

Lighthorne Parish Council 14th January 2020
County Councillor's Report

1. General

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing the Parish Council a Happy New Year and apologise for not being with you tonight. For my part, I trust that my health will be much improved than over the last two months some of which was spent in Intensive Care in Warwick Hospital. As far as activities within the county are concerned my illness coincided with a period of purdah cause by the General Election. No major decisions were taken during this period and hopefully the new year will bring better benefits to everyone.

2. Finance

The County will set the budget for the coming year on 18th February 2020. As you can imagine the various departments are all submitting their fiscal requirements and although our finances and reserves are healthy there are issues including Adult Social Care which will have to be tackled. Originally, the government was going to issue a Green Paper on this matter but due to Brexit pressures this has not yet materialised. Although yet to be decided, I suspect that the budget will incorporate a 2% allowance for social care costs in addition to a budget increase of 2% will be proposed keeping it in line with last year.

3. Highways

Warwickshire County Council has been named as the UK's Top Performing Council for Highway Maintenance in National Highways for the second year in a row. Warwickshire was among 111 Highway Authorities, including 28 County Councils, which took part in an independent survey which looks at satisfaction with Highway services. Warwickshire came out top for Public Satisfaction amongst County Councils for Highway Maintenance dealing with potholes and undertaking cold weather gritting. The Council also ranked amongst the best in other areas including condition of pavements, speed of repair to damaged roads, keeping drains clear and speed of repair to streetlights. We are grateful to Patch Byrne for looking after us so well.

4. Grants

Funding opportunities: WCC has made funds available to community and voluntary sector groups under the countywide health and wellbeing grants programme. South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group has also provided additional funds for projects in South Warwickshire. Groups can bid for funding from £5,000 to a maximum of £10,000 per initiative. Projects must be delivered in Warwickshire and need to address various health and wellbeing criteria. The online application closes at 12 noon on Monday 3rd February 2020. Please get in touch with me for further information.

5. Administration

We are currently being plagued by itinerant travellers so if you are troubled by unauthorised camping please contact Warwickshire Police in the first instance and then advise the Gypsy and Travellers' Team on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/travellerunauthorisedsites. In case you have not been aware there have been around ten caravans parked in the layby on the A423 at the county boundary near Farnborough having previously been moved on from Gaydon.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division
12.01.2020