

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 20th March 2025

Government white paper on Unitary Councils – Letters have been prepared by both the County and by the districts and boroughs outlining what type of unitary council they would like to see. The County would like a single unitary whilst the District & Boroughs want two unitarities (a north and a south Warwickshire unitary). This is only the initial stage so the Government can understand what progress has been made.

The net savings over 5 years seem to favour the single unitary whilst the two unitary solutions would be more local. However financial resilience, residents' views and the social care are all considered plus the suggested minimum size of 500,00 residents which only a single unitary can offer.

Residents' views will be sought before the fully detailed plans are sent in by November of this year, It could be May or June 2026 before a decision is made by the Government on which option to go with or with an option of their own.

Register to vote

With local elections approaching on 1 May 2025, Warwickshire County Council is urging all eligible residents to register to vote and have their say on important local issues.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6055/warwickshire-county-council-urges-residents-to-register-ahead-of-local-elections

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



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services). **Warwickshire Domestic Violence Service** Warwickshire County Council commissions the provider, Refuge to 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 DVSW@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 counites 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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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

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 .

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**
- 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

ALCESTER • Theft. Shop, Kinwarton Road. Group stole various items from shop by way of shoplifting. 5.30pm Saturday 15th March. 0311 15/03/2025

STUDLEY • Suspicious Circumstances / Attempt Vehicle Crime. Knottesford Close. Two males wearing balaclavas seen on driveway to house. One of the males was holding up an 'aerial' in order to try and capture vehicle key signal. They were challenged and drove off in a blue BMW. 10.40pm Thursday 13th March. 0407 13/03/2025

ULLENHALL • Attempt Burglary. Perry Mill Lane. Alarm activation at house. Window smashed and 0ffender(s) have attempted to enter but this was not achieved, and they drove off in a Silver Land Rover Defender. Around 2pm Friday 14th March.0207 14/03/2025

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:



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County Council announcements



Schools of Sanctuary Award

Lighthorne Heath Primary School and Sydenham Primary School (part of the Leamington Federation) have become the first schools in the county to achieve the Schools of Sanctuary Award.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6058/warwickshire-schools-first-to-earn-award-for-inclusivity

Simplified home to school transport application process - Warwickshire County Council has introduced a new, streamlined process for home to school transport for pupils starting Year 7 in September 2025.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6060/council-simplifies-home-to-school-transport-application-process-



Food Waste Action Week 2025

Warwickshire County Council is thrilled to support Love Food Hate Waste's Food Waste Action Week, which runs from 17 to 23 March 2025.

Find out how you can minimise your food waste: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6068/join-the-worldwide-movement-taking-action-on-food-waste



Youth group funding

Youth groups across the county are invited to apply for small grants to support their work with young people aged 11-18.

Discover more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6065/funding-to-help-warwickshire-groups-working-with-young-people



Stratford and Alcester library awards

Stratford and Alcester libraries are delighted to be selected as a Regional and Country Winner in The British Book Awards 2025.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6066/stratford-upon-avon-and-alcester-libraries-announced-as-regional-and-country-winner-ahead-of-the-british-book-awards-2025



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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.

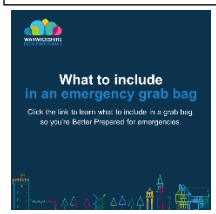
Find out more about becoming an adopter: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5969/have-you-ever-thought-about-adopting-a-child-

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/