
Warwickshire County Council

Feldon Division report

July 26

Council issues

LGR

The Government has confirmed its preferred option for Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire, with two new unitary authorities to be established – one serving north Warwickshire and one serving south Warwickshire. The Chief Executive has responded:

“Today’s announcement marks a significant milestone, but it is important to note that there will be no immediate changes to the way we work, or the services we provide to our residents, businesses, and communities – that remains our top priority.

A significant amount of work is needed before any new arrangements are implemented. Further details will emerge over time regarding governance, service delivery, timescales and arrangements for transition. As this information becomes available, it will be shared with you.

I also underline that we will continue to work closely and constructively with the district and borough councils, building on the preparatory work of the last few months. We are all committed to ensuring Warwickshire people are best served under the governance arrangements now agreed....”

Full Council

Full Council met on 21st July for the quarterly Council meeting with agenda items as follows:

- Capital Investment Fund - Early Years Provision
- Local Transport Delivery Plan - withdrawn
- Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2025/26
- Constitution Update

Notices of Motion:

(1) Labour Group Motion - Tackling Pavement Parking in Warwickshire

2) Liberal Democrat Group Motion - Young people in Warwickshire deserve meaningful support that helps them overcome the real barriers to taking part in education, employment and training.

(3) Conservative Group Motion - This Council notes with concern that: The Government is seeking to abolish local Healthwatch organisations and remove their statutory powers through the introduction of Clause 64 and 65 in the Health Bill 2026

(4) Restore Group Motion - Response to the Independent Rape Gang Inquiry Report 2026 – Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Assurance

(5) Reform Group Motion - Resetting Warwickshire's Environmental Priorities

The agenda items, with the exception of the transport strategy which was withdrawn, were all passed.

The first three notices of motion were all passed with mirror friendly amendments.

The Restore Group motion was passed but with substantial amendments to recognise the substantial work done on this topic, not just by Rupert Lowe MP, and the inquiry he set up.

The fifth, the Reform motion, was again heavily amended by the Conservative Group, with full support from Labour, LDs and Green. I proposed the amendment which was not accepted by Reform, but was passed by a majority vote. In summary, the proposal was:

“Climate Change is real, it is not a policy option. Changing weather patterns are not one offs. We cannot deny these changes.

But what has changed is the economic circumstances for many of residents and businesses. Higher taxes, higher inflation, high interest rates, economic growth plummeting and entirely predictably, unemployment rising.

As a Council we must respond to these pressures on our residents and businesses.

And therefore what this amendment sought to achieve is to ensure that we address these pressures, not forgetting the strategic challenges of rising temperatures.

Where these interests combine, and result in lower costs for residents, then quite rightly they must be pursued but where actions will result in higher costs to families and employers, then we have to consider what in the short term is the better option.”

HS2

I have had further meetings with both EKFB.

The timetable reproduced in May is no longer accurate with the road closures on the B4451, scheduled for early June, now deferred to October and the A423, scheduled for July, deferred to later in the summer. I am meeting with EKFB for an update next week.

The Banbury Road bridge has had to be substantially rebuilt owing to incorrect and inadequate welding of the underlying steel frame. This meant that not only did the surface of the bridge have to be removed but also the supporting reinforced concrete covering the steel frame.

I am told that the expected completion is now May/June 2027, some five years after it was originally scheduled.

EKFB commented that the Stoneton Lane Green Bridge is still progressing in line with the original plan.

Sustainable development

I have written to the Chief Executive about the importance of the County, in responding to the increasing number of large planning applications in our area, to consider the cumulative effect of all development proposals rather than considering each one in isolation and ignoring that cumulative effect.

This has a particular impact on both Highways and Schools. The projection for schools is that an additional 313 places will be required for those attending the two primary schools in Bishops and Harbury, but where there is no current capacity. The initial response is that these children will need to be educated out of village. This may apply to new residents but equally, it may apply to existing residents whose children want to enter school in the future.

The significant increase in population will also have an effect on healthcare provision along with clean and foul water services.

Warwickshire Pension Fund

The Border to Coast Pension Pool (“B2C”) of which the Warwickshire LGPS is a member, has, following the Government’s “Fit for the Future” consultation, taken on a further seven local authorities from one of the two pools closed by the Government as part of that consultation.

This takes the assets under management by B2C to over £115 billion representing the pensions of some two million LGPS members, and makes B2C the largest pension pool in the UK.

I have been elected Chair of the 18 authority “Joint Committee” which oversees performance.

Local issues

Jeff Hobday, our area Surveyor, is off with a new knee at the moment so is on sick leave, but we are expecting his return shortly.

Issues in the Division are as follows:

Priors Hardwick

I have agreed with Mr Hobday to fund the installation of two sets of village gateways with the correct road markings and signage on Welsh Road, Priors Hardwick at both ends of the village boundary and where the 30 Mph starts on both ends of the Welsh Road.

Alkerton and Warwickshire HWRCs

I have contacted the Waste Team manager about the impact of the introduction of charging non Oxon residents for use of the Alkerton HWRC. Stockton, the smallest of WCC HWRCs, will continue to be open at weekends but to avoid queueing, a booking system, via phone or the website, will be introduced from the end of July.

It is not possible to reopen during weekdays.

Following a reorganisation of the HWRC operations, the changes will be monitored closely

Avonhill Quarry, Fenny Compton

I have finally had a much more detailed and comprehensive response to the activities at the quarry site.

WCC Enforcement have now confirmed, contrary to earlier explanations, that hardcore has been imported into the site and the operator has justified that this is to improve the quality of the internal roads on the site. I have raised the issue, given how small the site is, how much hardcore was needed and how much has been imported. The previous reports I had received, that clean topsoils were being imported, are now being challenged.

Notwithstanding that, I have had reported to me, along with photos, that a substantial pile of soils has appeared on the field adjacent to the quarry itself.

WCC and SDC enforcement, with significant encouragement from myself and your SDC Cllr, Natalie Gist, are now working together on this issue.

The quarry does still have permission to extract, as the seam still contains stone, but any remedial work does require approval. This has not been granted.

There is an SDC planning application, 26/00605/FUL, for use of the adjacent field for five holiday lodges.

Long Itchington

HS2 HGV traffic using the A423 in Long Itchington.

I have raised concerns over routing along the A423 and about driver behaviour.

If anyone is able to get number plate details, both BBV and EKFB have tracking data on each vehicle and can identify and hopefully address inappropriate driving.

Contact was made with the Warwickshire Police Gypsy and Traveller team over the inappropriate use of the Green, but this has now been resolved as the caravans have now moved on.

Fenny Compton:

I have asked the Head of Highways to accelerate the pavement widening on Station Road Fenny Compton. This has now been prioritised and will hopefully be done soon.

Feldon Division monthly report – July 26

Plans for the S106 funded flood improvements along Ridgeway are now finally progressing.

Councillors will be aware of the issues over the footpath across the school playing field. This is still “Work in Progress”.

There is a surface dressing program happening in the area which regrettably means that certain roads are being closed whilst the new surfaces are being laid. These are being signed in advance.

Bishops Itchington

The Hambridge repairs are nearly complete and hopefully we will see the road reopening shortly.

Christopher

Hot weather advice (X and Facebook)

Feeling the heat? A few things you can do to stay hydrated and protected:

- Drink fluids throughout the day;
- Take a refillable bottle of water;
- Stay in the shade between 11am and 3pm; and
- Apply sunscreen generously and re-apply often.

More: <https://orlo.uk/B1gas>



Heatwaves – vulnerable people (X and Facebook)

If you have friends, family or neighbours who you know are more vulnerable to the effects of hot weather, it's important you check in on them to ensure they are safe and well.

Find out more on staying safe here: <https://orlo.uk/BGWwt>

#BeatTheHeat



Float to live – water safety (X and Facebook)

Parents and carers! Would your child know what to do if they found themselves in a dangerous situation near water? Teach them the 'Float to Live' technique. It could save their life one day!

Watch the video: https://youtu.be/XiN5hvoouMk?si=Afnt_NOxtuegTuHv



Be wildfire aware (X and Facebook)

With dry weather, wildfire risk is high. Help protect our open spaces:

Fully extinguish cigarettes and matches

Take all litter home.

Keep disposable BBQ's off dry grass and vegetation and dispose of ashes safely when cold.

If you discover a fire, call 999 immediately



Hybrid booking system at HWRCs (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council has announced that a new hybrid booking system will be introduced across its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), coming into effect on Monday, 20 July 2026.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7866/new-hybrid-booking-system-for-household-waste-recycling-centres>



Trainee solicitor recruitment (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire Legal Services has several exciting new positions for aspiring trainee solicitors to join their award-winning, motivated, and nationally recognised team.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7851/could-you-be-the-next-trainee-solicitor-at-warwickshire-legal-services->



Everyone is invited to play this summer (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council is inviting people of all ages to celebrate a Summer of Play and make time for the activities, games and moments that bring them joy.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7872/everyone-is-invited-to-play-this-summer>



Young voices help shape funding decisions (X and Facebook)

Two members of Warwickshire's Youth Council are helping decide how funding is used to support children and young people after becoming Associate Trustees of the Norton Foundation.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7869/young-voices-help-shape-funding-decisions>



Young community heroes receive Chief's commendation (X and Facebook)

Four children have been praised for their quick thinking and bravery after helping to save the life of an elderly man.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7835/young-community-heroes-receive-chief-s-commendation>



Under 25s new MenB vaccination (X and Facebook)

A new, time-limited, Meningococcal group B bacteria (MenB) vaccine offer is available this summer for Year 13 students and the under 25s, including university students, who are at higher risk.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7852/under-25s-in-england-and-wales-to-be-offered-the-new-menb-vaccination>



Work starts on new homes in Bulkington (X and Facebook)

Work has started on a new affordable housing development in the heart of Bulkington that will deliver vital homes for local people.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7834/work-starts-on-new-homes-in-bulkington>



Alcohol Awareness Week 2026 (X and Facebook)

Cutting down on alcohol doesn't need to be a struggle! Warwickshire County Council is highlighting the advice and support available for residents during Alcohol Awareness Week (6 –12 July).

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7821/promoting-positive-change-and-healthier-lifestyles-across-warwickshire-this-alcohol-awareness-week-2026>



One Humanity Project (X and Facebook)

A powerful programme of community-led events is continuing to bring people together across Warwickshire as the One Humanity Project moves into its next phase.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7865/one-humanity-project-builds-momentum-with-youth-voice-at-its-heart->



WorkWell webinar (X and Facebook)

HR professionals, line managers and wellbeing representatives at businesses across the county are being encouraged by Warwickshire County Council to sign-up to a new free webinar next month.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7864/warwickshire-businesses-encouraged-to-join-free-webinar-on-keeping-their-workforce-well>



Tour of Britain – Warwickshire route announcement (X and Facebook)

🚴 The full route for the Warwickshire stage of the 2026 Lloyds Tour of Britain Women has been revealed!

The 77-mile route starts and ends in Leamington and explores the heart of our county. Check it out and plan where you'll cheer from here:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7873/lloyds-tour-of-britain-women-full-route-announced-for-warwickshire-stage>



Community initiative helps young people thrive and be safe (X and Facebook)

A grassroots community group in Warwickshire is helping young people build confidence, learn new skills and stay safe by offering positive activities and support through fishing.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7867/community-initiative-helps-young-people-thrive-and-stay-safe-in-warwickshire->



Coventry jobs fair (X and Facebook)

Are you looking for your next job opportunity? Get your tickets now for the free jobs fair at Coventry CBS Arena.

 **Friday 17 July**

 **10am-1pm**

 **Free entry**

Book your ticket > <https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/network/jobfair/coventry-17-07-2026/>



Young people helped with garage anxiety (X and Facebook)

Students from Higham Lane 6th Form college in Nuneaton became the first in the county to receive a bespoke road safety session to address 'Garage Anxiety', supporting them to build their confidence as future motorists.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7874/reducing-young-people-s-garage-anxiety-in-warwickshire>



Warwickshire Police – We're Listening Campaign (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire Connected is a free messaging service brought to you by Warwickshire Police, where you can tell them about your priorities and be the first to hear the facts about any incidents and emergencies near you.

Join today:

<https://survey.warwickshireconnected.com/Survey/REGISTRATION/985BF47BF2E1F338BE4B4D9712A944AD>



Screentime for children (X and Facebook)

How does screen time affect my child's development?

Your child's brain develops rapidly before age 5 and thrives on play, conversation and connection. While screens are part of daily life, too much can affect sleep and development.

For more info visit: <https://orlo.uk/wXQrh>

