County Councillor Report

Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 10th November 2026

An update on local government reorganisation in Warwickshire

The six councils have responded to the Government's announcement about local government reorganisation in Warwickshire.

North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council have said:

"We note that the Government is minded restarting local government reorganisation in Warwickshire on the basis of two new unitary councils: one covering North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby, and one covering Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick.

"Councils across Warwickshire have held different views on the best structure for local government. We remain committed to working together constructively and responsibly now that the Government has confirmed the way forward.

"Our shared priority is to protect the services residents, businesses and communities rely on. We will also support our staff and make sure the move to the new councils is planned carefully.

"We now need clear information from the Government about the timetable, funding and next steps. We do know that the new unitary councils will be in place from April 2029. We will work closely with the Government, our partners, staff and councillors to secure the best possible future for local services across Warwickshire."

Warwickshire Fostering: Myths and Legends

Warwickshire Fostering is launching a new "Myths and Legends" campaign to challenge common misconceptions about fostering and encourage more residents to discover whether they could make a difference to the life of a local child.

Warwickshire currently has over 800 children in care but, sadly, over half of these children are fostered outside of Warwickshire, due to a shortage of local foster carers. Fostering locally helps children remain connected to the people, places and support networks that matter most to them. Discover more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8228/warwickshire-launches-myths-and-legends-campaign-to-bust-fostering-myths-

Older Child Adoption

Older children need families too!

When people think about adoption, they often think babies or young children. But many older children are also waiting for the love, stability and belonging of a permanent family. Older children bring with them their own unique personalities and interest. What they need most is someone to be there for them, to listen and support them to thrive. This National Adoption Week, we're encouraging more people to consider whether they could offer an older child a place to call home. In the region there are many children who need adoptive parents to come forward. Some children are single from a young age and others need a family that will enable brothers and sisters to stay together.

Enquires about adopting with ACE are welcomed from all sections of the community – whether you are married or single or whatever your race, religion or sexuality. However, you will need plenty of patience, humour and energy and the genuine commitment to care and give support to a child or children that will make a real difference to their lives. To find out more and about the process of becoming an adoptive parent please visit the information on the ACE website – Steps to Adoption.

Please email enquiries@aceadoption.com if you require further assistance or advice or ring 0300 369 0556 (9am - 5.30 pm Monday - Thursday, 9am - 5pm Friday). Visit https://orlo.uk/0fDyk or call 0300 369 0556.

Prepare now for winter flooding

As winter approaches, Warwickshire County Council is working with communities, businesses and partner organisations across the county to prepare for potential flooding. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8178/warwickshire-county-council-urges-residents-to-prepare-now-for-winter-flooding-

Incorrectly disposed of battery triggers fire at Kenilworth recycling centre

Never put batteries in any kerbside bin or the mixed waste bin at a recycling centre! Warwickshire County Council is reminding residents to dispose of batteries safely following a small fire on Sunday at Kenilworth's Chery Orchard HWRC. On Sunday 25 October, staff at the centre noticed smoke and flames coming from one of the waste skips. On further investigation, staff found that a member of the public had thrown a rechargeable lithium-ion battery in a black bag along with other household waste. Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8231/incorrectly-disposed-of-battery-triggers-fire-at-kenilworth-recycling-centre

FLU

Flu vaccinations are now available. Eligible cohorts have already been called up from September, and most recently, from the 1 October. The cohorts are those 65 or over, those with a long-term health condition, those who are pregnant, carers, and those who live in a care home. In addition, school aged children will have their vaccination at school, whilst two- to three-year-olds are vaccinated at local pharmacies or GP practice. The flu vaccination helps reduce your risk of becoming seriously ill, protects people who may be more vulnerable, and helps ease pressure on NHS services during the busy winter months. If you're eligible, book your free flu vaccination through your GP practice, a participating community pharmacy, or via the NHS website or app. **If you've received your invitation, take up the offer today.**

Be Ready Campaign

Residents across Warwickshire are being encouraged to take simple steps to prepare themselves, their families and their communities for emergencies as part of the Government's new BeReady campaign. The national campaign provides practical advice to help people prepare for emergencies and the disruption they can cause, from severe weather and flooding to power and utility outages. It encourages households to understand the risks they could face, make a plan, have some essential supplies at home and know where to find trusted information and alerts. Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8248/warwickshire-residents-encouraged-to-be-ready-for-emergencies

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Chris Mills

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