

## County Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 12th March 2024

### **Devolution in Warwickshire and Investment Zone**

A significant long-term milestone has been reached for Warwickshire with the news in the Chancellor's budget that the County Council is to be one of three councils to be awarded a Level 2 Devolution Deal.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5047/devolution-deal-and-investment-zone-form-significant-long-term-milestones-for-warwickshire>

### **Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy**

The new Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide Prevention Strategy has recently been published, aiming to give people the knowledge, skills and confidence to talk about suicide, improve awareness of the signs, and help prevent it from happening. There is a national problem with suicides starting from the age of 10 years. Unfortunately, Warwickshire saw an increase since last reported in 2021.

Find out more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4986/partners-unite-to-address-suicide](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4986/partners-unite-to-address-suicide)

### **Raising awareness of the support available for those who self-harm**

On Friday 1 March, Warwickshire County Council reminded residents of Self-Harm Awareness Day and the mental health support available to them.

For those who are struggling or feeling overwhelmed with their mental health, there's a range of support networks available, such as the Coventry and Warwickshire Mental Wellbeing Line. Open 24/7. The team can be contacted by calling **0800 616171**.

Young people can also access support online via anonymous counselling, chat and discussion forums from Kooth (age 16-25) and Qwell (aged 26+).

Visit <https://wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk/anonymous-web-support-on-any-device/> to find out more. If you are struggling with your mental health, support is available to you and it's just a click or phone call away to find out more. visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth>.

Lifesigns are a charity that supports Self-Harm Awareness Day. To find out more about their work and support for people who self-harm visit <https://www.lifesigns.org.uk/>.

## **Love Your Bump**

Stopping smoking can be a challenge, but when a new baby is due, quitting smoking is one of the best things you can do as a family to give baby a healthy start in life. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5005/love-your-bump-helping-mum-and-bump-to-be-smokefree>

## **Quit for No Smoking Day**

Take the steps to quit smoking for good and mark the 40th anniversary of No Smoking Day next Wednesday 13th March.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5045/help-build-a-smoke-free-generation-and-quit-for-no-smoking-day->

## **Supporting people with dementia**

There are 8,000 people estimated to be living with dementia in Warwickshire, and there is help available to support both the person who has been diagnosed with dementia and those who are around them. Find out more:

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4991/supporting-people-with-dementia-to-remain-as-independent-as-possible-](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4991/supporting-people-with-dementia-to-remain-as-independent-as-possible-)

## **Warwickshire Connected**

Get connected with what is happening in your local area. Warwickshire Connected is a free community messaging system brought to you by Warwickshire Police. Sign up here: <https://www.warwickshireconnected.com/>

## **Foster carer case study**

Marie, a parent and child foster carer with Warwickshire County Council explains her journey to becoming a foster carer and what it means to her.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5044/from-housing-to-hearts-my-journey-as-a-parent-child-foster-carer-with-warwickshire>

## **Parenting courses**

Parenting your little one can be hard! Especially when you're trying to work your way through the ups & downs of those early months and years. Our parenting courses are designed to increase the confidence of parents, grandparents, & carers.

Reserve a spot: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warwickshire-parenting-support-71623337213>

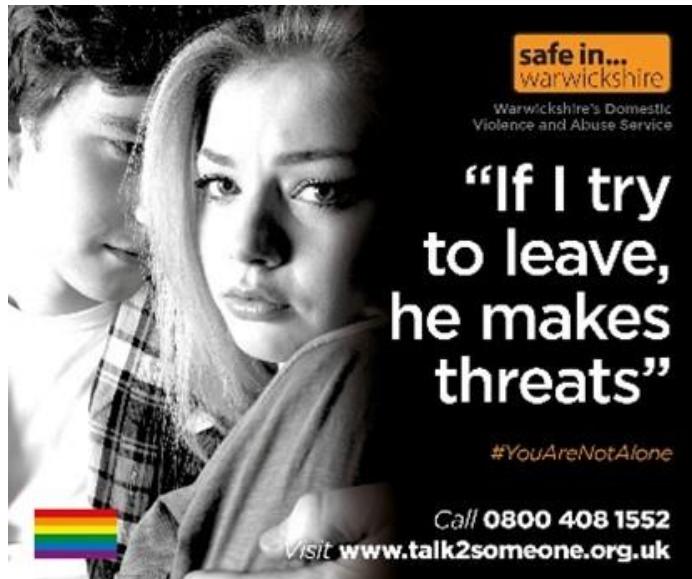
## **Help to meet household utility costs.**

Warwickshire residents struggling to pay their utility bills can look to Warwickshire County Council for support. Until 22 March 2024 the council's Local Welfare Scheme would have been distributing the final allocation of government funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund to people living in the county who are finding it difficult to meet these household costs. The Household Support Fund can provide short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment to meet immediate needs and help those who are finding it hard to afford energy and water payments. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis.

Families and households in Warwickshire can apply whether they use pre-payment meters, pay by direct debit or on receipt of a gas, electricity, or water bill. Residents are invited to contact the Local Welfare Scheme team for a confidential discussion about their situation. I would advise that all applications for the payment must be made by 22 March 2024. **However, due to the Chancellors Budget announcement this will now be extended for 6 months to September 2024.** Anyone entitled to benefits eligible free school meals has automatically been offered this support so will not be eligible though applications are welcome from others in financial difficulty at this time. Anyone looking for general support to help them face daily costs of living can visit the [Warwickshire Cost of Living website](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living). The website features information and advice from a range of services throughout the county on a range of money saving and debt management solutions. Warwickshire residents struggling to pay their utility bills can look to Warwickshire County Council for support. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5030/help-to-meet-household-utility-costs>

## No More

WCC will be signposting to help for victim-survivors of #DomesticAbuse and Sexual Violence as part of @UKSAYSNOMORE. Follow the conversation and for help and support go to [www.talk2someone.org.uk](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk) In an emergency dial 999.



## Moths at Ryton Pools Country Park

WCC are asking all allotment holders in Lighthorne as well as the residents in Warwickshire to look out for unusual moth sightings as 51,868 moths of 650 individual species were found in 2023 at Ryton Pools Country park following conservation efforts. Find out more about what this means for the area's biodiversity: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5039/vast-variety-of-moths-found-at-ryton-pools-country-park-highlight-biodiversity-success>



Chris Mills County Councillor

