



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

County Councillors report as at 4th September 2023

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It's a relatively quiet time at both district and county as all meetings cease in August and start up again in September.

One thing I am pleased to see is that Kier Starmer (the Labour Party Leader) appears to have told his team that less focus should be on telling everyone what the other political parties are doing wrong and more time should be spent telling everyone what his party will do to help everyone (Leaflets in the recent district council elections are a classic case of this). Maybe some grown-ups have entered the room after all.

Whilst I am a representative of a different party, I have raised the above repeatedly as it's a view that I share, especially over Climate Change. All too often parties fail to work together for the good of residents, hurling insults and counter insults at each other and voting along party lines to oppose just because they can. Very few politicians seem to look beyond the 4-year term which limits investment and growth and does not serve residents well.

RAAC (Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete)

In response to lots of queries over the issue of aerated concrete structures (that have a lifespan of around 30 years) and was used in many schools, hospitals and Courts and how safe they may or may not be, the Chief Executive of Warwickshire issued the following note:-

Just to put your mind at rest that Warwickshire has no schools affected by the closures. We undertook work on one primary school over the summer which is therefore mitigated and will open as usual. The DfE notifies us of schools due to be surveyed and this is one of our means of keeping ahead of any risk, in addition to our own programme of works and maintenance. Academy schools are responsible for their own maintenance and as such DfE has not published any details.

The following is an extract from the BBC website:

Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) is a lightweight material that was used mostly in flat roofing, but also in floors and walls, between the 1950s and 1990s. It is a cheaper alternative to standard concrete, is quicker to produce and easier to install. It is aerated, or "bubbly", like an Aero chocolate bar. But it is less durable and has a lifespan of around 30 years. Its structural behaviour differs significantly from traditional reinforced concrete. Moreover, it is susceptible to structural failure when exposed to moisture. The bubbles can allow water to enter the material. If that happens, any rebar reinforcing RAAC can also decay, rust and weaken. Because of this, RAAC is often coated with another material, such as bitumen on roofing panels. But this material can also degrade. The Standing Committee on Structural Safety (SCOSS) noted that: "Although called 'concrete', RAAC is very different from traditional concrete and, because of the way in which it was made, much weaker. "According to Loughborough University, there are tens of thousands of these structural panels already in use and "many are showing signs of wear and tear and deterioration". The Health and Safety Executive says RAAC is now beyond its lifespan and may "collapse with little or no notice."

Henley in Arden Specific Speed monitoring

As of today, I have ordered 15 sets of speed monitoring for two weeks in October. They are located in Claverdon, Wootton Wawen, Ullenhall, Tanworth in Arden and one set at the top of Liveridge Hill, I have paid for these from my delegated budget with the aim of getting an accurate picture of speed, volume and classification around the division.



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As Henley already have some speed data, we could consider installing monitoring equipment a few weeks after the 20mph zone is in operation to see what difference it has made. If this would be useful let me know and I will look to get the monitors in place at locations you specify.

County Council Matters

Green Bus service (for schools)

Just over a week ago I started to receive lots of emails from residents concerned by the Green Bus company's decision not to continue with its school's service. I raised the issue with senior officers and with the Portfolio Holder. In addition, I spoke with the MD of the Green Bus Company (Ian Mack) who gave me an insight into his decision and that a bus company had agreed to take over the routes and pulled out at the last minute, the issue that prompted the letter to users of the schools' services. As it happens one of the bus companies contacted, Riddleys, have now stepped in to help. The County Council has a duty to those who get free travel and has made arrangements to ensure that they have transport to and from school.

Burton Farm Recycling Centre



Stratford residents are advised that their local household waste recycling centre, Burton Farm, will be closed for a few weeks following an incident involving a farm vehicle.

I put out a note on Facebook Henley Matters highlighting that due to an incident that damaged the bridge, the centre and the Reuse shop are temporarily closed and it may be the end of September before it reopens.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4470/stratford-s-burton-farm-recycling-centre-forced-to-temporarily-close>

Henley in Arden Specific - Let me know if you have any small roadworks, white lining or Rights of Way issues I will look into these for you and get a quote for any works that need to be conducted. Potholes should be reported through the FixMyStreet website where they will be logged by County and passed through to Balfour Beatty where they will be scheduled for repair. You can also report issues directly on the WCC website

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4085/warwickshire-county-council-encourages-residents-to-report-road-issues>

The outstanding issues below contain an update on progress.

Ref	Date	Parish/Town	C or D	Issue	Action 1	Action 2
31	15/08/2022	HIA	C	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	30/04/2023 Booked by DW
65	12/12/2022	HIA	C	Road markings on disabled bay by DOLCE CAFÉ have faded and non blue badge holders are parking there...remedials are to be undertaken on the Disabled Bays and lining around that area High Street, and outside the Coop up to the Puffin Crossing.	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 die crew (Candy) - job is under Stratford remedials	30/04/2023 GS chasing this 19/06/2023 Done some but not all - done by ice cream shop - by end of July/August per GS 18/07/2023 all lining except by ice cream shop which will be picked up when 20mph scheme
149	07/08/2023	HIA		1 sets of speed/volume/type data collectors for two weeks required top of Liveridge Hill by new development (former Little Chef site), Southbound. Aim is to see if we could reduce the speed limit to 40mph from just before the development i.e extend the 40mph limit further back from where it starts on Liveridge Hill.	10/08/2023 passed to GS	
150	08/08/2023	HIA		Railings in front of the Co Op	17/08/2023 This would limit the possibility of residents and children crossing the road except by the lights plus it will deter motorists from parking - GS/DW - what are the implications and could a scheme be drawn up. Effectively the PC want black railings - ockup photos available	17/08/2023 Get agreement from shop owners
151	08/08/2023	HIA		Lords waste map requested by Ray (Parish Clerk)	17/08/2023 Lords waste map?	Highways Eesearches

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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Other County wide news

Crabmill

Preston Bagot have been in touch with Tom Fletcher (National Operations Director at Brunning and Price) to ask if there had been any movement regarding its plans for the site. He told us that their properties team had still made no decisions but ruled out any possibility of a rebuild. We note that B&P have recently obtained planning permission for a rebuild in Tidbury Green near Earlswood.

Covid 19 update

This year's autumn flu and COVID-19 vaccine programmes will start earlier than planned in England as a precautionary measure following the identification of a new COVID-19 variant.

- Vaccinations are now set to start on 11 September 2023 in England with adult care home residents and those most at risk to receive vaccines first.
- Eligible people urged to come forward for their jab as soon as they're invited.

Please see below for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/flu-and-covid-autumn-vaccine-programmes-brought-forward>

Withdrawal of Green Bus service



Warwickshire County Council has moved to reassure the families of young people eligible for free transport to their schools, who have been affected by the withdrawal of The Green Bus Service, that an alternative service will be found.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4468/withdrawal-of-the-green-bus-service-update-30-08-23>

Ridleys Coaches



For all those impacted by the withdrawal of The Green Bus there are now spaces between Stratford and Alcester.

Please continue to follow Ridleys Coaches Limited for updates on new routes and bookings.
https://facebook.com/ridleyscoaches?ref=embed_page

Local history water displays @ Libraries



Selected libraries in Warwickshire will be hosting displays that highlight historic water scenes from the last 100 years.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4462/local-history-water-displays-are-coming-to-a-library-near-you->



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Supporting SEND transitions in Warwickshire (Twitter and Facebook)



Warwickshire County Council has worked closely with parents, carers and professionals to create a one-stop-shop for advice and guidance to support smooth transitions back to school for children and young people with SEND.

Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4464/new-one-stop-shop-to-support-transitions-for-children-and-young-people-in-warwickshire->

Driving for Better Business



Driving for Better Business in Warwickshire



Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is partnering with Driving for Better Business (DfBB) to promote the free scheme to businesses across Warwickshire who employ or manage drivers.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4469/driving-for-better-business>

Social worker recruitment

Are you #ChildFriendly?

The County Council is looking for experienced social workers to help make Warwickshire even more child friendly. Learn more at <http://warwickshire.gov.uk/workforus>

#ChildFriendlyWarwickshire #WorkforWarwickshire

Back to school advice

If your child is moving to a new school this September, talk about what it might be like, including changing classrooms, learning new subjects, meeting new friends – whilst offering reassurance that everyone will be feeling the same.

Police News

The nearest reported crime over the last week is in Wootton Wawen

• Burglary. The Dale. Residential premises entered and searched. Unsure if anything stolen at time of report. Evening of Friday 1st September. 0007 03/09/2023

Interesting facts about bus services

- Operators have invested over £2 billion in the last five years in new, cleaner and greener buses, meaning the UK has its cleanest ever bus fleet.
- **If everyone switched just one car journey a month to bus, there would be a billion fewer car journeys and a saving of 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.**
- In the West Midlands, 30% of respondents to a travel trends survey said they used the bus to commute to work.