

County Councillor Report

Butlers Marston Parish Council Meeting 6th August 2025

Social Care/Direct Payments

Many people who need social care support take a direct payment so that they can employ their own personal assistant. There are direct payment support services available to help manage direct payment and Penderels Trust is a leading provider. A direct payment is a cash payment made directly to you so you can buy your own support rather than having it delivered to you by your local authority. The payment must be enough for you to buy services that meet your care needs and the money must be spent on services that meet those needs. Find out more:

<https://www.penderelstrust.org.uk/directpaymentsupport.php>

Warwickshire's Children's disability and additional needs register

Families with children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) are encouraged to join the county's disability register. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6469/warwickshire-families-urged-to-sign-the-disability-register-to-shape-local-support->

Improvements announced for families of children with SEND

Warwickshire County Council has announced a series of important updates to the Education, Health and Care Plan process. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6527/key-improvements-announced-for-families-of-children-with-send-in-warwickshire->

Fostering teenagers

A new awareness initiative in Warwickshire directly tackles common misconceptions about fostering teenagers. Information is being shared by Warwickshire Fostering to highlight the significant positive impact foster carers have on young lives to encourage more residents to consider opening their homes to teens. Currently, around 750 children are in care in Warwickshire, all in need of a stable and caring home. Sadly, a shortage of local foster carers can mean these children face being moved away from their familiar surroundings, including their schools, friends, and crucial support networks. Warwickshire Fostering is passionately committed to ensuring that children can remain close to their communities, where they feel connected and supported. Prospective foster carers often have reservations about welcoming a teenager into their home due to prevalent myths and stereotypes. This initiative directly addresses these concerns, offering a realistic and positive perspective on the rewarding experience of fostering older children. The service is reaching out to counter common beliefs that can deter potential carers. For instance, many people worry that teenagers in foster care may have behavioural issues due to past trauma, neglect, or instability, or that they might be inherently rebellious or difficult. Whilst we know some teens do struggle, this perception can overshadow the reality that many are resilient, kind, and just need a chance.

New service offers personalised support for families

A new service for families in distress or at risk of crisis due to children and young people's mental health issues has been commissioned by Warwickshire County Council. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6513/new-service-to-offer-personalised-support-for-warwickshire-families>

Tailored support for 16 to 24-year-olds

Young people in Warwickshire aged 16-24 who aren't in education, employment or training can access bespoke support and guidance from Future Destination Hub.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6530/tailored-support-for-16-to-24-year-olds-helping-them-to-enter-education-or-employment>

Investment in new education improvements

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has approved additional funding amounting to £6.14 million for the 2025/26 Education Capital Programme. [EducationCapitalFunding_July25Cabinet.png](#)

Personal Assistant roles

Are you a parent looking for flexible working hours? Find a job that fits around your lifestyle. Become a Personal Assistant in the care industry. Find a job near you:

https://www.penderelstrust.org.uk/rcrPA16.php?recruitment_region=West+Midlands

Free older person bus pass

Are you eligible for a free bus pass? Or perhaps somebody you know is! Claim your concessionary bus pass today and unlock the opportunities around you! Find out more:

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

Children's edition of Shakespeare's First Folio

Warwickshire Libraries is proud to unveil a new set of free and bespoke reading resources created to accompany Shakespeare's First Folio: All the Plays, A Children's Edition. Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6569/children-s-edition-of-shakespeare-s-first-folio>

Vaping dangers animation

A compelling animation titled Vaping Scars, written by award-winning author Christina Gabbitas, is being used to raise awareness among young people of the dangers of illegal vapes and exploitation.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6525/award-winning-author-s-powerful-vaping-dangers-animation-for-warwickshire>

Wasps in Warwickshire

Ben Coleman, Grassland Specialist Ranger from Warwickshire County Council, shares his top advice on tips on coexisting with wasps this summer. Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6568/wasps-in-warwickshire-get-the-buzz-on-avoiding-a-sting>

Lloyds Tour of Britain Men's cycling comes to Warwickshire

Great news: Warwickshire will welcome the return of the world's top cyclists this September with a testing hilltop finish, as the county hosts stage four of the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men on Friday 5 September. Stage four will take in all five boroughs and districts of Warwickshire (North Warwickshire Borough; Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough; Rugby Borough; Warwick District; and Stratford-on-Avon District), as the county hosts the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men for the first time since 2019, with a stage heading from Atherstone to the ever-popular hilltop finish at Burton Dassett Hills Country

Park. Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6537/warwickshire-to-host-stage-four-of-the-lloyds-tour-of-britain-men>

Chris Mills
County Councillor
Butlers Marston

District Councillor Report

More health screening events added for Stratford-on-Avon District Council residents

Since May, Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been working together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) offering a series of health screening events for both men and women across the District. PSA Health Screening - StratfordThe events, for Stratford-on-Avon District residents, enable men and women to have a number of health tests from a simple blood test, allowing them to, where necessary, seek further advice or action via their GP. The tests on offer cost £14 each, subsidised by the District Council and are:

For men over 40 - PSA (Prostate Screening)

For men and women aged 18 and over - diabetes and cholesterol

So far, 636 tests have been carried out at the events in Stratford, Studley, Southam and Alcester. A total of 373 men have taken part in the prostate cancer screening programme, with 83 referred for further tests via their GP. The screenings for diabetes and cholesterol have also yielded important results, with 14% and 75% of participants respectively identified as having levels outside the normal range and advised to follow up with their GP.

The events are continuing to take place with venues being added in Shipston and Henley-in-Arden.

The next events are taking place at:

Saturday 13 September at Stratford Leisure Centre

Saturday 11 October at Shipston Scout Hut, New Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4EW

Saturday 22 November at Henley-in-Arden Memorial Hall, Station Road, Henley in Arden, B95 5JP

The events run from 10am until 2pm at each of the locations and people are able to book at a discounted rate of £14 for each test.

Spaces are limited and need to be booked in advanced at:

<https://sdc.mypsatests.org.uk/> .

For more information please visit <https://sdc.mypsatests.org.uk> or call 01926 419959 or email info@myhealthtests.org.uk

Information is also available on the District Council's website: PSA Health Screening Events | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Free summer activities for children at local leisure centres

A range of free activities are available this summer for children and young people eligible for free school meals in Stratford-on-Avon District. As part of the national Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, Stratford Leisure Centre and The Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester - which are managed by Everyone Active in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council - will host an array of free activities, all accompanied by free lunches.

Activities over the summer holidays include TagActive at Stratford Leisure Centre and junior gym sessions at The Greig Leisure Centre - both of which are designed to appeal to different age groups and interests.

TagActive is an interactive indoor obstacle course that tests strategy, speed, agility and bravery, all while promoting fun, fitness

and competition. Meanwhile, the junior gym sessions will help promote social, mental and physical activity for younger members.

Family swimming sessions at Stratford Leisure Centre, Studley Leisure Centre, Southam Leisure Centre and Shipston Leisure Centre will also be on offer as part of the programme.

Every session will include a free nutritious and balanced lunchtime meal.

Richard Bell, contract manager at Everyone Active, said: "We are thrilled to be part of the national HAF programme and enable children of all ages to keep active and have fun over the summer, no matter their financial circumstances.

"We're inviting children from across Stratford-on-Avon District to join us for a fantastic programme of activities designed to keep them moving, making friends and learning new skills."

TagActive sessions at Stratford Leisure Centre and junior gym sessions at The Greig Leisure Centre begin on Monday 21 July and run until Friday 29 August. To register for TagActive, families need to email Stratfordinfo@everyoneactive.com. To register for activities at The Greig Leisure Centre, email Greiginfo@everyoneactive.com.

Family swimming sessions begin on Monday 21 July and run until Friday 29 August. Families will be contacted directly by the HAF team.

School children from reception to Year 11 in receipt of benefits related free school meals are eligible for HAF sessions.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council publishes interim update to 5-Year Housing Land Supply Position

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has released an interim update to its Five-Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) position, reflecting recent changes to national planning policy and a significant increase in Local Housing Need (LHN).

Following the Government's revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and an updated methodology for calculating LHN introduced late last year, the District Council's annual housing requirement has risen from 730 to 1,126 homes per annum.

In response, the District Council has reassessed its housing land supply assumptions, particularly regarding delivery expectations from key sites.

Despite these adjustments, the District Council is pleased to confirm that it continues to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply, with the updated position showing a supply equivalent to 5.06 years. This ensures that the adopted Core Strategy retains full weight in the determination of planning applications.

The interim update maintains a base date of 31 March 2024, and a fully updated 5YHLS position, based on a 31 March 2025 base date, will be published later this year.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet to discuss Warwickshire wide plans for Local Government

All of Warwickshire's District and Borough Councils along with Warwickshire County Council would be affected by the plans suggested in the English Devolution White Paper, which is the Government's statement of its plans to devolve power from Westminster to local areas and reform local government.

The District Council is being asked to determine which option under local government reform is its preference. To assist them, the District Council will be considering a report by audit and assurance specialists, Deloitte, which was

carried out on behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council alongside the other Warwickshire District and Borough Councils.

This includes a wide range of proposals on devolution, but also wider plans for Local Government Reorganisation.

The Deloitte report evaluation the two proposals which were identified by Council in the "interim plan" in March, these being:

Option 1 - Single unitary model: A single unitary council based on the existing geography of the five Borough and District Councils and the County Council.

Option 2 - Two-unitary model: A two-unitary council model as follows:

(1) Based on the existing boundaries of North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, and part of Warwickshire County Council

(2) Based on the existing boundaries of Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council and part of Warwickshire County Council.

Deloitte have evaluated these options against the 6 criteria to be used by government in determining future structures and have concludes that a two-unitary model emerges as the most advantageous structure for Warwickshire.

It says it would: "Effectively balance the preservation of local identities with the need for efficient and responsive governance.

"This model holds significant potential for recognizing and respecting the distinct identities that characterise the county acknowledges the existing cultural and economic disparities and allows for tailored policies and initiatives.

"This localised approach fosters a stronger sense of local ownership and belonging.

"Furthermore, two smaller unitary authorities would be closer to the communities they serve, facilitating a greater understanding of local issues and providing more accessible channels for citizen engagement.

"This proximity fosters a heightened sense of accountability to local needs and priorities."

The report will be discussed at Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet meeting on Monday 7 July, before making recommendations of the Council's preferred option for local government reorganisation to Full Council at the

meeting on Monday 14 July, which will then be used as the basis for engagement and consultation.

All the other authorities in Warwickshire will now work through their own democratic process to determine the option that is supported locally, with the option to be refined over the summer.

The District Council will continue to work closely with regional partners to ensure that the devolution process is implemented effectively and that the benefits of this new governance model are felt across Stratford-on-Avon District.

A dedicated webpage for Local Government Reorganisation has been created, which includes a Frequently Asked Questions section and a timeline for Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire - Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

The District Council's Cabinet and Full Council will be asked to make a final decision in November 2025.

Background information

What is Local Government Reorganisation?

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is the process in which the structure and responsibilities of local authorities are reconfigured.

The English Devolution White Paper also sets out that new, larger unitary authorities will replace district, borough and county councils.

Given 60% of the country already has Strategic Authorities (mayoral authorities) and unitary councils, it is seeking to reorganise local government in areas that still have county and districts - replacing them with unitary councils, which deliver all the services.

The Local Government Reorganisation Interim Plan for Warwickshire was discussed at Council on Monday 17 March and submitted on 21 March 2025. A webcast recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Timeline

Date Action

6 February 2025 Statutory invitation received from Government to submit unitary proposals

17 March 2025 Councillors agreed the approach for the interim plan to be submitted to Government

21 March 2025 Interim Plan on Local Government Reorganisation proposal submitted to Government

28 November 2025 Submit full Local Government Reorganisation proposal

May 2027 Proposed elections (Shadow authorities)

April 2028 Vesting day for new unitary councils

Cllr Alan Scorer