**REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JAMES CROCKER — OCTOBER 6 2025**

Apologies for my absence this evening; I will be in the air returning from Greece having enjoyed 10 days in the country that was the birthplace of democracy. I rediscovered this thought-provoking paragraph written by Socrates 2,400 years ago.

*"Democracy shall fall due to attempting to please everybody.*

*The poor shall desire wealth of the rich. And democracy shall grant them wealth.*

*The young shall desire respect of the elders. And democracy shall grant them respect.*

*The foreigners shall desire privileges of the natives. And democracy shall grant them privileges.*

*The women shall desire to be equal to men. And democracy shall grant them equality.*

*The crook and the wicked shall desire to rule. And democracy shall grant them important positions within the Republic.*

*And when finally the crook and the wicked are elected democratically, there shall be worse tyranny than has been during any monarchy or oligarchy.”*

**NEWS FROM SHIRE HALL**

**WCC has declared a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) funding emergency, following a unanimous decision made by councillors at September’s Council meeting.**

The motion was proposed by the Leader of Warwickshire County Council, Councillor, to highlight the Council’s ongoing commitment to improving SEND provision and to acknowledge the financial pressures associated with delivering these essential services.

With the statutory override due to end on 31 March 2028, the Council is seeking clarity on future funding to ensure it can continue to meet its legal obligations to children and young people with SEND while maintaining the Council’s overall financial sustainability

This is a huge issue that receives very little media attention. With many councils facing bankruptcy if the statutory override is removed, expect this topic to gain national attention.

***In Other News:***

* **James Crocker, Councillor Surgery - Thursday 9th Oct 2025, 5.00pm-7.00pm – Henley Memorial Hall.** Any questions, concerns, observations, please email jamescrocker@warwickshire.gov.uk to arrange a time slot to discuss in person.
* **Warwickshire County Council’s Councillor Grant fund returns for second round.** Each year WCC councillors receive £8k to support projects which empower the community to support the ambitions of the county council. (Closes 2nd Nov) <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7021/warwickshire-county-council-s-councillor-grant-fund-returns-for-second-round>

In the first round, funds were committed to the Henley Hub and a contribution made towards much needed disabled toilet facilities at the ARC.

# **Have your say on the budget priorities for WCC.** Online form to provide feedback on where your money is best spent (Closes 12 Oct) <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/bi/budget-2026-27/>

Remembrance Sunday 9th November. I intend to join the Henley

* **Lighting on Alne Close and Stylers Way.** I’m hoping this will be addressed by members of the JPC, with an update – I have been asking for assistance from the officers and I understand that we are making some progress and hoping that Lisa will have more detail.

# **Getting in Touch**

For any issues or ideas that would benefit Henley-in-Arden, as your representative, I am always available to listen and support local priorities at Warwickshire County Council.

**James Crocker**

*County Councillor for Arden
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