



## 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

Mob: 07971 343074 E Mail: [ianshenton@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:ianshenton@warwickshire.gov.uk)

### County Councillors report as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024



**The Director of Public Health annual Report 2023 – Breaking the Silence: Working together to Prevent Domestic Abuse** has just been published and focusses on the health impacts of domestic abuse and whilst this is a very serious issue, I can recommend this report to everyone as it has been written in a unique style which is informative, interesting, and incredibly easy to read and understand.

Throughout Warwickshire approximately 17,384 women, aged 16+, were estimated to have been impacted by domestic abuse between 2021-22. Nationally, 9% of women, aged 16 and over, were victims of domestic abuse in 2022. Furthermore, data suggests that 8% of women aged 18-74 experience abuse before the age of 16. This can have devastating impacts to the victim survivors physical, mental, emotional, sexual, and reproductive health.

This year's Annual Report builds on previous publications such as the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy (2023-2026). It takes a new approach, telling the story of a character named Mia, and her experience of domestic abuse, through the words of those surrounding her, and services involved. Whilst this story is fictional, the story is reflective of real-life experiences of domestic abuse, and it is intended to highlight the impact on victim-survivors, the communities in which we live, our services and wider society. The report can be found by following this link or pasting into your browser. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/strategy-governance-health-wellbeing/director-public-health-annual-reports>

### Ullenhall Specific

**Speed monitoring** – I am awaiting feedback from each of the teams in the Parishes plus I have booked a further 8 sets of data around the division which brings the number of lines laid to 40. Any new requests have been accepted by Highways and the lines will be laid as soon after the schools have reopened after the Easter break.

**20 mph scheme** – The notices should now have gone out and the six-week consultation should be complete by the beginning of May leaving the way clear to have the changes made during May/June.

**Gully Cleaning** - have been asked if I would like to pay for the hire of a gully cleaner from my budget, so that all the gullies in a particular location, where we have a report of a blockage, will be cleared on the same day. This is a trial and will cost £1,000 per day I have the gully cleaner/jetter. I have 10 parishes, so this is potentially a big charge against my budget, but this is worth doing. Please ensure that any blocked gullies are logged as soon as you see them as the Localities Officer will shortly be putting lists together for each location so that we can plan the routes.

**Bird Flu – Protecting poultry industry from bird flu** – As we have a Game bird, turkey, geese farm near to Henley on the A4189 I thought I would highlight the new measures to better protect the poultry sector from future avian influenza outbreaks have been set out by the Government. Under the changes announced there will be new requirements for all bird keepers regardless of the size of their flock to officially register their birds. Currently only those who keep fifty or more poultry must do so, limiting the effectiveness of our national disease control measures. The new rules cover owners of backyard flocks, birds of prey and pigeon fanciers. They do not affect caged pet birds (excluding any poultry species) kept entirely inside a domestic dwelling, such as a parrot, canary, or budgie, which never leaves the property other than to visit a vet or another short-term period.

Find out what this means: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5092/new-measures-to-help-protect-poultry-industry-from-bird-flu>

### Parking in Front of the Co Op - Henley

The sub-committee raised the following issue with me.

*Currently with the traffic warden only visiting Henley on a Weekly Basis and the allowances they currently are giving to cars parked at this bottle – neck, the double yellow lines are not a deterrent. Added to this that maybe*



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*35% are parked legally as disable cars can park there, but this does nothing to ensure the safety of the pedestrians at these points.*

The proposal that has been suggested by the subcommittee is as follows:

- **red lines** going down in the centre of the town, on both sides of the road. In our view a single red line should go from the CO-OP to the Henley Boutique and a double red line on the opposite side of the road.
- To ease congestion in the High Street it is suggested that **all** pavement / pedestrian bollards from the CO-OP all the way to MPA Financial Management Ltd should be removed. The pavement could then be reduced in width to make deliveries easier, but still acceptable in width for wheelchair pedestrians.
- Additional disabled bays in the Croft car park and along the High Street

I have spoken with the small works team leader, and he has confirmed the following: -

- Red Routes are intended to be used strategically to deal with traffic problems assessed on the whole-route basis, not to deal with issues on relatively short lengths of road. Warwickshire does not have any routes which are deemed to meet this requirement.
- WCC own the first 1.9 metres of footpath on Henley High Street outside the shops, the shop owners own the remainder, so we can't put a Loading Bay in, as there wouldn't be any Public Highway left for them to walk on. This would not be approved

Whilst the loading bay is probably a nonstarter because the shops might not agree to the change, it would be a costly and lengthy legal process as well involving traffic regulation orders and a consultation. This is not to say it couldn't happen just that you need to first get the agreement of the various shops and match funding from them.

It is essential that the views of the businesses along the stretch of the High Street where the loading bay might be placed are considered. Adding more disabled bays into the Croft car park would be a matter for the Parish Council and I would need more details on how many more bays you are thinking of on the High Street, as this will further reduce parking for other residents. Again, this is not to say it couldn't be carried out.

My question is would the residents of Henley who are not near to the High Street be prepared to pay more on their council tax to support these changes and will the County be prepared to increase the officer numbers as this would set a precedent that other Parish and Town councils would want to take advantage of. Any additional cost must be balanced with additional revenue as council tax payers are already seeing average rises of 4.7% in council tax with the possibility of bigger increases in future years due to the costs of children and adult social care, SEND and home to school transport all of which accounts for 70% of the council tax that the County receive currently. Adult social care is increasing because we are living longer and have an aging population.

**Henley Flood Team Sub Committee** – I am awaiting a response from the County Council Flood Team who are setting up a meeting with the Environment Agency. Severn Trent, Canal & River Trust, and the subcommittee to discuss the flooding issues surrounding the river Alne but I am prepared to discuss other Parishes areas of concern so let me know your top 3 flooding priorities and I will present them to the stakeholders.

**WW Small works** - 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 through the directly on the WCC website <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4085/warwickshire-county-council-encourages-residents-to-report-road-issues>

To report a Highway fault, use this link <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportaproblem>



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Ref	Date	Parish/Town	C or D	Action 2
24	15/08/2022	Ullenhall	C	19/06/2023 close to completing the drawings - 3 weeks from advert ..on track for autumn 18/07/2023 GS will update John Clayton- plans.....lighting may be an issue 05/03/2024 IJSGS what the agreed contribution levels were from the OC and myself.
100	25/04/2023	Ullenhall	C	19/06/2023 & 18/07/2023 GS looking into this 17/08/2023 DW raised a job for this 10/10/2023 DW - Job issued and requested to be prioritised 13/11/2023 closed 13/12/2023 reopened as the sign has been knocked down again
102	07/06/2023	Ullenhall	C	14/02/2024 - Note to GS re getting plans drawn up for car park 19/02/2024 GS progressing...finding out what utilities are under ground 20/02/2024 GS responded - PC asked to schedule this into the next meeting 29/02/2024 Chair has been advised that this will be costly it was agreed that the residents need to be asked whether they want or need extra sockets and whether they would be prepared to contribute towards the cost.
106	02/06/2023	Ullenhall		01/08/2023 The What3 words reference is \\trails.headstone.chemistry Note sent to both DW & Rebecca 17/08/2023 - Flooding issue look at by Sean, job on, grips.gullies road will need to be closed to do this. 10/10/2023 Dw job raised 13/11/2023 DW - new financial year - Drainage scheme job 01/03/2024 DW will check this one out
130	04/07/2023	Ullenhall		06/10/2023 grass cut by SDC now on schedule but hedges need to be cut by WCC
195	09/11/2023	Ullenhall		01/03/2024 DW will look at this
222	10/01/2024	Ullenhall		28/02/2024 e mail sent to Clerk ...put her in touch with RB for a replacement bit landowner has not been approached for his agreement to this. In addition the gate would need to be signed over to the landowner so effectively this will be a grant. Chair expressed concern about the cost, as I have, to parish residents
239	30/01/2024	Ullenhall		30.01.2024 Duty Planner responds as follows ; I have searched the history of Oldberrow Manor and can find no reference to the use you describe as an application or pre-application advice.
261	09/02/2024	Ullenhall		26/02/2024 DW My plan to help the issue is to install a 'spillway' into the brook to try and get as much water off the road as possible.
266	16/02/2024	Ullenhall		20/02/2024 DW raised job 01/03/2024 also send a note to street lighting
290	15/02/2024	Ullenhall		Note sent to Planning Enforcement
292	28/02/2024	Ullenhall		Note to DW
298	08/03/2024	Ullenhall		Note sent to Highways



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### District News

**Prostate screening at Stratford Leisure Centre** – The event is on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April running from 10am until 4pm and places can be booked at a discounted rate of £12.50. The aim is to make the local community aware of the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer and to offer free prostate PSA screening blood tests. I have been tested and was found to have a high PSA reading and was referred for an MRI scan so I would fully support this initiative. More details can be found by using the following link; <https://gfct.mypsatests.org.uk/Events/?acecce5d-4486-41aa-89a5-650d0c1a6177>

**Home insulations Grants** - The income eligibility criteria for Home Upgrade Grant - phase 2 (HUG2) funding has increased to £36,000 a year. Some residents who may not have applied previously because they were over the first £31,000 threshold may now be eligible. Even though we are now entering the warmer months, residents are encouraged to apply to grants as soon as possible because there is a 3-to-6-month time frame from application to installation. Apply now to be warm NEXT winter! Stratford-on-Avon District Council works alongside local energy experts Act on Energy, to help administer all winter warmth grant funding. There are many types of funding. Paste this link into your browser <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/green-home-grants.cfm> to read more about them and how to apply.

**Solihull Hospital - Diagnostic Facility** Thanks to £6m national funding and a £1m Community Infrastructure Levy grant from Stratford District Council, South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust have been able to progress plans to create a dedicated diagnostic facility at Stratford Hospital. There has always been a long-term plan for continued development of Stratford Hospital. This extension is the next phase to expand and modernise the site, following the new building opening in 2017. This development will help to increase access to diagnostic services, supporting patients to get conditions diagnosed sooner and improve their treatment outcomes. The new unit will be a single-storey extension of the existing hospital building, which will house two MRI scanners and a CT scanner. Thanks to support from Stratford District Council and their Community Infrastructure Levy grant, the Trust have been able to increase the footprint of the extension, which will allow the Trust to build on top of it in the future.

### County News

**Potholes** - Warwickshire is to receive, for the next 11 years, £2.056M additional funding for highway maintenance each year as part of the money being repurposed from HS2. This funding is specifically for maintenance works on highway assets including roads, footways, street lighting, bridges, traffic signals and highway drainage. Whilst none of that funding will be used to directly repair potholes, a substantial proportion is likely to be spent on road surfacing schemes which will prevent potholes from forming over the long term. We have yet to determine exactly how the funding will be spent but the team is looking at some of the high-cost maintenance schemes that are typically not affordable from the annual government grants for maintenance and working on prioritising schemes. We repair our potholes using a combination of revenue funding, as well as capital funding. The revenue funding is used for reactive repair, and the capital funding is used for pro-active repairs to larger areas where potholes will likely form. For 2023/24 our budget for revenue defect repair gangs is £1.970m, these gangs repair potholes but also all manner of other highway defects. In addition, we will spend approximately £1.75m of capital on small patching works.

**So far, this financial year we have repaired 7,890 potholes across the network.** Warwickshire has a strong reputation for making repairs and we are ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 30 peer authorities in the National Highways and Transportation Survey for overall highways maintenance, condition of highway and how quickly we deal with potholes and damaged roads.

**New Electric Vehicle Parking Policy** - Warwickshire County Council's commitment to achieving net zero across the county has taken a step forward as its Cabinet approved a new Electric Vehicle Parking Policy. **Warwickshire County Council's commitment to achieving net zero across the county has taken a step forward as Cabinet approved a new EV (Electric Vehicle) Parking Policy.** - This policy allows the council to make on-street EV charging bays 'EV-Only.' They can currently be used by all car types. Limiting availability to charging EVs only will enhance their availability for EV drivers across the county. The updated parking policy comes as electric vehicle ownership in the region continues to steadily increase and directly aligns with the council's transport and environmental aims of prioritising sustainable travel and reducing harmful emissions.

**Test your smoke alarms** - Warwickshire Fire and Rescue are reminding everyone to make sure that they have working smoke alarms fitted in their homes and to test them regularly. Residents are being urged to make sure they have working smoke alarms fitted in their homes and to test them regularly. As part of the latest Fire Kills campaign, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is reminding people of the importance of smoke alarms in saving lives in the event of fire. Smoke alarms can give someone the few extra seconds they need to escape in a fire. Testing takes only a couple of seconds, but it can save lives. While most homes across the country now have alarms fitted, most people are not aware that the average alarm has a lifespan of just ten years before it needs replacing. With that in mind, WFRS is asking residents to ensure that their smoke alarms are up to date and up to the job.



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Here are their top safety tips:

1. Make sure there is at least one smoke alarm on every level of the home
2. Test smoke alarms at least once a month
3. Check that smoke alarms are less than 10 years old
4. If you have a smoke detector which runs on a battery that needs replacing, make sure to change it once a year
5. Fit smoke alarms in the right place - on landings and hallways and near bedrooms. Consider fitting them in rooms which have electrical appliances - e.g., a heater or charger - or other fire risks
6. Check on neighbours or loved ones who may need help to ensure they're fully protected

**Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service also fits smoke alarms** as part of free safe and well visits. People can [apply on their website](#) or call 01926 466282 to see if they are eligible for a safe and well.

**A439 Warwick Road in Stratford update** - Warwickshire County Council is pleased to announce significant progress on the Warwick Road A439 improvement scheme. **Over the next few weeks**, contractors on this scheme are set to be far more visible as the Council will be gearing up for significant progress as additional work crews arrive to commence construction on the new crossing point and footpath/cycle way. As part of these improvements, a special wall will be constructed to retain ground levels effectively.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5067/a439-warwick-road-in-stratford-upon-avon-update>



### Police and Crime Commissioner Elections 2024

On 2 May 2024, the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Warwickshire will be held.

On this day, you will be asked to vote for one candidate to become PCC, so make sure you are registered to vote.

**Flooding of homes – potential grants available - A reminder** - You will be aware that Warwickshire is one of eight local authorities in the country which received notification from government of potential financial support for residents, business owners and farmers that have been affected by flooding. Can I please ask that if you are aware of any residents in your Parish that have been affected by the flooding that you encourage them to contact our Flood Risk Management Team so that they can be confirmed, and potential funding can be released. They can do this really simply through the Council's website at: [Flood Risk Management – Warwickshire County Council](#) Alternatively email the team with the details and we will get someone to drop a leaflet off to them.

**Rights of Way survey** – The county Council are keen to get your views on the footpaths and rights of way around us whether you walk them or not. If you do walk them, we want to know what is good, what could be improved and if you don't, why not? Warwickshire County Council is responsible for around 1700 miles of public rights of way. These paths are both in the countryside and urban areas. They are important for enjoying and exploring, for travelling to work or school and for health and wellbeing. They are part of what makes Warwickshire a special place to live, work and enjoy. A public right of way is a path that anyone has the legal right to use. There are four types: Footpaths for walking, mobility... **Closes 7 April 2024**

Further details can be found by dropping the following into your browser. <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

### Longer summer opening makes recycling easier at your friendly local recycling centre

Warwickshire County Council is reminding residents that recycling will become even easier with extended summer opening times in operation from 3 April.

Summer opening times for Burton Farm, Cherry Orchard, Hunters Lane, Judkins, Lower House Farm and Princes Drive.

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday - 9:30 am to 3:15 pm
- Wednesday - 9:30 am to 6:15 pm
- Saturday and Sunday - 8:30 am to 5:45 pm

**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.**



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### Flood Risk Management advice

Warwickshire County Council's Flood Risk Management team has shared advice on how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flooding incidents in #Warwickshire.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding/advice-flooding>



### National Offer Day – 16 April 2024

Warwickshire parents and carers who have applied for a school place for their child in either Reception or Year 2 of a Junior School starting in September 2024 will get their offer of a school place on 16 April.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5096/warwickshire-parents-and-carers-with-children-starting-school-in-september-2024-will-get-their-school-offer-on-16-april>



### Warwickshire's waterways exhibition

The ground floor at Market Hall Museum has been completely re-displayed and explores the unexpected and extraordinary stories of life on and in Warwickshire's waterways.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5093/heritage-and-culture-warwickshire-launch-a-new-family-friendly-exhibition-in-time-for-the-easter-holidays>

**Market Hall Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm, free entry.**



### Personal safety

Safety for ourselves, our family and our children is paramount in our everyday lives. However, for some, safety is compromised especially when it involves threats of domestic and/or sexual abuse.

Support is available: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5097/keeping-yourself-safe-and-well>



### Sensory mobile library

Warwickshire County Council's library service has secured funding to provide a new sensory mobile library.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5100/warwickshire-libraries-secure-funding-for-sensory-mobile-library>



### World Autism Acceptance Week 2024

Partners across Coventry and Warwickshire will be marking #AutismAcceptanceWeek with special online events for families and professionals interested in finding out more about autism.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5111/free-events-in-coventry-and-warwickshire-focus-on-the-experiences-of-autistic-people-and-employment-support-for-autism-acceptance-week-2024>



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### Keeping children safe at home

Every home can be a safe haven for our little ones! Taking simple steps can prevent accidents and create an environment where children can explore and learn safely. From securing blind cords to storing medicines out of reach, let's work together to keep our homes child friendly.

For more advice: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5058/keeping-children-safe-at-home>



### Local mental health support posters

Are you feeling down or in mental health crisis? Find out more about the available support.

If you feel there is an immediate risk to life: call 999 or go straight to A&E.

### New creative practitioner for libraries

Warwickshire County Council's libraries service is delighted to share a new commission opportunity for a part-time creative practitioner to engage with the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities in Warwickshire.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5060/warwickshire-libraries-launches-new-creative-practitioner-role-to-engage-with-county-s-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-communities>



### Voice of Warwickshire resident panel

Warwickshire County Council is looking for more people to join its residents' panel, Voice of Warwickshire.

If you are interested in local policymaking, say what matters to you by joining today: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/voice-of-warwickshire/registration2024/>



### Family Information Service

Parenting a baby or toddler and meeting their needs can be difficult at times. It's normal to have lots of questions. Our team at Warwickshire Family Information Service can help you find support with money issues, such as household debt, benefits, and free school meals applications.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis>



### Stratford Greenway closure

The top half of the Stratford Greenway will be closing in phases to complete essential resurfacing works in April and May.

Find out more about these works: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5069/stratford-greenway-expected-to-close-for-resurfacing-in-april-and-may>



### Sunday Service for the Stratford Park & Ride

Stratford Park & Ride has reintroduced its popular Sunday Service, so that the site will now be running every day of the week boosting the public transport offerings for locals and visitors alike.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5079/warwickshire-county-council-is-reintroducing-the-sunday-service-for-the-stratford-park-ride-from-sunday-24-march-2024>