

County Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council 14th June 2022

Unexpected costs

Sudden unexpected costs can create real challenges for people experiencing financial hardship. If this is you or anyone you know, help is available.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme

If you are self-isolating or at higher risk to COVID-19, you can access help from the council and partners.

For practical and wellbeing support go call the hotline 0800 408 1447 or go to

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirusvulnerable

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme supports the most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help.

The scheme provides basic and essential help for food and energy in the form of emergency food parcels or credit for energy. Call 0800 408 1448.

If you're finding it hard to feed your family help and advice is online at

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/foodsupport and

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/foodbanks

Act on Energy

For people struggling to afford heating bills, Act on Energy provides free advice on energy efficiency and grants and projects available in your area to help keep you warm this winter. Find out more at <https://actonenergy.org.uk/>

You can help others in your community by donating food via supermarket collection points or clothes and toys to charity shops.

Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme

Between October 2021 and March 2022 Warwickshire's Local Welfare Scheme distributed £3.4 million from the government's Household Support Fund to vulnerable families and individuals to help with the cost of food, energy, water bills and other essentials as the country continued its recovery from the pandemic.

The Household Support Fund will be extended to cover the period up to 30 September 2022. Warwickshire County Council will receive £3.4 million based on an Index of Multiple Deprivation formula to "support those most in need as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic".

Warwickshire's Household Support Fund Grant

Warwickshire County Council will continue to distribute Warwickshire's Household Support Fund grant allocation through the

Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme building on the success of previous rounds.

The scheme is open to all vulnerable residents in Warwickshire who are struggling financially through an application process. To apply residents should contact the Local Welfare Scheme directly on 0800 4081448. For information, please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

For additional information please go to:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils>

(Government guidance on the Household Support Fund)

£30 million to support the most financially vulnerable customers

Severn Trent Water announced the launch of a £30 million support fund as part of a commitment to supporting their customers who are feeling the increasing cost-of-living the most. Severn Trent are the first water company in the UK to offer support on this scale, with a pledge to support an extra **100,000** customers on low incomes who are struggling to pay their water bill. Those eligible will see a reduction in their water bill of up to **90%**.

Severn Trent Trust Fund – Customers who are unable to meet the cost of water charges and who live in the Severn Trent area can apply for help directly and to organisations that work in the area of debt advice. The register helps identify customers with medical conditions, disability or restricted mobility, sight or hearing loss and those who would appreciate receiving their bills in a different format. Please see the link for BDS portal: <https://bigdiff.co.uk/login.php>

Monkeypox

Report from Dr Shade Agboola Director of Public Health

Background Information

Monkeypox is a virus which is in the same family as the cowpox and smallpox viruses. Smallpox was eradicated worldwide in 1980. The virus is thought to be spread by rodents (main reservoir for transmission to humans) squirrels, prairie dogs and monkeys, but human-to-human transmission can occur and is usually via close contact.

Monkeypox causes a rash similar to smallpox, the time between being infected and developing infection is between 5 and 21 days.

In terms of the severity of the disease, it is worse than chickenpox and not as severe as Smallpox.

Initial symptoms include fever, headache, swollen glands, and aching muscles. This is followed by a characteristic rash commonly on the face initially, then moving to other areas of the body, including palms and soles of the feet. This rash forms as scab which later falls off. The infection usually lasts 14-21 days and clears up on its own.

At the time of this report, there currently are no cases in the West Midlands.

Further information about Monkeypox:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/monkeypox>

Updates on cases of Monkeypox in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/monkeypox-cases-confirmed-in-england-latest-updates>

Information for the public about Monkeypox and advice on contacting health service:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/monkeypox/>

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Kineton and Red Horse