Warwickshire County Council ('WCC') Report for Kenilworth Town Council February 2026 – Cllr Mark Stevens

(all data is county-wide for unless stated, all Portfolio Holders appointed in May 2025 unless stated)

	Service Area/Portfolio Holder	Status
1	Adult Social Care & Health Cllr Anne-Marie Sonko	• The County achieved a CQC rating of Good for its Adult Social Care services in its latest assessment. The CQC report praised Warwickshire as a well-run local authority with experienced leadership, clear vision and strong support for adult social care, describing an organisational culture that is open, principled, and focused on doing what's right.
2	Children & Families Cllr George Finch	• The Warwickshire Youth Council announced its Project Grant Fund, aimed at supporting the county's community and voluntary organisations that provide essential services for young people aged 11-17. The Warwickshire Youth Council Project Grant Fund is designed to strengthen youth provision in three key areas: crime and safety, experience in schools, and mental health. The funding supports projects running over a 12-month period, ensuring initiatives are accessible to young people at times and in locations that suit their needs. Grants of up to £5,000 are available with applications open from Friday 16 January to Sunday 8 February 2026. • Warwickshire Youth Justice Service - A service dedicated to supporting young people involved in the youth justice system has been commended by inspectors for its stability, high quality practice, and the positive difference it is making to children's lives. Warwickshire Youth Justice Service (YJS) has been rated 'Good' with areas of outstanding practice following a recent inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. Inspectors from HM Inspectorate of Probation, which oversees youth justice services across England and Wales, visited Warwickshire YJS in October 2025. Their report highlights the service's strong and effective practice with children, which is contributing to positive outcomes across the county. The assessment of children and delivery of services for children was rated 'Outstanding'. Inspectors praised practitioners for ensuring that children receive the right support at the right time, and for their inquisitive, reflective approach. They also commended the team's deep commitment to continually developing and improving their practice.
3	Communities & Localities Cllr Mike Bannister	• Council's Quarter 3 performance report for 2025/26 revealed the following: o Climate Change related projects are in delay with only 50% of Key Business Measures currently on track to deliver expectations o Only 40% of Child Friendly Warwickshire KBMs are delivering. o Only 33% of activities are delivering to plan under the category of 'Improve opportunities through education'. • Apprenticeships – WCC has seen some really good impact from apprenticeship programs across Warwickshire. Since 2012, WCC has recruited 410 career starter apprentices, with an average intake of 30 per year. Of these, 225 have completed their apprenticeships and been retained in further roles within WCC. Following the introduction of the

		Apprenticeship Levy Programme in 2017, WCC has supported 489 career developer apprenticeships for existing employees at the council. In WCC schools, 626 apprenticeships have been facilitated since the levy's introduction. Overall, there have been 1,525 apprenticeship starts at WCC since the levy began, with further contributions from the Council's Economy and Skills team through the levy transfer scheme. For information on apprentice roles at the County Council visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jobs • Libraries - From crime thrillers to summer reading festivals, libraries across Warwickshire are launching an ambitious programme to make reading irresistible in 2026. Whether people are passionate about music, sport, fashion or food, there's one thing that can take them deeper into what they love: reading. That's the philosophy behind Warwickshire Libraries' exciting support for the National Year of Reading 2026, a nationwide campaign with the rallying cry 'Go All In.' The goal is to reignite reading for pleasure across the UK by meeting people where their passions already live. Warwickshire Libraries has set bold targets for 2026, including • a 5% increase in library registrations, • more children completing the annual Summer Reading Challenge, • expanded uptake of the popular county read-along Book Bingo across all ages.
4	Environment, Heritage & Culture Cllr Darren Cheshire	• Residents across Warwickshire are being encouraged to have their say on a new strategy designed to help nature and wildlife flourish across the county. https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7020/share-your-views-on-warwickshire-s-local-nature-recovery-strategy • WCC is reminding residents about its convenient and flexible IndieGo and IndieGo PLUS demand-responsive transport services, encouraging more people to take advantage of these travel options to get around the county, offering a vital "dial-a-ride" alternative for journeys not easily covered by traditional public bus routes.
5	Education Cllr Wayne Briggs	• Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA) - Support is being rolled out across Warwickshire to help children and young people who are struggling to attend school. A comprehensive package of practical resources, launched by Warwickshire County Council, gives schools the tools they need to work alongside families and ensure pupils who experience Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA) get the right help at the right time. Developed with a strong focus on early support and prevention, the resources are designed to help pupils who are showing ongoing signs of distress or unhappiness about attending school. They recognise that attendance difficulties can be linked to a range of needs, including emotional or wellbeing needs, and the aim to help children feel safe, understood and supported so they can engage positively with learning.
6	Fire, Rescue & Community Safety Cllr Dale Bridgewater	• During the past three years, over a quarter (26.4%) of the residential fires that Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service has attending did not have smoke alarms fitted. This is why Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is sharing their top safety tips to keep your alarms in working order.

7	Resources/Finance Cllr Steven Shaw	• The local government finance settlement brought good news on SEND deficits where we will receive a grant covering 90% of the WCC cumulative SEND deficit. • Following an extended budget setting Council meeting, spanning two sessions in February, the County Council passed a budget which will mean an increase of 4.44% for a typical Band D property in Warwickshire for the next financial year 2026/27.
8	Transport & Planning Cllr Jennifer Warren	• Pothole Watch - Since 1st January we have now issued 3238 pothole repairs, including 1036 this week (alone. You can see that sudden surge in issued jobs this week (and the resultant number outstanding as a result). This is because we have released a number of the less dangerous defects to our contractors who have also brought in even more gangs from local supply chain, working 7 days a week. It's encouraging that the number of public reports hasn't really grown week on week, so hopefully with that extra number of repairs (and if the rain ever ends), we should see that number start to drop back to normal levels. • The new Knowle Hill foot path continuation is now complete, which should minimise (not eliminate) the risks faced by school age children going to and returning from KMAT school. • Dalehouse Lane will be closing from March 7th 2026 through to June 7th 2027 for completion of HS2 road and bridge elevation. • Roadway speed survey to be completed on roads around Abbey Fields, co-funded by Cllrs Dickson, Drew and Stevens. • Still no date for start of works at new Stansfield Grive roundabout, nor for parking consultation amongst residents near Kenilworth School. • WCC Highways staff continue to negotiate with Persimmon re pedestrian safety improvements on eastern side of Warwick Road near LILO junction. • Still no completion date or final costs for the A46 Stoneleigh Junction Bridge-To-Nowhere project.
9	Leader/Strategy Cllr George Finch	• Warwickshire County Council organisation - Following recent events, Cllr Edward Harris has resigned his position as WCC Chair along with the Reform whip and is now standing as an independent Councillor. The members of WCC elected Dale Keeling, on 5th February, to assume role of Chair, with immediate effect. He was previously the Deputy Chair. • Two Reform Party councillors have defected to a new political party Restore UK, immediately following the Council meeting on 17th February

Next Full County Council meeting 17th March 2026 at 10am.