

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR UPDATE – 24.10.21

Covid19

The rate of infections across the district has decreased slightly to 527/100,000 from 590 last week, the over 60's rate has increased to 211/100,000 (160 last week) with 90 cases over the last seven days. Other districts rates in Warwickshire, for all ages, are Nuneaton & Bedworth 651/100,000, North Warwickshire 499/100,000, Warwick 624/100,000 and Rugby 515/100,000. Warwickshire overall has gone down from 580/100,000 to 573/100,000. England 456/100,000.

There have been two further Covid related deaths this week across Stratford District (total now 150 from the start of this second wave (28th August 2020) 37 occurring in care homes, 100 in hospital, two in a hospice and 10 at home and one in a communal establishment, out of a total of 1,536 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 increased by 8 this week (737) with a total of 6,574 all cause deaths. The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is 318 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 1,338 (10,962 total deaths).

The drive is now for over 50's and those eligible to get their booster jabs. Once you are 6 months and one week post second vaccination you are eligible. Many GP surgeries are messaging patients directly re their booster jabs.

Local Government Boundary Commission consultation on proposed new electoral arrangements for Stratford-on-Avon has been extended until 06 December 2021.

Have your say now via our
consultation portal

Warwickshire joins the global race to zero carbon emissions

It's great news for residents and our environment as Warwickshire County Council commits to the worldwide race to net zero carbon emissions.

Ahead of this year's UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Warwickshire has joined 799 cities, areas and businesses around the world in a pledge to halve carbon emissions by 2030 – and reach net-zero emissions in the 2040s or sooner – to ensure a green and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to projects such as the commitment to planting a tree for every resident in the county and the £1 million Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund, Warwickshire is well on track to deliver its fair share of action to tackle the global climate emergency.



The Leader of Warwickshire County Council, Cllr Izzi Seccombe and it's Chief Executive Officer, Monoca Fogarty, today formally confirmed participation in the Cities Race to Zero campaign.

In the run-up to COP-26, the Race to Zero campaign aims to bring together the most powerful coalition of businesses, investors, cities, and regions in history, all working together to create green jobs and tackle climate change.

Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Leader of Warwickshire County Council, said: "The challenge of the climate change emergency is truly a global one that extends well beyond the boundaries of counties or even nations. This is a challenge faced by everyone who is alive today wherever they are in the world and the only solution to this is has to be an equally global one.

"It is for these reasons that Warwickshire pledges its commitment to the race to zero, which is already uniting areas around the world to raise their climate ambition, make new commitments to protect our planet, and lay the foundation for a more just, sustainable, and resilient future for our planet.

As Warwickshire makes our commitment to the race to zero, I would like to call on our neighbouring authorities, our partner organisations and the whole of the UK to follow suit and together strive for a greener and brighter future for all."

As part of its commitment to the Race to Zero, Warwickshire has pledged to:

1. Endorse these principles:

- We recognise the global climate emergency;
- We are committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement;
- We are committed to putting inclusive climate action at the centre of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone;
- We invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognising the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.

2. **Plan and immediately begin implementing specific inclusive climate policies** across buildings, transport, waste, clean energy, food, nature, and other key sectors.

More information about the race to zero can be found here: https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/cities-race-to-zero?language=en_US

For more information about how Warwickshire is facing the challenges of the climate change emergency, visit: <https://www.warwickshireclimateemergency.org.uk/>

Get the latest news about how Warwickshire County Council and partners are facing the challenge of the climate emergency and how you can get involved: <http://eepurl.com/hrk-zf>

Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund: Town and Parish Council Climate Emergency Action Planning Events

Town and parish Council's across Warwickshire will be supported to create their own climate emergency action plans thanks to the Warwickshire County Council Green Shoots Fund.

The Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC)

were successful in their Green Shoots bid for £4950 in funding to provide two action planning days in January and March 2022 for Warwickshire's town and parish Councils to assist them in producing their own climate emergency action plans and to launch their own climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.



The three key outcomes that will be delivered through these planning days are:

1. Warwickshire's Parish Council's will gain a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding climate change and the climate emergency;
2. Council's will understand the difference between climate change adaptation and mitigation activity and how these can be delivered; and
3. Council's will understand the importance of climate change action and communication planning and be empowered to deliver their own.

The first of these sessions will take place on Wednesday 19 January 2022 and the second on Wednesday 30 March 2022. These sessions will be run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy who WALC have commissioned.

The action planning days are just part of WALC commitment to support town and parish council's to rise to the challenge of the climate change emergency, they are also holding a 2-day conference that will begin on Friday 22 October and, cover a huge range of topics, including:

- Increasing biodiversity and returning native wildlife;
- Supporting communities to reduce their carbon footprint
- 20 actions Parish and Town Councils can take on the climate and nature emergency;
- Working with flood action groups; and
- Meeting 21 Century rural transport need in a sustainable way.

John Crossling, County Officer for WALC, said: "We have put together a wide ranging programme of talks and workshops all connected in some way to addressing the climate emergency.

"Our focus is very much on practical steps that Town and Parish Councils will be able to work on with their communities. We hope it will give them ideas that they will be able to turn into firm action plans at the two planning sessions in the New Year which will be led by the Centre for Sustainable Energy that have been made possible by the Green Shoots funding."

Cllr Heather Timms, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate and Culture, said: "It's great news that WALC have such an active programme of activity helping our town and parish councils in Warwickshire to play their part in facing the global challenge of climate change.

"The potential of these action days to inspire our parish councils to deliver meaningful action plans and activity over the coming years made it such an attractive prospect for Green Shoots Funding. I am certainly looking forward to hearing about the outcomes of these events and seeing increased activity in this area from our vibrant Town and Parish Councils over the coming years."

Further information about the Local Council Climate Action Day organised by WALC can be found here: <https://www.walc.org.uk/events-list/952-climate-action-day>

Further information about the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils, visit: <https://www.walc.org.uk/>

A full list of projects that will receive Green Shoots Community Climate Change funding can be found here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2324/green-shoots-will-soon-be-springing-up-across-warwickshire-as-projects-set-to-receive-a-share-of-wcc-s-1-million-community-climate-change-fund-are-announced>

For more information about the Fund, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/greenshootsfund

For more information about how Warwickshire is facing the challenges of the climate change emergency, visit: <https://www.warwickshireclimateemergency.org.uk/>

Get the latest news about how Warwickshire County Council and partners are facing the challenge of the climate emergency and how you can get involved: <http://eepurl.com/hrk-zf>

ENDS

For media enquiries relating to this, please contact the Warwickshire County Council Marketing & Communications Team by email newsteam@warwickshire.gov.uk

About the Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund

The Green Shoots Fund, which opened for applications on Tuesday 2 February 2021, is looking to support community and voluntary projects that achieve the following:

- increase the adaptability and resilience of Warwickshire to the effects of climate change;
- reduce impacts on the environment, particularly regarding climate change; and
- ensure funded projects benefit the wider Warwickshire community.

Funding Criteria

Like any funding, there are certain general criteria which this fund seeks to support. These include, but are not limited to:

- mitigating or adapting to climate change and the environment
- benefits to the local community and connections between other groups and projects
- development of awareness in environmental issues and capacity building of local communities
- legacy and long-term impacts
- project risks and mitigation steps.

Value of funding

There was no lower limit on how much a project could be funded for, but an upper limit on the costs of proposed projects was set at £25,000.

Be the 'Voice of Warwickshire' and share your views!

Warwickshire County Council is forming a new residents' panel called 'Voice of Warwickshire' to give people an opportunity to share their views, so they can listen to the voices of as many people as possible.

The County Council wants their decisions and priorities to be informed by the views of a representative group of residents, to help them to understand people's needs and improve how they work with communities in tackling the huge challenges that Warwickshire faces in a world that has been changed by COVID-19.

People who sign up will be helping the County Council deliver the new Council Plan, focusing on big issues in Warwickshire, like health and wellbeing, climate change and sustainability, community safety, education, transport, economic growth, inequalities and inclusion, and more.

Councillor Kam Kaur, Warwickshire County Council's Portfolio Holder for Economy and Place, said:

"Our goal is to give people the chance to get more involved in big decisions that affect Warwickshire and the area where they live over the next few years.

"We want to encourage a broad and diverse range of residents to sign up and share their opinions and experiences of living in Warwickshire."

To be eligible to take part, people need to be 18 or over and live in Warwickshire. The County Council is asking people to sign up initially for 12 months.

Once you register as a Voice of Warwickshire member, around 4 times a year Warwickshire County Council will ask you to give them your opinions, mainly using online polls and short surveys.

If you are unable to participate online, the County Council would still like to hear from you and will be able to arrange another way for you to share your views. The closing date for registering is **14th November 2021**.

You can sign up to be a Voice of Warwickshire member by either:

- visiting <https://bit.ly/VoiceofWarwickshire> or
- if you don't have access to the internet, by calling **01926 410410** (Monday – Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-4.30pm).

The County Council will then ask you to provide some basic information about yourself in the first instance.

Councillor Kam Kaur said: "By providing your views on key issues that impact you, your family, friends, and communities, you'll be helping to inform Warwickshire County Council's policymaking, based on your own experiences."

Warwickshire residents urged to avoid safety scares this Halloween!

With Halloween drawing closer Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service and Warwickshire Trading Standards are urging the public to avoid safety scares such as burns and accidental house fires.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2513/warwickshire-residents-urged-to-avoid-safety-scares-this-halloween->

Warwickshire students encouraged to keep digs fire safe

On Student Fire Safety Week (25-31 October), Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are encouraging students who have recently moved into new accommodation to stay alert to fire hazards.

Many young people are living away from home for the first time, either in rented property or halls of residence, with new responsibilities when it comes to fire prevention and awareness.

Home Office fire statistics show that 66% of the 160-plus fires attended by fire and rescue services at student halls of residence in 2019/20 were started by cooking appliances.

Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Fire and Rescue and Community Safety at Warwickshire County Council said: "When living away from home, it's important to recognise new fire hazards, and take precautions to reduce your risk.

"The majority of fires we attend at student accommodation start in the kitchen, often when someone has become distracted. We're asking students to make sure they don't leave cooking unattended and take extra care if cooking with oil.

"If you've been drinking, we'd advise to give cooking a miss and end your night out with the arrival of a takeaway rather than a fire engine."

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging students bear in mind these top tips for fire safety.

Do:

- Test fire alarms regularly.
- Keep your student digs smelling fresh with a fragrance spray or reed diffusers rather than candles.
- When the fire alarm sounds, react quickly and evacuate safely.
- Ask for advice when unsure about cooking.
- Give cooking your full attention.

Don't:

- Never light candles or have open flames in your student housing.
- Never cover smoke alarms.
- Don't ignore fire alarms.
- Avoid distractions while cooking, and never leave cooking unattended.

For more student fire safety tips, visit our website: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/firesafety>

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme helps our most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help.

Support to help families and individuals struggling financially

Central Government has provided councils with one-off funding (Household Support Fund) for the period 6 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 to support vulnerable families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals to ensure that they have the support they need to afford food, energy, water bills and associated costs as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic.

The Local Welfare Scheme is responsible for distributing this funding to families and individuals in need. Priority support is offered to families with children eligible for benefits related free school meals

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

Household Support Fund

Central Government recently announced that a new £500 million Household Support Fund grant will be made available to local authorities in England, as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2505/help-for-residents-to-meet-household-costs-through-winter>

Warwickshire has declared a climate emergency

This is a place to bring together organisations and individuals from across Warwickshire, all working towards the same goal of achieving net zero emissions. Together, we are finding solutions and taking action to overcome the threat of climate change.

<https://www.warwickshireclimateemergency.org.uk/>

Living Well with Dementia Strategy

Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council are asking people to get involved and have their say on the Living Well with Dementia strategy.

Find out more and have your say: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2506/have-your-say-on-coventry-and-warwickshire-s-living-well-with-dementia-strategy>

Strengthened Families Project

A new project from Warwickshire County Council, called Strengthened Families, will support children and parents in Warwickshire with their health and wellbeing.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2510/new-counselling-project-in-warwickshire-to-support-children-and-parents>

Go Green by Train in Warwickshire

The Heart of England Community Rail Partnership has joined a national campaign encouraging people to 'Go Green by Train' to help tackle the climate emergency.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2501/go-green-by-train-in-warwickshire>

New combined service will help parents fight addiction and keep families together

The Coventry Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) is launching a partnership with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to give families an even better service.

The FDAC court is an alternative to usual care proceedings offered to parents where their children are subject to care proceedings due to substance misuse.

It is a problem-solving court that aims to help parents overcome their difficulties with the hope that they can be reunited with their children. The research suggests that 48% of FDAC cases, compared to 18% through ordinary care proceedings, are reunited.

The Coventry FDAC court was launched six years ago and is core funded by Coventry City Council. Its work has seen it awarded the Public Sector Children's Team Award at the 2018 Children & Young People Now Awards.

Now, a new combined service with WCC is being launched, supported by a grant from the Department for Education, to ensure all parents across the region are offered the same level of service.

It will enable them access to the specialist team that includes social workers, substance misuse specialists, a parenting officer, children and family worker and clinical lead.

The multi-disciplinary team works with parents to support them to achieve their goal to have their children reunified to them and to achieve abstinence. It helps them to solve problems and address lifestyle, relationship difficulties and any unresolved Trauma.

Councillor Pat Seaman, Coventry City Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "The Coventry family Drug and Alcohol Court has made a real difference to many lives over the past six years. It has brought children and parents back together and rebuilt families.

"With Coventry and Warwickshire being such close neighbours, we wanted to ensure that this award-winning approach was available to as many people as possible and we are delighted to be able to launch the new partnership.

"We know that alcohol and substance abuse can have a devastating effect on families, and especially the children involved who have to live through the problems in the family and can then often find themselves taken into care away from their parents.

"The Family Drug and Alcohol Courts have shown how effective they are, and I look forward to the partnership helping even more people in the years ahead."

Councillor Jeff Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families at Warwickshire County Council, added: "We are delighted to partner with Coventry City Council on the Family Drug and Alcohol Court, which we hope will help families identify and build on their strengths so they can stay together.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the positive impacts that the FDAC's approach will have on Warwickshire children and young people and their families."

Cities Race to Zero

Warwickshire is proud to be part of the Cities #RaceToZero. Together, with a like-minded coalition of cities, areas, business and investors, we are ready to deliver an equitable & just future for our communities and our residents. www.citiesracetozero.org

Green Shoots Fund: Climate Action Planning Events

Town and Parish Council's across Warwickshire will be supported to create their own climate emergency action plans thanks to the Warwickshire County Council Green Shoots Fund.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2514/green-shoots-community-climate-change-fund-town-and-parish-council-climate-emergency-action-planning-events>

Food Waste - #EatYourPumpkin

If you're carving a jack-o-lantern this Halloween, save the flesh and use it to make this delicious pumpkin and coconut cake from Hubbub. 🍵 #EatYourPumpkin #PumpkinRescue #Hubbub

<https://www.hubbub.org.uk/pumpkin-and-coconut-cake>

Dog mess – now we've got the darker nights (clocks go back soon) there seems to be more dog mess on the paths and grassed areas. Please pick it up. #BeConsiderateToOthers

This week there have been many meetings in my SEND cabinet support role in response to the recent SEND inspection and our subsequent action plan. In addition to this I have been working with residents re accessibility and dropped kerbs, road safety concerns around the A46, maintenance of strips of land within villages and bus and cycle routes pot holes, speeding traffic, planning etc , ASB, and Homelessness. The resettlement of our Afghan National families within the division continues and the wrap around support offered and driven by the WCC Team is exceptional. Whilst the search for housing continues nationwide, children are settled into schools and the continued kindness and welcome from local residents has been so positive.

Missed bins - I'm still getting details of the odd 1 or 2 that has not been collected. Contacts are streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk or Telephone: 01789 260616

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUsEHH04ODegfid1b1msbwpVq8DG6nQn47HoAcwmw5LL9Joc>

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>

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

STOP PRESS – I've just heard that the 2nd round of my Councillor's Grant Fund is likely to be launched in December so watch this space.

Stay safe and well

Penny-Anne

WCC Councillor for Wellesbourne and SDC Cllr for Ettington
Phone :07392 260141 My phone is now working!!

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