

County Councillor report Kineton Parish Council Meeting 28th January 2025

Quit Smoking in 2025

FREE stop smoking support is available for everyone living or working in Warwickshire aged 12+ this new year. In 2019, there were an estimated 74,000 deaths in the UK attributed to smoking this was a 3% decrease from 2018.

Start your smoke free journey today <https://smokefreecw.co.uk/>

Warwickshire welcomes new Safe Accommodation Strategy for victim-survivors of Domestic Abuse

In line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Warwickshire County Council and its partners has launched its Safe Accommodation Strategy. The strategy highlights the provision in Warwickshire to provide a safe haven for victim-survivors over the next three years. Find out more:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5865/warwickshire-welcomes-new-safe-accommodation-strategy-for-victim-survivors-of-domestic-abuse

Energy bill support available this winter

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme is distributing funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund to support people who may be struggling with energy bills this winter.

The Household Support Fund can provide short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment to meet an immediate need and help those who are finding it hard to manage the cost of their energy bills. This supplements ongoing emergency support from the [Local Welfare Scheme](#) for residents in financial crisis.

Families and households in Warwickshire can apply whether they use pre-payment meters, pay by direct debit or on receipt of a bill. Residents are invited to contact the Local Welfare Scheme team for a confidential discussion about their situation. Call 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182 or Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

Learn more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5860/energy-bill-support-available-this-winter

Measles vaccinations

More than 3 million unvaccinated children are at risk of catching measles in England, make sure you and your child are up to date with a free NHS MMR vaccination. To check if you or your child has had the vaccine, ask at your GP surgery. Go to <http://nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Flu vaccinations

Flu is very infectious and easily spreads. It's important to get your winter flu vaccination if you're eligible. Getting vaccinated every year will top up your protection and reduce your risk of severe symptoms. Check your eligibility via <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/>

New Destination Work programme

A groundbreaking new programme – Destination Work - has been launched in Warwickshire to deliver intensive employability and skills support to economically inactive people aged 25 and over. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5806/new-destination-work-programme-supporting-people-into-employment>

Warwickshire Resilience Forum website

Did you know you can find your key contacts in a range of emergencies, on the Warwickshire Resilience Forum website? This will *include Industrial Accidents and Major Fires. Cyber-attacks. Emerging Infectious Diseases. Extreme Cold Weather. Heatwave and Drought. Loss of Gas or Electricity. Malicious Attacks. Pandemics. Flooding. Animal Diseases.* Select a risk and enter your postcode at <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/emergency-contacts/> and find out who's here to help near you.

Register your appliances

Every January, a nationwide campaign gets underway that encourages people to register their appliances allowing them to get up to date safety information, such as product recalls. The cost-of-living crisis is driving more people to consider buying second-hand large domestic appliances, but only one in five (20%) take the simple safety step of registering that appliance with the manufacturer before installing it. Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5889/register-your-old-and-new-appliances-to-stay-up-to-date-with-the-latest-safety-information>

Home to school transport process simplified

Students living in Warwickshire starting Year 7 in September 2025 will benefit from a simplified school transport process. Rather than having to complete applications forms, the Home to School Transport Team will now contact families directly to confirm their eligibility.

This approach is designed to simplify the process for eligible pupils, ensuring transport is arranged earlier and more efficiently, ahead of the new school year.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5901/home-to-school-transport-process-simplified-to-help-families->

Highway Code video

Warwickshire County Council is pleased to announce the launch of a new video designed to refresh the knowledge of experienced drivers on the updated Highway Code. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5896/new-video-launched-to-refresh-warwickshire-drivers-knowledge-of-the-highway-code>

Unitary Authority

The Government published a White Paper on 16th December proposing Unitary Authorities throughout the UK.

Izzy Seccombe has written to Jim McMahon, Minister of State for Local Government to signal willingness to be considered for delivering local government reorganisation and devolution in keeping with the Government's ambitious timeframe and recognising that, consequently, the Government may decide it is necessary to postpone the May 2025 County Council elections.

We now await the Government's response which we anticipate by the end of January. When we receive that response, I hope it will be clear on timescales and next steps.

Regardless of whether Warwickshire is in the priority programme for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, it is clear that the next few years will bring significant change.

Chris Mills

County Councillor

Kineton