

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 4th April 2024 for the Tanworth in Arden Parish Assembly

I am available most days of the week and my day regularly starts at 8am and runs to 10pm some days. Contacting me by email is always best as I am often in meetings with residents, business owners, farmers, and officers. I spend many hours reading papers for and attending committees, with reports regularly being in excess of 200 pages. Local government seems to thrive on voluminous report.

My last 12 months in Tanworth in Arden have been dominated, locally, with 4 issues

- Flooding
- Speeding
- The Causeway
- Footpath from Earlswood Common to Broad Lane

In addition to the above 4 themes, I have received 50 local requests on other issues ranging from potholes to broken or additional signage, double yellow lines, HGV is turning in round in Forshaw Heath Lane, decaying wooden bridges, sewer connections, Flower Knot junction and fly tipping.

Flooding has been a big issue in part of the parish, and it has been a challenge to keep gullies/drains/ ditches and culverts clear of silt and debris. There are only 3 gulley cleaners to cover the whole of Warwickshire, so delays are commonplace. I am arranging to hire a gulley cleaner for two weeks to deal with these issues across my division.

Speeding, like flooding, is a common issue across my division that covers from Wolverton (to the East) and takes in, Langley, Claverdon, Preston Bagot, Henley, Wootton Wawen, Ullenhall and Tanworth in Arden (including Earlswood). Data from the various speed lines that I funded from my budget is being reviewed by your subcommittee.

Progress on the Causeway issue has been slow, further options are being explored. Regarding the footpath issue, I arranged for a senior officer to walk the route with Parish Councillors, your clerk and myself to look at the issues of narrow verges, land ownership, potential usage etc. Your Parish Council is now looking into potential usage.

How the money is spent

	2023/24 Spending after income £ millions	2024/25 Spending before income £ millions	2024/25 Income £ millions	2024/25 Spending after income £ millions	Change in Spending after income £ millions
Children and Young People Directorate	**90.6**	**292.0**	**-181.3**	**110.7**	**20.2**
Children & Families	81.7	112.4	-29.1	83.3	1.7
Education Services	8.9	179.6	-152.2	27.4	18.5
Communities Directorate	**107.3**	**163.8**	**-43.0**	**120.8**	**13.5**
Environment, Planning & Transport	60.4	89.7	-17.3	72.4	12.0
Fire & Rescue	23.0	25.9	-2.0	23.9	0.9
Economy & Place	22.9	46.3	-23.3	23.0	0.1
Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Change	1.0	1.9	-0.4	1.5	0.5
Social Care and Health Directorate	**160.4**	**345.1**	**-179.4**	**165.7**	**5.2**
Social Care & Support	148.9	299.5	-143.8	155.7	6.8
People Strategy & Commissioning	11.5	45.6	-35.6	10.0	-1.6
Resources Directorate	**57.8**	**76.7**	**-16.0**	**60.7**	**2.9**
Enabling Services	26.9	33.3	-5.4	27.9	1.0
Finance	15.7	20.3	-4.4	15.9	0.2
Strategy, Planning & Governance	5.5	8.4	-2.3	6.1	0.7
Workforce & Local Services	9.8	14.7	-3.9	10.8	1.0
Corporate Services	**45.4**	**51.9**	**-21.2**	**30.7**	**-14.7**
Corporate Services (Including provision for pay inflation)	45.4	51.9	-21.2	30.7	-14.7
Service costs	**461.5**	**929.5**	**-440.9**	**488.6**	**27.1**
Money taken from (-) or put into our reserves	-17.9			-11.3	
Our budget	**443.7**	**929.5**	**-440.9**	**477.3**	
Less money from the Government					
Business rates	-80.8			-90.7	
Extra (-) / Deficit (+) Council Tax collection from previous years	-0.2			0.4	
Amount we will raise from the Council Tax (£m)	**362.6**			**387.0**	
Tax base	**219,304.2**			**222,915.7**	
Band - D council tax (£)	**£1,653.57**			**£1,736.19**	

County wise there are 4 big issues that account for 70% of the council tax that it receives. These are:

- Childrens services
- Adult Social Care
- SEND (Special education needs and disabilities)
- Home to School transport

The County Council received approximately £490m each year in Council tax and business rates but over £375m is allocated to the 4 areas above. In addition, we receive a further £290m from the Government of which £180m is allocated for education services. Other areas we cover are the Fire Service, support for businesses, refuse disposal and much more as the table to the left shows.

Added into this is increasing expenditure on climate change measures which will be come more important over time as we will have to learn to adapt to increasing levels of rainfall and longer hotter summers for many years. The UK accounts for less than 1% of all greenhouse gas emissions so we are reliant on the big emitters such as China, the USA, India & Russia doing their bit to help the climate. We must decarbonise the County, we have committed to net zero carbon for our Council emissions by 2030 and net zero carbon for County emissions by 2050.

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.