

County Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council 8th April 2025

Warwickshire's Supported Employment Service

Warwickshire County Council's Supported Employment Service is celebrating a significant milestone as it marks its second anniversary. The Warwickshire Supported Employment Service is designed to support Warwickshire young people and adults with autism and learning disabilities with an aspiration to work. Our ambition is to inspire those we work with to gain and sustain employment, striving towards independence and develop essential skills along the way. Discover more: <https://skillshub.warwickshire.gov.uk/supportive-employers-1/warwickshire-supported-employment-service>

Youth group funding

Youth groups across the county are invited to apply for small grants to support their work with young people aged 11-18. Discover more:
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6065/funding-to-help-warwickshire-groups-working-with-young-people>

New contract for short break and family care services

Warwickshire County Council is pleased to announce a new contract to provide a range of short breaks and family care services for eligible children and young people aiming to provide better information and advice for people with mental health concerns, disabilities and those at risk of homelessness.

The services will provide information advice and interventions as well as community-based support for those at risk of losing their accommodation and accommodation-based support such as providing temporary housing. The services are inclusive of people with disabilities. Read more:
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6126/local-authority-announces-new-contract-for-short-break-and-family-care-services>

£1M Highways Community Action Fund

The Warwickshire Highways Community Action Fund (HCAF) is a £1 million investment designed to support local communities to improve our highways. Whether it's resurfacing roads, installing safer signage, or enhancing public spaces, this fund empowers communities to bring their ideas to life.

What can be funded?

HCAF focuses on capital investments, ensuring lasting improvements to Warwickshire's highways, including:

- Road resurfacing and pavement improvements
- Safer routes to schools and speed reduction measures
- Environmental enhancements like signage and wayfinding
- Flood prevention through improved drainage

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/hcaf>

Warwickshire County Council approves budget for 2025/26

Warwickshire County Council has approved its budget for 2025/26, alongside the medium-term financial strategy for the next five years.

Investing in key areas to protect vulnerable people

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy includes significant investment over the next five years in key areas such as:

£46.8 million to support vulnerable adults and elderly citizens, meeting increasing demand and managing placement costs while progressing with the integration of health and social care. Such are the pressures on social care, this allocation is nearly six times higher than the £7.9m funds generated by taking the 2% adult social care precept.

£8.1 million for children's social care services, including £5.5 million to address rising costs and demand for children's placements.

£7.4 million in home-to-school transport, ensuring services meet demand, particularly for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The Council will also use £4.813 million from reserves in 2025/26 to cover time-limited costs and budget allocations.

Council tax increase

The Council Tax increase from April is capped at the Government's national limit of 4.99%, including a 2% rise for adult social care and a 2.99% core increase for all services. This is equivalent to an increase of £1.67p per week for a Band D dwelling. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5958/warwickshire-county-council-approves-budget-for-2025-26-to-support-vulnerable-residents-amid-financial-challenges>

Support for residents facing financial hardship

Anyone struggling to pay their Council Tax is encouraged to contact their local District or Borough Council to explore potential discounts or exemptions.

Additional information on support for households facing increased costs is available at <https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/>

Sails restoration at iconic Chesterton Windmill

Warwickshire County Council is delighted to confirm that work to install four new sails at Chesterton Windmill has been completed.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6127/sails-restoration-project-complete-at-iconic-local-landmark-chesterton-windmill>

Register to vote

With local elections approaching on 1 May 2025, Warwickshire County Council is urging all eligible residents to register to vote and have their say on important local issues. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6055/warwickshire-county-council-urges-residents-to-register-ahead-of-local-elections>

Chris Mills
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Lighthorne