

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

(all data is county-wide for Q3 2025/26 unless stated, all Portfolio Holders re/appointed in May 2026 unless stated). Next Full WCC meeting Tuesday 23rd Aug

	Service Area/Portfolio Holder (PH) (new since May 26 in italics)	Status
1	Adult Social Care & Health Cllr Anne-Marie Sonko	- The Care Quality Commission's assessment of the Reablement service has resulted in an 'Outstanding' grading. - Loneliness and social isolation support - In Warwickshire, around 7% of adults (approximately 23,500) report feeling lonely often, or always. - WCC has created a free online training course that aims to help everyone to understand the challenges that young carers experience in our communities. - A new and improved, holistic healthy lifestyle service launched across Warwickshire on 1 July 2026, offering residents tailored support to improve their health and wellbeing
2	Business & Economy Cllr Rob Howard	Percentage premises with high-speed (Full-fibre) broadband coverage in Warwickshire is 69% verses 78% (National)
3	Children & Families <i>Cllr Wayne Briggs</i>	- Key business measures status for the category 'Improve life opportunities through education' is only 44% delivering 97% of children were able to secure a primary school place at one of their first 3 preferences.
4	Communities & Localities Cllr Mike Bannister	- The outcome of the call-in on the Decision to consult on the proposal to cease to externally commission on equalities service, was to be referred back to the portfolio holder so that members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can see the consultation document before the consultation commences and for the portfolio holder to consider the points raised by members, including ways of maximising public participation. - Warwickshire will welcome elite women's cycling back to the county this summer as it hosts the final stage of the Lloyds Tour of Britain Women on Sunday 23 August, starting and finishing in Leamington Spa. - The number of Delegated Community Grant Rounds for Kenilworth County Councillors for local community groups now halved to 1 but £8K/councillor preserved. Application window is extremely tight (26th July 2026). £3K/councillor grant for Crime Awareness & Prevention Programme is available until end of 2026 calendar year. - The final mural in Warwickshire County Council's Blank canvas project has now been completed. This marks the finish of a county-wide community art initiative that has transformed ten locations. - There will be a Teenage Market event in Warwick on Saturday 18 July, with young people showcasing their creative products, business ideas, and talents. Kenilworth will also host one too, combined with the Food Festival in Abbey Fields
5	Environment, Heritage & Culture	WCC has announced that a new hybrid booking system will be introduced across its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), coming into effect on Monday, 20 July 2026. This follows a review of the recent 'no booking' trial,

	Cllr Darren Cheshire	which was implemented to assess the impact of removing booking and also to try to make it easier for residents to access their local recycling centre. This does not affect Cherry Orchard ion Kenilworth, which remains booking-free.
6	Education Cllr Wayne Briggs	- Warwickshire Outcome Measures Performance Update shows the following - Warwickshire's Early years foundation stage - % of disadvantaged (free school meal eligible and claiming) children achieving a good level of development is 43.6% verses 53.6% (West Mid) and 51.3% (National) - Warwickshire's (KS2) proportion of disadvantaged children achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths is 41% verses 50% (West Mid) and 48% (National) - A new Local Warwickshire SEND Reform Plan has been approved by Cabinet with a key feature of the plan being development of a new "Experts at Hand" offer, which will give schools and settings quicker access to specialist professionals, including speech and language therapists, educational psychologists and occupational therapists. - Meetings continue with Alison Kennedy to discuss road safety measures near Kenilworth School & 6th Form
7	Fire, Rescue, Community Safety & Flooding Cllr Robert Gisbourne	- Fire appliance availability 68% (62%) against 100% target - Average response time for life risk and property incidents 8m 12s (8m 47s) as a result of new response model
8	Resources/Finance Cllr James Crocker	- WCC has reported continued progress on its Value for Money Programme. Spending controls and recruitment approvals have delivered £5.8 million cost avoidance, A new bus shelter maintenance contract is expected to increase advertising income, contributing to delivery of MTFs financial savings targets for 2026 -31. An additional £100,000 this financial year is expected, rising to £300,000 from 2028/29 onwards. Work to recover money already owed to the Council has also resulted in over £137,000 being secured to date. - Risk of cyber-attack still shown as biggest risk to WCC. - Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services team achieved recognition in two categories at the Lawyers in Local government Awards 2026.
9	Transport & Planning Cllr Stephen Shaw (3 rd PH in less than 12 months)	- A452/A46 Developer Improvement Scheme £3.2m: Scheme previously delayed due to the requirement to identify sufficient funding. Capital Control Board working group have provided confirmation for the design phases to go ahead. Construction expected 2027/28 - Speed survey, funded by Cllr Stevens, completed on Castle Hill / High Street, resulting in agreement on speed limit reduction to 20mph. Speed survey, funded by Cllr Drew, on Bridge Street is in progress. Still awaiting speed survey timing confirmation for remaining section of road around Abbey Fields, being funded by Cllr Dickson. - Consultation on cycle route on Warwick Road from Pavilions site to St John's gyratory still delayed. - Start of works at new Stansfield Grove roundabout overdue, latest forecast is August 2026, with a 35 week workplan in place (last target of 15th June promised in Feb 2026). Still no news on parking consultation amongst residents near Kenilworth School.

		• Second meeting held with previous PH, WCC Highways staff and Persimmon representatives to improve pedestrian safety on eastern side of Warwick Road near LILO junction at Kenilworth Gate. Traffic survey completed 30th June with a view to introducing a temporary traffic regulation order for a reduced speed limit to 30mph. WCC Road Safety team has no objections to introducing a centreline slime-line bollard segregation outside the LILO exit point. Vegetation trimmed back level with Thickthorn Manor to improve junction visibility. Next meeting, to review traffic survey data planned for August. • Completion of A46 Stoneleigh Junction Bridge To Nowhere still set for summer 2027, but no details of total cost despite WCC Council agreeing max budget in December 2025 • A452 Kenilworth to Leamington Cycle Route: March briefing held with local councillors. Work on Phase 1B now underway but still uncertainty over Phase 2 at Riverside Hotel bridge.
10	Leader/Strategy Cllr George Finch	• Two more Reform members have defected to Restore Britain, which now leaves the political balance as follows; 6 Green, 4 Independent, 15 Lib Dem, 8 Conservatives, 3 Labour, 17 Reform, 4 Restore. • Young people from across the county have taken on new roles at Warwickshire Youth Council following a day of speeches, discussions and voting • Local Government Reorganisation/Devolution proposals response still expected July 2026