

Warwickshire County Cllr March 25 Update.

*Cllr Penny-Anne O'Donnell*

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## **SWLP**

The deadline is fast approaching.

Cllr Parry and I held a SWLP drop in session, in Wellesbourne, which was well attended. Feedback is that the portal is tricky to navigate. It astounds me that a consultation of this size and with the potential impact of 11,700 houses on our village and surrounding area, is so time consuming and clunky to navigate.

We continued to suggest people email directly to **swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk**

I would urge anybody who is concerned regarding the SWLP to email before Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March deadline.

## **Local Government Reform**

There was a positive cross party and respectful meeting discussing the future of Warwickshire County Council.

We agreed on transparency and a revised recommendation outlined below:

The Labour Government, through the Devolution White Paper, has directed all two-tier Local Authority areas shall become Unitary Councils by 2028. Consultation will be undertaken by the Secretary of State through their department.

It is crucial that future Unitary Government is not remote from local communities and engagement with them is embedded within future structures.

The County of Warwickshire has a strong heritage and identity which should be preserved and strengthened for future generations.

The Council therefore:



1. Will develop a proposal to Government for unitary local government for Warwickshire which meets the guidance, criteria and time frames set out by Government.
2. Seeks to quickly establish clarity from Government regarding the model to be progressed to enable the best use of time and resource.
3. Commits to engage with Districts, Boroughs, Towns, Parishes and Communities in developing proposals, both existing and future emerging arrangements.
4. Recognises the importance of the boundary and the identity of the County of Warwickshire in any proposals and will work with regional partners.
5. Will continue to strive for the economic prosperity of the area even against adverse national headwinds.
6. Agrees to establish a cross-party working group to support this work.

Proposer: Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Seconder: Councillor Sarah Feeney

### **Child Friendly Warwickshire**

**The ongoing partnership between Child Friendly Warwickshire and the University of Warwick sees children and young people contribute to organising the upcoming Warwickshire youth conference.**

The Shaping Tomorrow Together Warwickshire youth conference embodies the spirit of community engagement, youth empowerment, and education. The event, on Friday 25 April, promises a welcoming and safe environment for young people to engage with local organisations and influence the future of Warwickshire. This is an opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and contribute to shaping their community. As spaces are limited, early booking is advised: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/shapingtomorrow](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/shapingtomorrow)



### **Teens and Young Adults career fair**

**Young people from across the county are invited to attend a free Careers Fair, focused on careers advice and the chance to discover new opportunities, at Stratford-upon-Avon Library.**

The free Careers Fair will be taking place on Friday 7 March, 6-8pm, and is suitable for young people aged 14+ years. It will be particularly relevant for those taking GCSEs, A-levels at Sixth form, or pursuing undergraduate studies.

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect directly with industry professionals and benefit from their expertise, gaining valuable career insights, and explore diverse employment pathways across the arts, sciences, education, and environmental sectors.

It will also bring together respected local organisations including Warwick University, Autin Dance, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Heartbreak Productions, Warwickshire County Parks, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, and many more.

This is a drop-in event and booking is not essential. However, young people can reserve a free place and find out more by visiting the [Warwickshire Libraries Careers Fair Eventbrite webpage](#).

**In my role as Chair of Children and Young Persons Board I attended a South Warwickshire Place workshop at SDC. We focused on health determinates and rurality was one which featured heavily. I will feedback as these outcomes develop**

### **Home composting workshops**

**With the weather improving more of us are spending time in the garden.**

Warwickshire County Council is helping residents to start composting at home, with the offer of purchasing a 220 litre compost bin for just £8, a 330 litre compost bin for just £20 or a Green Johanna for just £30 for households attending a home composting workshop (one compost bin per Warwickshire household).

### **What to pack and grab....**

The Warwickshire resilience forum are advising us how to prepare emergency bags.

Emergency grab bags...

What would you grab for your pet in an emergency:

Consider creating a basic grab bag for pets with the following items:



- Pet food and treats
- Can opener for canned food
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers so you can move your pets safely and they can't escape
- The name of your veterinarian (written)
- Drinkable water in plastic bottles
- Up-to-date photos of your pet in case they get lost
- Pet medications and medical records in a waterproof container
- Identification tag and collar

### **VE Day memories**

**Residents who remember Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) on 8 May 1945 are being invited to share their memories towards an important community history project.**

Delivered by Warwickshire County Council's libraries service, the project will collect and preserve local memories from across the county of this pivotal moment in British history.

The history project aims to capture the personal stories and experiences of residents from across Warwickshire who remember either VE Day itself, or who have had stories passed down through their families about life on the Home Front during World War II and the subsequent VE Day celebrations.

As the nation approaches the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May 2025, residents can share their memories by either scanning the QR code available at their local library or requesting a paper form from library staff.

The project welcomes contributions from:

- Those with direct memories of VE Day
- Families who have inherited stories from parents or grandparents
- Anyone with photographs, letters, or memorabilia from the period
- Local history enthusiasts with knowledge of how their town or village marked the occasion

[All Warwickshire libraries](#) are participating in this initiative, making it easy for residents from across the county to share their stories.



The collected memories will be preserved in Warwickshire's local history archives, creating a lasting legacy of how the county celebrated one of the most significant days in British history. With permission, they may also feature in future exhibitions and educational resources to continue to educate future generations in Warwickshire about this important moment in history.

The End