

County Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council 8th Feb 2022

Council Tax increase

Announced 8th February

The County Council Tax will increase by 3.75% in 2022/23. This is to help fund many services such as:

Adult Social Care: The highest spending service for Warwickshire County Council

Children's Social Care. Directly invest £10m in Children's Social care Services

Invest £14m to protect our elderly citizens and vulnerable adults

Invest £2.8m to increase capacity in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Make a difference to the lives of children and young people

Warwickshire County Council is looking to all members of the community to ask them what they can do to help make the County the best place for children and young people to grow and learn. The Council is looking to businesses, organisations and individuals for ideas, no matter how small, which will nurture the next generation.

This will be the key to the success of Child Friendly Warwickshire, an exciting programme bringing the County together in a collective mission to create opportunities and lasting and positive change to young people. It will ensure their voices are heard, that they are safe, happy and healthy and equipped with the skills to lead the best lives they can.

The programme needs support of everyone in the community so that every child and young person, no matter their background, has every chance to flourish.

Find out how to get involved at www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/our-friends

Join new County taskforce to achieve good health for all

Warwickshire residents who are passionate about health and wellbeing are invited to be part of a group to provide independent advice, ideas, insights and feedback to Warwickshire County Council and partners. The purpose of the newly established Equity Group is to ensure a community perspective is always included in service planning and improvements. The views and ideas of residents will be central to ensuring needs can be met across the county. Participation is voluntary and anyone over 18, living anywhere in Warwickshire can get in touch below to find out more. Training

will be offered to all members during March 2022 and the group also involving representatives from the County Council and different organisations will meet monthly from April.

How to apply

Residents from a wide range of backgrounds are encouraged to apply to become a member of the Health Equity Group. No qualifications are needed. For successful applicants, a welcome meeting will take place on Thursday 24th February 2022 and free evening training sessions will be provided between 1st - 29th March 2022.

To find out more please contact Michelle Gravatt at michellegravatt@warwickshire.gov.uk

Warwickshire joins the region's virtual forest

Warwickshire County Council has joined the West Midlands Combined Authority's (WMCA) Virtual Forest as part of its response to the climate change emergency and restoring nature. The Virtual Forest is an opportunity for everyone in the West Midlands to get involved in making the region a greener, happier, and healthier place to live, work and play. It is part of WCC's commitment to achieve net zero by 2041. Since the launch of the Virtual Forest two years ago, more than 45,000 trees have been planted. The plans are to plant 600,000 trees.

Creative Dementia Workshops (Twitter and Facebook)

Following on from the successful singing workshops in Leamington, there are now some more free, fun, friendly workshops happening for people with dementia and their carers.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2715/free-fun-creative-workshops-for-people-with-dementia-and-their-carers-february-march-2022>

Warwickshire Road Safety Strategy (Twitter and Facebook)

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership has published the Warwickshire Road Safety Strategy to 2030 setting out an ambitious target to reduce deaths and serious injuries on roads by 50% by 2030. For more information go to:

<https://warksroadsafety.org/2022/01/24/warwickshire-road-safety-partnership-publishes-new-strategy-to-2030/>

Highway Code changes 2022 (Twitter and Facebook)

The #Highway Code has changed. You should give people crossing, or waiting to cross, and cycling straight ahead, priority when turning in and out of junctions.

The Highway Code has changed. Check the changes and let's keep each other safe:

www.gov.uk/dft/highway-code-changes

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on ethnically diverse communities

Covid-19 and health inequalities

Joint Communities and Adult Social Care & Health OSC

Dr Shade Agboola Director of Public Health for Warwickshire

COVID-19 highlighted and sometimes exacerbated existing inequalities

Ethnicity – unequal COVID-19 health outcomes

PHE reports:

[Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups](#)

[Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19](#)

People from BAME communities had

higher rates of COVID-19 mortality and morbidity compared to White British

The report made seven recommendations for implementation, including “Support” community participatory research to understand the wider determinants of COVID-19 in BAME communities, and to develop readily implementable and scalable programmes to reduce risk and improve health outcomes”

Survey

[A detailed questionnaire was circulated to Warwickshire residents](#)

39 people from ethnically diverse communities (small sample size)

Experiences of accessing a GP

Experiences of caring for others

Experiences of lockdown

Long term physical health conditions

Case studies

Long term physical health conditions

Mental health difficulties

Isolation

Accommodation issues

Vaccine hesitancy

Ofsted report

Ofsted published its report on the inspection of Warwickshire children’s services which took place in November 2021. Warwickshire County Council are delighted to announce that the inspection team found the local authority to be performing well grading us ‘good’ in all areas. This is such great news.

As part of the inspection, Ofsted inspectors spoke with children, young people, and families to hear their views, as well as partner agencies and social workers. They also visited a wide range of our services for families.

Following the last inspection, the Council has implemented a wide range of measures to make sure that the needs of children in Warwickshire are better met.

Children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire are invited to take on a heroic challenge to win £2,500 for climate change funding for their school.

Children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire are being invited to submit their ideas on what it means to be a climate change hero as part of the Young Green Shoots competition run by Warwickshire County Council

For more information visit: <https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/>.

Chris Mills
County Councillor
Kineton and Red Horse

