
Warwickshire County Council

Feldon Division report

July 25

Council issues

As I have previously advised, the County Council has seen a significant change in political balance following the elections on 1st May with the largest party now Reform.

There continues to be limited policy direction from the new Cabinet and so we still look to see what changes are being proposed. However the scope for significant change is limited in a number of areas because areas such as adult and family social care, together 87% of the budget, and education is proscribed in national legislation and therefore must still be delivered.

Areas of more discretion include highway expenditure, fire and rescue, although WFRS is subject to national inspection, and support for the local economy.

Clearly the change in leadership may well have implications for the direction of travel in relation to the Government's aspirations for unitary authorities.

Most recently the Leader of WCC has retired from that role on health grounds and so temporarily the Deputy Leader is acting as Leader until an election for Leader can be carried out at the next full Council in July. The acting leader is now George Finch and the press has made much of his age being 18.

Some of you may be aware of a recently reported difference of opinion between the Chief Executive and the interim, former deputy, Leader of the Council. It is important to understand that officers and, in particular, senior officers have delegated authority over a wide range of issues. To change those authorities requires a decision of Council and is not within the remit of any individual councillor, or minority party. Comments made to the press from national members of the party, about the suppression of democracy, are inappropriate.

The Government had deferred until later the very significant challenges about the SEND programmes and funding indicating that the current methodology will be extended for a further year specifically it provides little medium-term clarity about SEND deficits beyond confirming the extension of the Statutory Override until 2027/28.

Councils are promised reform via a Schools White Paper and more about support with deficits and financial pressures via the Local Government Finance Settlement expected in November.

HS2

We watch with interest the impact of a new management team at HS2.

The key change which will benefit the village is that the closure of the A425 for the tying in of the bridge has been significantly reduced. The plan is now to make a temporary bypass so that works on the existing road can continue whilst the traffic can bypass the site. There will still be a need for a road closure but estimates are significantly reduced.

Division issues

I attended the planning application Regulatory meeting last week to consider the two planning applications for the Biffa IVC site.

After presentations were made the committee raised questions, replicated my and the Parish's concerns, about smell and flies and, to the frustration of Biffa's head of planning, have deferred the decision on both applications until after a site visit has been arranged and further investigation of the issue of smell and flies.

Highways

Following the departure of Scott Tomkins, as Director of Highways, last year, the role was filled by David Ayton Hill, Director of Economy and Place since Scott's departure on an interim basis. The Council has now appointed a permanent replacement Richard Fenwick from the beginning of this month. Richard was recruited from Lincolnshire County Council.

I have already had a number of Teams meeting with Richard to discuss the local infrastructure. Shail Chohan, remains as head of County Highways.

Christopher

Harbury Lane Junction scheme highlighted at awards (X and Facebook)

The project to improve the safety of an identified accident spot in Leamington Spa has been acclaimed as being among the best examples of civil engineering by the Chartered Institution of Highways.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6283/harbury-lane-junction-scheme-among-schemes-highlighted-at-prestigious-awards>



Summer outdoor fire safety (X and Facebook)

To help enjoy the warm weather and reduce the risk of outdoor fires this summer, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service has shared some key tips.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6431/stay-fire-safe-outdoors-this-summer>



Best Bar None Awards ceremony (X and Facebook)

Bars and pubs in Leamington Spa and Warwick have received accreditation and won awards in recognition of their track record on safety, training, management, and customer service.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6430/cheers-top-warwick-district-pubs-and-venues-celebrated-at-best-bar-none-awards-ceremony>



National Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (X and Facebook)

A series of free community roadshow events are being held in Warwickshire in June to mark national Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6429/warwickshire-marks-national-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-history-month-with-community-events>



Drowning Prevention Week 2025 (X and Facebook)

New data from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service has revealed that July sees the highest number of water-related incidents in Warwickshire.

Find out more about staying safe around open water:
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6426/drowning-prevention-week-2025-equipping-young-people-and-enhancing-water-safety>



Brighter nights at Victoria Park (X and Facebook)

Young skaters celebrate new lighting at Victoria Park skate park, Leamington Spa, installed after their determined approach to demonstrate the need to improve safety in the area.

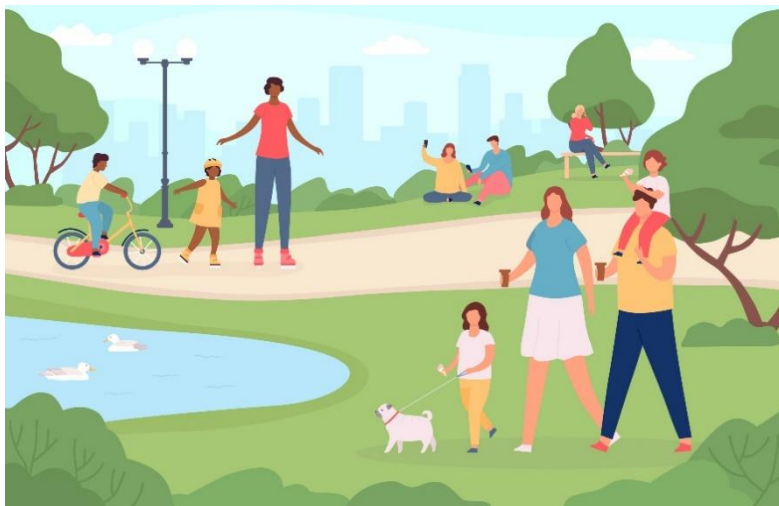
Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6424/brighter-nights-at-victoria-park-following-request-from-young-people>



Healthy and happy summer 2025 (X and Facebook)

Eating well and moving more benefits family members of all ages to maintain an active lifestyle and sustain good physical and mental health and we have plenty of places to explore and ideas and information to keep people on the right track.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6432/support-for-warwickshire-families-to-stay-healthy-and-happy-this-summer>



Help shape Autism support in Coventry and Warwickshire (X and Facebook)

People with experience of autism services in Coventry and Warwickshire are being asked to share their views.

Find out more and have your say:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6434/help-shape-the-future-of-autism-support-in-coventry-and-warwickshire->



Child Friendly Trail now open at Pooley Country Park (X and Facebook)

Families visiting Pooley Country Park this summer can enjoy a brand-new Child Friendly Trail – free to take part in and designed to help little adventurers explore the park in a fun and interactive way.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6435/new-child-friendly-trail-now-open-at-pooley-country-park>



Have your say on local transport services (X and Facebook)

Warwickshire County Council is calling on residents to have their say in the 2025 National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey, which began rolling out from 6 June 2025.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6436/warwickshire-resident-invited-to-have-their-say-on-local-transport-services>



Innovative drainage system introduced in Warwick (X and Facebook)

An innovative sustainable drainage system is being implemented as part of the A452 Myton/Queensway roundabouts improvement scheme.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6437/innovative-sustainable-drainage-system-introduced-in-warwick-to-help-prevent-future-flooding->



Solicitor recognised for significant contribution (X and Facebook)

Peter Endall, a Senior Solicitor at WCC has been recognised in the prestigious Lawyers in Local Government Awards 2025 for his dedication and expertise over 34 years in his role within the law sector.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6438/warwickshire-county-council-solicitor-recognised-for-significant-contribution-to-local-government>

