ENCLOSURE 10

Lapworth & West Kenilworth Division County Council News 1st January 2025

Proposals to have a combined Authority instead of separate District & County Councils

Following statements made during the recent Budget, The Leader of Warwickshire County Council Cllr Izzi Seccombe is to write to the Government suggesting that Warwickshire County Council & all of its District & Borough Councils combine to merge into a County Wide local authority as soon as possible. It is suggested that to do this there would be no County Council Elections in elections May 2025 and that the current Councils should continue until fresh elections to be held in May 2026. Town & Parish Councils would not be affected.

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is helping hospital patients return home safely with their Hospital to Home service.

The Hospital to Home service, which launched in 2018, aims to support elderly and vulnerable patients who have been treated at hospital and are well enough to return home, where they feel safe and can be supported to live independently.

The service works alongside hospitals to support the discharge of patients 365 days a year. During 2023/24, the service has conducted 1,508 Hospital to Home collections.

As part of the service, when the team support a patient to return home, they will also carry out a Safe and Well check. The check involves looking for potential hazards in the home that can cause slips, trips and falls, carrying out a check for possible fire hazards, inspecting electrical sockets to ensure they are safe to use, checking smoke alarms are working or installing new smoke alarms where there are none. The team will also refer patients to support services if they believe that the patient could use the support to help them remain independent in their home. The team will often re-visit patients to check they how they are since going from hospital to home.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Leader of Warwickshire County Council, reflects on a year of progress, partnership, and dedication to the people of Warwickshire.

In her end-of-year message, Councillor Seccombe expressed her gratitude to residents, businesses, and community partners for their unwavering support in helping the council deliver on its priorities.

This year, our primary focus has been supporting Warwickshire residents amid the ongoing cost of living crisis. Over the past 12 months, Warwickshire's Local Welfare Scheme has allocated £6.9 million in funding to assist vulnerable residents and expanded its support to those facing crisis situations. Additionally, the scheme has provided grants totalling £183,790 to local food banks, charities, and community groups, enhancing projects related to food and energy assistance.

Embracing a collaborative approach, Warwickshire County Council has worked closely with local partners, businesses, and communities to turn its vision into reality, striving to make Warwickshire the best it can be. The council remains dedicated to fostering cooperation to deliver on the strategic priorities set out in the Council Plan.

Some of the key achievements in 2024 include:

· Launching an ambitious energy strategy to build a sustainable future for the county, focusing on energy reduction, generation, and measurement.

· Successfully contracting Oxford Innovation Advice to deliver a new Manufacturing Growth Programme, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, on behalf of six local authorities.

· Earning ISO 14001 certification for the 16th consecutive year, in recognition of the council's strong environmental management system (EMS).

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

This support is time limited and available from 20 December. Those entitled to benefits eligible free school meals have already received this support as part of their recent cost of living payment.

For residents who previously received the winter fuel payment and are no longer eligible but are finding it difficult to meet the cost of their fuel bills, they can go their local library with a form of ID and proof of their name and address and a member of staff can help with an application for one-off support towards energy costs.

Help us improve pharmacies across Coventry and Warwickshire

Residents of Coventry and Warwickshire are invited to complete a **short online survey** about their experience of pharmacy services to assess future and current needs in the area.

The results of the survey will help to create the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA). The PNA will inform decisions about future changes to pharmaceutical services across Coventry and Warwickshire. The survey results will also help to commission NHS-funded services that can be provided by local community pharmacies. The PNA will also be used by local authorities and Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) when commissioning services to meet local health needs and priorities.

The survey is anonymous and confidential and anyone who uses a local pharmacy is invited to give their views by visiting coventry.gov.uk/pharmacysurvey

Power down the fire risk: Recycle batteries safely

Warwickshire County Council Waste and Recycling Service is reminding residents how to safely dispose of used batteries.

For most of us, used batteries are as much part of Christmas as turkey and sprouts, with the UK going through millions of them over the festive season. Despite the huge number that will be used, many residents may not realise that batteries carry significant fire risks if they aren't disposed of safely. **Your local Household Waste Recycling Centre** will have a special section for used batteries.

Unlike many other household items, batteries should not be placed in either your waste or recycling bin at home, but when this happens, it can have explosive consequences.

ENCLOSURE 10

Batteries in refuse or recycling waste are easily damaged by the equipment used to sort the waste, and when this happens, these batteries can overheat and enter a state called thermal runaway, which may result in fires or explosions

John Cooke 30/12/24.