

County Councillor report Oxhill Parish Council Meeting 23rd May 2023

Charger Safety

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is issuing a warning to the residents about the dangers of charging electronic devices on beds, following a recent house fire that started in a young girl's bedroom due to an overheated charger.

Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4137/warwickshire-residents-warned-of-the-dangers-of-charging-devices-on-beds-after-house-fire>



Hate Crime in Warwickshire

Everyone should feel safe and respected in Warwickshire, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender, or any other characteristic. The law protects everyone against prejudice or hostility that is directed towards them based on their disability, identity, nationality race or religion. Don't be afraid; speak up and #ReportHateCrime here: <https://reporthatenow.com>

Transforming SEND support in Warwickshire

An innovative resource has launched to support neurodivergent children and young people in Warwickshire.

There have been issues with parents who have a child with SEND who cannot access mainstream schools. Fortunately, WCC does have a school for children with these needs in Bedworth.

Graduated Approach for Neurodivergent Children and Young People



Warwickshire’s Food Strategy set to boost affordability and sustainability.

At its meeting on Tuesday 18 April 2023, Warwickshire County Council Cabinet approved its ambitious approach to transforming the county's food system and improving the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Taking action on food poverty and making good quality, healthy and affordable food available for all is at the heart of this new strategy. The aim of this plan includes Reducing food poverty and resulting ill-health; Promoting local and sustainable food; and Decreasing food waste and greenhouse gases related to our food system.

Warwickshire County Council has allocated £120k to support the development and implementation of this work.

The Warwickshire Food Strategy 2023-2026 is available to view online at <https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/s30257/The%20draft%20Warwickshire%20Food%20Strategy%202023-2026%20Cabinet%20Report.pdf>

Cost of Living

Eligible families receiving certain benefits will receive their first Cost of Living Payment for 2023 between 25 April and 17 May.

Eligible families receiving tax credits will receive their first Cost of Living Payment for 2023 between 2-9 May.

You don't need to apply – if you are eligible, you will be paid automatically the same way you usually receive your benefit or tax credits.

For more info: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>

I need Help now

If you are feeling overwhelmed by the rising costs of living and need advice on what you can do now to get the support you need, visit the “I need support now” page on the Warwickshire Cost of Living website.

You'll find advice on how to pay for your food, energy and water, how to get money advice, how to manage aspects of family life, how to access emergency food and what to do if your mental health has been affected.

Find help here: <https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/i-need-urgent-help>

Vital support for parents and carers

Warwickshire County Council is encouraging parents and carers to consider that they may be entitled to additional support.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4167/could-you-be-missing-out-on-vital-support-as-a-parent-carer->



Energy Bills Support Scheme

Residents using prepayment meters are encouraged to claim their £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme voucher to help with paying energy costs this winter. Posters (in English + 5 languages)

For those who do not receive the discount automatically, you will need to apply for energy bill support. You may be eligible to apply if your main home is:

A residential park home, on a boat on a permanent residential mooring on a permanent Gypsy and Traveller site, part of a heat network without an electricity meter. In social or private rented accommodation which has a business energy connection or a communal electricity supply, off the mains electricity or gas grid. In a care home or assisted living facility and you pay for some or all of your care or in a separate domestic home within a non-domestic property (such as a farmhouse or a flat above a shop)

If you are eligible, find out how to apply here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-energy-bill-support-if-not-automatic>

Warwickshire Working Together Charter launched

A new county-wide charter has been launched in Warwickshire, aimed at improving services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The Working Together Charter, which has been developed through collaboration between Warwickshire County Council, Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board.

“This is a significant step towards ensuring that every child and young person with SEND in Warwickshire receives the support they need to reach their full potential.”

For more information about the charter and its principles, please visit the SEND Local Offer Resources section: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send-resources/send-practitioner-parent-resources/2> and the [link](#) to the charter.

Bus travel to stay cheaper for longer in Warwickshire

It's great news for residents as the government announce that adult single bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 until the end of October, making it cheaper for residents to travel by bus.

In addition to this extension to the popular scheme, the government also announced that, from November 2023, single adult fares would be capped at £2.50 for another 12 months.

The scheme means that bus passengers in Warwickshire will only pay a maximum of £2 for a single bus journey, regardless of the distance travelled. Companies signed up: Stagecoach, Arriva, National Express Coventry, National Express West Midlands, Pulhams, A&M Group - Flexibus (Service 9 only), IndieGo PLUS Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)

County Councillors Grant Fund

Round 1 of the Councillors' Grant Fund opened for applications on Tuesday 9th May the **deadline of Sunday 18 June at 5pm.**

Applications should be submitted using the online application form found on our webpage <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants>. For help with completing your application form, applicants are encouraged to speak to their local Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) Funding and Group Development Officers. Details can be found on their webpage www.wcava.org.uk

Chris Mills
Kineton and Red Horse

