

Fenny Compton Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting Of Fenny Compton Parish Council Held at Fenny Compton Village Hall, Fenny Compton on Monday 16th September 2024 At 7.45pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Jon Dutton in the Chair, Samantha Parkes, David Johnson, Martin Birch and Roly Whear

IN ATTENDANCE: Parish Clerk Lydia Cox and District Councillor Natalie Gist

2024_09_01: Apologies

Apologies received from Parish Councillor Emma Briscoe and County Councillor Christopher Kettle, and were **accepted**

2024_09_02: Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15th July 2024 (already circulated) were considered and the minutes were **agreed** (Proposed by Councillor Birch and seconded by Councillor Johnson)

2024_09_03: Declarations of Interest

Councillor Whear declared an interest in Aqueous and therefore any flooding discussions

Councillor Johnson declared an interest in any discussion regarding the Bowls Club

2024_09_04: Requests for Dispensation

None received

2024_09_05: Open Forum

One resident was in attendance to discuss a potential planning application on their house. Chair responded that the Parish council cannot give planning advice, or pre judge any planning applications. However, suggested that reviewing the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Village Design Statement would be a good starting point.

The resident also noted that the paved path through the Bear and Ragged Staff green was becoming dangerous. Clerk to look into who is responsible for the path and will ensure it is made good

Alan Payne was also in attendance to discuss the refurbishment of the Bowls Pavilion. He has met with Henley Garden Buildings and an initial quote for a replacement building is £76,000, plus £15,000 to demolish the old. The current concrete slab can be reused. It was agreed that a working group should be set up with representatives from the bowls club and parish council. Councillors Johnson, Parkes and Whear volunteered to be part of the group. Alan will lead on setting up meetings

5 fence posts around the bowling green will need to be replaced at a cost of £116.00

[Resolution under the Local Government Act 1972 \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976 s. 19, power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives](#)

2024_09_06: Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- (i) Upper Lighthorne Primary Healthcare: No update
- (ii) Chicane on Dog Lane: Resident who originally raised has been in touch. Gate needs to be able to open both ways. Councillor Whear will look into options
- (iii) Noticeboards: Councillor Whear has refurbished the noticeboard that we received from the Canal & River Trust. It has new locks and plastic front.

Councillors **agreed** to remove the old noticeboard and concrete footings, concrete in the new board and make good the slabs underneath. Clerk to get three quotes

Clerk to organise getting two more noticeboards to replace the others in the village

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Resolution under the Localism Act 2011, ss 1–8, general powers of competence

Clerk was also contacted regarding a noticeboard within the Compton Locks development. Clerk has contacted Orbit as this was originally agreed with them

2024_09_07: District Councillor and County Councillor Reports

Councillors Gist submitted a report which can be found in Appendix C

Councillor Kettle submitted a report which can be found in Appendix D

2024_09_08: Correspondence

The following correspondence was received prior to the meeting:

(i) Residents correspondence

- Burial ground enquiry – Can the spouse of a Fenny resident be buried in the burial ground even if they don't live in the village

Councillors had no issues with this

Resolution under the Local Government Act 1972,s.214, power to provide burial grounds

- Fieldgate Lane Wildflower Meadow – Enquiry as to public consultation on this

Chair responded with the timeline of consultation from a few years ago and that wildflower plugs will be planted in the next month to improve the area

(ii) Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system

- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is currently consulting on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- The proposals include changes to the 'standard method' for assessing housing requirements. The proposed method involves setting baselines based on existing housing stock levels. This baseline would then be increased in proportion to data on price pressures. In the proposed model greater weighting is given to affordability than previous versions. The proposals also include the removal of the 35% 'urban uplift' which increased targets for Local Planning Authorities with the highest populations.
- The impact of the proposed approach would be to significantly increase the number of dwellings required per year in South Warwickshire. The proposed standard method would require 1,098 dwellings in Stratford-on-Avon District and 1,080 dwellings in Warwick District – a total housing need figure of 2,178 dwellings per year.
- The proposed revisions to the NPPF will require Local Planning Authorities to review their Green Belt boundaries if they cannot meet their housing, commercial or other development needs outside of the Green Belt. The revisions to the NPPF also propose the introduction of a new category of land to be known as 'Grey Belt'. This category will cover previously developed land in the Green Belt and other areas of land that makes 'limited contribution' to the Green Belt. The purpose of this is to identify land within the current Green Belt which has high sustainable development potential.
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council will be submitting a joint response to the consultation with Warwick District Council. We will share this with you in due course but please note that this will be after the consultation closes. If you wish to submit comments you can do so via the gov.uk website. The consultation closes at 11.45pm on Tuesday 24 September 2024

(iii) Parish Council Forums

Signed _____ Chair October 2024

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- (iv) Southam SNT Parish Quarterly Meeting at Galanos House
- Southam SNT have introduced quarterly Police/council meetings to eliminate the frustrations of not being able to attend parish council meetings
 - The dates for the remainder of 2024 meetings will be as follows:
 - i. Saturday 17th August – 10am – Galanos House Café meeting room
 - ii. Saturday 2nd November – 10am – Galanos House Café meeting room

2024_09_09: Planning

- (i) No applications have been received for consideration since the last meeting
- (ii) No decisions have been received since the last meeting
- (iii) Consultation regarding Station Road and Wharf Road – Reduction in National Speed Limit (60mph) to 40 mph
- (iv) Compton Locks
- a. Station Road footpath : Outline planning decision states that ‘no part of the development hereby permitted shall be occupied until the footpath from the approved access heading west to the 30mph sign, as shown in drawing SCP/14501/D01 has been improved and widened’
- Clerk to contact Councillor Kettle for an update and request a copy of the section 278 agreement
- b. Chair asked whether the SDC planning team hold a register of all the conditions that apply to the site and their status? Councillor Gist to follow up

2024_09_10: Financial Administration

- (i) Councillors **approved** the following payments (Proposed by Councillor Whear and seconded by Councillor Birch):

SEP_24_1_SO	Lydia Cox (Sep Salary and expenses)	(415.20)
SEP_24_2_SO	SDC (Sep Pension Contribution)	(116.43)
SEP_24_3_DD	Yu Energy (Street Lighting)	✓ (196.60)
SEP_24_4	Michael Mann (Village grass cut)	✓ (396.00)
SEP_24_5	Michael Mann (Playing field cut)	(408.00)
SEP_24_6	WaterPlus (Sports pavilion water)	(105.25)
SEP_24_7	Moore (External audit fees)	(252.00)
SEP_24_8	Reimburse Emma Wilkinson for wildflower plugs	(102.90)

Current Account

(1,992.38)

- (ii) Councillors noted the bank balances and bank reconciliations (Appendix A & B) and agreed them
- (iii) Financial updates that were agreed by councillors during the summer break:
- a. Michael Mann undertook work along the pathway between Berry Meadow and The Readings to cut back foliage that was impeding the streetlights. This was at a cost of £190.00.
- b. The parish council also had confirmation that the grassed area to the left of Berry Meadow was our responsibility to cut and so the contract with Michael Mann was extended to cover this. (An additional £45.00 per mow)

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- c. After discussion with Stratford DC, it has been agreed to transfer the responsibility of mowing the electrical sub-station area to the Parish Council. We will be reimbursed by SDC for this. Michael Mann has quoted £30.00 per mow, four times a year
- (iv) External Audit is now complete and relevant documentation added to the website
- (v) Colts Licence Agreement – Councillors discussed the first draft of the agreement between the football club and parish council for the use of the new building. Clerk to action changes and then send to Colts committee for discussion and approval

[Resolution under the Local Government Act 1972 \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976 s. 19, power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives](#)

2024_09_11: Updates

- (i) Report from Sports Field Upgrade Sub-Committee –
Sports Pavilion – Build is complete. Clerk is waiting for quotes on a new electricity supplier and new connection. Groundworkers are due back at the end of the month to landscape the area around the building and plant grass seed. Clerk to organise for old bench and gang mower to be removed
Car park – Clerk to seek quotes for relaying the car park and fencing around it
Play area – Build is complete, waiting for final safety inspection sign off. Between meetings it was agreed to spend an additional £2,000 on extending the wet pour area over the old concrete and to enable the picnic benches to move to another location. This would result in savings from the paintwork that was going to be put on the concrete area. The only outstanding item is where to plant the six trees included within the plan. Councillor Birch to suggest
Shipping Container – Colts football club have received four quotes for 20-foot used containers. Councillors reviewed and agreed to fund a used container from S Jones. This would include delivery, lock and repaint, to be in-keeping with the area. Total cost of £2,600
[Resolution under the Local Government Act 1972 \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976 s. 19, power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives](#)
- (ii) Flood Prevention – Compton Locks: Councillor Whear will email photos to WCC that show ditch and hedgerow hasn't been cleared yet
Ridgeway - Pumping station that was installed doesn't meet any of the minimum standards required for Severn Trent to adopt it, therefore the adoption of the road won't happen. WCC work continues to install the drain
- (iii) Trees – Branches overhanging footpath - Berry Meadow/ Fieldgate Lane/ Meadow Way. Clerk to contact Andrew Saunders
- (iv) Highways – Overgrown hedgerow on Station Road – Clerk to report
Crack along footpath on Fieldgate Lane – Clerk to report

2024_09_12: Items to Publicise

- (i) Play area completion
- (ii) Sports pavilion completion

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2024_09_13: Future Discussion

Budget

2024_09_14: Date of next meeting

The next meeting is the Ordinary Meeting scheduled for Monday 21st October 2024

MEETING CLOSED 21.40

Appendix A

August Financial Administration

Balances: (See attached bank reconciliation)

£

Traffic Management	2,135.82
Flood Relief Grant	1,592.26
Play Area Upgrade	111,821.40
Allotments	750.00
Defibrillator	885.94
Cotters Croft	2,549.58

Allocated Reserves **119,735.00**

PC Balance - Budgeted expenses remaining **14,845.26**

Unallocated Reserves **20,518.58**

Total **155,098.84**

Within the following accounts:

Current Account	122,279.15
Deposit Account 1	5,567.92
Deposit Account 2	7,054.29
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,192.48

Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation) **155,098.84**

Less Payments (See agenda item 10)

SEP_24_1_SO	Lydia Cox (Sep Salary and expenses)	(415.20)
SEP_24_2_SO	SDC (Sep Pension Contribution)	(116.43)
SEP_24_3_DD	Yu Energy (Street Lighting)	(196.60)
SEP_24_4	Michael Mann (Village grass cut)	(396.00)
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SEP_24_6	WaterPlus (Sports pavilion water)	(105.25)
SEP_24_7	Moore (External audit fees)	(252.00)
SEP_24_8	Reimburse Emma Wilkinson for wildflower plugs	(102.90)

Current Account **(1,992.38)**

Total Balances carried forward **153,106.46**

Signed _____ Chair October 2024

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Appendix B

August Bank Reconciliation

Bank Balances	£
Current Account	122,279.15
Deposit Account 1	5,567.92
Deposit Account 2	7,054.29
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,192.48
Total Bank	<u>155,098.84</u>
Cash Book Balance b/f	175,972.37
Less payments between meetings:	
AUG_24_1_SO Lydia Cox (Aug salary)	✓ (415.20)
AUG_24_2_SO SDC (Aug pension)	✓ (116.43)
AUG_24_3_DD Yu Energy (Streetlighting)	✓ (193.81)
AUG_24_4 & 6 Andrew Saunders (Tree works)	(480.00)
AUG_24_5 & 7 & 8 Michael Mann (Grass cutting and maintenance)	(1,910.40)
AUG_24_9 Henley Garden Buildings (Sports pavilion)	(10,502.00)
AUG_24_10-14 & 16-17 Sports Pavilion contractors	(15,220.00)
AUG_24_15 Zurich (Insurance)	(154.10)
Add receipts since last meeting:	
VAT Reclaim	8,041.89
Bank Interest	76.52
Total Cash Book	<u>155,098.84</u>

Appendix C – District Councillor Report

General Election - The election on 4 July covered two constituencies in Stratford District. For us here, election registration and polling station organisation was run by Stratford District, while the Election itself was run from Warwick District Council, causing some minor confusion as postal voting letters were labelled Warwick District Council.

For our area in the Kenilworth and Southam Constituency the election has resulted in the retention of Jeremy Wright as Conservative MP, while in the Stratford Constituency part of the District there is a new Liberal Democrat MP, Manuela Perteghella. Manuela is the first female MP Warwickshire has ever had and as a serving Stratford District Councillor is fully familiar with local issues. We wish both MPs well in serving our communities. Your District Councillors have good personal relationships with both MPs and we hope we can continue to represent residents fully at all levels.

Stratford on Avon District Council Climate Assembly - Thank you to everyone who attended the Climate Assembly on 5 September. The event was open to members of the public who were invited to come and speak to officers, councillors and partner agencies. The aim was to showcase the work done by the Council and partners to tackle climate change in the District since the climate emergency was declared in 2019.

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A range of agencies and businesses attended with information and stalls to discuss their sustainable goals and practices. These included: Act on Energy, Warwickshire County Council, Shipston Area Flood Action Group, Heart of England Forest, Coventry City Council, Net Zero Stratford and Stratford Climate Action.

The event proved to be very popular and there are plans to build on the success and for the event to take place again next year.

Annual Canvass - The annual canvass allows Stratford-on-Avon District Council to keep the electoral register up to date, to identify who risks losing their voice at elections, and to encourage residents to register before it's too late. Residents may be contacted by post or by email.

If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in any messages SDC sends. If you want to register, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Recent home movers in particular are urged to check their details. Electoral Commission research has found that recent home movers are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. Residents with questions about their registration status can contact their local council's electoral services team at elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Community Safety

Domestic Abuse - Stratford-on-Avon District Council is supporting Warwickshire County Council in looking for experiences of survivors of Domestic Abuse to help inform local services and support.

If you've experienced domestic abuse, or you know someone who has - please help Warwickshire to better understand why people find it hard to reach out for support. This can be done by:

- Visiting www.talk2someone.org.uk
- Emailing VAWG@warwickshire.gov.uk

Cllr Natalie Gist, Portfolio Holder for Law & Governance says: " Domestic Abuse in all its forms is more common than many of us could imagine. The suffering and trauma endured by victims continues long after any abuse ceases. There are many statutory services and support services in Warwickshire. Nevertheless, we very much appreciate the help and experience of those who have survived domestic abuse, whether reported or not. It is essential that the lived-experience of survivors is the heart of improving local support and helps us to break down any barriers to that support that may exist."

If you are a victim of domestic violence or know someone who is, you can telephone the Refuge helpline on 0800 4081552 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 8.30pm). A voicemail operates on this number. If you leave a message, please do let them know your name, number and a safe time to call and they will get back to you. Or you can email Refuge at DVS@refuge.org.uk. In an emergency always call 999.

World Suicide Prevention Day - Tuesday 10 September 2024 saw World Suicide Prevention Day. The theme this year was changing the narrative on suicide, with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of reducing the stigma around mental health and encouraging conversations to help to prevent suicides. Below is attached a list of charities who are available to help – for everyone and whether you feel that the help is for you or you are supporting a loved one.

Police and Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan - The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is consulting on the new Warwickshire Police and Crime Plan 2025-9, which was launched on Thursday 12 September 2024. Cllr Natalie Gist was in attendance representing Stratford District Council. All members of the public and organisations are encouraged to comment on the consultation, which runs until October. If you would like more information about the project, please contact warks@tonic.org.uk

The Skills Escalator Fund - Stratford-on-Avon District Council is working in partnership with Warwickshire Skills Hub to launch The Skills Escalator Fund. If you are a small/medium sized business, self-employed, or a voluntary or charitable enterprise, you can apply for up to £750 training support per person for up to 5 employees.

The training which will be funded by the Skills Escalator Fund is led by you and the needs of your business. If you

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need support in developing a training plan, Warwickshire Skills Hubs team of Business skills advisors are on hand to shape a tailored training plan to reflect your business and employee's aspirations.

The program is available to businesses base in Nuneaton and Bedworth, Rugby, Warwick and Stratford post code areas (with up to 249 employees) who are seeking to invest in their employee's progression by supporting them to undertake further training which contributes to the needs of the business.

To find out more information and download the application form please follow this link: Skills Escalator Fund - Upskill Your Business | Stratford-on-Avon District Council. Alternatively go to the District Council's website and type 'Skills Escalator' into the search box and follow the link. Or please contact skillshub@warwickshire.gov.uk

Planning Announcement from Government - Whilst revisions to the planning system were expected from the new government it is too early to say what this means for us. There are hints that some aspects will be positive, some less so. Positively, we have a local plan (some Authorities do not); we are well on track down the complicated process of producing a new local plan (at a stage called reg 18); we have provided big housing numbers over recent years; and statements about the right type of housing in step with infrastructure are welcome. More concerning is: top-down compulsory targets for housing numbers; a statement indicating that we just might have to waste much time and effort a restart our new local plan (we need to be at Reg 19 stage); plus, a concern that we might have to absorb even more homes from Coventry overspill. These proposals have been published in a revision to the National Planning Policy Framework which was put out for consultation on 30 July and closes on 24 September.

HS2 - Nigel has attended meetings with Construction Commissioner, Sir Mark Worthington, the County Ecology and HS2 contractors, none of which offered much comfort. Projected road closures around Priors Hardwick, Wormleighton and on the Southam to Banbury Road are concerning. Your Councillors continue to query the reasoning and validity to these.

Cllr Natalie Gist
Natalie.Gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Cllr Nigel Rock
nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Appendix D – County Councillor Report

Division issues

Local roads – flood reduction - I have continued to spend some time investigating gulley cleaning and jetting on behalf of a number of parishes. Please let me know of any gulleys that clearly look as though they have been missed In Fenny Compton there are 267 gulleys, spread over the 25 streets in the village which are either cleaned every other year, bi-annually., 243 or twice yearly, 24. The biannual gulleys have not been cleaned this year. The twice-yearly gulleys were cleaned in May 24. 62 Of the biannual gulleys were cleaned in July.

Gulley cleaning also identifies where drains are blocked as opposed to the gulleys needing to be emptied. A separate jetting team, when blockages are identified, are tasked with clearing blockages within underground drainage pipes. I am also working with the Flood Risk Management team to reduce flooding areas across the Division.

TROs - I have been pushing for the TRO past Compton Locks to be speeded up. The officer concerned has emailed me to say that the mandatory 21-day consultation period for this speed limit scheme began on Friday (30th August). As with all TROs, it will be published in the local press and notices placed around the proposed location.

He is unable to advise on the replacement footpath from the site to the main village and I am looking as to who to chase about the planning obligation for this work to be completed.

The roofing work at the cross roads on Hight Street by the Merrie Lion required traffic management. Due to its proximity to the school, WCC initially wanted the lights to be manned during school pick up and drop offs.

I have managed on behalf of the builder, Mr Finch, and the property owner to remove this requirement subject to the automatic lights working effectively and not causing unacceptable tail backs.

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TRO Bush Heath Road Harbury - This scheme, paid for by Harbury Parish was to introduce a new 40 mph traffic regulation order along the outskirts of Harbury and is finally being implemented this month. The defined area for the TRO, including the replacement of exiting TRO adjacent to Bush Heath Road. If the parish is minded to introduce TROs the Harbury case demonstrates that, if funded by the Parish, the County is prepared to consider implementing such schemes.

Waste deliveries to the former Avon Dassett quarry - I continue to chase WCC planning enforcement about the activities on this site. I have been informed that WCC and now liaising with the Environment Agency as to what action can and should be taken.

HS2 - HS2 continues to take up a significant amount of time with a continuing feed of new or changing impacts on the Road and Footpath networks.

Cllr Andy Crump and I have met with Highways officers to address the speed limits on the A425 between the polo ground and Southam. This site is not active yet but when operational will see significant vehicle movements, hence the need for the speed reduction.

I have finally had feedback on ragwort clearance which has been a significant problem to equestrian properties close to Bascot.

"BBV has been inspecting our Long Itchington site on a regular basis from early 2024 and where a Ragwort risk area has been identified have implemented measure to treat and remove ragwort using a range of methods. This included a selective herbicide treatment in April and May followed by ongoing maintenance of their stockpiles.

The site is assessed and monitored periodically, and ragwort growth is addressed in line with the DEFRA Guidelines. For areas that have been assessed within the proximity of forage or grazing pastures around the Grand Union Canal, an herbicide was also applied in July, prior to the seed head developing on plants at this location. This was implemented to kill the root of the plants. BBV continues to review, utilise and adapt methods ranging from hand pulling plants to the use of robotic mowers aligned to risk and access and health and safety considerations.

Continuous improvement measures for this season and into 2025 continue to be investigated including additional new machinery to manage ragwort. BBV's teams meet regularly and coordinate between their Ecologists, Environmental Managers and Agricultural Liaison Officers to review and learn outcomes to assist developing proactive measures for 2025.

Furthermore, in light of the concerns raised from key stakeholders, HS2 have requested evidence of the implementation of the contractors processes for managing Injurious weeds and taking action in areas where further mitigation is required. I'm aware that EKFB and BBV have a dedicated team of operatives who manage vegetation within each sector. These teams have been undertaking regular mitigation of Ragwort throughout the spring/summer period and are continuing to do so. High risk areas are identified by the Agricultural Liaison Officers and mitigated by the maintenance teams. Due to the size and scale of land in possession by HS2 this remains an ongoing task."

The track south of the Itchen viaduct is being built by EKFB. The councillor liaison officer Simon Davies has now left EKFB leaving, regrettably, a number of unanswered questions about EKFB's work program.

I have now met his successor, who along with the senior liaison manager for Warwickshire have postponed the removal of a hedgerow and trees remote from roads or the HS2 track itself. I meet with them in August to discuss the road closures around Southam and Wormleighton.

There are proposals to close the B4451 for a two-month period to allow the new road over the bridge to be tied in to the existing road. This was originally proposed as a number of weekend night closures. When the B4451 work is completed, EKFB will be proposing similar closures on the A423, again for some two months.

This regrettably may potentially have an impact on traffic flows through Fenny Compton.

The works between Wormleighton, Priors Hardwick and Lower Boddington remains significantly behind the proposed timetable started in July 23 with the closure of the Wormleighton Road scheduled for late autumn 23 still to commence. The Construction Commissioner is aware and will be considering how best to address this issue.

The main delay has been on the new bridge near Lower Boddington for which the barriers have yet to be designed and delivered.

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Once these barriers are put in place, there is now a new proposal to build a link road across the track, in addition to the other works, but this will require an additional all-round four-month road closure, separate to the 24-month closure of Stoneton Lane. This is not helpful news.

I have just been updated on the Ufton Village Gateway. Delivery of the scheme by WCC is planned in the next couple of months, dependent on the capacity of the delivery team and contractors. It is funded from a HS2 Road Safety Fund allocation. See attached email.

Return to school – I have had a number of requests for help with eligibility for school transport. If anyone is aware of families having problems, please contact me.

WCC Cllrs Highways Budget - I am regularly asked and have agreed with officers to fund improvements to the highway network and still have available funds for small scale road interventions in the Division.

WCC Cllrs Discretionary fund - £8,000 - Applications for stage one has closed. Stage two for which I will still have funds will open in the late autumn.

Back to school checklist - Are you ready for September and the return of schools? This handy checklist covers all the things that you should remember to ensure that your child's return to school is as smooth as possible: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5501/have-you-got-your-back-to-school-checklist-sorted->

Take five steps to wellbeing - There is lots of useful information available about the benefits of spending time outdoors over the summer to improve your physical and mental wellbeing. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5498/take-five-steps-to-improve-your-wellbeing-this-summer>

Heritage open days at Warwickshire libraries - Did you have school milk in little glass bottles or take your dinner money into school in a small brown envelope? From September 6, education is the theme of Heritage Open Days at Warwickshire libraries. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5506/local-history-education-displays-at-warwickshire-libraries>

Nature Recovery Strategy - Did you know England is widely considered to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world following historic and ongoing declines? The natural world needs all our help to recover. Complete the survey today: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/bi/nature-recovery/>

Cycle September 2024 - Cycle September begins on Sunday, have you signed-up yet? Join the hundreds of cyclists across Warwickshire who are getting on their bikes, logging trips with the Love to Ride app to be in with a chance of winning fantastic prizes. Do it now: <https://www.lovetoride.net/warwickshire>

Chimney Fire Safety Week - Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is backing this year's national Chimney Fire Safety Week, which runs from 2 to 8 September 2024 by encouraging residents with open fires and chimneys ensure that they are properly maintained. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5503/get-ready-for-chimney-fire-safety-week>

Warwickshire Legal Services LEXCEL accreditation - Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services team has been awarded with LEXCEL 6.1, the latest version of a highly regarded legal practice accreditation. Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5507/warwickshire-legal-services-recognised-as-meticulous-excellent-and-robust-with-latest-lexcel-accreditation>

Tree planting funding - The application window for community groups to apply for funding to create new orchards and micro woods has been extended until the end of 2024. Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5509/community-groups-given-longer-to-apply-for-tree-planting-funding-in-warwickshire>

RSV vaccination in pregnancy - If you're 28 weeks pregnant you are eligible to have the respiratory syncytial virus #RSV vaccination to protect your unborn baby. Babies are vulnerable as they have small airways and limited immunity against #RSV. Please speak to your maternity service or GP surgery.

RSV vaccination for older people - From 1 September, people aged between 75 and 79, will be contacted by their GP surgery to book a slot for their respiratory syncytial virus #RSV vaccination. Please wait to be contacted. Older people are vulnerable to the disease, which can lead to hospitalisation.