



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

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

County Councillors Report as at 6th March 2023

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Henley in Arden

The small works items that appear to be outstanding for Henley are as following

Ref	Date	Issue	Action 1	Action 2
8	27/07/2022	Speeding on Liveridge Hill - see e mail	October 2022 Henley JPC would need to agree to the cost of £505 + VAT but each subsequent speed survey if ordered at the same time is £245	1/11/2022 at a separate meeting with Elaine Field (Chair at that time) the speed report/data was going to be given to me to review
16	08/08/2022	Monkey run (Birdcage Walk) damage to surface, electrical cable exposed - Dylan knows about this email sent to DW my PC on 8/8/2022	17/08/2022 Dylan may already know about this - update please	22/10/2022 Refer to Richard Barnard Public right of way (per G5) 26/01/2023 meeting arranged for Monday 13/2/2023 14/02/2023 Street lighting informed by Richard Barnard (ROW)
31	15/08/2022	Drains issue - water is over flowing due to blocked drains outside 185, 187, 189, 191 High Street, Henley photos available reported by Shelagh Clitherow she.teach@btinternet.com>	17/08/2022 Dylan/Graham - urgent issue please	04/10/2022 Jetting job raised and issued by Dylan 26/01/2023 DS will chase this up - area needs to be coned off before jetter arrives as jetter unable to carry out job
65	12/12/2022	Road markings on disabled bay by DOLCE CAFÉ have faded and non blue badge holders are parking there.	12/12/2022 Dylan notified	08/02/2023 All markings between Co op and Costa Coffee plus School lane will be renewed where needed - order placed with libg crew (Candy)
66	03/12/2022	tree overhanging several properties in henley	13/12/2022 note to Ruth Rose ar SDC	Ownership of this tree is an issue
77	03/02/2023	EV Bay sign broken	03/02/2023 - arrangements to remove broken pole, retain sign and order a new pole made by DW	
78	06/02/2023	Ev Chargers no wanted by HIA	06/02/2023 Every meeting is dominated by this issue...ongoing	08/02/2023 - WCC Contacted for clarification on trip hazard and positioning statement 03/03/2023 - email received from WCC outlining position

Let me know if you have any other small roadworks, white lining or Rights of way issues and I will look into these for you and get a quote for any works that need to be carried out.

Budgets

The District Council budget has been approved by Council. The Band D council tax position for 2023/2023 is as follows

	2022/23	2023/24	% Increase / (decrease)
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£154.12	£159.12	3.24%
Warwickshire County Council	£1,590.93	£1,653.57	3.94%
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£262.71	£276.71	5.33%
Sub-total	£2,007.76	£2,089.40	4.07%
Town and Parish Councils (average)	£66.08	£69.26	4.81%
TOTAL	£2,073.84	£2,158.66	4.09%



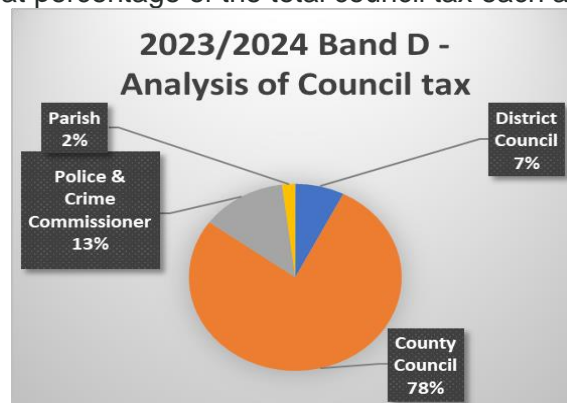
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Whilst the table shows the average Parish Precept, the actual precept for Claverdon was £53.48 meaning that the band D charge for this year will be £2142.88 (£2061.02 2022/2023) an increase of £81.86 (approx.).

The reserves position for the District Council over the next 5 years shows that they are likely to fall close to the minimum level of £3m but, as we have seen over the last few years this is very heavily influenced by the Government settlement which have bene more generous than expected.

You can see from this chart what percentage of the total council tax each authority represents in WW case.



Council Tax Elsewhere in Warwickshire

The levels of Council Tax to be charged by the other Borough/District Councils in the county for a Band D property in 2023/24 are:

	2022/23	2023/24	Increase	%
North Warwickshire	£222.30	£228.86	£6.56	2.95
Nuneaton and Bedworth	£248.51	£255.94	£7.43	2.99
Rugby	£204.72	£210.84	£6.12	2.99
Stratford	£154.12	£159.12	£5.00	3.24
Warwick	£176.86	£176.86	Nil	Nil

Other than Warwick DC, all district and borough councils chose to increase their Council Tax rates by the maximum permitted without triggering a referendum. Despite WDC not increasing its Council Tax, **SDC remains the district in Warwickshire with the lowest level of Council Tax.**

Key points of the County Council Budget can be found at Appendix 1 and the District Budget at Appendix 2

EV Chargers

At the last PC meeting I outlined that the PC were aware of the chargers and that minutes and various emails supported this. There is no record as far as I can find of any formal objections to them with the JPC "lead" on this informing WCC that it would appear to be "all systems go". Most of the current Parish Councillors at that time are not serving on the current Parish Council.

Notwithstanding the above the recommendations from the recent H & S report are as follows:

1. Transport Planning to commission the TRO to designate the bays as 'EV only' to overcome the trip hazard and help alert passing motorists of the location of the bays. The TRO process includes a statutory consultation exercise so any members of the public will be able to make their views at the appropriate time. The RSA recommends introducing EV only bays to address this issue.



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2. Transport Planning to instruct BP Pulse to install an additional advisory sign to EV users to ensure they park and connect up to the charger in a considerate manner to avoid creating a trip hazard
3. Transport Planning has shared the report with BP Pulse (chargepoint supplier) and is awaiting a response to the recommendation regarding the height of the signs
4. Transport Planning to push back on the recommendation for additional visibility of the chargepoints on the basis that a combination of street lighting and the lights on the chargepoints ensure that there is good visibility.

It is also worth noting that the Highway Code was changed in January 2022 and the code now includes guidance about using electric vehicle charging points under rule 239 (waiting and parking). The new EV section in the revised Highway Code states:

When using an electric vehicle charge point, people should:

- *park close to the charge point and avoid creating a trip hazard for pedestrians from trailing cables*
- *Display a warning sign if you can*
- *After using the charge point, you should return charging cables and connectors neatly to minimise the danger to pedestrians and avoid creating an obstacle for other road users.*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/waiting-and-parking-238-to-252#rule239>

The onus is therefore on EV drivers to take responsibility when charging their car. Action 2 above will help alert drivers to this responsibility.

Recycling Bins

As you will be aware I signed off a grant to the JPC for a recycling bin unit. The Parish Clerk has sent me a phot of the unit that was being considered It has three bins for the different types of waste but as Streetscene at SDC have confirmed there will be 3 charges of £140 p.a. to empty these and unfortunately the various waste streams are likely to be contaminated as experience shows that the general public put their waste, on many occasions, into any bin. If food waste comes into contact with the recycled waste the result is that the recycled waste has to go to the Energy from waste plant or to landfill as sorting the recycle each time it appears at the material recycling facility is not cost effective.

Streetscene recommend using just one bin and whilst far from ideal it will keep the cost down to the JPC and the council taxpayer. The new material recycling facility due to come on stream fully in September may be able to cope with this but at the moment this is not an option.

General Information

Bus Service

Warwickshire residents are encouraged to choose cheaper bus travel this year as a new scheme to save money on fares launches and has welcomed news, released by the Government, that bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months (scheme now ends 30/06/2023)

Read more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3964/-2-bus-fare-cap-to-be-extended-in-warwickshire

In Warwickshire, the following operators are signed up to the scheme:

- Stagecoach
- Arriva
- National Express Coventry
- National Express West Midlands
- Pulhams
- A&M Group - Flexibus (Service 9 only)



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- IndieGo PLUS Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)

South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

The consultation runs until today 6th March 2022.

Many questions about the SWLP can be answered by looking at the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on the website at [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#) or by sending an email to swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Hopefully the JPC have had time to check out the emails that the SWLP team sent out inviting the JPC to presentations around the district.

In addition, I have spent a lot of time going through the JPC minutes and contacting Cllr. Jennings and I can confirm that as far back as July 2021 Cllr. Jennings reports are specifically referred to in the minutes and that the reports include sections on the SWLP. In one set of minutes in 2021 it actually quotes directly out of Cllr. Jennings report. Unfortunately, whilst the minutes refer to Cllr Jennings report, indicating that he was at the meeting and presented his report and it is appended to the website, some of the reports appear not to be on the website. Fortunately, Cllr. Jennings keeps copies and can provide the JPC with any missing reports..

Energy payments for park homes and houses of multiple occupation

Residents will be invited to register on a Government website to receive the £400 payment that the rest of us are already receiving. The registration opened on the 27th February. Copy the link below into your browser to go to the Government website

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-energy-bill-support-if-not-automatic>

This scheme is for those households that have not received any of the £400 EBSS payment. Typically, this will be residents who live in park homes, care homes, houses of multiple occupation. Go to the website for full details

The exact detail on this have not been made available to me or the District Council but I am telling Parishes that I will run surgeries in those Parishes where there are residents who do not have internet access, do not use the internet or cannot register by phone, to ensure that they are registered as quickly as possible.

If you do have any problems registering then please contact myself as soon as possible.

Wellesbourne Airfield

This project is moving rapidly to a point where a new runway and employment site to support the adjacent University of Warwick's Innovation Campus Stratford will become a reality. Stoford has been selected as the development partner. With a following wind (pardon the aviation pun), there could be a planning application in by the end of the summer. This site could create 4-5,000 highly skilled jobs over the next 5-7 years which would be a great result for the District as a whole.

Warwickshire Police

Warwickshire Police has carried out a reorganisation of the way the service is delivered across Warwickshire. The County has now been divided up into three areas of which SDC, along with WDC, fall into the South Warwickshire area. Each team will have access to its own support network ensuring that when local officers need that support, it will be delivered from within the area rather than competing with other calls from across Warwickshire.

The South Warwickshire team is being led by Chief Inspector Faz Chishty. This will result in a more focused delivery of policing across South Warwickshire, considering the differing crime profiles seen in the more rural south to those in the east and north of the County.

Pest Control

The decision has been made to withdraw from directly delivering the pest control service. Pest control has been a challenging service to deliver over the past twelve months, especially with only one member of staff



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and has consumed considerable resources. Our pest control officer is, however, continuing to service the existing commercial contracts, all of which will end by 1 April 2023.

Planning

The latest performance figures show that applications are being dealt with well within the National guidelines as can be seen below (the figures relate to January 2023).

	Target	Actual	No. of apps
Major applications	60% within 13 wks.	100.0%	3
Minor applications	70% within 8 wks.	81.8%	33
Householder apps	70% within 8 wks.	79.7%	74
Other applications	70% within 8 wks.	78.6%	98

Looking at the current fiscal year we see the following:

	Target	Actual	No. of apps
Major applications	60% within 13 wks.	91.2%	57
Minor applications	70% within 8 wks.	82.0%	372
Householder apps	70% within 8 wks.	79.70	754
Other applications	70% within 8 wks.	78.2%	1,027

Stratford District has one of the busiest planning departments in England. Whichever set of numbers you look at, the performance is good. There is always an opportunity to do better but that should not detract from what is a particularly good set of performance figures for this year.

Customer Services

We are still the only Warwickshire council to be fully open to our residents. We observe ever longer queues when we go into Elizabeth House – need is increasing.

NHS Update

I attended an update from the NHS (Wednesday 15/02/2023) and the key messages were :

- GP activity in 2022/23 was **14% higher** than in 2019-20
 - **60,000 extra appointments per month** compared to 2019/20.
- Emergency admissions were **8% higher** in 2022/23 compared to 2019-20
 - **600 extra admissions per month** over 2019-20.
- A&E attendances more or less the same as in 2019-20 at **0.6% higher**
 - **200 more per month** compared to 2019-20

This reflects changes in access pathways for urgent care with more people using NHS 111, pharmacists, or other community services, including being referred from NHS 111 to see their GP.



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Other News

Child Friendly Warwickshire competition



Win £2,500 from Child Friendly Warwickshire for your school or college to spend on activities or projects to support children and young people to be happy, healthy, heard, safe and skilled. Get involved today at <http://bit.ly/CFWcomp2023>



A funding scheme created to boost the local economy by helping SMEs with access-to-finance has now invested nearly £3million in small businesses.

Read more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3970/major-funding-scheme-nears-3m-in-small-business-investment

Cost of Living Support




Cost of Living

General messaging		
Cost of living tips video	<p>Concerned about how to keep your home energy costs down? Here are six tips to reduce your energy usage and your bills at the same time.</p> <p>For more advice and support: https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/</p>	<p>L1 or L1-square (video)</p>
Cost of living support	<p>The rise in living costs is having an impact on household budgets for many and people are making some tough decisions about what to prioritise. Support is available on the Warwickshire Cost of Living website: https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/</p>	<p>L2</p>
I need support now	<p>If you are feeling overwhelmed by the rising costs of living and need advice on what you can do now to get the support you need, visit the "I need support now" page on the Warwickshire Cost of Living website.</p> <p>You'll find advice on how to pay for your food, energy and water, how to get money advice, how to manage aspects of family life, how to access emergency food and what to do if your mental health has been affected.</p> <p>Find help here: https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/i-need-urgent-help</p>	<p>L3</p>



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Help for households	The Government has put support packages in place with help for eligible individuals. Help for Households information is available at www.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport .	<p>L8</p> 
Housing		
Housing support	<p>Having a safe home is something we all need, but sometimes we can experience housing difficulties that cause a lot of stress and make it difficult to enjoy family life.</p> <p>If you need support to deal with a housing problem, visit the Warwickshire Cost of Living website: https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/housing-support/housing-support-1</p>	<p>L9</p> 
Food support		
Food support	If you're finding it hard to feed your household, help and advice is on the Warwickshire Cost of Living website: https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/food-support/food-support-1	<p>L10</p> 

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.

**Appendix 1
Key points of the County Council Budget**

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out several areas for investment, including investment of:

- £5.4 million in our children's social care services, including investment of £3.3 million for additional staffing to improve outcomes for young people.
- £24.8 million to protect our elderly citizens and vulnerable adults to fund additional demand and manage the cost of placements, whilst continuing to make progress on our vision of greater integration between health and social care and the adult social care reform agenda.
- £1.8 million to continue to support children and young people with disabilities placements and to ensure they can access appropriate support within their communities.
- £1.5 million to increase capacity in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) assessment and review service, and the admissions and attendance services.
- £8.2 million in home to school transport to ensure we continue to provide services in line with our policy whilst being able to respond to the increasing demand and cost of the service, which has been particularly impacted by inflation.
- £0.3 million in support for apprenticeships and reskilling across the county, with an emphasis on reskilling for the changing economy
- £0.8 million in the Fire and Rescue Service to review current strategies and processes for prevention activity and identification of high-risk premises; £1.2 million to meet the current levels of business and customer support needed in response to the demand pressures in children and families, education, and adult social care; and
- £1.2 million in the Waste Management service to meet the increased demand and cost as a result of housing growth and the increased domestic waste generated due to more people working from home.



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Appendix 2

Key points of the District Council Budget

- Council approved the Budget for 2023/24 on 27 February as proposed.
- The unanticipated interest largess that was generated in 2022-23 from SDC's liquid assets (latest estimate £1.5m) has effectively been rolled over into 2023-24 to enable the budget for next year to operate on the basis of a budgeted deficit of a little under £1.0m. This is all a matter of judgement – how much to spend for good reasons set against the maintenance of the general reserves to meet future financial uncertainties.
- We decided to accept the Lib Dem proposal in principle to allocate £50k for additional staff resource to support enforcement and regulatory work, to be allocated as the relevant Head of Service decides will be most effective. This money will not be for the sole purpose of increased enforcement activity but will be used where the Head of Service judges makes most operational impact within his Service.
- The budget was passed at full council on the 27th Feb 2023.
- The District budget was set at a £5 increase over the year or a 3.24% increase. This sets a band D property council tax at £159.12.
- The District Council had to dip into its reserves this year although not as much as was expected.
- Frustratingly, we still only have a one-year settlement from Government and grants like the new home's bonus have now ceased
- This years' settlement turned out to be more favourable than expected plus, due to the increase in interest rates, our investments gained a better rate of return.
- Even so, if the projections made are realised then the reserves will hit the lower limit of £3,040,000 by 2027/28 (this is the minimum allowable reserves that must be held by law).
- The finances of the council are in good shape, no statutory services (see below) have been cut and considering the current financial state, SDC compare most favourably with a number of councils that are already in danger of a visit by the Government.
- Given all of that, the Council set up a £500,000 fund over two years to help families disadvantaged by the cost-of-living crisis. The funds will be given to charities and organisations best placed to distribute them