

## County Councillor Report

### Butlers Marston Parish Council Meeting 26th March 2026

#### **Meningitis Cases in Kent and London**

Cases of invasive meningococcal disease have been confirmed in Kent and London. It's important to know the signs of symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia. **What are the symptoms of meningitis?**

Early symptoms – such as vomiting, fever, aches, muscle pain, cold hands and feet and headaches – can look similar to common illnesses like colds or flu. But someone with meningitis or septicaemia will usually become seriously ill in a matter of hours. That's why it's crucial to keep checking on anyone who is unwell.

Symptoms can appear in any order, and some may not happen at all. For meningitis, common signs and symptoms include:

- fever
- a very bad headache (this alone is not a reason to get medical help)
- vomiting
- stiff neck
- dislike of bright lights
- rash
- confusion, delirium
- severe sleepiness, losing consciousness
- fits

Get more info by visiting: <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/31/what-is-meningitis-symptoms-risks-and-how-to-protect-yourself/>

#### **Region comes together to promote neuroinclusion**

Partner agencies across Coventry and Warwickshire champion neuroinclusive practice for Neurodiversity Celebration Week 2026. The term neurodivergent simply means that some people's brains work differently to what may be considered 'typical'. People who are autistic or who have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and other neurological differences are a key part of a balanced, neurodiverse society.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7491/supporting-every-mind-region-comes-together-to-promote-neuroinclusion>

## **Warwickshire County Council budget 2026/27**

Warwickshire County Council met on Tuesday 17 February to conclude their budget negotiations. Warwickshire County Council has approved its budget for 2026/27, alongside the medium-term financial strategy for the next five years.

The budget includes a 4.4% increase in Council Tax, including the 2% adult social care precept. This is lower than the maximum permitted increase of 4.99%, reflecting the Council's wish to support residents with cost-of-living pressures. The medium-term financial strategy also sets out a programme of efficiency savings and investments to maintain the Council's strong focus on prevention to help reduce future demand on services.

For a Band D property, the overall increase in the Council Tax bill will amount to an additional £1.56 per week. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7436/warwickshire-county-council-approves-2026-27-budget-to-protect-vital-services-and-support-residents>

## **Increased SEND provision for Warwickshire**

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has approved additions to the Education Capital Programme 2025/26 to expand specialist resourced provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

At its meeting on Thursday 5 March, Cabinet agreed to allocate over £320k from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation to establish new resourced provisions at three county primary schools and to increase places at an existing provision in Rugby. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7469/investment-approved-to-expand-specialist-provision-in-warwickshire-schools>

## **SEND Reform consultation**

Government is consulting on proposed changes to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND, including: early, local and fair support, effectively grounded in evidence, and with shared accountabilities across local partners.

Why your views matter

We are consulting on proposals to reform the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system.

The consultation document explains the changes we plan to make and asks for comments from everyone with an interest.

The changes aim to improve help and support for children and young people with SEND across the 0 to 25 years system.

We would like to hear from everyone who has an interest in the reforms including:

Children, young people and families, teachers and leaders.

Schools, trusts and early years and post-16 providers

Local authorities, experts and academic organisations

Representative groups. You can also respond to this consultation via email at [SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk](mailto:SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk), or by post to:

SENDAP Reform, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT. Have your say: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/send-strategy-division/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-firs/>

### **Adult Social Care Service Rated ‘Good’ by CQC**

WCC is celebrating a positive outcome from the Care Quality Commission’s assessment of Adult Social Care which recognises the county as a high performing on Adult Social Care needs. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7440/warwickshire-s-adult-social-care-service-rated-good-by-the-care-quality-commission>

### **Warwickshire Food Strategy update**

A further step to combat food poverty in the county, increase availability of affordable food in priority areas and empower communities to improve their diets and health outcomes has been taken. The plan will continue to focus on three strategic priorities.

- Affordability will focus on helping residents facing food insecurity to access more affordable, healthier food options through social supermarkets, community food projects, and other initiatives.
- A second priority area will use events like Kind Community, Kind Food and volunteer food champions to work with members of the community most in need to educate them, provide resources and develop their skills and confidence in choosing and preparing healthier food options.
- The third will promote locally sourced food and waste reduction by supporting suppliers in and around the county and influencing consumer behaviours. Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7484/important-steps-to-combat-food-poverty-as-warwickshire-prepares-its-new-plan>

## **Utility bill support available in Warwickshire**

A scheme providing financial assistance to help those who may be struggling with their utility bills this winter is now available until 16th February.

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme is distributing funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund providing a one-off voucher payment to meet an immediate need and help those who are finding it hard to manage the cost of their energy and water bills. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7370/utility-bill-support-available-through-warwickshire-local-welfare-scheme>

## **Have your say on Local Government Reorganisation**

Have you given your views on what Local Government Reorganisation should look like in Warwickshire? This statutory consultation seeks views on the proposals that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has received following the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Warwickshire to submit proposals for unitary local government for their area. You can find full details of the consultation, including a privacy statement, at: [Local government reorganisation in Warwickshire - GOV.UK](#).

The 2 proposals in this consultation were made by the following councils on 28 November 2025: **1. Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council proposed one unitary council for the whole of the area of Warwickshire comprising the current areas of:**

- North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick. You can find the proposal at: [Warwickshire single unitary proposal](#)

**2. North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwick District Council proposed 2 unitary councils. These would comprise the current areas of: North unitary authority:** North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby. **South unitary authority:** Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick. You can find the proposal at: [Warwickshire 2 unitary proposal](#). This consultation asks questions about each proposal to help inform the assessment of the proposals. Complete the consultation survey here: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/warwickshire/>

## **Share your views on WCC's future priorities**

Have your say on Warwickshire County Council's draft Council Plan. Share your views on what's important to you to help shape the final version of the plan. Warwickshire County Council has set out its future objectives and priorities in a new draft Council Plan - **Recalibrating Warwickshire** - and is inviting residents, businesses and partners to share their views on what matters most to them. The Council is asking people across the county to take part in a survey, open until **Tuesday 14 April 2026**, to help shape the final version of the plan. Get involved: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7499/share-your-views-on-warwickshire-county-council-s-future-priorities>

## **Measles**

Measles cases are rising in the West Midlands, and children under 10 years of age are most at risk. Over 99% of those who have two doses of the MMRV vaccine offer long-term protection against measles and rubella. Although mumps protection is slightly lower, cases in vaccinated people are much less severe. For more information, please visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-vaccination](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-vaccination)

## **Changing lives through the home for Ukraine scheme**

For the past four years, communities across Warwickshire have quietly been transforming lives. Residents from the north to south of the county have opened their homes to families fleeing war in Ukraine - offering safety, stability and security. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7497/warwickshire-residents-are-changing-lives-through-the-homes-for-ukraine-scheme>

## **Easter holiday fun and support for families**

Families across Warwickshire can look forward to a packed programme of activities, events and support over the spring school break from 30 March to 10 April. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7509/find-out-about-easter-holiday-fun-and-support-for-families-in-warwickshire>

## **Warwick Castle Unboxed**

Discover untold stories from the Warwick Castle archive at this new exhibition at Market Hall Museum, Warwick. Warwick Castle Unboxed combines objects and documents to tell some fascinating stories. The exhibition opened on Friday 20 March: The culmination of a four-year project, this exhibition begins with Fulke Greville asking King James I for Warwick Castle, over 300 years ago. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7459/warwick-castle-unboxed-new-stories-from-an-old-castle>

Chris Mills County Councillor Butlers Marston