

## **County Councillor report Kineton Parish Council Meeting 26th November 2024**

### **Supported internships in Warwickshire**

Warwickshire County Council is working to develop pathways to employment for young people with SEND through supported internships.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5681/new-role-to-lead-the-development-of-supported-internships-in-warwickshire>

### **Stop smoking case studies**

A powerful video has been launched to raise awareness of the free support available for smokers in Coventry and Warwickshire who want to quit.

The [Smoke Free Coventry and Warwickshire](#) campaign was created through a partnership between Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Coventry City Council (CCC) with funding from the UK Government to tackle smoking rates across the region. An estimated 10.7% of people aged 18+ in Coventry and 11.1% in Warwickshire smoke. In Warwickshire, this varies across the district and boroughs. (Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics, 2023). Those who wish to quit often struggle due to their addiction to nicotine – over 80% of smokers start before they turn twenty, most as children (Source: Tobacco and Vapes Bill 2024). Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5747/real-stories-from-former-smokers-in-coventry-and-warwickshire-inspiring-others-to-quit-smoking>

### **Warm and well this winter**

As we step into the winter season, the excitement of festive activities can sometimes be overshadowed by challenges, especially for those facing health risks or financial pressures. Discover more about staying warm and well:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5701/supporting-warwickshire-to-stay-warm-and-well-this-winter>

### **Kind Communities - Kind Food Grant fund**

If you are involved in community-orientated food projects across Warwickshire, you are invited to apply to the second round of Warwickshire County Council's Kind Communities-Kind Food Grant fund. Apply now:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5727/community-food-groups-and-projects-invited-to-apply-to-latest-kind-communities-kind-food-grant-fund>

## **I need support now**

Paying for my food, energy and water. If you are a Warwickshire resident with no other access to funds to pay for food or energy bills, you may be eligible for support through the Local Welfare Scheme. For more information, visit the [Local Welfare Scheme pages](#) or call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182. Phone lines are open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm and Friday from 9am to 4.30pm.

## **Getting money advice**

If you have concerns about debt, managing your money, what benefits you are entitled to, housing or employment, the [Citizens Advice website](#) contains an array of advice, support and services to help. You can also reach out to your local Citizens Advice in [Northern Warwickshire](#), [Bedworth, Rugby and Nuneaton](#) or [South Warwickshire](#), depending on where you live. You can call the county freephone advice line on 0808 250 5715 - Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

## **Police antisocial behaviour patrols**

Warwickshire Police is conducting targeted patrols in hotspots to tackle antisocial behaviour. The Focusing on those locations aims to prevent crime in the specific areas and reduce overall crime levels in the wider area. Discover more about Op Resolve: <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/police-forces/warwickshire-police/areas/warwickshire-police/campaigns/campaigns/2024/op-resolve/>

## **Water Beads**

### **The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a Safety Alert**

This is a Product Safety Alert from the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) for a product commonly known as water beads. Water beads can pose a serious risk of a) gastrointestinal blockage requiring surgery or b) asphyxiation (suffocation or choking). This Alert is for consumers (particularly parents and caregivers to young children), childcare and educational establishments, local authority trading standards and businesses to warn of the potential harm that water beads can pose. To learn more, go to [Office for Product Safety and Standards](#). Urgent warning: Keep water beads away from under 5's Some water beads grow to the size of golf balls.

## **Child-friendly festive cheer**

Warwickshire residents and businesses who want to help children and young people have a happy Christmas are invited to donate presents via a Warwickshire County Council's gift appeal. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5755/spread-some-child-friendly-christmas-cheer>



## **Warwickshire's Lord Lieutenant presents national honours**

The extraordinary achievements of several residents in Warwickshire have been recognised in formal presentations and events by the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Tim Cox. Mrs Janet Nelson of Butlers Marston was presented with the BEM. for services to education. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5735/warwickshire-s-lord-lieutenant-presents-national-honours-and-visits-inspiring-local-charity-for-young-people>

## **The King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024**

Two charitable organisations in Warwickshire – Hope 4 Rugby and the Kineton Sports & Social Club – have officially been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5744/two-organisations-in-warwickshire-achieve-the-king-s-award-for-voluntary-service-2024>

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