

## **Local Councillor update 050125 – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of 2025 – Happy New Year**

I've been producing these weekly updates for nearly 5 years now and I'd like to think that my posts are informative and presented in a non political and non self promoting way (you may disagree) but I do get annoyed when people take credit for other people's work or go to a photo opportunity, when they have had very little input (into the subject). Some people would go to an opening of an envelope if the press was there, whereas I have the perfect face for radio.

My other pet peeve is when councillors, utility companies or developers etc say something that is totally different to my recollection – those who know me would say my memory is pretty good (especially if I am owed money ha ha !) – I was once told I was good listener too. I've have had several examples of it this week when to quote the late Queen 'recollections may vary' – I then do further research (and sense checking with other people/councillors) and it subsequently transpires that my recollections were far more accurate than theirs. I often think of the parable of Doubting Thomas at such times.

### **Review of 2024**

Another busy year dealing with lots of calls, emails, Facebook messages from how is Aldi doing , to potholes, overgrown paths, flooding speeding , ASB, neighbour problems, roadworks etc. This year I've often helped to pin down and hold to account organisations such as the National Grid , STW, broadband contractors, Mobile phone network providers and the Primary Care Trust, all of which can be tardy in replying to residents' concerns on a wide range of issues, Like most years, I've often been approached by several residents in various places (shops, pub, on dog walks and at meetings) for my views, opinions and information on a wide range of issues – dog walks, in particular, can take longer than anticipated.

I've regularly attended Stockton and Napton PCs, Lower Shuckburgh gathering and Southam Town Council Meetings, as well as numerous community events. At all, I've provided some sort of comprehensive update.

Many local organisations have benefitted from my Cllr Community Budget in 2024 – Southam Swimming Club, Stockton Lunch Club, Southam Community Minibus, defibrillators at Southam Cricket Club and Napton Garage, Southam Community Business Group, Lower Shuckburgh Community Bench Fund, Southam Town Play areas, Southam Vision Support, Graham Adams Centre.

I've also managed to use my Highways Budget to improve several footpaths and highways areas throughout my ward (i.e. Southam, Stockton and Napton). Also many areas have had foliage cut back (by me or the council), roadsigns cleaned or made visible as well as many road marking being refreshed etc.

Certainly been a busy year and I feel I've tried to make a positive contribution to our community.

# Town Council Precept Meeting – SOUTHAM RESIDENTS – VERY IMPORTANT



## SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025 – PRECEPT MEETING (BUDGET SETTING) 8.00 PM – GRAHAM ADAMS CENTRE, SOUTHAM

Southam Town Council is calling on residents to attend a public meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025, at 7.30 pm at the Graham Adams Centre.

This important meeting will discuss the town council's proposed budget for the coming year, which will determine the level of Council Tax and will include the future of the Flying Fields Community Hall.

The Council is considering taking on responsibility for the Flying Fields Community Hall, a decision that will significantly impact the council's budget and, in turn, your Council Tax. To ensure the community's voice is heard, residents are encouraged to participate and share their views.

Town Mayor and Chair of the Council, Councillor Angela John said: "This is an important decision for our town, and we want residents to have their say. The outcome will not only affect Council Tax but also the services and facilities we provide as a community. Please join us on 9<sup>th</sup> January to make your voice heard."

#### **What's Being Proposed?**

The Council will discuss two budget options:

#### **Option 1: Taking on responsibility for the Flying Fields Community Hall.**

This would mean a Council Tax increase for Band D properties of £29.86 per year (around 57p per week, a 25.64% increase).

#### **Option 2: Not taking on responsibility for the Flying Fields Community Hall.**

This would mean a smaller Council Tax increase for Band D properties of £11.48 per year (around 22p per week, a 9.86% increase)

#### **Why It Matters**

This decision will shape the future of the Flying Fields Community Hall and have a lasting impact on local services. The Council is committed to ensuring residents' voices are central to this process.

Join Us and Have Your Say

The meeting is open to all residents. Your input is vital to help the Council make the best decision for our community.

---Ends---

For more information contact:

Town Clerk, Southam Town Council, The Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam, CV47 1QA

Tel: 01926 814004

Email: [clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk)

## **Cold weather alert ❄️**

The Met Office has issued a weather warning for snow and ice, and temperatures are expected to drop. As they do, road conditions can become unpredictable.

Stay safe on your journeys with these simple tips:

🚗 **Slow Down:** Wet, icy, or frosty roads mean longer stopping distances. Reduce your speed and give yourself extra time to react.

🌀 **Check Your Tyres:** Ensure they have enough tread for good grip in wintery conditions.

💡 **Be Visible:** Use your headlights in low light and make sure all your lights are working properly.

🗓️ **Plan Ahead:** Allow extra time for your journey and avoid sudden manoeuvres.

Stay safe, drive carefully, and look out for one another on the roads this winter.

## **Cold health alert**

Look out for others as the temperature drops! A yellow cold-health alert is in place until Sunday 5 January. This level of #ColdWeather can affect vulnerable people and those with underlying health conditions.

Please look out for those who may need some extra support during this time such as ensuring they have adequate supplies of food and any medication they may need.

For information visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepwarm](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepwarm)

## **Tips to keep warm**

Low indoor temperatures can have a serious impact on your health, especially if you have a medical condition or are older. Here are a few tips to keep warm:

- try to heat rooms you spend a lot of time in, such as the living room or bedroom, to at least 18°C
- try to reduce draughts; you can fit draft excluders around doors cheaply
- keep your bedroom windows closed at night
- wear several layers of thinner clothing; this could keep you warmer than one thicker layer

For more information visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepwarm](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepwarm)

## **Fire safety – portable heaters**

With the cold weather setting in, portable heaters can be a lifesaver. However, they can also be a fire hazard if not used correctly.

Here are some tips to stay safe:

- Placement is key: Keep your heater away from flammable materials like curtains, furniture, and bedding.
- Safety features matter: Choose a heater with tip-over and overheating protection.
- Never leave it unattended: Turn it off and unplug it when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Direct plug-in: Avoid using extension cords or power strips.
- Regular checks: Inspect your heater for damage and keep it clean.
- Smoke alarms are essential: Make sure they're working properly.

Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/home-fire-safety-tips/safe-home-heating/2](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/home-fire-safety-tips/safe-home-heating/2)

#firesafety #wintertips #homeheating

## **Be better prepared for extreme cold weather**

Take a few minutes to learn how to keep your home running smoothly in cold weather. Find out how to prevent pipes from freezing, and more top tips at [www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/risks/extreme-cold-weather/](http://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/risks/extreme-cold-weather/)

#BetterPrepared

## **Warwickshire Firefighters and Foster Carers recognised in New Year's Honours List 2025 (X and Facebook)**

Warwickshire Firefighters Rachel Streeting and Claire Wooldridge and foster carers Safeena Mohammed and Kasim Sharifi are among eleven extraordinary Warwickshire people recognised in the King's New Year's Honours list for 2025.

Find out more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5867/warwickshire-firefighters-and-foster-carers-recognised-in-new-year-s-honours-list-2025](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5867/warwickshire-firefighters-and-foster-carers-recognised-in-new-year-s-honours-list-2025)

## **Winter flu vaccination**

Flu is very infectious and easily spread to other people. It's important to get your winter flu vaccination if you're eligible. Getting vaccinated every year will top up your protection and reduce your risk of getting severe symptoms.

Check your eligibility via [www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/)

#FluVaccine #GetWinterStrong #FightFlu #Winterillnesses

### **Energy bill support available this winter**

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme is distributing funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund to support people who may be struggling with energy bills this winter.

Learn more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5860/energy-bill-support-available-this-winter](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5860/energy-bill-support-available-this-winter)

### **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service helping patients to return home safely from hospital**

Find out how Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is helping hospital patients to return home safely with their Hospital to Home service:

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5863/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-helping-patients-to-return-home-safely-from-hospital](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5863/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-helping-patients-to-return-home-safely-from-hospital)

### **Parents have less than two weeks to apply for their child's 2025 Reception or Junior School place (X and Facebook)**

Less than two weeks left to apply for Reception and Junior School places for 2025! Submit your application by 15 January at: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/primaryplace](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/primaryplace)

### **Warwickshire welcomes new Safe Accommodation Strategy for victim-survivors of Domestic Abuse**

In line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Warwickshire County Council and its partners has launched its Safe Accommodation Strategy.

The strategy highlights the provision in Warwickshire to provide a safe haven for victim-survivors over the next three years.

Find out more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5865/warwickshire-welcomes-new-safe-accommodation-strategy-for-victim-survivors-of-domestic-abuse](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5865/warwickshire-welcomes-new-safe-accommodation-strategy-for-victim-survivors-of-domestic-abuse)

### **Visit Judges' House ceremony venue in Warwick**

Warwickshire County Council's Registration Service is inviting prospective couples to attend the next open day at Judges' House in Warwick on Saturday 1 February between 11am and 1pm.

Find out more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5845/visit-judges-house-ceremony-venue-in-warwick-ready-to-celebrate-life-s-special-occasions](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5845/visit-judges-house-ceremony-venue-in-warwick-ready-to-celebrate-life-s-special-occasions)

### **Visit warm and welcoming Warwickshire Libraries**

Warwickshire County Council's Libraries are open with a warm welcome and free activities for people of all ages to enjoy this winter.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5855/visit-warm-and-welcoming-warwickshire-libraries-this-festive-season>

### **Warwickshire siblings in care project wins award**

Warwickshire's Children and Families Service has been recognised nationally, winning the Best Project Award from the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum for their brothers and sisters in Care project.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5839/warwickshire-siblings-in-care-project-wins-national-award>

### **Stop smoking ambassadors**

Over December and January ambassadors will be promoting the free, local stop smoking support available to smokers living or working in the region.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5788/stop-smoking-ambassadors-taking-to-local-shopping-centres-and-high-streets-to-raise-awareness-of-the-free-support-for-residents-in-coventry-and-warwickshire>

### **Warwickshire Holiday Activities & Food Programme**

Warwickshire County Council is thrilled to announce that a wide range of fun and free activities to children and young people eligible for benefits-related free school meals during the winter break from school.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5793/warwickshire-holiday-activities-food-programme-offers-winter-fun-for-children-and-young-people>

### **Lithium-Ion battery dangers**

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue service is urging residents to take precautions when using and disposing of lithium-ion batteries.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5795/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-warns-of-lithium-ion-battery-dangers>


## **How to prepare for extreme cold weather**

As we head deeper into winter, take a moment to learn how you can become #BetterPrepared for extreme cold weather, such as making sure your car is winter-ready.

Visit <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/risks/extreme-cold-weather/> to get going.

## **Winter Vigilance**

You can play your part in keeping people safe.

Stay alert to people filming security  exits, entrances or CCTV or anything that doesn't feel right.

Tell a member of staff, security or police, or report online at [www.gov.uk/ACT](http://www.gov.uk/ACT).

#SafeInWarwickshire

## **Preventing home electrical fires**

Throughout November, Warwickshire Fire Rescue Service is reminding residents of the dangers of things like overloaded sockets, or faulty appliances, and encouraging people to follow simple tips to stay safe.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5723/stay-safe-warwickshire-fire-service-urges-caution-with-home-electricals-to-prevent-fires>

## **Warm and well this winter**

As we step into the winter season, the excitement of festive activities can sometimes be overshadowed by challenges, especially for those facing health risks or financial pressures.

Discover more about staying warm and well:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5701/supporting-warwickshire-to-stay-warm-and-well-this-winter>

For more information about the Local Welfare Scheme visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme), to enquire or to apply for support, call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182.

Information and advice on managing household costs can be found on <https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/>

## **Smoke alarms**

It is important to make sure that you have enough working smoke alarms fitted in your home and to test them regularly.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5443/do-you-have-enough-smoke-alarms-fitted-in-your-home->

### **Christmas child safety**

Warwickshire County Council and partners are helping families access information and support to avoid accidents in the home at this time of year.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5803/keep-your-children-safe-at-home-over-the-christmas-break>

### **Support to pay household bills**

- Warwickshire residents struggling to pay their utility bills can look to Warwickshire County Council for support.
- Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5320/apply-for-support-to-pay-household-bills>

### **Report it: Flooding and drainage issues**

Council officers are still out across the county clearing our blocked gullies and drains following the recent flooding. If you spot any issues with blocked drains or gullies in your local community, please report it at <https://warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit> and click on report flooding or drainage issue.


### **Log highways issues and report feedback**

Warwickshire County Council has launched a new platform to support the way customers can report a highways problem or log customer feedback through its website.





Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4953/updates-to-the-way-customers-log-highways-issues-and-report-feedback>

### **Help from Warwickshire County Council**

If you are struggling with money and need help now, Warwickshire County Council can help with:

 food, energy and water bills



-  money advice
-  aspects of family life
-  accessing emergency food
-  mental health support

Find help here: <https://costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/i-need-urgent-help>

## Cost of Living Support - SDC

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/benefits-support/cost-of-living-support.cfm>

## Reporting highways issues – or let me know !! [cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Warwickshire County Council is urging residents to report any Highways faults that they encounter while driving or walking in the county via its website.

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

## Collection Calendar

SDC no longer post out the A5 bin collection calendar as a matter of course.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling>

A pdf can also be downloaded or printed

Paper copies can be requested still either by emailing [info@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or ringing 01789 267575. Residents in my ward of Stockton and Southam Central and East can use my contact details ( [andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk) ) or [07771335273](tel:07771335273) if they need my assistance.

Missed Bins – please continue to report to SDC – the App is very useful for doing so and **make a note of your reference**. It helps SDC hold the Contractor to account.

Missed bins - . Contacts are [streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or Telephone: 01789 260616

Or download the app.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUsEHH04ODEqfid1b1msbwpVg8DG6nQn47HoAcwmw5LL9Joc>

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm>

**PAVEMENT PARKING/PARK IT RIGHT – the excuse, I won't be long isn't sufficient – it only takes a few seconds for a collision to occur. THINK ABOUT OTHERS NOT JUST YOURSELF**

**Every week, I get reports of some terrible parking – with cars blocking pavements (especially dropped kerbs), making it impossible for people with mobility scooters or with push chairs to get by, without going into the road. In some cases, too, emergency services vehicles (particularly fire appliances) would struggle to pass. PLEASE THINK OF OTHER PEOPLE, NOT JUST YOURSELF**

PLEASE REPORT ANY ASB , however trivial it may seem. Small incidents can lead to bigger ones, so better to stop them before they escalate .Also, the more calls/incidents the Police have, the sooner they will realise there is a problem in a certain area. PLEASE ALSO ENSURE YOUR PROPERTY AND CAR IS LOCKED AND SECURE.

Reporting out of hours highways issues can be challenging, the best number for that is 01926 415000.

[streetlighting@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetlighting@warwickshire.gov.uk) or 01926 412515 (not all are currently owned by WCC – some owned by town or parish council.)

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/reports/Warwickshire>

It is worth noting for future reference that anything immediately dangerous on the highway should be reported direct to the Police on 999, which is the same process for any pressing issue Out of Hours.

During normal office hours - 8:30am to 4:30pm, WCC call centre is best on 01926 412515

### **Councillor groans –**

I had a great New Years celebration party with Rapunzel. She certainly knows how to let her hair down.

As part of my new year's resolution, I went to my local gym to enquire about weight training. Got told to stand in the corner for 20 minutes.

Identifying as a chimney isn't all its stacked up to be...

My New Year's Resolution for 2025 is to be less condescending.  
(That means not talking down to people and thinking you're better than them)

I always found New Year's Eve stressful. I've been diagnosed with old langxiety

My New Year's resolution is to stop spraying deodorant... Roll on 2025.

Andy -07771335273 – [cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk)

WCC Councillor for Southam, Stockton & Napton

SDC Councillor for Southam Central and East and Stockton – [andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

