

County Councillor Report

Shotteswell Parish Council Meeting

8th January 2026

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service commend public hero

A quick-thinking member of the public has been formally recognised by Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service for a selfless act of bravery in Warwickshire.

Alex Capewell, who intervened in a serious road traffic collision on the M40 motorway earlier this year, was honoured with a Chief's Commendation Award this week at Leamington Fire Station for his heroic actions.

The incident occurred when a vehicle struck a barrier and immediately caught fire. Without hesitation, Mr Capewell, who witnessed the crash, stopped and rushed to the aid of the driver, managing to pull them from the wreckage just moments before the car was completely engulfed in flames. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7272/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-commend-public-hero-for-act-of-bravery-on-m40>

5,500 miles of Warwickshire's roads gritted over the weekend

Council's gritting teams covered distance equivalent to length of the Great Wall of China over the weekend

As temperatures dropped and hazardous driving conditions set in over the weekend, Warwickshire's gritting teams were hard at work to keep the county moving safely. Over the weekend alone, more than 5,500 miles – equivalent to the length of the Great Wall of China - of roads were treated.

This mirrored the work done over the Christmas holiday period. Operating from five depots across Warwickshire, the teams headed out 14 times from 23 December, covering a total of 15,400 miles to combat icy conditions.

Around 46% of Warwickshire's highway network, approximately 1,100 miles is treated whenever forecasts predict icy conditions. While it's not possible to grit every road, the county follows clear criteria:

- all main traffic routes, A roads, most B roads and one or two other strategic routes
- in urban areas, the accesses to hospitals and main industrial estates
- a single route into all villages is maintained.

Heavy snowfall is slightly different. Here, the policy is as follows:

- the roads receiving gritting will be cleared as soon as possible, starting in areas of the heaviest snowfall.
- strategic link routes will be made accessible across the network first
- highly used footpaths and cycleways will also be cleared.

The County Council has started bulk fill of all its grit bins across the County as many have been used during the recent period.

WCC'S final proposal for Local Government Reorganisation

Warwickshire County Council has submitted its final proposal for Local Government Reorganisation. The proposal sets out that a single unitary council for Warwickshire is the best way forward.

The proposal demonstrates that a single unitary authority would deliver at least £18.7 million in annual net benefits - three times more than a two-unitary model and could unlock up to £119 million in long-term transformation savings. This means more funding for vital frontline services like social care, housing and children's services. A single unitary council for Warwickshire provides a single, consistent vision for the county, helping us to deliver stronger communities, better services and real value for money. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7226/warwickshire-county-council-s-final-proposal-for-local-government-reorganisation>

Safeguarding adults

Warwickshire County Council has launched its latest episode of the Let's Talk Warwickshire podcast, raising awareness of the different types of abuse and neglect that adults may experience and where to find help.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7220/new-let-s-talk-warwickshire-podcast-episode-explores-safeguarding-adults-from-abuse-and-neglect>

SEND

Young people aged 14 or older with a learning disability are eligible for a free annual health check provided by the NHS? A health check presents an opportunity for you and your child to discuss any health or well-being concerns with a GP or nurse. It allows GPs to detect and treat potential health issues at an early stage.

Health and Care Services are here for you this winter

Health and care organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire have joined forces to launch a new winter wellbeing campaign. 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->

Chicken pox

From January 2026, the NHS will offer a free chickenpox vaccination as part of the new MMRV vaccine. Please note that the vaccination:

Gives highly effective protection against measles, mumps, rubella AND chickenpox. Will need two doses at 12 and 18 months

Is safe and effective and already part of the routine vaccine schedules in several countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia and Germany.

Warwickshire County Council is looking for more people to join its Voice of Warwickshire residents' panel

Warwickshire County Council is encouraging residents aged 18 and over to join its Voice of Warwickshire online panel.

The Voice of Warwickshire is a group of local people who play a vital role in helping the County Council understand the views, needs and priorities of those who live in Warwickshire.

Members of the panel are invited to take part in engagement activities on a wide range of topics – from libraries and greenspaces to Fire and Rescue and artificial intelligence. Feedback from the Voice of Warwickshire directly informs the council's planning, policies, and service delivery.

Those interested can register at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/vowrecruitment or by calling 01926 410410.

Become a Reablement Assistant

Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Social Care and Support service is offering an exciting opportunity to join the team as a Reablement Assistant. This role is perfect for individuals who enjoy working within local communities, meeting new people, and want to make a positive difference to people's lives.

<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>

Avian influenza confirmed by Defra in North Warwickshire

The UKHSA is now urging people visiting Kingsbury Water Park and surrounding area not to touch any sick or dead wild birds. Partners are working to manage the situation and protect public health and the risk to other birds.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7245/public-urged-not-to-touch-sick-or-dead-birds-as-avian-influenza-confirmed-by-defra-in-north-warwickshire>

Warwickshire secures almost £10 million for active travel

Warwickshire County Council is celebrating a major funding award that will accelerate the county's ambition to make walking, wheeling and cycling safer, easier and more appealing for residents of all ages. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7278/warwickshire-secures-almost-10-million-active-travel-funding-to-boost-walking-wheeling-and-cycling>

Wood burners

Wood-burning stoves and open fires are a great way to stay warm and cosy, but what you burn really matters. Always use seasoned. Avoid house coal and choose approved solid fuels for cleaner, more efficient burning. Never burn treated wood or household waste, as they release harmful toxins into your home. Keep your stove maintained and have your chimney swept regularly for a safe, healthy winter. For more information, please visit https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat09/1901291307_Ready_to_Burn_Web.pdf

Parking text scam

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>

Chris Mills

County Councillor

Shotteswell