

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 Tanworth in Arden Parish Council as of 18th September 2024

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

Statistics

Each month I distribute several articles and I thought that it might be useful if I supplied some data about the general UK economy and other statistics about Stratford and Warwickshire, from various sources, so here goes.

- In July, the claimant count (for benefits) in Stratford on Avon (SOA) was 1,715 a figure that has been steadily increasing from 1535 in May. Across Warwickshire the number of claimants is 25,110 (22,205 in May 2020)

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- The UK unemployment rate for April to June was 4.2% and is below estimates and decreased in the latest quarter
- The employment rate in the same quarter was 74.5%(higher than estimates) leaving 22.2% as economically inactive (ahead of estimates)
- Annual earnings growth in between April and June was 4.5%
- There were nearly 100,000 working days due to labour disputes in the UK in June alone, although in December 2022 it was as high as 830,000
- The UK economy grew by 0.6% in Q2 (April to June)
- Business confidence continued to grow in August per the Purchasing Managers index
- New orders rose at the highest rate this year during August
- Interest rates have been cut to 5% but the decision according to the Bank of England was finely balanced as whilst inflation (CPI) fell back to the 2% target it is expected to rise again this year, to around 2.75% with it coming back down again in the new year.

Other interesting statistics

- The average house price of January 2024 was £361,000 , similar to January 2023. Stratford continues to have the highest house prices in the West Midlands.
- SOA has 2.8 supermarkets per 10,000 people against a UK average of 2.7 although Cotswold has 3.9, Worcester and Cherwell with 3.4 and N. Warwickshire with 3.2
- SOA has 1.41 large chain supermarkets per 10,000 which places us 53rd out of 372 authorities in England
- SOA population is estimated at around 144,000 compared to 122,000 in 2014
- Approximately 25% of the SOA population is aged 65 or greater, this increases to just over 33% aged 60 or greater
- Between 2021 and 2022 SOIA , at 1.94% increase in population was the 9th highest out of 164 nonmetropolitan district local authorities and was the 2nd highest behind Coventry in the West Midlands.

Turning to a recent report on Councils across England , Wales and Scotland it has found that funding challenges are getting worse with the funding gap prediction for 2025/26 (the difference between the amounts collected in council tax etc and the costs of providing services) is £3.4bn in England alone. We are lucky because at both District and County officers are constantly working to get the best value for money. However, whilst neither are insolvent (as in Birmingham's case) the need to keep a tight rein on expenditure is key as Adult social care costs, home to school cost, SEND and children's services are all experiencing significant increases in demand and cost

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 gulley 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**.**

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 .

Issues in nearby Parishes

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



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Ref	Date	Parish/Town	C or D	Issue	Action 1	Action 2
7	31/07/22	TIA	C	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 01/09/2024 DW will chase this up through GS
27	24/07/22	TIA	C	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 13/08/2024 Meeting of CIAG group whilst I am on holiday 18/8/2024 to 01/09/2024
46	10/10/22	TIA	C	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 20/05/2024 - Speed line requested per Cllr Saunders location 17/06/2024 relining and surfcaing will be done soon as job has been issued per DW ....speed line will be installed after wiork is completed by IJS/Joel
84	19/01/23	TIA	C	double yellow lanes Malthouse Lane?	03/03/2023 Message from Ben Taylor The proposals for double yellow lines are going to be presented to the Portfolio Holder for a decision on 14th April. Once we have received approval to implement the double yellow lines, we will submit a works order to install them and as part of this works order we can add in an order to refresh any of the faded yellow lines along the causeway (see 88 in emails for full message) 24/03/2023 Need to find out what the PC want on this 18/05/2023 PC chased up on this 19/06/2023 IJS to visit and see what has actually been done as its not clear whetehr this is still outstanding 27/11/2023 Note sent to Ben Davenport ragarding gaps and also survey 31/08/2023 No further complaints received close off 01/10/2023 complaints received as some residents still want the lines extened 10/10/2023 email sent to Trafic & Safety (advised to do this by DW) 13/11/2023 DW sent note to Highways small works team asking about the missing yellow lines and the survey 29/01/2024 no complaints for around 6 months, close this 17/06/2024 Further complaints received	09/092024 resident asked why civil enforecment couldn't send letters to those illegally parking or employ volunteer wardens. Note sent onto Civil Enforecmnet for their comments. 10/09/2024 respinse rescivde and included in the CC report to the Parish on 19/09/2024
119	22/06/23	TIA		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 resident to find out who would actually use this. Also they will approach landowners about giving up some of their land for a footpath. 07/08/2024 GS supplied Ewen with maps showing extent of WCC Highway maintained at public expense
196	24/11/23	TIA		24/11/2023Deer sign Forshaw Heath Lane		29/01/2024 job raised some time ago 01/03/23 DW checked it is on the system 17/06/2024 o/s
297	20/02/24	TIA		Questions from a Cllr. Regarding traffic safety issues	08/03/2024 Note sent to traffic safety asking for responses.	08/03/2024 Note sent to traffic safety asking for responses. 13/08/2024 Not sure if I had sent the response to the TRA and Tom so did so today
352	21/05/24	TIA		Speed lines to be laid at Flower Knott junction after roadworks are completed after 7/6/2024	12/09/2024 not completed yet	
353	03/06/24	TIA		Analyse the latest speed data - Foreshaw Heath Lane		
372	26/06/24	TIA		Penn Lane spoeed lines	Note sent to resident asking for porecisie location and a copy to the Parish Council	18/09/2024 still required?
373	25/06/24	TIA		Clwes Wood Lane ROW issue	26/06/2024 Note sent to resident for exact location	04/07/2024 Note to RB asking for details of who the landowner is
379	02/07/24	TIA		Village hall solar panels gramt funding available?		Note sent to Heather Timms
383	18/07/24	TIA		Footpath request Valley Road	23/07/2024 Note sent to PC	

LOG REF 85 - Parking in Malthouse Lane

I have received the following note from the Senior Appeals and Representations Officer in response to a query from a resident.

The options suggested by your constituent have been fully explored previously. There is no option for volunteer CEO's to be employed, and since enforcement of parking restrictions is not carried out for the purpose of raising money, that would not be a legitimate reason to increase patrols……..With the resources we have available, we struggle to attain the overall deployment hours across the County as it stands. There are no optional additional hours available, and patrols must be consistent and proportionate across the whole County. Patrols were increased in July and August, and as such, in the last 3 months there have been 21 patrols of Malthouse Lane which resulted in only 2 vehicles being observed parked in contravention of parking restrictions, and where PCN's were issued. We cannot issue PCN's based on photographs provided, since a CEO must observe a vehicle in contravention before they can issue a PCN. We could not send letters to the vehicle owner since we have no knowledge of who that is. Signage is put in place where parking restrictions apply, and must then comply with the appropriate legislation (The Traffic Signs, Regulations and General Directions 2016). As such, we cannot place additional signage. Where the parking restriction is a double yellow line (No Waiting at Any Time), legislation does not allow us to place signage since the restriction always applies, however if there is existing signage it does not have to be removed (but cannot be replaced if it is

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removed). We will continue to patrol this area, proportionate to the resources available and the levels of compliance observed, and PCN's will be continue to be issued where vehicles are observed parked in contravention .

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

Free child car seat check events return across Warwickshire in September Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is inviting all residents to attend free child car seat checking events being held throughout Warwickshire between 16 and 20 September. Warwickshire Road Safety. More details can be found using this link.
https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5512/free-child-car-seat-check-events-return-across-warwickshire-in-september

Police News

SAMBOURNE - Vehicle Crime. Reinswood Court. Grey Mitsubishi L200 stolen from driveway without keys. Overnight 5th & 6th September. 0052 06/09/2024

STUDLEY

- Arrest. Castle Road area. Male driver arrested on suspicion of drink drive offences. 9am Sunday 8th September. 0058 08/09/2024
- Burglary. Icknield Street Drive. Two dwellings entered and considerable amount of copper piping stolen. As a result, damage was caused to both properties by leaking water. Between 3rd & 4th September. 0146 06/09/2024
- Suspicious Circumstances. Wickham Road area. Report of a group of about 5 males with torches trying house and car doors. 2.55am 3rd September. 0029 03/09/2024
- Suspicious Circumstances / attempt vehicle crime. Car park, Birmingham Road. Male from a BMW has gone to works van and has attempted to gain access to side door. This was unsuccessful and the male and BMW left the area. 2.50pm 1st September. 0171 01/09/2024

HENLEY – Burglary. Birmingham Road. Glass in rear doors smashed and entry gained. 2 masked men seen on the property after an alarm activation. 8.50pm Unsure if anything stolen at the time of the report. 0324 03/09/2024

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.

Other County Council News



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



Take five steps to wellbeing

There is lots of useful information available about the benefits of spending time outdoors over the summer to improve your physical and mental wellbeing. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5498/take-five-steps-to-improve-your-wellbeing-this-summer



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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/

Heritage open days at Warwickshire libraries

Did you have school milk in little glass bottles or take your dinner money into school in a small brown envelope? From September 6, education is the theme of Heritage Open Days at Warwickshire libraries. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5506/local-history-education-displays-at-warwickshire-libraries



Cycle September 2024

Cycle September begins on Sunday, have you signed-up yet? Join the hundreds of cyclists across Warwickshire who are getting on their bikes, logging trips with the Love to Ride app to be in with a chance of winning fantastic prizes. Do it now: https://www.lovetoride.net/warwickshire



Ticket fraud

🎸Getting ready to buy those Oasis tickets? 🎸 If you're booking tickets for any gig or event, stay safe and only buy tickets from a venue's box office, official promoter/agent or well-known, reputable ticket site. For more advice visit: http://star.org.uk/buy_safe

#SafeInWarwickshire



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.



RSV vaccination in pregnancy

If you're 28 weeks pregnant you are eligible to have the respiratory syncytial virus #RSV vaccination to protect your unborn baby. Babies are vulnerable as they have small airways and limited immunity against #RSV. Please speak to your maternity service or GP surgery.

RSV vaccination for older people

From 1 September, people aged between 75 and 79, will be contacted by their GP surgery to book a slot for their respiratory syncytial virus #RSV vaccination.

Please wait to be contacted. Older people are vulnerable to the disease, which can lead to hospitalisation.



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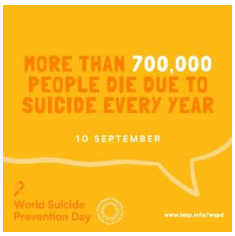






Force launching recruitment drive for volunteer police officers. We're excited to launch a campaign to attract people from across Warwickshire to join us as part time volunteer police officers. Working in some of the most important areas of policing, Special Constables – known as Specials - get all the training and powers of regular police officers but with the bonus of fitting it around their existing job and other commitments. Specials enjoy the opportunity to meet people and gain new experiences while playing their part to protect their communities from harm. Specials can work as little as 16 hours per month, though many choose to do more. To help with our recruitment drive, we're holding two discovery events for people to find out more about what it takes to become a Special, how they could make a positive difference, and learn skills that will stay with them for life. An online event will take place via Teams from 6pm to 9pm on Wednesday 11 September while there will be an in-person event a fortnight later (25 September) at our police headquarters in Leek Wootton from 6pm to 9pm. Participants will be able to ask about everything from applying to the recruitment process and from training to questions about the role itself. We'll also have some of our current Specials on hand to talk about why they chose to join us. Our Specials come from all walks of life – bringing with them a multitude of different experiences and we're keen to add to the ranks ahead of our next training intake in October. Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to sign up for the events here https://forms.office.com/e/sTJq7ZVjLj

There's a wealth of information about becoming a Special on our website. We'll also be posting more on our social media channels over the next few weeks where people will be able to discover more about the life of a Special and how to get involved. Every Special has a story. Join us to start writing yours



Suicide: The importance of starting the conversation

The theme of this year's Suicide Prevention Day is 'Changing the Narrative on Suicide', which serves as a chance to #StartTheConversation around suicide and shift the culture to one of openness, empathy and support.

read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5544/world-suicide-prevention-day-the-importance-of-starting-the-conversation



Support to pay household bills

If you are struggling to pay your utility bills, you can look to Warwickshire County Council for support. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5542/apply-for-support-to-pay-household-bills

Living Well website

Warwickshire County Council are highlighting the Living Well website to help support and encourages people to take preventative measures to ensure they keep themselves healthy, happy and independent. Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5537/living-well-website-helps-warwickshire-people-to-stay-healthy-happy-and-independent-for-longer

Day opportunities for people with dementia

Increased opportunities for socialising, improved quality of life and health, and living longer independent lives in their own communities are the intended outcomes from new contracts for day opportunities. Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5538/day-opportunities-for-older-people-and-people-with-dementia



Safety advice for gas appliances

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is reminding residents to follow safety guidelines for gas appliances this Gas Safety Week. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5545/safety-advice-for-gas-appliances



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Empowering Futures JSNA report

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has published an evidence based Empowering Futures Joint Strategy Needs Assessment which examines the physical health needs of children across the county, to help them have the best start in life. Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5546/empowering-futures-jsna-report-examines-the-physical-health-needs-of-children-across-warwickshire

Business Watch website

An upgraded website providing free and impartial business crime and cybercrime advice has been launched to help protect Warwickshire businesses from becoming victims of crime.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5547/improved-and-updated-website-provides-crime-advice-to-warwickshire-businesses

Free sexual health services

The Coventry & Warwickshire Sexual Health Hub went live on 1 April 2024 and combines face-to-face and online services. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5548/learn-about-free-sexual-health-services-in-coventry-and-warwickshire-this-sexual-health-week



Independent Panel Member volunteer opportunity

Would you like to volunteer as an Independent Panel Member to hear School Admission Appeals? Panel Members need only dedicate as much time as they are willing to offer to this voluntary role and exercise good judgement. To find out more, visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jobs-volunteering/become-independent-panel-member

Warwickshire's next Young Poet Laureate



The search is on for Warwickshire's tenth Young Poet Laureate, who will succeed May Vaughan in the role for 2024/25.

Find out more and apply: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5556/could-you-become-warwickshire-s-next-young-poet-laureate-the-competition-for-2024-25-is-now-open-



Registering birds

Do you keep ducks, geese or chickens in your back garden or smallholding or allow your pet parrot or budgerigar to go outside? If so, you will need to register them by 1 October 2024. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5552/pet-owners-and-smallholders-are-urged-to-register-their-birds



Parking fine text message scam

Warwickshire County Council is warning drivers of a scam in which motorists are falsely being targeted via email with Penalty Charge Notices for parking offences.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5560/county-council-urges-caution-as-residents-highlight-a-parking-scam