

County Councillor report Lighthorne Parish Council 14th February 2023

Household Support Fund

The objective of the Household Support Fund grant is to support those most in need of financial support this winter with food, energy and water bills, as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic. The grant runs from 01 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 and Warwickshire has been allocated £3.47 million, which is being distributed through the existing Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme.

In February the Household Support Fund will roll out cost of living vouchers automatically to those families accessing free school meals, and in March we'll launch a utilities voucher campaign, inviting applications from residents.

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

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

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

County Council Budget 2023/24

Warwickshire County Council has confirmed investment into services for the County's most vulnerable as it agreed its financial approach to support the delivery of the Council's priorities.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3791/county-council-budget-delivers-on-investment-and-support>

Cost of Living Grant

The Cost-of-Living grant fund worth £180,000 in total has been set aside to support activities delivered by community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations or Town/Parish Councils. The fund was initially launched in November 2022, and has now reopened for a second application window. Applications for Warm Hub projects are now being accepted.

Groups are invited to apply for funding of up to £1,000 to support projects or initiatives that focus on one or more of the following criteria:

Food and other household essentials

Improving community assets and their sustainability. Improving access to services. Improving financial capability. Improving mental wellbeing.

Tackling social inequalities.

Applications are now open with the deadline of **Sunday 26 February at 5pm**. Interested groups can apply via the [Cost-of-Living Grant website](#).

Further information on support available to manage the increased household costs can be found on our Cost-of-Living microsite:

[Warwickshire Cost-of-Living website](#)

Mental Health Support from Kooth

Children and young people in Warwickshire can find support at <http://Kooth.com> - a free, safe and anonymous online community for mental health and wellbeing.



Dear Life – Suicide awareness and prevention

If you, or someone you know, is having thoughts of suicide or significant self-harm, help and support is available now. Visit <http://dearlife.org.uk> where you will find details for crisis support.



Visit dearlife.org.uk to find support, or ring 0800 616 171 - a 24/7 free confidential helpline

If there is immediate risk to life, call 999.



Coronation Events

Thinking about holding an event to celebrate our new King on the Coronation weekend this May? The National Lottery is giving up to £10,000 for events and activities.

Thinking about applying, you need to hurry as the process can take 12 weeks.

Visit: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/under10k>



Chris Mills
County Councillor
Kineton and Red Horse