
Warwickshire County Council

Feldon Division report

Jan 26

Council issues

Happy New Year all

The year started with a bit of blast with the sudden arrival of sub-zero temperatures at the beginning of the month along with snow, which whilst forecast for the Midlands, the Met Office local forecast, to which WCC subscribe, did not forecast snow in South Warwickshire.

It started at 04.00, before which the gritters had already been out twice starting at 18.00 on Thursday and again at 01.00 on Friday morning. Grit/ Salt does not work well under snow and also needs traffic to achieve its full effectiveness creating a saline solution.

This meant that roads, that had already been gritted, did not seem so to early travellers on Friday morning.

WCC grit 1,100 miles, 1,750 kms, each time they go out, and focus on all A and major B roads across the County as well as access routes into each village. On ungritted routes, where there are known hazards, grit bins, requested by PCs, are kept filled.

Private estates, with unadopted roads, are not included in gritting routes where responsibility for the roads remains with developers or their management companies. Regrettably Ropeway, on Bishops Hill, except for the first 50 metres, is not adopted. The PC needs to consider writing to the developer on behalf of residents to consider how they will address the issue of their icy roads.

Full Council 16th December 2025:

Full Council started at 10.00am and finished around 17:30, with 40 minutes for a lunch break.

The meeting started well with:

- Receiving and noting the Auditors report for the year ended 31 March 2025;
- The approval of annual accounts for the Council and Pension Fund;
- The adoption of capital expenditure plans of approx. £40million for the expansion of three schools funded by Developer Contributions;
- The adoption of £2.1 million highway improvement scheme again funded by Developer Contributions;
- Adopted the Youth Justice plan for 25/26; and
- Approved the Annual Governance Statement for 24/25.

The meeting then moved onto the more controversial notices of motion proposed by opposition groups as follows:

- Joint Motion: School Road Safety
- Conservative Motion: Protecting Children's Access to Education by Opposing any Extension to Statutory/Walking Distance
- Liberal Democrat Motion: Tackling Child Poverty Across Warwickshire

The motions were all passed by Council requiring the administration to respond directly or with reports being prepared on the issues raised for Scrutiny Committees.

As the Council ran out of time, questions from members was deferred to be answered in writing. My own question relates to material changes in the gully cleaning program with the vast majority of gully's in my Division, and across South Warwickshire, being changed from a two year to a three year cycle.

HS2

I met with Mark Wild, new CEO of HS2, to discuss history, progress and the future on 12th December, courtesy of Sir Jeremy Wright. It was interesting to hear what his plans are both in completing the project whilst minimising the impact on communities and the business sector. He was very engaged with representatives attending. Disappointingly though, I have yet to receive a written response to my questions, sent in a week before, which I had hoped would be answered in the meeting.

Meanwhile we face further road closures on the B4451 and the A423 which will impact on local traffic flows.

Highways

Harbury

i have had complaints about the state of the footpath from Harbury to the newly re-opened Great Western and about a farmer's ditch near the barns on the opposite side to the road from the railway.

The footpath between the Great Western and Harbury had work done on it to expose the full width and remove vegetation in Dec 22. The problem is that the path is only 1 metre wide and grass will naturally encroach over the edge. However it has been inspected by the Highways Team and does not meet the threshold for requiring repairs.

However, resurfacing the path at the existing width would be in the regions £100,000. To widen the path to 1.5 metres width would cost in the region of £195,000.

Regrettably there is no budget for that level of expenditure at the current time.

Hambridge

Repairs to Hambridge were completed. Regrettably a local HGV driver appears to have moved the road blocks and driven over the closed but repaired bridge, and the

weight of the vehicle has done further damage resulting in the bridge being reclosed whilst further and more substantial repairs are carried out.

Owing to concerns from a number of parties, the closed gate on the Hambridge Road has now been locked open by WCC.

Welsh Road

The Welsh Road from Priors Hardwick to Upper Boddington is the obvious, although unsigned, diversion route for traffic following the closure by EKFB of Stoneton Lane for the construction of the Stoneton Lane Green bridge over the HS2 track.

Despite the obvious warnings from elected members on both sides of the County boundary, it is more than concerning to witness the failure of EKFB to anticipate and offer to mitigate for the 100% increase of traffic on this very narrow single track road. A videoed survey from a vehicle, identifying suitable passing places, in summer, proved completely inaccurate in the depths of a wet winter with clay verges.

Both Cllr Rock and I have specifically raised this matter with Mark Wild.

I have reported the results of the traffic survey on Welsh Road to Warwickshire Police who, given the proportion of speeding drivers will be taking action.

Budget 26/27

We are awaiting Reform's budget proposals for the year 26/27.

The SEND overspend continues to cause concern, with the cumulative overspend, which is "sort of" funded by a government policy "the statutory override", expected to reach £150 million by the end of this financial year.

Christopher

Specialist Resourced Provision at Nursery Hill Primary (X and Facebook)

Nursery Hill Primary School in Nuneaton is proud to announce the opening of The Lodge, a new Specialist Resourced Provision designed to support children with communication and interaction needs.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7296/news-specialist-resourced-provision-for-send-pupils-at-nursery-hill-primary-school->



Value for Money of active travel schemes (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council has endorsed a strengthened and more transparent value-for-money approach to assessing all walking, wheeling and cycling schemes that receive internal or external funding.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7314/warwickshire-county-council-sets-out-strengthened-value-for-money-approach-for-walking-wheeling-and-cycling-schemes>



Voice of Warwickshire Panel (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council is inviting residents aged 18+ to join its Voice of Warwickshire panel. Share your views on a wide range of topics and make your voice heard. Register now www.warwickshire.gov.uk/voice



Warwickshire takes action to boost jobs (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has approved a major plan to help more people into work and support businesses to grow, building on the county's strong economy and high employment rates.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7283/warwickshire-takes-action-to-boost-jobs-as-cabinet-approves-new-plan>



Weston Hall starts to shine following business support (X and Facebook)

A Warwickshire hotel is starting to shine after receiving support from Project Warwickshire and the Business Growth Warwickshire programme.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7287/weston-hall-starts-to-shine-following-business-support>



Parking text scam (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council has warned residents that fake phishing scam SMS text messages are being sent to residents across the county, posing as Penalty Charge Notice payment requests.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7289/warwickshire-residents-urged-to-be-cautious-of-parking-text-scam>



Apprenticeship Levy success in North Warwickshire (X and Facebook)

Seven teaching careers have been launched at North Warwickshire schools with support from WCC's Apprenticeship Levy.

Book Bingo back at Warwickshire Libraries (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire Libraries is thrilled to announce the return of its hugely popular Book Bingo reading challenge for 2026 with exciting new categories and events, celebrating the National Year of Reading.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7309/book-bingo-back-as-national-year-of-reading-is-celebrated->



Become a Reablement Assistant (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Social Care and Support service is offering an exciting opportunity to join the team as a Reablement Assistant.

Find out more about this role: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7304/do-you-want-to-make-a-difference-to-people-s-lives-in-2026-become-a-reablement-assistant-with-warwickshire-county-council>



Bus route changes in North Warwickshire and Nuneaton (X and Facebook)

Arriva bus services in the Polesworth, Baddesley Ensor, Atherstone and the Nuneaton area are set to change with updated timetables, extended routes and new route numbers from 3 January 2026.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7305/arriva-bus-timetable-and-route-number-changes-across-north-warwickshire-and-nuneaton-from-3-january-2026>



Health and Care Services are here for you this winter (X and Facebook)

Health and care organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire have joined forces to launch a new winter wellbeing campaign, “We’re Here for You This Winter.”

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7308/health-and-care-services-in-coventry-and-warwickshire-are-here-for-you-this-winter->

