

## **County Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council 13th December 2022**

### **Household Support Fund**

Warwickshire's latest portion of the Government's Household Support Fund has been allocated to help residents struggling with the cost of living.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3535/council-shares-funding-for-warwickshire-residents-in-need-of-cost-of-living-support>

### **Rising cost of living stress**

Help is available to Warwickshire residents who are feeling stressed due to money worries and the rising cost of living.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3533/support-for-those-experiencing-stress-due-to-the-rising-costs-of-living>

### **Warwickshire County Council's Cost of Living Grant**

Warwickshire County Council has launched a grant fund worth £180,000 that will support voluntary and community groups across the county to establish projects that address cost of living pressures.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3591/new-cost-of-living-grant-offers-financial-support-to-voluntary-and-community-groups>

***The deadline for all applications is 5 pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022.***

### **Help for Warwickshire residents struggling to pay utility bills**

In recognition that an unexpected increase in costs can create real challenges for our residents who are experiencing financial hardship, a county wide utilities voucher campaign has been launched.

Short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment will be available to help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis.

Families and households in Warwickshire can apply whether they use pre-payment meters, pay by direct debit or on receipt of a bill. Residents are invited to contact the Local Welfare Scheme team for a confidential discussion about their situation. All applications for the payment must be made **by 16 December 2022**. Anyone entitled to benefits eligible free school meals has already received this support.

Vulnerable residents in Warwickshire who are struggling financially can apply for support by contacting the Local Welfare Scheme directly on 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182. For further information please visit:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

### **I need support now**

If you are feeling overwhelmed by the rising costs of living and need advice on what you can do now to get the support you need, visit the “I need support now” page on the Warwickshire Cost of Living website. You’ll find advice on how to pay for your food, energy and water, how to get money advice, how to manage aspects of family life, how to access emergency food and what to do if your mental health has been affected.

Find help here: <https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/i-need-urgent-help>

### **Scarlet Fever Update**

The latest data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that scarlet fever cases continue to remain higher than we would typically see at this time of year.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3610/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

### **Loneliness at Christmas**

Loneliness and social isolation affect around nine million people in the UK and contributes to a range of physical and mental health conditions. Walking, finding ways to communicate with others, befriending services and keeping a healthy daily routine can help. For support, visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/loneliness](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/loneliness)

Best wishes for Christmas.

Chris Mills. Kineton and Red Horse



**HAVE  
AN  
ECO-FRIENDLY  
CHRISTMAS**