

County Councillor Report – July 2021

I recently carried out a Facebook survey across Arden Division on some of the issues that have arisen over recent years.

75% of respondents thought the Police and Councils should put more resources into litter picking and stopping fly tipping. 47% of people felt less safe on the street than five years ago. 55% of residents felt that 20mph in towns and village centres should be introduced and enforced, but 30% were against 20mph limits.

13% of drivers were prepared to take part in a volunteer ride sharing initiative and 5% of residents would make use of the facility. This fits with a survey carried out in Claverdon in 2011 which found that 95% of residents used a car at least once a day, meaning the 5% needing a lift is accurate. I was once given as a rule of thumb that only around 10% of members of any organisation are actually active participants, so 13% is a good number for volunteers.

70% of respondents would not pay higher local taxes to maintain side roads. This is unfortunate as Westminster has just cut £10 million off a discretionary roads maintenance grant that usually amounts to £26 million for WCC as part of Covid-19 cost recovery. The County is currently working out how to fill the gap.

As a result of this survey I will ask District Councillors and the County officers if they can come up with programmes to combat litter and fly tipping and County officers to explore establishing a volunteer ride share app like Uber. As regards the 20mph I will see if I can persuade the County Highways officers to reduce their opposition to such schemes.

The Covid testing sites around the County have now closed. This is in line with changes being made to the national testing programme, which is due to cease in its current form on 30th June. Test kits can be booked online for doorstep delivery and may also be obtained from a local pharmacy. For more information visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/covidtesting>.

WCC will continue to provide support for vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable. Other vulnerable residents in Warwickshire who are struggling financially can also apply for support from the scheme or other sources by contacting the Local Welfare Scheme directly on 0800 4081448. For further information please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

Warwickshire's Trading Standards has been active with a "scams awareness" fortnight and gearing up to enforce the new "Natasha's Law" named after the girl who died after eating a poorly labelled snack on an aeroplane. The new law will affect businesses that sell prepacked foods for direct sale, for example a mobile sandwich business that packages sandwiches before a customer selects or orders them. For more information visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2166/get-ready-for-natasha-s-law-food-businesses-are-urged->

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