

## **County Councillor report Upper Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

### **Household Support Fund**

The objective of the Household Support Fund grant is to support those most in need of financial support this winter with food, energy and water bills, as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic. The grant runs from 01 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 and Warwickshire has been allocated £3.47 million, which is being distributed through the existing Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme.

In February the Household Support Fund will roll out cost of living vouchers automatically to those families accessing free school meals, and in March we'll launch a utilities voucher campaign, inviting applications from residents.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/costofliving>

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

### **County Council Budget 2023/24**

Warwickshire County Council has confirmed investment into services for the County's most vulnerable as it agreed its financial approach to support the delivery of the Council's priorities.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3791/county-council-budget-delivers-on-investment-and-support>

Further information on support available to manage the increased household costs can be found on [Warwickshire Cost-of-Living website](#)

### **Council Tax / Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner/Parish Councils**

The total Band D Council Tax will be as follows: 2022/23 2023/24

Stratford-on-Avon District Council 2022/2023 £154.12

2023/2024 £159.12. Increase 3.24%

Warwickshire County Council 2022/2023 £1,590.93

2023/2024 £1,653.57 Increase 3.94%

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner 2022/2023 £262.71

2023/2024 £276.71 Increase 5.33%

Town and Parish Councils (average) 2022/2023 £66.08

2023/2024 £69.26 Increase 4.81%

### **Mental Health Support from Kooth**

Children and young people in Warwickshire can find support at <http://Kooth.com> - a free, safe and anonymous online community for mental health and wellbeing.



### **Dear Life – Suicide awareness and prevention**

If you, or someone you know, is having thoughts of suicide or significant self-harm, help and support is available now. Visit <http://dearlife.org.uk> where you will find details for crisis support.

If there is immediate risk to life, call 999.

### **Warwickshire Supported Employment Service**

Warwickshire County Council has launched a brand new and ground-breaking service to support young people and adults with learning disabilities and/or autism into employment.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3873/launch-of-the-groundbreaking-and-unique-warwickshire-supported-employment-service>



### **Support helps Ukrainians to work in Warwickshire**

Local businesses, faced with a skills shortage, are finding these gaps being filled through an innovative scheme that offers Ukrainian refugees the opportunity for employment.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3871/support-helps-ukrainians-to-work-in-warwickshire->

### **Warwickshire welcomes extension to £2 bus fare cap**

Warwickshire County Council has welcomed news, released by the Government, that bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months.

Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3964/-2-bus-fare-cap-to-be-extended-in-warwickshire](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3964/-2-bus-fare-cap-to-be-extended-in-warwickshire)

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