

## **County Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 11th March 2025**

### **Warwickshire free of Hepatitis C**

Warwickshire has micro eliminated Hepatitis C throughout the county. To get to this point, Warwickshire County Council and partners have worked tirelessly to develop quicker diagnoses and treatment for people living with Hep C. Read more: Hep C is a virus that can infect the liver. If left untreated, it can sometimes cause serious and potentially life-threatening damage to the liver over many years. Most people with hep C can be cured with few or no side effects through taking a course of anti-viral tablets. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6026/warwickshire-free-of-hepatitis-c-ahead-of-nhs-england-s-target-to-eliminate-the-infection-across-the-country>

### **Household Support Fund – Energy bill support**

Are you struggling to pay your energy bills? If you live in Warwickshire, you may be eligible for a one-off voucher to help towards the cost. Visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme) to apply online or call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182.

### **Funding for school improvements**

Significant investment has been approved by Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet to support the education and attainment of Warwickshire pupils. The Cabinet took the decision to allocate £1.27m to the Education Capital Programme to enhance specialist resourced provisions and bolster school safeguarding measures Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6045/approved-investment-to-boost-warwickshire-s-education-capital-programme>

### **Warwickshire's UKSPF allocation**

Warwickshire's allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) for 2025-26 has been approved, supporting local communities, businesses, people and skills. The Ministry for Housing confirmed that Warwickshire will receive £5.27m in 2025/26 Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6047/warwickshire-s-ukspf-funding-allocation-approved-at-cabinet>

## **Funding approved for Connect to Work programme**

Warwickshire County Council Cabinet has approved the grant funding to develop and deliver Connect to Work in Warwickshire. Connect to Work, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, is designed to help people with a disability. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5976/funding-approved-for-connect-to-work-programme-in-warwickshire>

## **Highways enforcement policy**

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has approved a new Highway Enforcement Policy, designed to ensure the safe and efficient use of the county's roads and public highways. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6046/warwickshire-county-council-cabinet-approves-enhanced-highway-enforcement-policy>

## **National Highways Survey 2025**

You can be assured that the roads and highways in the county are in good hands, as the latest National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey reveals strong public approval for the work carried out by Warwickshire County Council. The survey results show that Warwickshire has ranked second among 29 of its peer authorities for highway maintenance - an improvement of two places from the previous year, where it ranked fourth. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5989/warwickshire-ranks-among-the-best-for-highway-maintenance-in-national-survey>

## **County Council announces intention to maintain current library service levels and amend public health savings**

Warwickshire County Council today announced that it intends to remove savings planned in library services and some public health and invest more in preventative activity. When the budget was set in February, final Public Health grant and Business Rate figures had not been confirmed. Now, having received better than anticipated figures, the Council has reconsidered some of the most difficult savings planned and is now pleased to propose the following:

Scaling back of planned expansion of the Community Managed Library Network. A £900k boost in spending on preventative activity through our main Public Health contracts, including a particular focus on new birth visits within 14 days, infant mortality, NHS health checks. Removal of the Public Health savings relating to domestic violence and abuse due for implementation in 2027/28 and Independent Sexual Violence Advice due for implementation from

2026/27; and Removal of the saving relating to mental health prevention services. Cabinet will be asked to confirm the above at its meeting in April.

### **Warwickshire County Council debates local government reorganisation**

Following a meeting of Warwickshire County Council on 18th February, County Councillors have unanimously reached agreement on the key points that will underpin the development of a proposal for local government reorganisation in Warwickshire. This decision follows the Government's publication of the English Devolution White Paper on 16 December 2024 which set out ambitions for both devolution and local government reorganisation.

On 5 February 2025 the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution wrote to the leaders of the six councils in Warwickshire to invite them to develop a joint submission proposing local government reorganisation in the county. This invitation set out guidance for the development of any proposals and the criteria against which proposals will be assessed, along with a timeline for this work to be completed. An interim plan is required by 21 March 2025, with full proposals submitted to Government by 28 November 2025.

The Council meeting provided an opportunity for all County Councillors to discuss and debate the subject of local government reorganisation in Warwickshire and share their views. The principles agreed by all County Councillors at the meeting will underpin the development of the proposals and the interim plan due in March. The County Council committed to engaging with District, Borough, Town and Parish Councils, and communities in developing proposals. A cross-party working group will be established to support this work.

### **Bringing Henry VIII Portrait to Market Hall Museum**

Warwickshire Museum Service are fundraising to bring a significant Tudor Portrait of Henry VIII to the Market Hall Museum in Warwick for everyone to enjoy. Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6031/warwickshire-museum-fundraising-to-bring-henry-viii-portrait-to-market-hall-museum>

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