



Wootton Wawen Ward District & Arden Division County Cllr. Ian Shenton

Proud to represent Bearley, Claverdon, Earlswood, Henley in Arden, Langley, Mappleborough Green, Preston Bagot, Tanworth in Arden, Ullenhall, Wolverton, Wootton Wawen

Mob: 07971 343074 E Mail: ianshenton@warwickshire.gov.uk

County Councillors report as of 25th February 2024

Mappleborough Green Specific

Council Tax

Subject to whatever increase or decrease in precept the Parish council agree the overall increase in Council tax will be around 4.7% (WCC 4.00%, SDC 2.99%, PCC 4.7%) and will mean a resident on a band D will pay approximately £100 pa more or £1.90 per week

Fire stations – There is a public consultation on the future of several Fire stations, and it includes Henley Fire Station which the proposals indicate would become a “surge” station i.e., the tender would only be used if other stations cannot respond to an emergency. There is an issue with availability of the teams in some stations, but Henley has a good availability and response rate in comparison to others and it has the added responsibility of covering the motorways and neighbouring local authorities.

If you have an opinion that you want to share, then the consultation process allows this, and it is open until 10th March so please take part in the survey whether you are for keeping Henley Fire Station as it is or support the proposal.

There are meetings arranged where you can hear from the Chief Fire Officer and the Portfolio Holder and there will be time to ask questions.

The remaining public meetings are listed below: -

Southam	27 Feb 2024	The Grange Hall	Coventry Road, Southam, CV47 1QA
Shipston on Stour	5 March 2024	The Townsend Hall	Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AE

You do need to book a ticket to attend, and this can be done by pasting the link below into your browser

[Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Events | Eventbrite](#)

If you prefer you can also call 01926 410410 to book a ticket. **There is a link further down to the Resourcing to Risk survey.**

Flooding of homes – potential grants available - A reminder - You will be aware that Warwickshire is one of eight local authorities in the country which received notification from government of potential financial support for residents, business owners and farmers that have been affected by flooding. However, critical to our eligibility for releasing this funding is the need to meet the 50 flooded properties threshold set out in the funding criteria. This requires that at least 50 properties have been confirmed as having been flooded. Can I please ask that if you are aware of any residents in your Parish that have been affected by the flooding that you encourage them to contact our Flood Risk Management Team so that they can be confirmed, and potential funding can be released. They can do this really simply through the Council's website at: [Flood Risk Management – Warwickshire County Council](#) Alternatively email the team with the details and we will get someone to drop a leaflet off to them

WW Small works - Potholes should be reported through the directly on the WCC website

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4085/warwickshire-county-council-encourages-residents-to-report-road-issues>

To report a Highway fault, use this link <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportaproblem>

The following item is still outstanding in my log and as soon as I have an update, I will come back to you.

Ref	Date	Parish/Town	C or D	Issue	Action 1
264	14/02/2024	Mappleborough Green		Coach House	19/02/2024 note sent to Ryan O'keefe requesting meeting to discuss what has been provided and what needs to be done to progress this.

Recycling rates -Residents in Stratford-on-Avon District are still some of the best recyclers in England, as the District Council reaches **5th in the top ten Councils for reuse, recycling, and composting**. Figures released show that Stratford-on-Avon District Council is ranked 5th with a **recycling rate of 60.0%** for last year (2022/23).

"The service we provide of fortnightly co-mingled (mixed) recycling collections as part of the 123+ collection service with our contractor, Biffa Waste Services Limited, is designed to make recycling easy and our residents respond to that by ensuring they



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recycle as much as possible and by limiting the amount of other waste that is produced for landfill. "Investment in the Sherbourne Resource Park, a newly built, state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility, also ensures that there is a known controlled destination for dry recycling. It is important that residents continue to recycle, and they can now see that their efforts and diligence pays off.

I confidently predict that we will be the best recycling local authority when the next set of figures are published early next year.

Budget – There is no doubt that finances remain very tight, but the good news is that both Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council are stable and have enough reserves for the next 5 years, but savings must be made, which will be no small task. Officers are confident that they can be achieved and at this point in time there are no plans to withdraw or reduce services in any area, only a desire to get better value for money.

Stratford District Council will agree its budget Monday 26/02/2024 but the highlights of the budget proposed are as follows:

Description	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net Expenditure	20,920	18,636	19,376	19,983	19,656
Funded from Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	(2,600)
Contribution to/(from) Reserve	(1,252)	1,107	(3,643)	(3,679)	(157)
Net Budget Requirement	19,668	19,743	15,733	16,304	16,899
<i>Less:</i>					
Business Rate Retention	4,800	4,800	2,710	2,779	2,849
Rural Services Delivery Grant	351	351	351	351	351
Services Grant	16	0	0	0	0
New Homes Bonus	2,644	0	0	0	0
3% Funding Guarantee /Other	1,642	4,000	1,600	1,600	1,600
Collection Fund Adjustments	88	0	0	0	0
Balance Funded from Council Tax	10,127	10,592	11,072	11,574	12,099
SDC Council Tax £5 increase 2023/24 £5 thereafter	164.12	169.12	174.18	179.38	184.75

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 2.8 Council Tax 2.8.1 The proposals in relation to Council Tax include an increase in 2024/25 of £5.00, or 3.1% for a Band D property, to £164.12. Table above identifies the level of the proposed Council Tax for the period 2024/25 to 2028/29.

The following are the growth areas in the revenue budget i.e., where extra expenditure has been approved.

Schedule of Proposed Growth and use of Earmarked Reserves	2024/25 Base Budget £'000	2025/26 Base Budget £'000	2026/27 Base Budget £'000	2027/28 Base Budget £'000	2028/29 Base Budget £'000
Use of Earmarked Reserves					
Business Rates Equalisation Reserve	0	0	0	0	(2,600)
Total Use of Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	(2,600)
Chief Executive					
Climate Change	500	0	0	0	0
Procurement Officer	27	27	27	27	27
Stratford on Avon District Council Anniversary	10	0	0	0	0
Deputy Chief Executive					
Extend Transformation Team	131	0	0	0	0
Council Plan & Change Programme	2,000	0	0	0	0
Head of Development					
Policy Infrastructure Planner	53	53	53	53	53
Head of Environmental & Neighbourhood Services					
HVO for Refuse Vehicles	250	250	250	0	0
Leisure Community Instructor	25	25	25	25	25
Head of Housing, Revenues & Customer Services					
Civica on Demand	75	0	0	0	0
Communities and Social Inclusion Manager	10	10	10	10	10
Customer Access Terminals (CATs) Pilot	6	6	6	0	0
Fred Winter Centre – contribution to running costs	15	0	0	0	0
Refurbishment and fit-out of 1 Evesham Place	500	0	0	0	0
Revenues Advisor	34	34	34	34	34
South Warwickshire Place Partnership Board	20	20	0	0	0
UBUS Community Transport Service	85	50	50	50	50
Head of Law and Governance					
Community Safety Prevent Post	5	5	0	0	0
Information Governance Support Officer and Deputy Data Protection Officer	24	24	24	24	24
Legal Property & Commercial Team	54	54	54	54	54
Rural Crime Co-ordinators x 2 0.5fte	28	28	0	0	0
Total Proposed Growth to Budget	3,852	586	533	277	(2,323)



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Alternative Fuel (HVO) for Refuse Vehicles - Consideration was given to the in-principal use of an appropriately certified hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative to diesel, for Stratford-on-Avon District Council's refuse collection vehicle (RCV) fleet. In receiving the report, it was noted that HVO as an alternative fuel had two main environmental benefits: significantly lower carbon emissions when compared to diesel, and a lower particulate matter and nitrous oxide emission than diesel, making it a less polluting fuel option. In addition, the initiative would allow for demonstrable progress to be made against the climate change ambitions of the Council. The options available to The Cabinet were: to agree in principle that the Council use an appropriately certified HVO in its RCV fleet as an alternative to diesel, using either funds built into the budget for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and capped at a maximum of £250,000 per annum or Climate Change reserve funds, or not agree the use of HVO as an alternative to diesel, with the carbon emissions offset through accredited carbon offset schemes or to reduce the contribution the RCV fleet makes to the Council's overall carbon footprint. It is interesting to note that the Conservative Party oppose this proposal due to the flawed certification scheme which does not and cannot guarantee that countries have not deforested in order to capitalise on producing palm oil. Indonesia and Malaysia have deforested large areas which is counter productive as we need more trees, not less.

Warwickshire County Council has set its budget for 2024/25 and its medium-term financial strategy. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4984/council-sets-budget-to-deliver-for-warwickshire>

Can you suggest a location for electric vehicle charging points in Warwickshire? - Warwickshire residents are being encouraged to suggest possible locations for future electric vehicle charging points in the county. Last year, Warwickshire County Council was allocated £3.3m from the first round of the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capital Fund. Based on current estimates, this funding will allow for the delivery of up to 1,400 charging sockets at both on-street and in car park locations. To deliver on this, residents are being asked to nominate possible locations which would benefit from an electric vehicle charging point. Anyone can make a location suggestion by visiting [Request a new electric charging point - Warwickshire County Council](#) or calling 01926 410 410. The Council is particularly interested in hearing about those areas where there is a high demand for electric vehicle charging, such as:

- Residential streets with no off-street parking
- Public car parks
- Rural locations.

The EV pages of the Warwickshire County Council website can be found here with lots of useful information: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/electric-vehicles>. Find out more about LEVI Tranche 1 Funding here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4512/huge-boost-for-electric-vehicle-charging-in-warwickshire->. The location of all available charge points in Warwickshire and beyond is available on: **Zap Map**

Rights of Way survey – The County Council are keen to get your views on the footpaths and rights of way around us whether you walk them or not. If you do walk them, we want to know what is good, what could be improved and if you don't, why not? Further details can be found by dropping the following into your browser.

<https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

As always feel free to contact me at any time to discuss any issues that you feel I can help with, and I will do my absolute best to help.



Resourcing to Risk Consultation

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue is looking at its service delivery model as part of the Resourcing to Risk approach. Please read about the need for change and comment on the proposals at: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/wfrs-r2r/>

This could have a major effect on how the Fire station at Henley is used operationally and how it serves the residents of Henley and surrounding parishes.