

County Councillor report Upper Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 30th November 2023

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to consult on new resourcing plans

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has authorized the Chief Fire Officer to go ahead with a public consultation on a new model for resourcing. The proposed model does not include plans to close any of the current fire stations across Warwickshire. A public consultation will commence in December and run for three months to allow an extensive and full consultation.

More information about Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is available here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue>

Wellesbourne Market illegal sales

With the support of Trading Standards, the owners of Wellesbourne Market have banned the sale of large 'Rambo' and 'zombie style' knives and machetes on the market and are cracking down on the sale of illegal vapes.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4638/wellesbourne-market-takes-steps-to-stop-the-sale-of-large-rambo-knives-and-illegal-vapes>

Young people vaping

Vaping amongst children and young people has increased in recent years.

In response, Warwickshire County Council is working with schools and parents to encourage open conversation with young people about vaping.

Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4633/warwickshire-confronts-rising-trend-of-young-people-vaping>

Keeping Children Safe

Children and young people have a right to be safe and should be protected from all forms of abuse. It's everyone's responsibility to spot the signs of child exploitation and protect children and young people in Warwickshire. More information is available at www.somethingsnotright.co.uk/

Children Social Care Costs/Capital Financing Costs

At the recent 2024/25 budget meeting, the focus was on the WCC's costs for Children in Care. The current unit costs are: Residential under 14 years old - £5,230 per week. Residential 14 plus years old - £6,119 per week.

Average residential costs all - £5,857 per week or £305,000 per year

Provisional average cost of Internal Childrens Homes - £3,543 or £185,000 per year. Unit cost for Residential Schools for children in care - £2,884 a week or £150,000 per year. The cost for Home to School Transport @ £18m per year.

Warwickshire County Council is offering free Independent Travel Training for young people with SEND.

Warwickshire County Council is proud to raise awareness of our initiative aimed at empowering young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to lead happy and independent lives.

The County Council is providing free Independent Travel Training (ITT) to eligible young people with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) who qualify for home to school transport assistance. For more information, please visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sendtransport, or contact us at tt@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Cherry Tree House

Cherry Tree House is the first children's home in Warwickshire and offers local provision to the looked after children from the county, helping to keep them closer to their friends and family. Ofsted inspectors found that the Stratford-upon-Avon home for looked after children provides effective services for children and young people has been judged as good. The report also noted that staff are passionate about their role and have high aspirations for children. The relationships that children have with staff are a key factor in the progress that children make.

New Warwickshire primary schools

Two new primary schools are included in the options available to parents and carers with children who will start school for the first time in September 2024.

The schools, available for parents and carers to choose for the first time, are Myton Gardens in Warwick, and Griffin Primary School in Rugby. Children starting at Myton Gardens, which is managed by Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust, will initially be based at nearby Oakley School until the building work is finished, with free transport supplied by the school.

Find out how to apply:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4688/new-warwickshire-primary-schools-included-in-the-2024-options-available-for-warwickshire-parents-and-carers>

Support for those experiencing loneliness this winter

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is reminding residents that support is available for anyone who is feeling lonely and isolated as we enter the winter months. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4741/support-for-those-experiencing-loneliness-this-winter>

Keeping warm in the winter

Keeping warm is a vital part of keeping well in the winter particularly for older people, the young and those with chronic illness. More information about how to support residents in your local town or parish with keeping warm is available at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepwarm

Warwickshire Safeguarding

Warwickshire Safeguarding ensure safeguarding measures are met and that vulnerable adults and children across Warwickshire stay safe from harm and abuse. To find out more, visit www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/

Male domestic abuse

Thursday 2 Nov 2023 was Victims of Male Domestic Abuse Day.

One-in-three victims of Domestic Abuse are male. Support is available in Warwickshire from: www.talk2someone.org.uk.

You can also log onto www.wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk/ or call 0800 616171. In an emergency dial 999.

Older male domestic abuse

Many older male domestic abuse victims will not have access to the internet. If you know someone who needs help, please suggest Mankind on: 01823 334 244

LGBTQ+ Male Domestic Abuse

If you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community and are experiencing domestic abuse due to your sexuality, please know you are not alone.

Support is available for you via www.talk2someone.org.uk

County Council launches Kind Communities - Kind Food Grant to support local community food projects

Residents involved in community-orientated food projects across Warwickshire are invited to apply to a new Warwickshire County Council Grant fund.

The Warwickshire Kind Communities-Kind Food grant aims to support local projects across the county that empower communities to make more affordable, healthy, and sustainable food choices.

[The Kind Communities - Kind Food Grant](#) will provide a total of £25,000 funding to support food projects across the county and will be open for applications from 9am on Monday 27 November. Applicants will be able to apply for up to £1,000 per project.

To assist with the application process, the County Council is hosting several face-to-face drop-in sessions and online webinars. These will provide valuable information and guidance to potential applicants at the following locations:

[Venture House Business Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Monday 4 December 3-5pm](#)

[Online session via Microsoft Teams, Thursday 7 December 6:30-8:30pm](#)

For full details about the Grant,

visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/kindcommunities

The deadline to apply is Sunday 7 January 2024 at 5pm.

High Sheriff Award Nominations

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to help their local community? Why not nominate them for a High Sheriff Award?

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4687/the-high-sheriff-awards-2023-24-celebrating-warwickshire-s-unsung-heroes>

West Midlands Sustainability Benchmark 2023

Warwickshire County Council has been rated amongst the top local authorities for sustainability by the West Midlands's Local Authority Sustainability Benchmark 2023.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4768/council-ranked-amongst-the-best-in-west-midlands-for-sustainability>

Warwickshire's visitor economy bounces back

Warwickshire's visitor economy has bounced back strongly from the pandemic with 15 million trips undertaken by visitors to the county in 2022.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4772/-1-27billion-bounce-back-for-warwickshire-s-visitor-economy>

Preventing slavery and human trafficking

Warwickshire County Council has approved the updated Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking statement for the financial year 2022/23.

Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4764/warwickshire-county-council-reconfirms-commitment-to-prevent-slavery-and-human-trafficking>

County Councillor

Chris Mills