

County Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 9th January 2024

Warwickshire County Council Financial Position

Our financial position compares favourably with other councils:

Benchmarking shows we are a relatively low-cost council in most areas with average or above average performance and strong financial resilience indicators. Around £40m reserves to support the budget over the next couple of years – so not in immediate S114 territory and expect to be able to set a balanced budget through very difficult decisions.

I need support now

If you are struggling with money and need help now, we can help with food, energy and water bills, money advice, aspects of family life, accessing emergency food and mental health support. Find help here:

<https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/i-need-urgent-help>

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse Increased isolation and financial pressure can result in a higher incidence of domestic violence. There is no excuse for abuse. Whether physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or technological, no one should have to suffer alone. Help is available. The service offers a 24-hour national helpline, safe house accommodation, advocacy and outreach support. Call 0800 408 1552 or visit refuge.org.uk and search Warwickshire.

A safe place for children in care

Providing a safe space for a child in care who cannot stay with their family can be a gift. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4883/giving-children-in-care-a-safe-place-to-stay-in-an-emergency>

SEND support expanded in Warwickshire

More children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Warwickshire are now able to receive specialist support within a mainstream setting. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4843/send-support-expanded-in-warwickshire-with-new-resourced-provisions>

SEND Health Checks

Did you know young people aged 14 or over with a learning disability are eligible for a free annual health check provided by the NHS? It's a good opportunity to discuss any health or wellbeing concerns with a GP or nurse and pick up any health issues early on. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-send/health-wellbeing-6>

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JNSA)

Warwickshire County Council is asking people who work or volunteer with children and young people to take part in the Empowering Futures JSNA survey. We want to hear from you if you work or volunteer with children and young people. This JSNA seeks to understand the physical health needs of children and young people in Warwickshire.

Find out more about the survey here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4872/helping-to-shape-services-to-support-children-and-young-people->

Loneliness

Post-Christmas and New Year can be difficult for those who are struggling and intensify feelings of loneliness. If this is you, we want to help. Visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/loneliness-self-isolation-useful-resources/2> for tips and support if you are feeling lonely or isolated.

Warm Welcome Hubs

Check out the Warwickshire Rural Community Council directory of Warm Hubs to find a local, warm, safe, inclusive place where you can expect a friendly welcome. Find out more: www.wrccrural.org.uk/services/wrcc-warm-hubs/warm-hubs-network/

Resourcing to Risk Consultation Events

The Council is holding public events in January & February on a proposed change to the WFRS service delivery model.

These are taking place in Stratford, Kenilworth, Atherstone, Bedworth and Southam, booking is essential: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-76075908553>

Stop Smoking

Smokers, you may well be surprised how much your habit is costing you – if you smoke 10 cigarettes a day you could save £2352 a year by quitting. Find out more about the support available to help you quit at fitterfutures.everyonehealth.co.uk/stop-smoking-service/ or text ‘QUIT’ to 60777.

Tuberculosis in England

Cases of TB in England increased by 7% in the first half of 2023 compared to the same timeframe in 2022, with 2,408 notifications compared to 2,251 in the first 2 quarters of 2022 according to data in the [UKHSA national quarterly reports on TB in England](#). TB notification rates in England remain highest in people who are originally from parts of the world where TB is more common and those in large urban areas in England which are associated with higher levels of deprivation, and in [inclusion health groups](#) – previously also referred to as ‘under-served populations’. If you think you have symptoms of TB, it’s important that you see your doctor. Look out for a cough that lasts more than 3 weeks, a high temperature, lack of appetite and feeling very tired or having no energy. TB is curable if treated promptly and with a full course of antibiotic therapy.

Arranging COVID-19 vaccination transport

Transport to COVID-19 vaccination appointments has been arranged with the volunteer transport providers that cover Warwickshire, they are working to a standard operating process for this work. Currently this transport can be requested if residents have no other safe way of accessing vaccination sites.

This service is based on volunteer availability and limited funding arrangements.

Booking process: Residents in Rugby, Warwick and Stratford areas contact: VASA 01789 262889 and press option 1, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm or email transport@vasa.org.uk

The New Year's Honours recipients for 2024 who live in Warwickshire

Medallists of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)

Christine Ann Beech from Rugby; awarded a BEM for her services to young people, particularly through her Girlguiding role as a Brownie Leader.

Martin Dymock Harrison from Leamington Spa; awarded a BEM for his services to the community in Royal Leamington Spa and the West Midlands.

Ellen Jane Muers from Rugby; awarded a BEM for her services to the community in Rugby.

Disposing of batteries safely

Warwickshire County Council Waste and Recycling Service is reminding residents how to safely dispose of used batteries. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4855/dispose-of-used-batteries-safely-this-christmas>

Chris Mills
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Lighthorne

