



Wootton Wawen Ward District & Arden Division County Cllr. Ian Shenton

Proud to represent Bearley, Claverdon, Earlswood, Henley in Arden, Langley, Mappleborough Green, Preston Bagot, Tanworth in Arden, Ullenhall, Wolverton, Wootton Wawen

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District & County Councillors report as of 6th November 2023

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General

I apologise for not being able to be there tonight, but I am on annual leave and currently in Scotland. During this time, we managed to avoid any effects from the storms but did face rough seas when travelling from the Outer Hebrides back to Ullapool. I am due back later this week.

Over the last month I have attended the Henley Medical Practice Patient Users group meeting, The Claverdon Benefice Housing Association, The Wootton Wawen Warm Hub plus I attended an open day for the new Material Recycling Centre at Coventry. This was a project that I spent 4 years advancing with 7 other local authorities costing over £60m. This will enable us to recycle more materials and keep costs well below the current "gate fees" of the private sector. This was part of a bigger plan that included food caddies, the 123+ waste system and a new contract with Biffa (involving Warwick District Council in the contract) and meant new more fuel-efficient vehicles, updated routing, and better messaging on recycling.

District Matters

The District Council Full Council meeting held just over two weeks ago was a bad-tempered meeting and resembled something like the House of Commons with lots of shouting and councillors not keeping to the agenda. Matters were not helped by the layout of the seating being changed to that like Parliament, very confrontational. Whilst I can mix it with the best it does not help cooperation and healthy debate especially as the Cabinet members themselves rarely speak except to introduce a policy. They do not seem to engage in the debate, possibly because they have been told not to or possible because most of them are new to being councillors and six months on still finding their feet. Unfortunately, in my opinion, the last full council meeting was not a great advert for councillors.

I asked a number of questions of the cabinet and the Leader, one being that we should thank Shakespeare line rail users group and the Friends of the Shakespeare line for their hard work in keeping our stations looking nice, bringing back into use redundant stations and advertising what passengers could see if they got off at Wootton Wawen. The reason for the question was that one Cabinet member referred to them as a group of trainspotters which angered the Shakespeare line Chairman, understandably. The Leader refused to apologise for this saying it was taken out of context but the You Tube recording of the appropriate Cabinet meeting does not lie and the Shakespeare Line Rail Users Group Chairman and I were not impressed by this simple lack of an apology. Saying sorry sometimes appears to be the hardest thing to do in politics.

County Council Matters

Some of the issues that have been debated at County are as follows:

Housing with Care Framework

Housing with Care was an alternative term for schemes like Extra Care Housing, where residents were offered a housing option with relevant on-site care support. The Portfolio Holder noted that commissioning activity for care delivered in Housing with Care schemes used the Supported Living Working Age Adult framework but, as arrangements for care for those customers in Housing with Care schemes needed to include elements that were not covered in the Working Age Adults contracts, use of the Supported Living framework would not be an option going forward.



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The current annual commissioned spend by the Council on the care delivered in Housing with Care Schemes was £8.3 million per annum across 23 schemes and there were 14 pipeline schemes expected to be delivered by the market in the next three to five years. These would add an estimated £5.3m per annum to the total spend on care in schemes.

Full Council

Digital Divide

The main thrust of this proposed motion and the subsequent debate was the increasing use of IT based systems and the lack of face to face or paper-based solutions that might be more appropriate for those residents who are not as confident using IT based options.

Unfortunately, many councillors were basing their arguments on the updated parking permit system rather than looking at the wider issues which was, in my opinion, a major flaw in their attempt to get officers to review the policy. Whilst I do agree that there is growing digital divide generally, the county have committed to taking measures to ensure that residents do not experience this as a result of the county council and committing officers and cash to provide a report that would only confirm what we are doing would have been a total waste of time and council tax payers money.

Thankfully, it was agreed, by a majority that we noted that there is an ever-increasing use and reliance for services including payment using smart phones, Apps, and other digital devices as well as the increase in the use of artificial intelligence and communication tools such as chat functions within websites. Whilst it is recognised that the use of technology has brought benefits to sectors of the community, it has also driven a growing digital divide. We therefore do not subscribe to a digital by default policy, and instead employ a more flexible, customer focused approach to enable access to Council services. The Council commits to ensure that no resident is forced to go digital if they either do not wish to or are unable to do so. Further details on this can be found by clicking or using this link.

<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/g3654/Printed%20minutes%20Tuesday%2026-Sep-2023%2010.00%20County%20Council.pdf?T=1>

Other issues

Questions have been raised about ULEZ, this one being typical.

- There has been a lot of talk from a former Green County Councillor at Nuneaton Borough Council about wanting to implement a ULEZ where needed in Warwickshire and this included some roads into Nuneaton Town Centres. The Portfolio Holder stated that there were no plans to implement any form of ULEZ in Warwickshire where the focus was on working to tackle climate change and improve air quality through other transport interventions.
- A question was raised concerning free school meals for all Primary School children. The recommendation was “to support children to have the best start in life, Health and Wellbeing Board explores the feasibility of free school meals for all primary school children in Warwickshire, as research shows that children are able to learn better in school if they have a full stomach.” In March 2023, the Council agreed to support the Director of Health Annual Report and as recommended, work was underway to explore the feasibility of providing free school meals for all primary school children. This included the logistics of doing so (in terms of whether school kitchens, dining rooms etc would have the capacity); the cost and whether a non-targeted approach would be appropriate as it would channel funding towards the wealthiest as well as those in greatest need. There was also work going on to explore auto-enrolment for free school meals for those who were eligible in order to increase take up.
- **New Innovate UK funding and support for innovation and business growth.**



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Coventry and Warwickshire have been selected to receive up to £7.5m of new investment to drive local innovation and business growth, building on the region's existing strengths in video game development. Under the Immersive and Creative Technologies Launchpad programme, businesses and researchers working to grow their impact in the region can apply for competitive grants, with other support, for innovation projects that focus on developing and adapting new technologies across various industries including healthcare, education, future mobility, manufacturing, retail, and tourism.

Grant funding available starts from £25,000, with up to £1 million for projects that provide exceptional impact to the cluster of SMEs. The Immersive & Creative Industries Launchpad in Coventry and Warwickshire has been developed jointly by Warwickshire County Council, Coventry City Council, and Innovate UK, and tailored to the region's needs and circumstances. The projects must focus on immersive and creative industries leading to increased investment into research and innovation or contribute to growing business activities and economic impact in the cluster.

To find out more about the Immersive & Creative Industries Launchpad in Coventry and Warwickshire, visit <https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/programme/launchpads/>

The Launchpad competitions close on 6 December 2023.

Ullenhall Specific

Let me know if you have any small roadworks, white lining, or Rights of Way issues I will investigate these for you and get a quote for any works that need to be conducted. Potholes should be reported directly on the WCC website <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4085/warwickshire-county-council-encourages-residents-to-report-road-issues>

Outstanding issues are:

Ref	Date	Parish/Town	Cor D	Issue	Action 1	Action 2
24	15/08/2022	Ullenhall	C	Speed limit of 20mph through village plus white lining around the war memorial (see log 48 now combined with this one)	<p>Clerk says the following: The first one was reduction of speed to 20 miles through the village covering primarily Henley Road and Ullenhall Street. A scheme is already been drawn up by Graham Stanley following site visits from County with John, John Clayton -chair - of Ullenhall Parish Council and myself. Graham Stanley has confirmed that money has been set aside out of the County Councillors Division allocation .</p> <p>1. We would receive funding for wooden village gates at the pinch points at either end of the village where we could position signs requesting vehicles to drive slowly through the village. We were also informed that the village had been approved as a 20mph zone which makes a nonsense of the new 30mph signs which have just been erected. We were also informed that a new speed hump would be put in at the pinch point at the bottom of the hill.</p> <p>3. Whitelining of the speed humps as the warning on the leading edge has faded/non existent</p> <p>2. As there are a dozen properties close together up the hill to the west of the village, this would meet the need for a 40mph zone through to the top of the hill. Again we have just seen the replacement of the unlimited signs at the village boundary.</p>	<p>19/06/2023 close to completing the drawings - 3 weeks from advert .on track for autumn</p> <p>18/07/2023 GS will update John Clayton-plans....lighting may be an issue</p>
100	25/04/2023	Ullenhall	C	HGVsign down at junction of a4189 and Ullenhall Rd	02/05/2023 GS/DW notified	<p>19/06/2023 &18/07/2023 GS looking into this</p> <p>17/08/2023 DW raised a job for this</p> <p>10/10/2023 DW - Job issued and requested to be prioritised</p>
102	07/06/2023	Ullenhall	C	St Mary's close - various - tree to be removed (see ref 67), resident requesting another oak removed, conversion of green space into car park for residents		<p>31/08/2023 Note sent to GS now ownership is confirmed as WCC. Need to check whether the cut has been carried out</p> <p>31/08/2023 Angela Lloyd asked to confirm that this was now on the mowing list</p>
106	02/06/2023	Ullenhall		Road repair Blunts Green	06/07/2023 note sent to Gary asking if this has been done. Need more detail.	<p>01/08/2023 The What3 words reference is \\trails.headstone.chemistry Note sent to both DW & Rebecca</p> <p>17/08/2023 - Flooding issue look at by Sean, job on, grips.gullies road will need to be closed to do this.</p> <p>10/10/2023 Dw job raised</p>
130	04/07/2023	Ullenhall		Dog bin needs installing at White Pump Lane - can Streetscene arrange this - plus contract to empty	01/08/2023 - Streetscene requested	06/10/2023 grass cut by SDC now on schedule but hedges need to be cut by WCC



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Speed Monitoring

Monitoring will take place between now and the end of the year avoiding any school holidays. The tubes will be laid across the road for a two-week period and are part of my desire to have as much detail as possible on speeding and type of traffic using the roads with a view to further traffic calming measures if appropriate, the sites below have been recommended by the Parish Council. In total there are 28 sets of devices being deployed in my county division.

Ullenhall	At North end of the village
Ullenhall	At Southern end of the village

As always feel free to contact me at any time to discuss any issues that you feel I can help with, and I will do my absolute best to help.

Other County wide news



High Sheriff tree planting

Can you help Warwickshire's High Sheriff with her tree planting mission?

Sophie Hilleary, Warwickshire's High Sheriff, has set out her plan to plant 689 new whips and saplings across the county and is looking for help to identify projects that need her support.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4683/warwickshire-s-high-sheriff-plans-to-plant-689-trees-across-warwickshire>

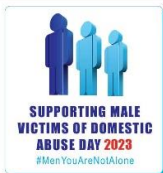


High Sheriff Award Nominations

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to help their local community?

Why not nominate them for a High Sheriff Award?

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4687/the-high-sheriff-awards-2023-24-celebrating-warwickshire-s-unsung-heroes>



Male domestic abuse

Thursday 2 Nov 2023 was Victims of Male Domestic Abuse Day.

One-in-three victims of Domestic Abuse are male. Support is available in Warwickshire from: www.talk2someone.org.uk

#MenYouAreNotAlone



Older male domestic abuse

Many older male domestic abuse victims will not have access to the internet. If you know someone who needs help, please suggest Mankind on 01823 334 244.

#MenYouAreNotAlone



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LGBTQ+ male domestic abuse

If you are a member of the LGBTQ+ community and are experiencing domestic abuse due to your sexuality, please know #YouAreNotAlone



New Warwickshire primary schools

Two new primary schools are included in the options available to parents and carers with children who will start school for the first time in September 2024.

Find out how to apply: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4688/new-warwickshire-primary-schools-included-in-the-2024-options-available-for-warwickshire-parents-and-carers>



Warwickshire Buses

Buses are good for our health, good for the economy and good for the environment.

Warwickshire is committed to making bus services them better and pleased to present Warwickshire Buses as the new name for bus service improvements in the County.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4686/warwickshire-buses-the-new-name-for-bus-service-improvements-across-warwickshire>



Sustainable Warwickshire Podcast – Episode 8

Did you know that it is estimated by 2050, 4 out of 5 jobs will be linked in some way to fighting climate change?

Listen to the Sustainable Warwickshire podcast to find out more about the development of future skills: <https://sustainablewarwickshire.podbean.com/e/developing-future-skills-in-warwickshire/>



Adapting Shakespeare for children session

Residents across the county are invited to attend an engaging online creative writing workshop next week all about the world of Shakespeare.



Neurodivergent language resource

A new resource has launched to encourage people to think about the words they use when talking about neurodiversity.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4696/new-coventry-and-warwickshire-resource-provides-unique-insight-into-neurodivergent-language>