

County Councillor Report

Shotteswell Parish Council Meeting 9th April 2026

Warwickshire County Council budget 2026/27

Warwickshire County Council met on Tuesday 17 February to conclude their budget negotiations. Warwickshire County Council has approved its budget for 2026/27, alongside the medium-term financial strategy for the next five years.

The budget includes a 4.4% increase in Council Tax, including the 2% adult social care precept. This is lower than the maximum permitted increase of 4.99%, reflecting the Council's wish to support residents with cost-of-living pressures. The medium-term financial strategy also sets out a programme of efficiency savings and investments to maintain the Council's strong focus on prevention to help reduce future demand on services.

For a Band D property, the overall increase in the Council Tax bill will amount to an additional £1.56 per week. Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7436/warwickshire-county-council-approves-2026-27-budget-to-protect-vital-services-and-support-residents>

Meningitis Cases in Kent and London

Cases of invasive meningococcal disease have been confirmed in Kent and London. It's important to know the signs of symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia. **What are the symptoms of meningitis?**

Early symptoms – such as vomiting, fever, aches, muscle pain, cold hands and feet and headaches – can look similar to common illnesses like colds or flu. But someone with meningitis or septicaemia will usually become seriously ill in a matter of hours. That's why it's crucial to keep checking on anyone who is unwell. Symptoms can appear in any order, and some may not happen at all. For meningitis, common signs and symptoms include:

Fever, a very bad headache (this alone is not a reason to get medical help)

Vomiting, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights, rash, confusion, delirium, severe sleepiness, losing consciousness and fits. Get more info by visiting:

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/31/what-is-meningitis-symptoms-risks-and-how-to-protect-yourself/>

Increased SEND provision for Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has approved additions to the Education Capital Programme 2025/26 to expand specialist resourced provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. At its meeting on Thursday 5 March, Cabinet agreed to allocate over

£320k from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation to establish new resourced provisions at three county primary schools and to increase places at an existing provision in Rugby. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7469/investment-approved-to-expand-specialist-provision-in-warwickshire-schools>

SEND Reform consultation

Government is consulting on proposed changes to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND, including: early, local and fair support, effectively grounded in evidence, and with shared accountabilities across local partners.

We are consulting on proposals to reform the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system.

The consultation document explains the changes we plan to make and asks for comments from everyone with an interest.

The changes aim to improve help and support for children and young people with SEND across the 0 to 25 years system.

We would like to hear from everyone who has an interest in the reforms including:

Children, young people and families, teachers and leaders.

Schools, trusts and early years and post-16 providers

Local authorities, experts and academic organisations

Representative groups. You can also respond to this consultation via email at SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk, or by post to:

SENDAP Reform, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT. Have your say: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/send-strategy-division/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-firs/>

Warwickshire Food Strategy update

A further step to combat food poverty in the county, increase availability of affordable food in priority areas and empower communities to improve their diets and health outcomes has been taken. The plan will continue to focus on three strategic priorities. Affordability will focus on helping residents facing food insecurity to access more affordable, healthier food options through social supermarkets, community food projects, and other initiatives. A second priority area will use events like Kind Community, Kind Food and volunteer food champions to work with members of the community most in need to educate them, provide resources and develop their skills and confidence in choosing and

preparing healthier food options. The third will promote locally sourced food and waste reduction by supporting suppliers in and around the county and influencing consumer behaviours. Discover more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7484/important-steps-to-combat-food-poverty-as-warwickshire-prepares-its-new-plan>

Share your views on WCC's future priorities

Have your say on Warwickshire County Council's draft Council Plan. Share your views on what's important to you to help shape the final version of the plan. Warwickshire County Council has set out its future objectives and priorities in a new draft Council Plan - **Recalibrating Warwickshire** - and is inviting residents, businesses and partners to share their views on what matters most to them. The Council is asking people across the county to take part in a survey, open until **Tuesday 14 April 2026**, to help shape the final version of the plan. Get involved: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7499/share-your-views-on-warwickshire-county-council-s-future-priorities>

Measles

Measles cases are rising in the West Midlands, and children under 10 years of age are most at risk. Over 99% of those who have two doses of the MMRV vaccine offer long-term protection against measles and rubella and chickenpox. Although mumps protection is slightly lower, cases in vaccinated people are much less severe. For more information, please visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/mmr-vaccination

Changing lives through the home for Ukraine scheme

For the past four years, communities across Warwickshire have quietly been transforming lives. Residents from the north to south of the county have opened their homes to families fleeing war in Ukraine - offering safety, stability and security. Read more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7497/warwickshire-residents-are-changing-lives-through-the-homes-for-ukraine-scheme>

Warwick Castle Unboxed

Discover untold stories from the Warwick Castle archive at this new exhibition at Market Hall Museum, Warwick. Warwick Castle Unboxed combines objects and documents to tell some fascinating stories. The exhibition opened on Friday 20 March: The culmination of a four-year project, this exhibition begins with Fulke Greville asking King James I for Warwick Castle, over 300 years ago.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7459/warwick-castle-unboxed-new-stories-from-an-old-castle>

Chris Mills - County Councillor - Shotteswell