

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

County Council elections – As you will know by now, I am standing down as a County Councillor at the forth coming elections.

It is fair to say that I will miss being a County Councillor but sometimes there comes a time in your life when you realise that you ned to re-prioritise what you are doing and that is what has happened with me. I have spent the last 6 years in local politics and will spend another 3 years as a district councillor but whereas district work is a fairly light load, county work is full time if you're doing this properly. So many thanks to you and everyone I have come into contact, it has been an amazing and rewarding (nearly) three years as your County Councillor so good luck for the future.

News is thin at the moment as we are in purdah, the pore election period where effectively we mustn't say or do anything that "ties the hands" of the next Council.

There are three big issues that confront all of us over the next few months from a District & County perspective

1. Merger of Stratford District Council with Warwickshire County Council
2. South Warwickshire Local Plan
3. County Council Elections

Merger of Stratford District Council with Warwickshire County Council – There was a delay in announcing who would be in the first wave of unitaries, but we eventually heard that SDC and Warwickshire were not in the first wave of local authorities to become a unitary authority. It is likely that many more will be selected next year, and, in the meantime, were told to submit our first outline plan by the 21st March 2025 and a detailed plan by November 2025. More below.

South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Preferred Options Consultation - The Preferred Options eight-week consultation period ran until Friday 7th March 2025 and includes a range of draft policies and draft policy directions. Whilst the consultation has now closed there will be further opportunities later this year or early next year when the shortlist of sites that are being considered is whittled down from the 24 potential Strategic Growth Locations and 12 potential New Settlement locations contained in the consultation

An important issue that evolved followed questioning by me at a briefing for Councillors, namely that the SWLP team and Head of Planning are considering that all developments over 500 dwellings should also have space for the Gypsy & Traveller Community. Whether this is adjacent to or a separate site near to the new development is yet to be decided.

The Preferred Options document identifies 24 potential Strategic Growth Locations and 12 potential New Settlement locations, which are an indication of where SDC considers large-scale strategic growth may be best be located. Overall, the growth locations identified would accommodate well more than South Warwickshire's housing and employment needs, and it is not expected that all these locations will be allocated in the SWLP.

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.

Reception and year two Junior School places –





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If you applied by the deadline, you will have received your school offer on National Offer Day, 16 April 2025. On this day, The County sent you the name of the school that your child has been offered for September 2025. You do not need to let them know if you plan to accept this offer. Look out for any updates from the school and visit their website for information on term dates, uniform and any transition arrangements. Your offer letter will tell you how you can refuse the offer. If you do not refuse the offer, County's records will show that the offer has been accepted. If your child has not been offered a place at one or more of your higher preferred schools, or any of the schools you applied for, this will be because the school(s) received more applications than there were places available and other children met the admission criteria more closely than your child. However, your child will have been added to the waiting list(s) for those schools. Appeals are heard by independent appeal panels. You can appeal for any higher preference school for which you have been refused a place. The deadline to submit an appeal for a hearing to take place before the end of the summer term is 2 June 2025. Even if you plan to appeal, we advise you to accept the offer you have been made, so that your child has a secured place for September 2025. Doing so will not affect any appeal you make, or your place on any waiting lists. More details can be found by using this link Read more:
https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6114/warwickshire-parents-and-carers-with-children-starting-school-in-september-2025-will-get-their-school-news-on-16-april

Council simplifies 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. - This means that eligible pupils living in Warwickshire will no longer need to complete application forms. Instead, the Home to School Transport Team will automatically assess eligibility and notify families by 28th of April 2025. Further information will be sent out to confirm the type of transport assistance being provided by 18th August 2025. This change is designed to simplify the process, reduce the need for applications, and ensure transport arrangements are confirmed earlier, giving families peace of mind before the new school year begins.

Families who have a change of circumstances, such as moving house, who are new to Warwickshire or have pupils going into Reception, are advised to continue using the current online application system. Please note that these changes apply only to pupils without an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) moving into Year 7.

Families who do not receive this notification by28th of April 2025, but believe their child is eligible should complete the online application form by visiting https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/transporthelpunder16.

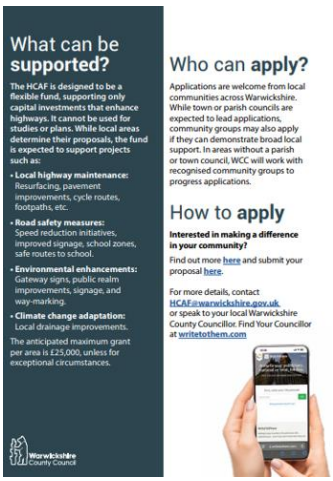
Please note that applications for Key Stage Transfers will be processed from the 28th of April 2025 through to the 30th of June 2025.

For more information regarding the home to school transport process, please visit https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schooltransport

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.

The Highways Community Action Fund has now been launched and may be a good option for the Parish. It offers up to £25,000 of funding on a matched fund basis i.e. a 50/50 match. Previous schemes that have been rejected may not be considered for funding. See below for the link to what can be funded.







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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**
- Thursday 8th May - 16:00 - 17:00
- Tuesday 10th June - 11:00 - 12:00

Recent incidents of a public interest : -

OVERSLEY WOODS

ASB. Wood area. 3 scramblers and 2 quads seen heading for the woods. Caller concerned that they would become a nuisance. 2.50pm Saturday 12th April. 0208 12/04/2025.

ALCESTER

• Attempt Burglary. Sherwell Drive. Door lock on patio doors damaged. Entry not gained. Between 7th & 8th April. 0318 09/04/2025

• Burglary. Evesham Street. Door barrel removed and entry gained. Keys stolen and subsequently a Blue VW Golf GTi was also stolen from the premises. Overnight 8th & 9th April. 0031 09/04/2025

ASTON CANTLOW

• Suspicious Circumstances. Chapel Lane. Three males seen around parked vehicle, they were challenged and made off in a car waiting nearby. 2.10am Friday 11th April. 0028 11/04/2025

BILLESLEY

• Burglary. Billesley. Three males have smashed open a door and have gained entry. They were challenged by the occupant of the house. The males have runoff to a vehicle waiting for them. 6pm Thursday 10th April. 0288 10/04/2025

WILMCOTE

• Burglary. Aston Cantlow Road. Brick thrown through patio window and entry gained. Various items stolen including jewellery and cash. Between 4.15pm and 6.50pm Thursday 10th April. 0312 10/04/2025

WELFORD



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• Burglary. Headland Road. Three males have smashed the glass in door and have gained entry. They have then been challenged by the occupant of the house. The males have run off to a vehicle waiting for them. 6.15pm Thursday 10th April. 0294 10/04/2025

COUGHTON

• Suspicious Circumstances. Coughton Hill. Vehicle parked across driveway to house causing an obstruction. There were at least three occupants. When asked to move they said they had broken down and became abusive. The vehicle eventually drove off. 6am Monday 7th April. 0035 07/04/2025

CLAVERDON

• Suspicious Circumstances. Church Road. Two males in a van acting suspiciously in the area. One of the males had approached one of the houses to see if the vehicles on the drive were for sale. 2pm Thursday 10th April. 0182 10/04/2025

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:

Other County Council News

Warwickshire art competition asks children to explore community superpowers



Get Creative - Refugee Week 2025

Children and young people across Warwickshire are invited to take part in a special arts competition to celebrate Refugee Week 2025. The theme for the week is 'Community as a Superpower', and children are being encouraged to imagine the small, powerful things they can do to help create a kind, welcoming community.

How to enter:
To take part, email your entry to migration@warwickshire.gov.uk with your name, age, school name and address by 11.59pm on 11 May 2025. Entries can be submitted by the young person, a parent/carer or a teacher.



Summer opening and recycling centres - Warwickshire County Council is reminding residents that recycling is even easier with extended summer opening times now in operation.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6136/longer-summer-opening-makes-recycling-easier-at-local-centres



The Bike Month Challenge 2025 - There is an extra incentive to get those bikes out, as throughout May, Warwickshire County Council is supporting Love to Ride's Bike Month 2025 Challenge, which aims to get businesses, communities and individuals to take up cycling.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6135/ride-five-miles-this-may-with-love-to-ride-warwickshire



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World Health Day 2025 - Throughout April, Warwickshire County Council is supporting World Health Day and raising awareness of the importance of health.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6133/council-promotes-health-and-wellbeing-services-in-warwickshire-for-world-health-day

safe in... warwickshire

Top community safety priorities for Warwickshire

Organisations tasked with community safety matters in Warwickshire have come together to share and review the results of their latest public surveys.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6138/residents-reveal-their-top-community-safety-priorities-for-warwickshire



Free event for learner drivers, parents and carers - Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership are excited to announce an event, on 30 April, designed to support parents and learner drivers to navigate learning to drive.

Discover more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6137/together-on-the-learning-to-drive-journey-free-event-for-learner-drivers-parents-and-carers-



Improve your home fire safety by quitting smoking - Smoking is still a leading cause of deadly fires in the home, with more people dying in fires caused by cigarettes and smoking than any other cause.

Find out how quitting smoking can be good for your health on more ways than one: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6139/improve-the-fire-safety-of-your-home-by-quitting-smoking



Free Park Yoga coming to Kingsbury Water Park - Warwickshire County Council is excited to announce the launch of Park Yoga sessions at Kingsbury Water Park, an opportunity to enjoy outdoor yoga in a beautiful natural setting.

Discover more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6141/free-park-yoga-sessions-coming-to-kingsbury-water-park-



Warwickshire's High Sheriff reflects on historic year - As her tenure as High Sheriff of Warwickshire comes to a close - the county's first Sikh woman to hold this prestigious office - Rajvinder Kaur Gill looks back on a year of service, learning, and community engagement.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6140/warwickshire-high-sheriff-reflects-on-an-historic-year-of-service



Finding hope through volunteering - Over the past 3 years more than a thousand Ukrainian nationals have begun a new chapter in Warwickshire. This was enabled through over 950 hosted relationships and the support from generous Warwickshire residents.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6142/finding-hope-through-volunteering



Better prepared for industrial accidents

If you live near a site that handles industrial materials, you can read #Warwickshire Resilience Forum's tips on how to become #BetterPrepared for industrial accidents, at https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/risks/industrial-accidents-major-fires/



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Sign-up to Warwickshire's biggest youth conference

With less than one month to go, young people across Warwickshire are gearing up for Shaping Tomorrow Together, the county's biggest youth conference, taking place on Friday, 25 April at the University of Warwick. Discover more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6121/don-t-miss-the-chance-to-sign-up-to-warwickshire-s-biggest-youth-conference

Accommodation-related support - Accommodation-related support provided to residents in Warwickshire changed from 1 April 2025, aiming to provide better information and advice. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6119/improved-access-to-accommodation-related-support-for-residents-in-warwickshire-at-risk-of-homelessness

Hospital to Home

Enhancing patient safety with Hospital to Home service

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is helping hospital patients return home safely with their Hospital to Home service. Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6120/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-enhancing-patient-safety-with-hospital-to-home-service



Warwickshire welcomes new Vice Lord-Lieutenant

Warwickshire Lieutenancy is delighted to announce the appointment of Pal Sanghera as the new Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, following the retirement of Sue Saunders from the role.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6125/warwickshire-welcomes-new-vice-lord-lieutenant-as-sue-saunders-retires-

Warwickshire County Council

New contract for short break and family care services

Warwickshire County Council is pleased to announce a new contract to provide a range of short breaks and family care services for eligible children and young people.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6126/local-authority-announces-new-contract-for-short-break-and-family-care-services



Sails restoration at iconic Chesterton Windmill

Warwickshire County Council is delighted to confirm that work to install four new sails at Chesterton Windmill has been completed. Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6127/sails-restoration-project-complete-at-iconic-local-landmark-chesterton-windmill



Fire Service On-Call Recruitment

Applications for on-call firefighters in Henley-in-Arden, Wellesbourne, Bidford, Polesworth & Southam open soon .FRS is looking for dedicated, community-minded people to join the team . Register your interest to be the first to know once applications go live: https://ow.ly/3iMr50ViXws

Warwickshire Secondary Book Award 2025 'Quiet Storm' by Kimberly Whittam has won the Warwickshire Secondary Book Award 2025 following a vote by Year seven and eight students from 24 different secondary schools across the county. Discover more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6128/local-school-students-vote-for-quiet-storm-by-kimberly-whittam-to-achieve-the-warwickshire-secondary-book-award-2025



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Childminder recruitment

Do you enjoy working with children?

Find out more about becoming a childminder and the range of support that is available in Warwickshire: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcare/become-childminder

DISCOVER | CONNECT | IMAGINE
Warwickshire Libraries

Changes to Warwickshire Libraries online services -Warwickshire County Council's library service is about to begin implementing a significant changeover of its online systems, including its website and app, from Wednesday 9 April – Tuesday 29 April 2025. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6130/changes-to-warwickshire-libraries-online-services-to-begin-from-9-april

bridgit
LEARN, SHARE, CARE

Improved support for unpaid carers

A new digital platform designed to support unpaid carers has launched in Warwickshire.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6102/improved-support-for-unpaid-carers-across-warwickshire-via-new-digital-platform

WARWICKSHIRE Families First

National children's social care reform

Warwickshire County Council is leading the way in this national reform of children's social care through continued involvement in the Department for Education programme pathfinder.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6101/warwickshire-demonstrates-its-child-friendly-ethos-through-a-lead-role-supporting-national-children-s-social-care-reform



Latest Community Orchards planting

Warwickshire County Council is thrilled to announce the planting of the county's latest community orchards in Stratford and Rugby.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6108/fruitful-pursuits-as-warwickshire-county-council-celebrates-the-county-s-latest-community-orchards



Tick Bite Prevention Week 2025

Warwickshire County Council, along with colleagues from UKHSA, is highlighting Tick Bite Awareness Week to help promote what you should do if you or a family member is bitten by a tick.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6107/tick-tock-it-s-time-for-tick-bite-prevention-week-2025



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Setting young people up for positive futures

As a Child Friendly county, we know that every young person in Warwickshire deserves the skills and support to succeed.

The Set for the Future campaign will guide you through supporting your child's next steps to adulthood., Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6106/setting-young-people-up-for-positive-futures

Library of the Year Awards 2025

Rugby, Stratford-upon-Avon and Alcester libraries are delighted to be selected as finalists for Library of the Year at The British Book Awards 2025!

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5996/warwickshire-libraries-selected-as-finalists-for-library-of-the-year-award



More user-friendly systems and libraries

Warwickshire Libraries customers are being reminded that exciting digital changes are coming soon. Find out what this means for you: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6111/warwickshire-libraries-to-introduce-quicker-and-more-user-friendly-online-system-in-april



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



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