos or videos, without consent.

Victim-survivor's voices should be heard and used as a basis for change. In early 2025, Warwickshire County Council and its partners launched its Safe Accommodation Strategy. Victim survivors are reminded that You Are Not Alone. If you need help and support, please go to www.talk2someone.org.uk (a partnership website providing information on local and national services). **Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service** Warwickshire County Council commissions the provider, Refuge to



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provide the service. This is a countywide service that offers help and support to women, men and children experiencing domestic violence in Warwickshire. If you live in Warwickshire, you can call 0800 408 1552 to speak to a support worker. If you are not able to call, please email DVSU@refuge.org.uk Always call 999 in an emergency. **SafeLine** SafeLine is a specialist charity providing a range of services across Warwickshire to support all survivors of rape and sexual abuse. please visit www.safeline.org.uk or call the team on 01926 402498 (or text 07860 027573).

Applications are now being taken for Warwickshire County Council's Induction Accelerator

Fund - Warwickshire businesses can benefit from a new fund from Warwickshire County Council's Skills Hub to enable them to induct new employees or apprentices into sustainable and net zero focused roles. - In response to business outlining some of the challenges they face when creating such roles, the Warwickshire Skills Hub, supported by the counties Districts and Boroughs, has created a programme of funding which will specifically support Warwickshire businesses to shape an in-depth induction offer. The offer includes bespoke wrap around support, training and mentoring, something businesses have stated is a huge need when supporting new recruits to acquire the right tools to be effective in their new role. The programme, funded by UKSPF, can offer up to £1000 of support to individuals who are new to the industry (such as apprentices or individuals who were previously unemployed) and entering into a role which is considered to be sustainable or support the businesses to work towards net zero ambitions as per the below.

Induction Accelerator Fund for apprentices - Businesses who recruit an apprentice or individuals who are unemployed into new and emerging technologies such as Vehicle Electrification, Battery Technology, Digital Skills or a standard that supports the Net Zero and Sustainability agenda, can apply to the fund for £1,000 salary support. This is capped at 5 people per business and the apprenticeship must begin prior to 15th March 2025.

Induction Accelerator Fund for new employees - Businesses who recruit a new employee who may have been previously unemployed (in the last 6 months) into new and emerging technologies such as Vehicle Electrification, Battery Technology, Digital Skills or a standard that supports the Net Zero and Sustainability agenda, can apply to this fund for £1,000 salary support. This is capped at 5 people per business and employment must begin prior to 15th March 2025.

The Warwickshire Skills Hub and their Future Skills Business Skills Support Advisors are on hand to support businesses to design the support needed in order to build effective induction and onboarding programmes.

For further information or to apply to the Induction Accelerator Fund, please contact please contact Louise Stolz, Future Skills Business Support Advisor: louisestolz@warwickshire.gov.uk

Warwickshire County Council Makes Strides Towards Net Zero - Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has reaffirmed its commitment to tackling climate change with the publication of its first Sustainable Futures Annual Report 2024. The report highlights significant progress in reducing carbon emissions, improving climate resilience, and driving sustainability initiatives across the county. The Annual Report highlights that WCC has cut carbon emissions by 10% in 2023/24, with notable reductions in electricity usage (-24%), streetlighting (-17%), and business travel (-26%).

WCC aims to achieve net zero emissions for its operations by 2030 and support Warwickshire in reaching net zero by 2050. While great progress has been made, further action is needed to meet the ambitious goals.

Residents and businesses can support Warwickshire's net zero ambitions by:

- Reducing energy use at home and work.
- Using public transport or active travel options.
- Reducing and recycling waste, including reusing or repairing items where possible

Those interested in finding out more about what's being done across the county can sign up to WCC's [Sustainable Warwickshire newsletter](#) and tune in to the [Sustainable Warwickshire podcast](#).

To read the full Sustainable Futures Annual Report 2024, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/environment-planning/commitment-tackling-climate-change



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Warwickshire Registration and Libraries services introduce new library membership

opportunity for babies - Parents and carers of newborns across the county will be offered a new opportunity to register their baby for a free library membership thanks to Warwickshire County Council's Libraries service and Registration service.

As part of a birth registration appointment currently in Warwickshire, Registrars gift BookTrust's Bookstart packs to new parents. These contain useful information about the benefits of reading books and sharing stories with their new baby from 0-12 months and include a free book and finger puppet to help parents get started.

In addition, Warwickshire Registration Services, in partnership with Warwickshire Libraries, offer parents the opportunity to sign-up for a free library membership at the same time, both for themselves and their newborn, at the birth registration appointment. Warwickshire Libraries have books suitable for parents to borrow and read to their babies in-person at a local library, to find through the online library catalogue, or by browsing the BorrowBox collection which includes a great range of eBooks and eAudiobooks. Babies listen to their parents' voices even before they're born, and so reading to them after they are born can be very comforting to hear these familiar voices and sounds. Reading together, even just a few words or talking about pictures in books, can help families to bond, develop babies' social, language and learning skills, and help establish a good bedtime routine. Warwickshire Libraries also deliver welcoming baby-friendly activity sessions. These include *Rhyme Time* with songs, rhyming words, and the opportunity for parents and carers to meet each other, along with *Dad and Me* sessions at Atherstone Library, which are sing-along-sessions for dads, grandads, and male carers. To find out which baby-friendly activities are happening at your local library, visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrensactivities.

Warwickshire parents and carers with children moving to Secondary School will have received their school offer on Monday 3 March

- Warwickshire parents and carers who have applied for a Year 7 secondary school place starting in September will get their child's offer of a school place on National Offer Day (Monday 3 March). Just like last year, Warwickshire County Council will automatically accept school place offers on behalf of each family. This means that parents and carers don't need to take any additional action but instead need to wait to hear from their new school. On Monday 3 March, parents and carers can log onto our Parent Portal to see what school they have been offered, and, with the vast majority of families usually satisfied with this offer, we will automatically accept the place on their behalf. This way, parents and carers have less work to do, and it allows our admissions team to focus more of their time on placing children in schools." On receipt of their school place offer, only those families who want to decline the offer of a school place need to contact the Admissions team. Details on how to do this will be included in their offer letter. Those families waiting for a Reception or Year 3 Junior School place will receive their school place offers on 16 April.

More information about secondary school applications can be found here: [Applying for a Secondary School Place – Warwickshire County Council](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5971/warwickshire-s-roads-to-benefit-from-continued-pothole-repair-funding) or by pasting this link into your browser <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homepage/422/applying-for-a-secondary-school-place>

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.

Pothole repair funding

Warwickshire County Council is delighted to announce the continuation of funding for its highly cost-effective pothole repair service, ensuring that road maintenance remains top priority for 2025-26.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5971/warwickshire-s-roads-to-benefit-from-continued-pothole-repair-funding>

Potholes can be reported by residents which gives the team local intelligence and the most current picture of the state of the network locally. It also allows residents to chart the progress of the pothole they report i.e. if it has already been reported, if/when it will be fixed, when the job is completed. To report a pothole and chart its progress, these are the simple steps. • Go to warwickshire.gov.uk/potholes

- Click on 'Create an account'
- Add email address which will receive a verification code to enter • Once account active, potholes can be reported by putting in postcode or address
- Zoom in and see if it has already been reported. • Add a brief description and add an image (optional) • You can opt to receive email updates or simply log into account to chart progress



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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)

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportaproblem> .

POLICE - Please see below projected dates for our community engagement events. We will be adding more dates and locations to the list as dates are confirmed with venues.

- **Tanworth Village Hall**
- Wednesday 5th March - 11:00 - 12:00
- Tuesday 1st April - 11:00 - 12:00
- Thursday 8th May - 16:00 - 17:00
- Tuesday 10th June - 11:00 - 12:00

The following are reported crimes over the last week, closest to the Parish

- **WOOTTON WAWEN** • Burglary. Business, off Stratford Road. Offender(s) have used cutting equipment to gain entry to premises. Several high value items stolen. Overnight 26th & 27th February. 0050 27/02/2025
- **BEOLEY** • Damage / ASB. Ongoing issue of people trespassing on derelict / development site causing damage and generally being a nuisance. Latest report Thursday 27th February. 0312 27/02/2025
- **TANWORTH** • Burglary x 3. Broad Lane. Three buildings under conversion entered and the gas boilers stolen. Damage also caused to windows, pipes, and the areas around the boilers. Between 27th & 28th February. 0073 28/02/2025
- **EARLSWOOD** • Burglary. Valley Road. Several males in dark clothing and hooded coats seen to enter premises. Door lock drilled. Several items stolen including car keys. Occurred around 2am. A vehicle was also seen waiting nearby. Wednesday 26th February. 0033 26/02/2025

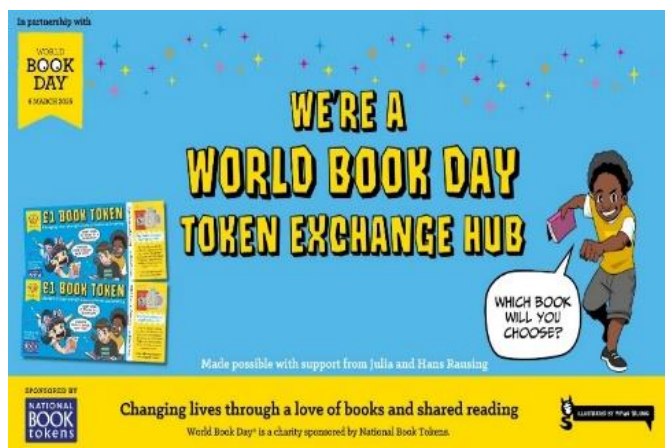
[For general vehicle crime advice please click here](#)

In an emergency call 999, for non-emergencies call 101

Police antisocial behaviour patrols - Warwickshire Police is conducting targeted patrols in hotspots to tackle antisocial behaviour. The Focusing on those locations aims to prevent crime in the specific areas and reduce overall crime levels in the wider area. Discover more about Op Resolve: <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/police-forces/warwickshire-police/areas/warwickshire-police/campaigns/campaigns/2024/op-resolve/>

Instagram videos you can watch on Op Resolve and antisocial behaviour:

County Council announcements



World Book Day community token exchange hub in libraries

Warwickshire's library service is delighted to announce that Bedworth Library is part of a nationwide community book distribution project for World Book Day on 6 March, bringing books and the enjoyment of reading to the county's children.

Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6009/warwickshire-libraries-to-host-world-book-day-community-token-exchange-hub-to-help-reach-more-young-readers>



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Adopting a child

Adoption is a life fulfilling opportunity to provide a home for a child who needs the care, support, love and encouragement that can only be offered through a permanent home.

Find out more about becoming an adopter:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5969/have-you-ever-thought-about-adopting-a-child->

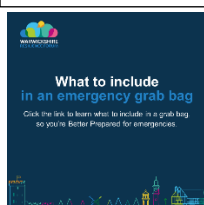
Home composting workshops - Why not find out more about the benefits of home composting for reducing waste in a series of new sessions this spring? There are four face-to-face home composting sessions taking place at venues across Warwickshire between March and May.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/green-waste/composting/6>

Hard to recycle items - Ensuring that all residents' waste finds its way into the correct recycling stream is a priority for Warwickshire County Council's Waste and Recycling Team. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6000/warwickshire-makes-it-easier-to-correctly-dispose-of-those-hard-to-recycle-items>

Love Food, Hate Waste - Discover some simple hacks, tips and guidance to make the most of your food at home. Find out why it's so crucial that we all do our bit to save our food from the bin - and protect our beautiful planet at the same time too. More: <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>



Emergency grab bags - If you had to leave home for a few days in an emergency, would you know what to bring with you to keep your pet safe and healthy?

Learn what to include in a 'grab bag' for pets, and become #BetterPrepared at

<https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/prepare/>



Careers Fair

Stratford-upon-Avon Library
Friday 7th March 2025
6-8pm

Come along to our FREE Careers Fair!
(minimum age 14 years)

Engage with industry professionals who will be sharing their career insights and expertise with you!

Stakeholders include Warwick University, the RSC, Aston Dance, aerospace engineers and local businesses!

Free Careers Fair at Stratford-upon-Avon Library

Young people from across the county are invited to attend a free Careers Fair, focused on careers advice and the chance to discover new opportunities, at Stratford-upon-Avon Library on Friday 7 March (6-8pm).

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6006/teens-and-young-adults-invited-to-free-careers-fair-at-stratford-upon-avon-library>