

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 Councillors report as of 20th March 2024

The Director of Public Health annual Report 2023 – Breaking the Silence: Working together to Prevent Domestic Abuse has just been published and focusses on the health impacts of domestic abuse and whilst this is a very serious issue, I can recommend this report to everyone as it has been written in a unique style which is informative, interesting, and incredibly easy to read and understand.

Throughout Warwickshire approximately 17,384 women, aged 16+, were estimated to have been impacted by domestic abuse between 2021-22. Nationally, 9% of women, aged 16 and over, were victims of domestic abuse in 2022. Furthermore, data suggests that 8% of women aged 18-74 experience abuse before the age of 16. This can have devastating impacts to the victim survivors physical, mental, emotional, sexual, and reproductive health.

This year's Annual Report builds on previous publications such as the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy (2023-2026). It takes a new approach, telling the story of a character named Mia, and her experience of domestic abuse, through the words of those surrounding her, and services involved. Whilst this story is fictional, the story is reflective of real-life experiences of domestic abuse, and it is intended to highlight the impact on victim-survivors, the communities in which we live, our services and wider society. The report can be found by following this link or pasting into your browser. https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/strategy-governance-health-wellbeing/director-public-health-annual-reports

Tanworth in Arden Specific

School pickup points – The subcommittee asked me whether we could do a survey of the area on Broad Lane covering the school bus pickup and drop off points. The School Crossing Patrol Service can carry out a Pedestrian & Vehicle site count assessment (PV2) at the peak times, however, WCC funding criteria for School Crossing Patrols (SCP) is for children of primary school age and not secondary. I need the Parish Council sub-committee to confirm whether the children are secondary or primary age. If they are primary, the "Service" will look at contacting the affiliated schools and arranging a count at an appropriate time when inclement weather and any school trips etc don't affect the number of children crossing. If they are secondary or a mix of both I will then look to see how we take this forward.

Cank Farm Speed limits – I have received the following note regarding speed limits by the development as these were promised as part of the approval of the application**.**

The old plan showing a proposed 40mph in-between the existing 20mph and NSL60mph along Well Lane and Butt Lane from Danzy Green Lane. Changes came about from the new Church Hill development on Well Lane. Unfortunately, the original imposition of a 20mph in the countryside is not one that would have been observed by motorists, or undertaken by WCC. We now have a more formal method of applying new speed limits across the County. It should reduce the incidence of differing speed limits on roads of the same, or very similar characteristics. This approach should mean WCC and the Police are more in line with each other.

What has been put forward now is to extend the existing 20mph further out along Well Lane to a new 20mph/NSL60mph terminal point. The original 40mph buffer area is now removed. The extended 20mph will now 'capture' the new access road that is the Church Hill development as well as the new wooden steps at the end of the road. (See photo drawing), These were put in so children from the estate can short cut to the school over the fields, as opposed to walking along Well Lane and Butts Lane. There is an existing "Pedestrians in Road Ahead" sign which is being retained as this will add to the driver reasoning why they should slow down. The existing yellow back 20mph signs are in good condition and can be reused on the new poles at the '131m' point. Of the two now vacant poles at the '0m' point, one can be used to carry two smaller 20mph repeater signs.

This shortened speed limit change is supported by the Police and is in line with what WCC thought was more reasonable. The new proposal will be going for standard Public Consultation within the next couple of weeks which will include the Parish Council.

I would be grateful for any feedback from the Parish Council and/or residents on this but the public consultation is the primary way to get your thoughts on this considered.



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WW 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. 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

To report a Highway fault, use this link https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportaproblem

Ref	Date	Issue	Action 1	Action 2
7	31/07/2022	Priority sign - Valley Rd (see email trail in Tanworth folder) 19/06/2023 - This year within 2 months i.e by September 2023	20/10/2022 - GS states that this is a road narrows sign not a priority sign- Check with Lil what is there now	26/01/2023 2 signs to go up GS raising order....road narrows sign . Possible charge to my budget of £500 17/08/.2023 Delivery team have 12 months to deliver
10	31/07/2022	Reduce the 50mph speed limite to 40 mph on Foreshaw Heath Rd	check data and submit a case to Highways 22/10/2022 contact Jo Edwards (per GS)	31/08/2023 on to do list 12/11/2023 - no reports received from resident about speed for over a year now. CLOS 14/02/2024h reopened as resident complaing about speeding and vehicles turning round 20/02/2024 Note to DW and GS 20/02/2024 letter received from resident 01/03/2024 Joel booked for new lines to go in....residents and NZ informed
27	24/07/2022	Causeway issues - photos available - parking, ASB. PSPO in operation plus cameras	Meeting planned with Police (Insp Hembry) 2/9/2022 17/08/2022 - email Chris Kettle, read up on PSPO, solutions? 26/09/2022 ONGOING 23/01/023 Spoke to Sam Slemmensk - legal issues with closing causeway still being worked on Yellow lines needs to be followed up with GS	25/1/2024 Meeting between Sam, Lynda and myslef, subsequentlt raised with David Buckland and Marcia 04/03/2024 Lynda has sent a chaser to SS
44	16/09/2022	Rights of Way Team - See Tab 44	12/12/2022 note sent to richard Barnard asking for an update 26/01/2023 meeting arranged for Monday 13/2/2023	13/02/2023 meeting held with Richard Barnard who will review these and come back to me over the next two weeks with his response and prioritised and time bound list 18/07/2023 DW will meet me on site - 31/08/202 Note sent to RB for an update
46	10/10/2022	Signage and white lining at Cut Throat Lane defective	16/11/2022 Dylan confirms that it will be done using the emergency budget but I have also advisd that I am happy to use my deleagted budget 26/01/2023 DW Nothing can be doNE . Owner of land either side need to take down hedges . Flatten the bank, white square fence now overgrown - residenst/opc issue 15/02/2023 reopened case as Road safety team alos now involved - read email trail	19/06/2023 - Junction inspected by GS/Tom Ross and myself. Potholed and white lining already deteriorating. Further comments received from councilllors so I have re opened this 19/07/2023 - temp repair...road will need to be closed for a perm patch plus new whitelining - DW confirms job raised 10/10/2023 Job issued tp contractor and DW has raised a seperate job to refresh the lining and replace the post that supports the stop sign that has been hit. Stop sign is till visible 30/01/2024 Job is raised and waiting for spring weather 10/01/2024 Note recod from GS..send note to sub committee asap
47	26/10/2022	The 300 metres or so gap along the Common footpath. As you will know we have no bus service at all. To get to the surgery or indeed the station at Wood End requires a car, though many times I have passed people walking -including a young mum with pushchair- because they have no transport to the surgery. The grass verge is of course unsatisfactory, but they have to chance walking in the road. As the b4102 is now so busy as the arterial route between Solihull and Redditch my heart is in my mouth passing them.I raised and we have discussed at PC meetings getting the 'missing link' completed. . This is the link between the two parish villages (actually three) and the essential surgery	26/01/2023 Cost would be around £40 - £50k. Needs a path 1.8m wide cost os £10k per 100m and we don't have the land to do this....ownership would need to be established	18.01/2024 meeting with GS planned for 1/2/2024 01/03/2024 PC councillors to survey Medical Cnetre and resisdnets to find out who would actually use this. Also they will approach landowners about giving up some of their land for a footpath. REPLACED BY LOG REF 119
119	22/06/2023	Extension to existing footpath The Common - Replaces log ref 47	18/07/2023 Not enough room/space per DW	23/10/2023 Cost at least £100,000 plus and land that needs toi be bought. If it is a priority we could look to get this onto the list but there are other major schemes well ahead of this 13/11/2023 Teams meeting arranged with Cllr Doidge who refused as would prefer a face tp face meeting when GS is mobile again. Meeting 25/01/2024 with Ewen and Roy - issues of land ownership, hedges, numbers of people at medical practice who actually would walk there. This is a long term project as either land will neeed to be donated or purchased and who pays. Conservative estimate for pathway is £100k plus land 01/03/2024 PC councillors to survey Medical Cnetre and resisdnets to find out who would actually use this. Also they will approach landowners about giving up some of their land for a footpath.
124	02/07/2023	4 Biddles Hill, Poolhead Lane, Earlswood, B94 5EN. Sewer Connection	17/07/2023 Note sent giving ST contact as this is their responsibility	17/08/2023 - note to ST?? 14/02/2024 Resident contcated me again. I will send letter to Director of Operations
145	04/08/2023	Cank Farm Development - 30mph speed limit	04/08/2023 Note sent to Dave Ayton- Hill, Julie has passed this onto Scott Tompkins	17/08/2023 note rec'd from Scott Tompkins saying that as the buildout is complete they will instigate the 30mph experiment as quickly as possible 08/03/2024 New speed limit should be 30mph Paul Taylor/ Mike McDonnel
146	02/08/2023	Bates Lane replacement column	02/08/2023 Note sent to GS and DW 04/08/2023 mailto:streetlighting@warwickshire.gov.uk 15/11/2023 note sent tp streetlighting requesting confirmation of work 20/11/2023 I sent a quote to the Parish Council back on 22/08/23 but to date I have still not received a response to say that they are happy to proceed with the installation and the costs I provided to them. I have received various emails asking about material specifications etc since I provided a quote but no quote acceptance to date from the Parish Council.David Cowan also emailed me last Friday to ask if we could meet on site to discuss, which I am more than happy to do this week. Just to make you aware, it can take up to around 12 weeks to connect the column once it has been installed on site. 20/11/2023Morning,We are still waiting for the lighting working party to meet and discuss the quote! Kind regards,Sarah 21/11/2023 Apologies Ian following the meeting I got in touch with Lee as it appeared that the only outstanding issue was the legal permission to plant the post in its original location. Lee cleared this matter up as he intended to position the post on the rear of the pavement. I have given up asking for a breakdown of the costs of a replacement as Lee can't tell me and the council seem to be happy with the existing arrangements with WCC. The owner of the land offered a different position but this is now irrelevant.As the Council has already resolved to purchase the thing, can the parish clerk please email Lee giving permission to proceed with the installation. As it takes 12 weeks to get the job done then Lee and I can meet on site and agree the location.	21/11/2023 As we were waiting for the lighting working party to discuss the quote, nothing has been agreed at full council yet. As it comes under finance, I will squeeze it onto the December agenda. 07/02/2024 Note sent to Lee Wragg asking if the int=stallation can be brought forward as the column has now been purchased - request from Cllr. Cowans
162	21/08/2023	Speed lines 4 nomintade my Cllr Saunders + 1 by Cllr Ross	15/11/2023 - line sbeing installed around the areas now	Jan 2024 Data issued to Cllr Saunders
177	18/10/2023	Flower Knot Junction	18/10/2023 email rtec'd from Mike Saunders & forwarded on to GS and Traffic & Troad safety	10/01/2024 Note recod from GS..**send note to sub committee asap**
196	24/11/2023	24/11/2023Deer sign Forshaw Heath Lane		29/01/2024 job raised some time ago 01/03/2 DW chceked it is on the system
203	11/12/2023	Flooding issues on the Common	04/01/2023 drains cleaned and letter received from resident thanks us. 10/01/2024 CLOSED	08/02/2024 issue reopened as flooding has occurred again 16/02/2024 letter from residents , acknowledged note sent to GS and DW 01/03/2024 Camera survey carried. Problem may be due the neighbour working on drains/ditches
256	08/02/2024	gullies between Aspley Heath Lane and Blind Lane along Broad Lane in Tanworth which had a river 15" (38cm) wide not running away due to the gullies being blocked, no response	14/.02./2024 Note sent to DW	01/03/2024 Jetting job raised
263	09/02/2024	Causeway - barriers lying on side	16/02/2024 DW Responded and fwd to Lil	01/03/2024 Special job due to to the crash barriers plus a road closure
265	16/02/2024	Vicarage Hill roadsign coroeded and possibly dangerous	20/02/2024 not sent to DW	20/02/2024 DW raised job . To be completed within the next month
275	26/02/2024	Additional speed line at Flower Knot junction	27/02/2024 Note to LIL asking whether this has been approved.	
297	20/02/2024	Questions from a Cllr. Regarding traffic safety issues	08/03/2024 Note sent to traffic safety asking for responses.	
299	14/03/2024	Road safety audit requested	14/03.2024 note sent to Traffic & Safety	

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County News

Potholes - Warwickshire is to receive, for the next 11 years, £2.056M additional funding for highway maintenance each year as part of the money being repurposed from HS2. This funding is specifically for maintenance works on highway assets including roads, footways, street lighting, bridges, traffic signals and highway drainage. Whilst none of that funding will be used to directly repair potholes, a substantial proportion is likely to be spent on road surfacing schemes which will prevent pothole from forming over the long term. We have yet to determine exactly how the funding will be spent but the team is looking at some of the high-cost maintenance schemes that are typically not affordable from the annual government grants for maintenance and working on prioritising schemes. We repair our potholes using a combination of revenue funding, as well as capital funding. Generally, the revenue funding is used for reactive repair, and the capital funding is used for pro-active repairs to larger areas where potholes will likely form. For 2023/24 our budget for revenue defect repair gangs is £1.970m, these gangs repair potholes but also all manner of other highway defects. In addition, we will spend approximately £1.75m of capital on small patching works.

So far, this financial year we have repaired 7,890 potholes across the network. Warwickshire has a strong reputation for making repairs and we are ranked 4th out of 30 peer authorities in the National Highways and Transportation Survey for overall highways maintenance, condition of highway and how quickly we deal with potholes and damaged roads.

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.

Test your smoke alarms - Warwickshire Fire and Rescue are reminding everyone to make sure that they have working smoke alarms fitted in their homes and to test them regularly. Residents are being urged to make sure they have working smoke alarms fitted in their homes and to test them regularly. As part of the latest Fire Kills campaign, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is reminding people of the importance of smoke alarms in saving lives in the event of fire. Smoke alarms can give someone the few extra seconds they need to escape in a fire. Testing takes only a couple of seconds, but it can save lives. While the majority of homes across the country now have alarms fitted, most people are not aware that the average alarm has a lifespan of just ten years before it needs replacing. With that in mind, WFRS is asking residents to ensure that their smoke alarms are up to date and up to the job.

Here are their top safety tips:

1. Make sure there is at least one smoke alarm on every level of the home
2. Test smoke alarms at least once a month
3. Check that smoke alarms are less than 10 years old
4. If you have a smoke detector which runs on a battery that needs replacing, make sure to change it once a year
5. Fit smoke alarms in the right place - on landings and hallways and near bedrooms. Consider fitting them in rooms which have electrical appliances – e.g., a heater or charger – or other fire risks
6. Check on neighbours or loved ones who may need help to ensure they're fully protected

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service also fits smoke alarms as part of free safe and well visits. People can apply on their website or call 01926 466282 to see if they are eligible for a safe and well.

A439 Warwick Road in Stratford update - Warwickshire County Council is pleased to announce significant progress on the Warwick Road A439 improvement scheme. **Over the next two weeks**, contractors on this scheme are set to be far more visible as the Council will be gearing up for significant progress as additional work crews arrive to commence construction on the new crossing point and footpath/cycle way. As part of these improvements, a special wall will be constructed to retain ground levels effectively.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5067/a439-warwick-road-in-stratford-upon-avon-update



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Police and Crime Commissioner Elections 2024

On 2 May 2024, the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Warwickshire will be held.

On this day, you will be asked to vote for one candidate to become PCC, so make sure you are registered to vote.

Flooding of homes – potential grants available - A reminder - You will be aware that Warwickshire is one of eight local authorities in the country which received notification from government of potential financial support for residents, business owners and farmers that have been affected by flooding. Can I please ask that if you are aware of any residents in your Parish that have been affected by the flooding that you encourage them to contact our Flood Risk Management Team so that they can be confirmed, and potential funding can be released. They can do this really simply through the Council's website at: Flood Risk Management – Warwickshire County Council Alternatively email the team with the details and we will get someone to drop a leaflet off to them.

Rights of Way survey – The county Council are keen to get you views on the footpaths and rights of way around us whether you walk them or not. If you do walk them, we want to know what is good, what could be improved and if you don't, why not? Warwickshire County Council is responsible for around 1700 miles of public rights of way. These paths are both in the countryside and urban areas. They are important for enjoying and exploring, for travelling to work or school and for health and wellbeing. They are part of what makes Warwickshire a special place to live, work and enjoy. A public right of way is a path that anyone has the legal right to use. There are four types: Footpaths for walking, mobility... **Closes 7 April 2024**

Further details can be found by dropping the following into your browser. **https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/**

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.



Keeping children safe at home

Every home can be a safe haven for our little ones! Taking simple steps can prevent accidents and create an environment where children can explore and learn safely. From securing blind cords to storing medicines out of reach, let's work together to keep our homes child-friendly.

For more advice: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5058/keeping-children-safe-at-home



Social stories in libraries

New social learning tools available at all 18 of Warwickshire's Libraries help to make these community spaces more accessible for all.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5054/warwickshire-libraries-enhance-sensory-offer-with-introduction-of-social-stories



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New creative practitioner for libraries

Warwickshire County Council's libraries service is delighted to share a new commission opportunity for a part-time creative practitioner to engage with the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities in Warwickshire.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5060/warwickshire-libraries-launches-new-creative-practitioner-role-to-engage-with-county-s-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-communities



Local mental health support posters

Are you feeling down or in mental health crisis? Find out more about the available support.

If you feel there is an immediate risk to life: call 999 or go straight to A&E.



Voice of Warwickshire resident panel

Warwickshire County Council is looking for more people to join its residents' panel, Voice of Warwickshire.

If you are interested in local policymaking, say what matters to you by joining today: https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/voice-of-warwickshire/registration2024/



Family Information Service

Parenting a baby or toddler and meeting their needs can be difficult at times. It's normal to have lots of questions. Our team at Warwickshire Family Information Service can help you find support with money issues, such as household debt, benefits and free school meals applications.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis



Stratford Greenway closure

The top half of the Stratford Greenway will be closing in phases to complete essential resurfacing works in April and May.

Find out more about these works: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5069/stratford-greenway-expected-to-close-for-resurfacing-in-april-and-may



The "Love Food, Hate Waste" Food Waste Action Week 2024 starts today and runs to 24th March. This year's focus is encouraging us to 'Choose What You'll Use' to save money and reduce the amount of food we waste, for more info visit https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/

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