

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

### **Supported internships in Warwickshire**

Warwickshire County Council is working to develop pathways to employment for young people with SEND through supported internships.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5681/new-role-to-lead-the-development-of-supported-internships-in-warwickshire>

### **Impact film wins ‘Best Overall Film’ at festival**

A powerful short film created by young people in Warwickshire with SEND in collaboration with Coventry University has won the prestigious title of Best Overall Film at the SDG Film Festival 2024. The film titled *Wrong Size Fits All* triumphed over 74 submissions. Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5697/impact-film-wins-best-overall-film-at-international-film-festival>

### **New role to lead the development of supported internships in Warwickshire**

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has appointed a Supported Internships Coordinator to oversee and enhance the delivery of supported internships for young people aged 16 to 24 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) across the county.

### **Support for male victims of domestic abuse**

Warwickshire County Council and its partners marked the third ever Male Victims Domestic Abuse Day by showcasing the range of support that is available for victims. One in Seven men experience domestic abuse from partners or relatives Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5700/warwickshire-county-council-highlights-support-for-male-victims-of-domestic-abuse>

### **Highlighting the power of fostering**

Warwickshire Fostering is proud to announce the release of Everything, a heartfelt short film that shines a light on the life-changing impact of fostering.

Watch the video here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5650/new-short-film-everything-launches-to-highlight-the-power-of-fostering->

## **Council commits to raising awareness of Pension Credit**

Warwickshire County Council is committed to ensuring the county's eligible residents are supported in claiming their Pension Credit entitlement this winter.

This follows unanimous support at a Warwickshire County Council Full Council meeting which saw Councillors united in their commitment to protecting the county's most vulnerable pensioners from fuel poverty.

Pension Credit tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs. People who claim Pension Credit may also be able to get the Winter Fuel Payment and help with heating costs, as well as access to other financial support.

It is estimated around 5,800 pensioners living in the county may be entitled to Pension Credit but are not currently claiming it.

The Council is also asking residents to check in with friends and family who may be entitled to Pension Credit and to support them with checking eligibility and making their application.

Check eligibility at <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit> or by calling the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234

To help residents stay safe and well during the winter months, Warwickshire County Council and partners will be signposting to a variety of support and guidance.

For more information about a wide range of support and information this winter visit [Cost of Living – Cost of Living \(costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](https://costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk)

## **Warm and well this winter**

As we step into the winter season, the excitement of festive activities can sometimes be overshadowed by challenges, especially for those facing health risks or financial pressures. Discover more about staying warm and well: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5701/supporting-warwickshire-to-stay-warm-and-well-this-winter>

## **Water Beads**

Urgent warning: Keep water beads away from under 5's

An [alert](#) has been issued warning parents and childcare settings to keep water beads away from children under 5 years old. The warning comes following action by the Office of Product Safety and Standards to remove unsafe water beads from the market. With their bright colours and squishy feel, water beads

are especially appealing to young children. When dry, water beads are tiny and can easily be swallowed without detection.

As they bathe in stomach fluids, some can expand to 400 times their original size, posing a serious risk of blockage in a child's bowel.

Some water beads grow to the size of golf balls

### **I need support now**

Paying for my food, energy and water

If you are a Warwickshire resident with no other access to funds to pay for food or energy bills, you may be eligible for support through the Local Welfare Scheme. For more information, visit the [Local Welfare Scheme pages](#) or call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182. Phone lines are open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm and Friday from 9am to 4.30pm.

### **Getting money advice**

If you have concerns about debt, managing your money, what benefits you are entitled to, housing or employment, the [Citizens Advice website](#) contains an array of advice, support and services to help. You can also reach out to your local Citizens Advice in [Northern Warwickshire](#), [Bedworth, Rugby and Nuneaton](#) or [South Warwickshire](#), depending on where you live.

You can call the county freephone advice line on 0808 250 5715 - Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

### **Mature driver safety**

Road Safety officers have been delivering road safety messaging and promoting mature driver reviews as part of the national eyesight campaign taking place from 28 October to 10 November 2024. Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5699/warwickshire-is-supporting-mature-drivers-as-part-of-national-eyesight-campaign-week>

### **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims service**

You are invited by Warwickshire's Road Safety Partnership to a special service 17 November, 11 am, The Old Shire Hall, Warwick – to remember those whose lives have been lost or injured on Warwickshire's roads.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5703/special-service-to-be-held-to-remember-the-lives-lost-and-injured-on-warwickshire-s-roads>

## **Police antisocial behaviour patrols**

Warwickshire Police is conducting targeted patrols in hotspots to tackle antisocial behaviour. The Focusing on those locations aims to prevent crime in the specific areas and reduce overall crime levels in the wider area.

Discover more about Op Resolve: <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/police-forces/warwickshire-police/areas/warwickshire-police/campaigns/campaigns/2024/op-resolve/>

## **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Services' Chief Fire Officer selected to lead West Midlands Fire Service**

Warwickshire's Chief Fire Officer Ben Brook has been selected as the successful candidate to lead West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS). The West Midlands Fire Authority will meet later this month to formally confirm his appointment and, while his departure date is yet to be confirmed, it is anticipated to be within the next six months.

Since joining Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS), Ben has been a dedicated and respected leader, guiding our service with integrity and authenticity. His personal, hands-on approach has earned the respect of colleagues, partners, and the community alike. Under his leadership WFRS has navigated significant milestones, including the ambitious Resourcing to Risk change programme.

## **Saturday working on Stratford's Birmingham Road**

Warwickshire County Council has announced plans to introduce Saturday working on the current stage of works on Phase 2 of the A3400 Birmingham Road in Stratford.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5645/saturday-working-and-extra-workers-to-start-on-birmingham-rd>

## **Enjoy free parking at Stratford Park and Ride this November**

Stratford-upon-Avon visitors and commuters are being encouraged to take advantage of a new free parking offer at Stratford Park and Ride this November.

This latest promotion follows a 112% increase in customers using the service throughout the summer holidays earlier this year.

From Monday 28 October to Saturday 30 November, Warwickshire County Council is providing free parking at Stratford Park and Ride to help alleviate traffic congestion around local roadworks as we approach the festive period.

The Park and Ride buses travel into Stratford-upon-Avon's town centre via Timothy's Bridge Road, crossing over the canal along Niddries Lane to follow Masons Road southwards, and then turning left at the T-junction with Alcester Road to reach the town centre. This route avoids the [Birmingham Road phase 2 roadworks](#) entirely, ensuring customers can enjoy an easy, convenient, and relaxing journey into the town centre.

The Park and Ride also offers great value bus tickets, with adult return bus tickets at £2, and return group bus tickets costing just £3.30 for up to five people. Dogs are also welcome on the buses provided they are well-behaved.

Chris Mills

County Councillor  
Lighthorne