

Local Councillor update 020325 – Pancake Day edition

Meetings

SDC Full Council (nearly 4 hours), South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership, Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board Big Conversation.

Council Tax setting 25/26 –

WCC 4.99% (2.99% C Tax + 2% Adult Social Care Levy)

SDC 3.1%

The Police 4.83%

Local Town and Parish Councils will announce their increases shortly

Emissions-based parking price hike voted down amid ill-tempered budget debate at Stratford District Council: (Headline Warwickshire World Article)

I don't always agree with local newspapers' headlines but the above wasn't unreasonable. A Cllr who has served nearly 20 years at SDC (I've done nearly 13) said it was one of the worst for a long while. Some Cllrs from the 2 main parties at SDC, didn't exactly cover themselves in glory. If members of the public had watched it, it wouldn't have given a favourable impression of local government and potentially put them off from standing as a councillor. This is important as the Local Government Association (LGA) is warning that a rise in abuse is already preventing councillors from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election and undermining local democracy.

Our group suggested that SDC used the £1.2 million set aside for the hydro project (to generate renewable energy from the River Avon) for discretionary grants that councillors could allocate to worthy causes in their areas (subject to checks and balances by SDC officers). Money would be spent in all parts of the District, rather than being spent in Stratford Town area. Therefore, it was disappointing to hear a naïve and ill informed comment from a councillor, that we were creating a 'slush fund' for its councillors, without knowing what it really meant.

Slush funds (Wikipedia)

1. a reserve of money used for [illicit](#) purposes, especially political [bribery](#).

What was particularly galling was that it perpetuated a 'myth' that councillors received backhanders or brown envelopes. I've been accused of receiving brown envelopes (no I don't have a 2nd home in Barbados either)

When it was pointed out to the Cllr, what it actually meant, the meeting was adjourned soon after. On recommencement, the Cllr apologised saying he didn't know that the term had that meaning. (Perhaps he thought it was for extra gritting when it was icy and snowy ?)

I currently have a £8k a year WCC community grant fund, recently I got this email 'I am writing to express VASA's sincere gratitude for your support in providing funding through your Councillor Grants to our Volunteer Training Programme. Your assistance makes a real difference, and we are truly appreciative of your commitment to supporting local volunteers in Southam, Stockton & Napton.'

As the funding has come from your area, and we have volunteers based locally, we would like to use this opportunity to offer basic first aid training, including CPR and defibrillator use. This training will benefit not only our own volunteers but also other charity organisations and volunteers within the community.

This shows how effective the fund, administered and sense checked by WCC officers, is, especially as I also helped to fund 2 defibrillators recently too.

Aldi Update. (JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT LAST WEEK)

I spoke to a WCC officer Friday. The S278 work on/near Galanos/Shell Roundabout is likely to start in July (2025) - HENCE WHY NO FULL RESURFACING OF THE ROUNDABOUT UNTIL 2026. The works are likely to last until December, with Aldi hoping to open soon after. I will update as and when I hear more. Other S278 work on the Daventry Road roundabout will hopefully follow after that.

SWLP

South Warwickshire Local Plan Consultation

PLEASE RESPOND: DEADLINE FRIDAY 7th MARCH 2025

The South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) preferred options consultation is now live.

This plan will set out development for housing and infrastructure up to 2050, with a phasing plan across that time.

<https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp>

There has been an additional call for sites for certain items, such as Gypsy and Traveller sites, where numbers haven't been great. One potential solution to this would be developments, over a certain size, having to contain a Gypsy and Traveller site.

English language courses

Warwickshire County Council has recently highlighted the positive impact of its English for Speakers of Other Languages programme on newly arrived communities.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5993/newly-arrived-residents-in-warwickshire-benefitting-from-english-language-courses>

Warwickshire Youth Conference 2025

As part of the Child Friendly Warwickshire programme, children and young people across the county have contributed to organising the Shaping Tomorrow Together Warwickshire youth conference.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5997/young-people-lead-the-way-at-warwickshire-youth-conference-2025-shaping-tomorrow-together>

Third anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine

On Monday 24 February, Warwickshire County Council marked the third anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine by raising the Ukrainian flag at Shire Hall.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5998/warwickshire-marks-three-years-since-russian-invasion-of-ukraine>

Hard to recycle items

Ensuring that all residents' waste finds its way into the correct recycling stream is a priority for Warwickshire County Council's Waste and Recycling Team.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6000/warwickshire-makes-it-easier-to-correctly-dispose-of-those-hard-to-recycle-items>

Making strides towards net zero

Warwickshire County Council has reaffirmed its commitment to tackling climate change with the publication of its first Sustainable Futures Annual Report 2024.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6010/warwickshire-county-council-makes-strides-towards-net-zero>

Home composting workshops

Why not find out more about the benefits of home composting for reducing waste in a series of new sessions this spring?

There are four face-to-face home composting sessions taking place at venues across Warwickshire between March and May.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/green-waste/composting/6>

Love Food, Hate Waste

Discover some simple hacks, tips and guidance to make the most of your food at home.

Find out why it's so crucial that we all do our bit to save our food from the bin - and protect our beautiful planet at the same time too.

More: <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

Emergency grab bags

If you had to leave home for a few days in an emergency, would you know what to bring with you to keep your pet safe and healthy?

Learn what to include in a 'grab bag' for pets, and become #BetterPrepared at <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/prepare/>

Warwickshire Caring Together Conference

The Caring Together Warwickshire conference will be held on Wednesday 12 March at Benn Hall in Rugby.

This free event is for unpaid carers of loved ones who are looking for an update on what is happening locally.

Read more: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caring-together-warwickshire-conference-tickets-1240790250039?aff=oddtcreator>

World Book Day community token exchange hub in libraries

Warwickshire's library service is delighted to announce that Bedworth Library is part of a nationwide community book distribution project for World Book Day on 6 March, bringing books and the enjoyment of reading to the county's children.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6009/warwickshire-libraries-to-host-world-book-day-community-token-exchange-hub-to-help-reach-more-young-readers>

Libraries website and app

Find out more about the exciting changes that are coming soon to the important systems that provide Warwickshire Libraries' website and app:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6011/a-quicker-and-more-user-friendly-online-experience-is-coming-soon-to-warwickshire-libraries>

Warwickshire libraries history project: VE Day memories

Residents who remember Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) on 8 May 1945 are being invited to share their memories towards an important community history project.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6008/contribute-your-memories-and-family-stories-of-ve-day-towards-special-history-project-by-warwickshire-libraries>

Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2025

Eating disorders can affect anyone. This is the message for Eating Disorders Awareness Week (24 February – 3 March 2025), organised by BEAT, and supported by Warwickshire County Council.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6004/warwickshire-shows-support-for-eating-disorders-awareness-week-2025>

Pancake Day kitchen safety

With Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) on 4 March marking the start of Lent, many will be reaching for their frying pans to enjoy delicious pancakes.

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is reminding residents to prioritise fire safety in the kitchen.

more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6012/stay-safe-in-the-kitchen-this-pancake-day>

Residents affected by Storm Henk flooding

Was your property internally flooded by Storm Henk in Jan 2024?

Warwickshire County Council is calling on residents whose properties were affected by Storm Henk to apply for Property Flood Resilience Repair Grants before the deadline on 31 March.

More: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6003/residents-affected-by-storm-henk-flooding-urged-to-apply-for-property-flood-resilience-grants>

Pothole repair funding

Warwickshire County Council is delighted to announce the continuation of funding for its highly cost-effective pothole repair service, ensuring that road maintenance remains top priority for 2025-26.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5971/warwickshire-s-roads-to-benefit-from-continued-pothole-repair-funding>

<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

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>

The Local Welfare Scheme remains open with the current extended welfare offer to help Warwickshire's most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help. Residents can enquire or apply for support, by calling on 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182. Further information on support available can be found here

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

Flooding in Warwickshire

With water levels remaining high across Warwickshire, emergency services and partners are calling on the public to take care when driving or walking near flood water.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5868/warwickshire-residents-urged-to-take-care-amid-widespread-flooding>

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

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 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) 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 or Telephone: 01789 260616

Or download the app.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUsEHH04ODegfid1b1msbwpVg8DG6nQn47HoAcwmw5LL9Joc>

<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 or 01926 412515 (not all are currently owned by WCC – some owned by town or parish council.)

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

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Councillor groans -

What's the difference between Prince William and a pancake

One is heir to the throne the other is thrown in the air

Pancake day already? That's creped up on me.

I've decided to change this year's pancake recipe, against my batter judgement.

I tried breaking the ice at a party last night by telling a pancake joke Unfortunately, it fell flat 😊

This week is Pancake day, but does anyone know who St. Pancake was?

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Andy -07771335273 – 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