

County Councillor report Kineton Parish Council Meeting 22nd October 2024

Stoptober. Quit smoking to boost mental health and wellbeing

Not only does quitting smoking improve your physical health, but it is also proven to boost your mental health and wellbeing. There are 66,000 smokers in Warwickshire ages 18+ which is 13.9% of the county's population. Find out more about starting your quitting journey:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5619/council-calling-on-residents-to-quit-smoking-to-boost-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Recycling

There are 5 packaging heroes that often end up in the rubbish rather than recycling bin. Deodorant, plastic trigger spray bottles, yoghurt pots, perfume bottles and toilet roll tubes can all be recycled in Warwickshire. Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5638/warwickshire-county-council-joins-the-national-campaign-to-save-recycling-from-the-bin>

Specialist support for children with SEND

More children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Warwickshire are now receiving tailored support within mainstream schools. Find out more about specialist resourced provisions:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5600/warwickshire-county-council-expands-specialist-support-for-children-with-send->

Combating loneliness and promoting wellbeing

There are several resources and services available on a local and national level to those who are struggling with loneliness. Loneliness is the state of being distanced or isolated from other people, it can result from social isolation, so it is important for people to have opportunities to connect with others. Loneliness can affect anyone at any stage of their life. It's not just about being alone, although being alone can increase feelings of loneliness – it's subjective and what might constitute loneliness for one person wouldn't be for another.

Loneliness affects people of all genders, ages and backgrounds, and can have a huge impact on an individual's health. It can increase the risks of high blood pressure, coronary heart disease and stroke, and can also be a risk factor for developing depression later in life. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5649/warwickshire-county-council-offers-resources-to-combat-loneliness-and-promote-wellbeing>

Carers

To further your understanding of what it means to be a carer, we encourage all our partners to set aside some time to take Warwickshire County Council's free online Carer Aware and Young Carer Aware courses (estimated completion time is 30-40 minutes each). Further information and contributing to bulletin The Caring Together Warwickshire Service has a website information about services available for carers can be seen here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/carers>

Highlighting the power of fostering

Warwickshire Fostering is proud to announce the release of Everything, a heartfelt short film that shines a light on the life-changing impact of fostering.

Watch the video here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5650/new-short-film-everything-launches-to-highlight-the-power-of-fostering->

Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme

Find out more about the opportunities that are being created by a Warwickshire scheme to support migrants from Afghanistan. The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) supports people from Afghanistan now living in Warwickshire who left their country because their work or views put them in danger and at risk of reprisals if they remained. Under the scheme people are granted indefinite leave to live in the UK and their families are supported by Warwickshire County Council for up to three years.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5646/a-warwickshire-scheme-to-support-migrants-from-afghanistan-is-creating-opportunities>

Council commits to raising awareness of Pension Credit

Warwickshire County Council is committed to ensuring the county's eligible residents are supported in claiming their Pension Credit entitlement this winter.

This follows unanimous support at a recent Council meeting (24 September) which saw Councillors united in their commitment to protecting the county's most vulnerable pensioners from fuel poverty.

Pension Credit tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs. People who claim Pension Credit may also be able to get the Winter Fuel Payment and help with heating costs, as well as access to other financial support.

It is estimated around 5,800 pensioners living in the county may be entitled to Pension Credit but are not currently claiming it.

The Council is also asking residents to check in with friends and family who may be entitled to Pension Credit and to support them with checking eligibility and making their application.

Check eligibility at <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit> or by calling the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234

For more information about a wide range of support and information this winter visit [Cost of Living – Cost of Living \(costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](http://costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk)

Full Council – 24 September

The meeting of Warwickshire County Council on Tuesday 24 September focused on key priorities that included keeping Warwickshire communities safe, supporting vulnerable young people and expanding school capacity.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5585/today-at-council-24-september->

Saturday working on Stratford's Birmingham Road

Warwickshire County Council has announced plans to introduce Saturday working on the current stage of works on Phase 2 of the A3400 Birmingham Road in Stratford.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5645/saturday-working-and-extra-workers-to-start-on-birmingham-rd>

Councillor Grant Fund is open again for applications

Warwickshire County Council is inviting community and voluntary groups across the county to apply for the Councillor Grant Fund, which is now reopen for round two of funding. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5583/warwickshire-county-council-s-councillor-grant-fund-is-open-again-for-applications>

Chris Mills

County Councillor Kineton

