
Warwickshire County Council

Feldon Division report

Oct 26

Council issues

LGR

On 7th Sept, without prior notice, the Government announced that the plans for LGR had been suspended and that no further work on any aspect of LGR should continue.

Some four weeks on, we are no better informed as to what is now happening with respect to LGR, other than all work must stop. Given the very significant costs WCC, and many other councils, have incurred, the Leader of WCC has announced he will be requesting that those costs are refunded by Central Government.

Full Council

Full Council met on Thursday 24th Sept for the quarterly Council meeting, although I was unable to attend, as I was at WCC Pensions meetings in Leeds, with agenda items as follows:

- Youth Justice Plan 2026 to 2029
- Constitution Update

The annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan, and its submission to the national Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB), is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Grant funding from the YJB to Youth Offending Teams (YOT) (locally called the Youth Justice Service) is reliant on the submission of an acceptable plan within the required template/format.

Youth Justice Plans are required to be signed off by full Council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities)(England) Regulations 2000'.

The Warwickshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2026-2029 has been developed in collaboration with the Youth Justice workforce and key partners, including members of Warwickshire's Youth Justice Chief Officer Board. It provides an overview of Warwickshire's Youth Justice Service, sets out details of performance over the past year and outlines WCC's priorities for 2026-2029

The Plan builds on the progress made in 2025/26 and the Partnership's key local priorities:

- Serious Youth Violence Interventions
- Children's Physical Health
- Victims
- Education, training and employment at end of order post 16 focus.

Both proposals were approved.

This was followed by five notices of motion:

((1)Green Group Motion – Rainwater Harvesting – Conservative Amendment approved

(2)Liberal Democrat Group Motion - Improving Support for Care Leavers - Reform amendment to the motion approved

(3)Conservative Group Motion – The Role of Warwickshire County Council in Planning – Amended but approved

(4) Labour Group Motion – Supporting the “Debate Not Hate” Campaign Approved with minor amendment, after two hours

(5) Restore Britain Group Motion – Single-sex spaces and inclusive language in public services – Not approved

Questions from Councillors did not taken place due to the length of the meeting.

WCC Budget 27/28.

The public consultation for the 2027/8 budget has commenced. Whilst the Council has statutory responsibilities such as for Adult Social and Children’s Social Care, last year budgeted at £405 million, the consultation is to identify areas for discretionary spend

HS2

The A423 commenced on 23rd August and were progressing well until a pre-existing drainage conduit failed, on 28th. This had to be rebuilt and delayed the reopening of A423 to 4th September. However this two week closure was significantly better than the two months initially proposed and came about by considerable pressure from elected members and our MP.

The road closure signage was also considerably improved from the signage used for the first road closure, where the signage was not as good as it could have been.

The closure of the B4451 for the new bridge to be tied in to the existing carriageway commenced on the 12th Oct for four weeks. Access will be maintained through the works for residents and Southam Rugby Club. The diversion will be via the B4452.

Following completion of the EKFB B4451 bridge closure, BBV will close the A425 to realign the road to the original route. This will be for a further four weeks commencing on 9th November. The two closures will not overlap!

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I have been in continued discussions, see below, with the home to school bus service to ensure that the delays are factored in to ensure children are not late for school at Southam College.

The Stoneton Lane Green Bridge, near Wormleighton, according to EKFB, is still progressing in line with the original plan. Work commenced at the end of August 25 and should therefore be opened late summer 27.

The Banbury Road bridge, near Claydon, 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 was told that the expected completion was May/June 2027, some four years after it was originally scheduled. Concerningly this has now slipped to July.

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 was the basis for the Conservative notice of motion above.

In the three villages of Bishops Itchington, Harbury and Long Itchington there are now applications, or detailed plans, for some 1,459 dwellings along with two sites in Southam itself for 1,300.

The pupil yield, using DfE data, from these sites will be 1,938, 1,170 primary or early years and 768 secondary and 16 plus. There is not spa capacity in the three villages which means that either Southam or other local schools will have to absorb, the primary intake will be equivalent to a four class intake per year group.

As I have previously reported, the impact on highways is now been considered by WCC on a cumulative basis.

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

School bus service

There have been a significant number of complaints over the running of the services to Southam College from both Bishops Itchington and Harbury. The service is provided by sub-contractors, and has not been acceptable, partly because of SWT road works in Kineton.

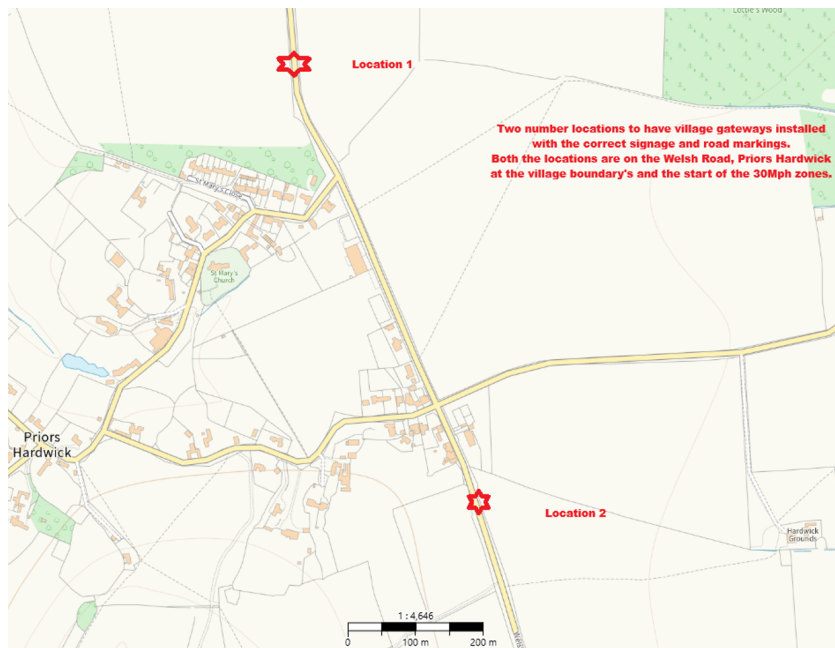
After a week, since the problems were first reported to me, timetables have now been revised, brought forward, and new vehicles added to ensure the service routes in the evening and improved.

I have raised my concerns that, as the road works were known about, this should have been done in advance and not retrospectively.

Issues in the Division are as follows:

Priors Hardwick

I am still waiting for the timetable for the improved signage on the Welsh Road cross roads. The job was submitted in April to the Works Team I am chasing for a date.



Priors Marston

The WCC Highways team have now prepared a plan for improvements to drainage in Keys Lane. I am awaiting an update as to when work will commence. The principal addition will be the installation of a French drain at the top of the lane to improve the collection of water flowing from a number of springs on private land that is running onto the lane.

Bishops Itchington

The short notice of a road closure on Knightcote Road and traffic lights on the B4451 were due to Severn Trent leaks. STW have the legal authority to close a road but are required to obtain a retrospective permit from WCC which will state when the closure will be lifted. This is due to be on Wednesday 7th Oct.

There is now a commitment to reinstate the VAS on Station Road. If there was an opportunity to make minor changes to the location, where would this be to?

Following a meeting with the Head Teacher of Bishops Itchington Primary School, among other matters, I have written to the school bus service to request the number and location of school bus pick up points is reviewed to try and reduce the number of children queuing outside the Church.

My approach was rebuffed, so I have now elevated this to senior management and hopefully will have a more proactive response.

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.

Ufton, Harbury and Chesterton

I am assured that work on retaining the traffic lights on the A425 is continuing. I continue to chase for the third village gateway.

As noted above, I have raised the performance of bus companies taking pupils to Southam College, and, in particular, the failure of the 337 service to get to Southam College, or on some days leave Harbury, before school starts every day this term.

Chesterton Windmill

The planned opening event for the newly refurbished windmill, on 19th Sept, was cancelled at the last minute owing to the failure of a contractor to deliver required equipment.

I have requested a full explanation as to why such a key event, following significant investment by WCC in the Windmill's refurbishment and the huge amount of work and organisation by some 40 village volunteers, was not better managed to avoid this contractor's failure.

Long Itchington

Following my point above about the sustainability of developments in a number of the larger villages in the Division, I have now had a detailed meeting with the Service manager at WCC for Strategic Planning and Redevelopment to ensure that WCC responds to say that this volume of houses is not sustainable without significant developer led investment in infrastructure. It is up to SDC to address these issues.

I have also raised the issue of EKFB HS2 lorries using the A423 as an access to Southam Compound.

The condition of the road from Bascote Heath crossroads to Bascoe has been raised with the WCC Highways Structural Engineering team who are investigating what needs to be done to improve the road.

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 is being delivered by the Highways repair team not the Minor Works Team and will hopefully be done soon.

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.

Christopher

HWRC fridges update (X and Facebook)

Find out more about Warwickshire County Council's latest position on disposal of fridges at Household Waste Recycling Centres here:

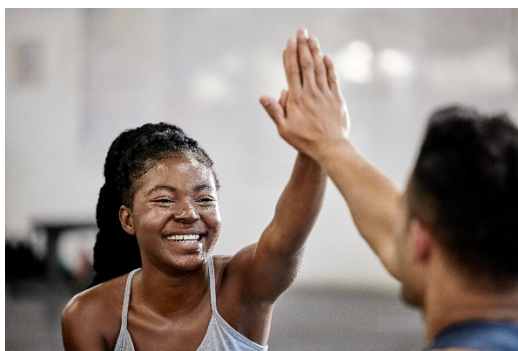
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8152/-warwickshire-county-council-thanks-residents-for-storing-fridges-as-disposal-challenges-continue>



Helping residents to transform their health and wellbeing (X and Facebook)

The healthy lifestyles service, funded by Warwickshire County Council and delivered by ICE Creates, provides personalised support through dedicated health coaches to help residents improve their health and wellbeing.

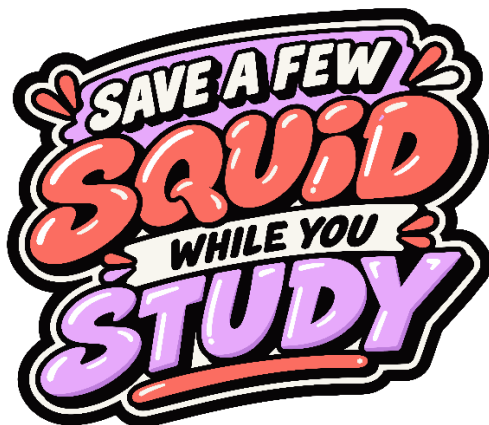
Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8153/-i-m-changing-my-life-new-healthy-lifestyles-service-helping-residents-to-transform-their-health>



Save a few squid while you study – General (X and Facebook)

Whether you're heading to uni, work, the shops or meeting your mates, a student and young person ticket could help your money go further.

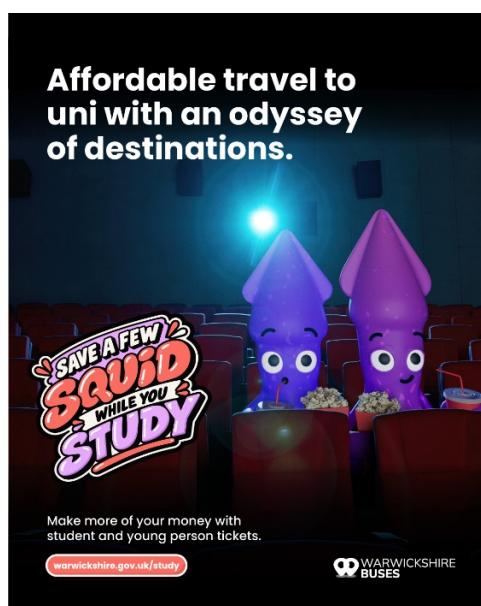
Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/study



Save a few squid while you study – Cinema (X and Facebook)

With student and young person ticket options, you can save on getting around and have more money for the things you love, like going to the cinema or eating out.

Take a look: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/study



Expanding specialist SEND provision across the county (X and Facebook)

Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Warwickshire are set to benefit from increased access to specialist support in mainstream schools.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8160/warwickshire-expands-specialist-send-provision-across-the-county->



Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (X and Facebook)

Thousands of children and young people across Warwickshire enjoyed a summer of activities, healthy food and opportunities to spend time with others through WCC's Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8156/warwickshire-s-summer-holiday-activities-and-food-programme-celebrates-another-successful-summer>



Halloween events return to Warwick this half term (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council's Heritage and Culture team brings three days of Halloween activities to the historic venue St John's House in Warwick this October half term.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8162/halloween-events-return-to-warwick-s-st-john-s-house-and-market-hall-museum-this-half-term->



Year of Reading funding for Nuneaton and Bedworth (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire Libraries has received funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as part of the National Year of Reading 2026, bringing exciting new reading-inspired experiences to children and families across Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8163/warwickshire-libraries-awarded-national-year-of-reading-grant>



Take simple steps to be Better Prepared (X and Facebook)

As the days get shorter and the weather begins to change, people across Warwickshire are being encouraged to take a few simple steps to make sure they are prepared for the autumn months ahead.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/8164/warwickshire-residents-encouraged-to-take-simple-steps-to-be-better-prepared->



Personal Assistant recruitment (X and Facebook)

Are you a Teaching Assistant looking for extra work?

Your skills are highly valued in Personal Assistant roles within the care sector.

Find part time work https://orlo.uk/Personal_Assistant_jobs_OTgbh

