

County Councillors report

Butlers Marston Parish Council Meeting 21st September 2021

Support for families and individuals facing hardship

Warwickshire County Council continues to help local families and individuals facing hardship over the next few months.

Additional funding has been allocated to every Council for families with children, other vulnerable households, and individuals to ensure that people who are struggling have the support they need for food, essential items, and utilities.

Warwickshire's share of Government grant is £1.322m and the Council will be distributing the latest allocation of the Covid Local Support Grant to families eligible for benefits related free school meals and others in need of support over the period when schools were close for the summer. For more information contact www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme

Warwickshire continues success in keeping young people in education, employment or training.

A recent publication from the Department for Education (DfE) has shown that once again, Warwickshire County Council is one of the most successful local authorities in the country for ensuring 16- and 17-year-old residents are either in education, employment, or training. For More information contact:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/neet>

A stark but essential warning – Warwickshire County Council welcomes the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) report 2021

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC Report-published on Monday 9th August 2021 has set out the current position in terms of human influenced climate change and overall condition of natural world across the globe. Although the findings are bleak, WCC has welcomed the publication ensuring that considerations of climate underpin all Council decision-making

You can read a copy of the IPCC report:

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#FullReport>

For More information about how Warwickshire County Council is facing the challenges of the climate change emergency, visit:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/strategies-policies-legislation/facing-challenge-climate-warwickshire>

Warm Hearted Warwickshire residents show support for Afghan refugees

Warwickshire is expected to welcome around 100 people into the country as part of the National Home-Office Plan. Residents of Warwickshire have been quick to show their compassion and offer support.

Stratford Welcome Here group have set up a [justGiving page](#) to support Afghan families.

Council releases powerful video to raise awareness of child exploitation in Warwickshire. Hundreds of children and young people in Warwickshire exploited

Child exploitation is the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under 18 and it takes many forms.

WCC has released a powerful advert to raise awareness of it happening across the County with the aim to encourage young people, parents, carers, teachers, professionals, and all other members of the Community to learn how to spot the signs and most importantly to report it or get support.

The campaign website www.somethingnotright.co.uk is packed full of information and resources including the different types of exploitation and the warning signs.

To watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQ0Z2iLDyRA>

If you are worried about a child or young person, contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday on 01926 414144.

New strategy to support victims of domestic abuse is approved

Warwickshire County Council has approved a Safe Accommodation Strategy which looks to provide safe and secure accommodation and support for women, men and children who are at risk of, or have experienced domestic abuse

“Plant a tree for the Jubilee” Warwickshire County Council- The Queen’s Green Canopy.

Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Lieutenancy are encouraging individuals, schools’ community groups and businesses to get involved in a unique, tree planting initiative to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee 2022.

Anyone can get involved by planting a tree during the forthcoming planting season which runs from October 2021 until March 2022:

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

District Councillors Report Butlers Marston Parish Council

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Stratford Recruitment Fair

Businesses are being encouraged to sign up to join a ‘medieval’ recruitment fair in Stratford this October to help fill vacancies caused by the pandemic. The ‘Job and Apprentice Fair’ is taking place as part of the annual Stratford Mop Fair on October 12 – harking back to the Mop’s original purpose in the 14th century. It will be held in Stratford Playhouse on Rother Street from 12 noon until 6pm, and attendees can turn up at a time that suits them. “We’d welcome any company looking to hire staff.

Proposals to create a South Warwickshire Council

Both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils face a very uncertain financial future, although for slightly different reasons. Government funding for all Councils has reduced in recent years, and at Stratford-on-Avon yet further significant reductions are expected due to changes to the New Homes Bonus scheme this autumn, whereas at Warwick District the cost of delivering services, including refuse and recycling, is expected to increase significantly. It is estimated that both Councils will have a shortfall of around £4-6m each year by 2025/26. Across the two Councils this means that £10m of annual savings are needed over the next five years to address this shortfall and help preserve services. This level of annual reduction is about one-third of the combined costs of the Councils.

Public consultation begins on proposal to create a South Warwickshire Council

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are considering a proposal to merge, creating a new District Council covering the whole of South Warwickshire (the areas currently covered by Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils).

The public consultation on the plans to create a South Warwickshire Council started on **Monday 6 September and runs until Sunday 24 October.**

Have your say! Residents, businesses, Town and Parish Councils, local groups and organisations and key stakeholders are encouraged to take part and have their say by completing the online questionnaire.

“Both Councils face significant financial challenges - the impact of dealing with the pandemic, when combined with the increased costs of delivering existing services, such as waste management, as well as responding to the climate emergency. We have to recognise the undeniable fact that the world has changed in ways we could not have envisaged, and we need to adapt to those changes.

It is vitally important that before the Councillors come to a decision, we hear the views of the wider community on whether you believe a merger is the right option to take or not. So please get involved and have your say.

“We need to hear your views – we need to listen and respond to what our residents want.

“Please take the time to carefully reflect on the questions, tell us what you think the future for local government in this area should be so that we can build a vibrant, new, agile and strong Council to serve you.”

How to take part

The consultation document and online questionnaire can be viewed and completed at: <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/>

Questionnaires for completion on paper, as well as in different languages and formats can be requested by emailing: swconsultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk or

calling 01789 267575. The paper questionnaires are returned using a FREEPOST address.

Questionnaires are also available to pick up at the following locations:

- **Stratford-upon-Avon** - District Council's offices at Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-on-Avon, CV37 6HX
- **Warwick** – Visitor Information Centre, Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW
- **Leamington** – Town Hall, the Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4AT
- **Kenilworth** – Kenilworth Library, Smalley Place, Kenilworth CV8 1QG
- **Whitnash** – Whitnash Library, Franklin Road, Whitnash CV31 2JH

What happens next?

The findings from the consultation will be considered, along with any other evidence, at a meeting of the councils on 13 December 2021. A decision will be taken as to whether they want to formally ask government to allow the councils to merge.

The deadline for the survey is Sunday 24 October 2021.
