

## **County Councillor Report**

### **Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting**

**20th January 2026**

#### **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service commend public hero**

A quick-thinking member of the public has been formally recognised by Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service for a selfless act of bravery in Warwickshire.

Alex Capewell, who intervened in a serious road traffic collision on the M40 motorway earlier this year, was honoured with a Chief's Commendation Award this week at Leamington Fire Station for his heroic actions.

The incident occurred when a vehicle struck a barrier and immediately caught fire. Without hesitation, Mr Capewell, who witnessed the crash, stopped and rushed to the aid of the driver, managing to pull them from the wreckage just moments before the car was completely engulfed in flames. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7272/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-commend-public-hero-for-act-of-bravery-on-m40>

#### **WCC'S final proposal for Local Government Reorganisation**

Warwickshire County Council has submitted its final proposal for Local Government Reorganisation. The proposal sets out that a single unitary council for Warwickshire is the best way forward.

The proposal demonstrates that a single unitary authority would deliver at least £18.7 million in annual net benefits - three times more than a two-unitary model and could unlock up to £119 million in long-term transformation savings. This means more funding for vital frontline services like social care, housing and children's services. A single unitary council for Warwickshire provides a single, consistent vision for the county, helping us to deliver stronger communities, better services and real value for money. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7226/warwickshire-county-council-s-final-proposal-for-local-government-reorganisation>

#### **5,500 miles of Warwickshire's roads gritted**

#### **Council's gritting teams covered distance equivalent to length of the Great Wall of China over the weekend**

As temperatures dropped and hazardous driving conditions set in over the weekend 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> January, Warwickshire's gritting teams were hard at work to keep the county moving safely. More than 5,500 miles – equivalent to the length of the Great Wall of China - of roads were treated.

This mirrored the work done over the Christmas holiday period. Operating from five depots across Warwickshire, the teams headed out 14 times from 23 December, covering a total of 15,400 miles to combat icy conditions.

Around 46% of Warwickshire's highway network, approximately 1,100 miles is treated whenever forecasts predict icy conditions. While it's not possible to grit every road, the county follows clear criteria:

- all main traffic routes, A roads, most B roads and one or two other strategic routes
- in urban areas, the accesses to hospitals and main industrial estates
- a single route into all villages is maintained.

Heavy snowfall is slightly different. Here, the policy is as follows:

- the roads receiving gritting will be cleared as soon as possible, starting in areas of the heaviest snowfall. Strategic link routes will be made accessible across the network first. Highly used footpaths and cycleways will also be cleared.

The County Council has started bulk fill of all its grit bins across the County as many have been used during the recent period.

### **Children's Chickenpox vaccinations**

January 2026 sees the introduction of an update to the childhood immunisation schedule, the MMRV vaccine, which now includes protection against chickenpox as well as Measles, Mumps and Rubella. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7347/chickenpox-vaccination-offered-to-children-across-warwickshire-from-january-2026>

### **Grant fund to support local youth projects**

The Warwickshire Youth Council Grant Fund is now open! Up to £5,000 is available for projects supporting young people aged 11–17. More details:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7364/warwickshire-youth-council-launches-grant-fund-to-support-local-youth-projects>

### **Parking text scam**

Warwickshire County Council has warned residents that fake phishing scam SMS text messages are being sent to residents across the county, posing as Penalty Charge Notice payment requests. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7289/warwickshire-residents-urged-to-be-cautious-of-parking-text-scam>

### **Avian influenza confirmed by Defra in Warwickshire**

The UKHSA is now urging people not to touch any sick or dead wild birds. Partners are working to manage the situation and protect public health and the risk to other birds. Avian influenza has been identified at Ryton Pools Country Park, and visitors are being asked to take a few simple precautions to protect both wildlife and other park users.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7245/public-urged-not-to-touch-sick-or-dead-birds-as-avian-influenza-confirmed-by-defra-in-north-warwickshire>

Chris Mills

County Councillor

Lighthorne