ENCLOSURE 6

Warwick District Council ('WDC') Report for KTC February 2026 - Cllr Richard Hales

For this report I've highlighted new activity in red, and left 'continuing' items relating to ongoing work in black.

	Issue/Portfolio Holder(s)	Current status
1	Arts, Culture & Economy Cllr Ella Billiald	• Work is still progressing on the governance structure for a new *Local Visitor Economy Partnership* covering the whole of Coventry & Warwickshire, including Kenilworth. • The Events Team is working an events strategy for all the 150+ WDC and community-organised events in Warwick district each year. KTC may wish to seek into put into this.
2	Decarbonisation Cllr Lowell Williams	• Works continues to decarbonise nearly 340 social and private homes across the District – including in Kenilworth - through insulation, heat pumps, and solar installations. • WDC continues to explore a low-cost loan scheme for private homeowners in the district who wish to undertake energy efficiency home improvements.
3	Strategic Leadership Cllr Ian Davison	• The Council has submitted the case to central government that Warwickshire adopt a two unitary authority structure (North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire) with options for a strategic authority to remain open and more consideration to be given to devolving power, resources and responsibilities to Town & Parish Councils. • In Q1 2026 proposals will come forward about the future of major WDC infrastructure projects and which may be put in abeyance during Local Government Reorganisation. • Central government is due to announce a formal decision in summer 2026 with vesting day set for 1st April 2028. A Shadow Authority or Authorities will exist from 1st April 2027. • Senior officers and Cabinet are reviewing the Council's Constitution after a recent per review. This is due to be considered in Q1 2026.
4	Resources Cllr Jonathan Chilvers	• The budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18th February, but this maybe delayed due to WCC not setting their budget yet & also changes in the funding agreement being put forward by central government, which would equate to £1.1m in less funding for WDC.
5	Housing and Assets	• Independent reviews by the Housing Quality Network and Penningtons identified concerns with the Council's housing services. A significant programme of work is underway to address these concerns.

	Cllr Jessica Melrose	• The Housing Team is still working on plans to develop the former Kenilworth School sites at Leyes Lane and Rouncil Lane in line with the Council's Net Zero Carbon Development Planning Document. Three public consultation events have been held by Homes England regarding options for the Leyes Lane site but no details available yet on the Rouncil Lane site. A hybrid planning application for demolition and outline planning from Homes England for Leyes Lane is currently being consulted on, deadline 9th January. Reserved Matters applications need to be agreed by WDC Planning Committee by September 2026 for Rouncil Lane and by May 2027 for Leyes Lane. New FAQs for both sites exist on WDC's website. Please also see the site delivery officer report sent by officers in January. • The Leyes Lane development is being discussed at an extraordinary scrutiny meeting on Tuesday 17th February. There are concerns about the values being placed on the Leyes Lane site and the loss that the council could incur if this scheme progress. • Meetings took place at Kenilworth Wardens organised by the Liberal and Conservative Groups, with residents raising wide ranging concerns which are being address by officers & Cllr Melrose/King/Williams.
6	Neighbourhood Cllr Will Roberts	• New Parking changes have been considered by Cabinet and Council following a report from consultants Parking Matters Ltd. With respect to Kenilworth, key changes are: a) a consultation on 30-minute charges to go ahead, which would be implemented in Square West b) charges in Abbey Fields and Abbey End rising in line with CPI (~3-4%) c) charges in Square West increasing to be in line with Abbey End. • Work on the refurbishment of Castle Farm play area is near complete. The original completion by Christmas was delayed by the wet weather but is expected to open this month. • Residents are invited to sign up to WDC's Biodiversity Newsletter here: https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20855/biodiversity/1968/biodiversity_newsletter The latest edition is Winter 2025.
7	Place Cllr Chris King	• The contract for the introduction of new planning software has been signed. This is scheduled to go 'live in May 2026.There are said to be wide ranging benefits for all users of the system and the Planning Team has offered to engage with KTC staff to help ensure a smooth launch. • WDC's Housing Supply figures remain less than five years leaving communities vulnerable to speculative plans from developers/landowners/land promoters. • South Warwickshire Local Plan The Joint Cabinet of December 18th agreed a revised, delayed timetable for the SWLP. This means that the 'Regulation 19' version of the plan will be seen by members in May 2026 with the public consultation opening 'no later than 8th June'. Additionally the Cabinet agreed to set terms of reference for Warwickshire County Council Transport planning emphasising the requirement to prioritise active and public transport as part of the plan's 20-minute neighbourhood principles.
8	Communities and Leisure Cllr Jim Sinnott	• Abbey Fields Swimming Pools: progress continues for the contractors to finish by April 2026 and the gas and water infrastructure to complete by January 2026. No date has been set for opening, but this is expected to be several weeks after April 2026 to allow for snagging and operational testing by Everyone Active. • WDC is working on a new Pavement Licence Policy, including for the 4 licences in Kenilworth. • WDC is working on a new Community Strategy, but the details of when this will be agreed have yet to be published. • Two existing grant schemes will be merged into a new 'District Sport and Activity Grant' available to local community groups across the district.

9	Transformation Cllr Becky Davidson	• Transformation proposals are coming through the Change Programme Board with a view to improving the delivery of services through innovation. • Work continues to strengthen cyber security, to review WDC's AI Policy and to examine WDC's use of the digital media platform X.