

# Fenny Compton Parish Council

## Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting Of Fenny Compton Parish Council Held at Fenny Compton Village Hall, Fenny Compton on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 At 7.45pm

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors: Jon Dutton in the Chair, Samantha Parkes, David Johnson, Roly Whear and Emma Briscoe

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Parish Clerk Lydia Cox and County Councillor Christopher Kettle

### **2025\_11\_01: Apologies**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Martin Birch and District Councillor Natalie Gist and were accepted.

### **2025\_11\_02: Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (already circulated) were considered and the minutes were **agreed** (Proposed by Councillor Whear and seconded by Councillor Briscoe)

### **2025\_11\_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

### **2025\_11\_04: Requests for Dispensation**

None received

### **2025\_11\_05: Open Forum**

There were two members of the public in attendance. The following was discussed -

Bins at Compton Locks not being emptied – Councillors suggested contacting Streetscene about this

Play area at Compton Locks has been damaged – Residents have contacted Orbit separately as not the responsibility of the parish council

Footpath between the village sign entrance and Station Road needs widening/ Speeding through the village – Councillors updated residents on the work and efforts that have been made so far and suggested that a body of evidence is needed for the county council to do anything. Requested that any near misses are reported

Clerk will request a speed check from the SNT on Station Road

### **Residents left at 20.05**

### **Councillor Kettle arrived at 20.10**

County Council are getting a fully costed budget for widening of the footpath – If county council have to do it then would have to be to Highways regulation width which is 1.5 metres (therefore potential removal of hedge next to field)

£18.5m Highways budget for the total county. Focused on where there have been accidents and there are no records of serious accidents in the village. Only one accident in 2023

Councillors asked whether a small section be done between edge of village and entrance to Thompson Field?

### **2025\_11\_06: Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

(i) Railway Bridge: See Appendix D from County Councillor Kettle for response

Councillors once again asked for a diversion to be put on the pipes coming out of the railway bridge to divert into drain

Team to dig out mud under the bridge – How much would it cost – Can parish council pay if county council won't?

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County councillor Kettle to take these points away

Still waiting for traffic survey results

(ii) Noticeboards

Potentially could replace pinboard section, repaint, remove finials, remove feet, need to be lowered, need to be locked?

Councillor Whear has suggested that they are repainted and top poles shortened

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes to repaint all 4 noticeboards.

### 2025\_11\_07: District Councillor and County Councillor Reports

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

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

### 2025\_11\_08: Correspondence

The following correspondence was received prior to the meeting:

(i) Resident's correspondence

- a. Footpaths – Station Road widening and Church Street/ Avon Dasset Road junction

Discussed in open forum

- b. Restoration of the cricket nets

Merrie Men funding potentially – can revisit if this doesn't happen

### 2025\_11\_09: Planning

(i) The following applications have been received for consideration since the last meeting:

Reference	Consultation Expiry Date	Address	Proposal
25/02384/FUL	24 Nov 2025	The Granary, The Wharf, Fenny Compton, CV47 2FE	Two-storey front extension, single-storey and part two-storey rear extension. New windows, replacement garage door and openings
25/02385/FUL	11 Nov 2025	Mill Hill Barn, The Slade, Fenny Compton, CV47 2YB	Create a porch by the front door and replace a door with a stone wall and window

Councillors discussed 25/02385/FUL between meetings and responded with 'no representation'

25/02384/FUL was discussed and agreed to submit 'no representation'

(ii) The following decisions have been received since the last meeting:

Reference	Decision Date	Status	Address	Proposal
25/02312/TREE	29 Oct 2025	No objection	Trotties Cottage, Dog Lane, Fenny Compton, CV47 2YD	T1 damson (believe Merryweather) – Fell
25/02346/TREE	29 Oct 2025	No objection	Land In Verge, High Street, Fenny Compton	T1 pine - Fell (leaning over pedestrian entrance of school)
25/01866/LBC	20 Oct 2025	Permission Granted	Old Toft, Bridge Street, Fenny Compton, CV47 2XY	Installation of flood resilient doors and windows and flood barriers to existing unaltered apertures

### 2025\_11\_10: Financial Administration

(i) Councillors **approved** the following payments (Proposed by Councillor Parkes and seconded by Councillor Johnson):

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Chair December 2025

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NOV_23_1_SO	Lydia Cox (Nov Salary and expenses)	(448.16)
NOV_23_2_SO	SDC (Pension contribution Nov)	(125.67)
NOV_23_3_DD	National Insurance	(8.59)
NOV_23_4_DD	Yu Energy (Street Lighting)	(265.90)
NOV_23_5_DD	WaterPlus (Sports Pavillion Water)	(440.42)
NOV_23_6_DD	eon (Sports Pavilion Electricity)	(11.51)
NOV_23_7	Michael Mann (Playing field)	(671.40)
NOV_23_8	Michael Mann (Village grass cut)	(1,161.60)
NOV_23_9	Royal British Legion (Wreath)	(50.00)
NOV_23_10	ICO subscription	(47.00)
NOV_23_11	Woodland Trust (Stakes and Ties)	(113.00)

### **Current Account**

**(3,343.25)**

- (ii) Councillors noted the bank balances and bank reconciliations (Appendix A & B) and agreed them.
- (iii) Street lighting electricity contract: New three-year contract is needed. Clerk to obtain quotes for next meeting
- (iv) First draft budget was discussed. Councillors to review again at the next meeting

### **2025\_11\_11: Updates**

- (i) Play Area/ Sports Field –  
Councillor Whear is investigating new treads for zip wire and a separate safety inspection (confirming that not duplicate of what already have)  
Councillor Whear will pick up outstanding repairs to the pavilion with the Colts
- (ii) Flood Prevention – Station Road works have now been completed.  
Ridgeway – New plan needed due to utilities in the road and field
- (iii) Trees – No further updates
- (iv) Highways – No updates
- (v) Bowls club upgrade – Need information from the bowls club as to what they actually want to do. Can't get any funding until that has been agreed
- (vi) Village planters – No updates
- (vii) Clerk role advertisement – Advert to be included in the Compton Chronicle and the Northend newsletter  
Until a new clerk is in place the Responsible Finance Officer and clerk roles will be split. Lydia will continue as RFO and the Chair will be responsible for the agenda and minutes. Councillors will organise other roles/ completion of actions between themselves

### **2025\_11\_12: Items to Publicise**

- (i) Reporting Station Road incidents
- (ii) Clerk vacancy
- (iii) Station Road works complete

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## 2025\_11\_13: Future Discussion

Budget

## 2025\_11\_14: Date of next meeting

The next meeting is the Ordinary Meeting scheduled for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## MEETING CLOSED 21.45

### Appendix A

#### October Financial Administration

Balances: (See attached bank reconciliation)	£
Traffic Management	2,135.82
Flood Relief Grant	803.56
Allotments	1,000.00
Defibrillator	885.94
Cotters Croft	1,574.58
<b>Allocated Reserves</b>	<b>6,399.90</b>
<b>PC Balance - Budgeted expenses remaining</b>	<b>14,481.89</b>
<b>Unallocatted Reserves</b>	<b>12,452.30</b>
<b>Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation)</b>	<b><u>33,334.09</u></b>
<b>Within the following accounts:</b>	
Current Account	9,102.01
Deposit Account 1	2,619.33
Deposit Accopunt 2	1,144.23
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,463.52
<b>Total Balances (See Bank Reconciliation)</b>	<b><u>33,334.09</u></b>
Less Payments (See agenda item 10)	
NOV_23_1_SO Lydia Cox (Nov Salary and expenses)	(448.16)
NOV_23_2_SO SDC (Pension contribution Nov)	(125.67)
NOV_23_3_DD National Insurance	(8.59)
NOV_23_4_DD Yu Energy (Street Lighting)	(265.90)
NOV_23_5_DD WaterPlus (Sports Pavillion Water)	(440.42)
NOV_23_6_DD eon (Sports Pavilion Electricity)	(11.51)
NOV_23_7 Michael Mann (Playing field)	(671.40)
NOV_23_8 Michael Mann (Village grass cut)	(1,161.60)
NOV_23_9 Royal British Legion (Wreath)	(50.00)
NOV_23_10 ICO subscription	(47.00)
NOV_23_11 Woodland Trust (Stakes and Ties)	(113.00)
<b>Current Account</b>	<b>(3,343.25)</b>
<b>Total Balances carried forward</b>	<b><u>29,990.84</u></b>

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair December 2025

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## Appendix B

### October Bank Reconciliation

Bank Balances	£
Current Account	9,102.01
Deposit Account 1	2,619.33
Deposit Account 2	1,144.23
12 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,005.00
1 Month Partial Withdrawal	10,463.52
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b><u>33,334.09</u></b>
Cash Book Balance b/f	32,443.22
Payments not yet made:	
Bank Fees	(4.25)
Add receipts since last meeting:	
VAT Reclaim	852.39
Wayleave payment	20.05
Bank Interest	22.68
<b>Total Cash Book</b>	<b><u>33,334.09</u></b>

## Appendix C – District Councillor Report

### Local Government Re-organisation

On Monday 10 November, at an Extraordinary meeting, Cabinet voted to put the proposal for there to be a two unitary solution (one North Warwickshire and one South Warwickshire Unitary Council) forward to Full Council on Monday 17 November. This proposal is being considered by Stratford on Avon District Council, Warwick District Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

At the time of writing, Rugby Borough Council has yet to indicate a preference, and we understand that Warwickshire County Council will be submitting a request to government for the County Council to be a continuing authority, which is that they continue and bolt on the tasks and responsibilities of the present District and Borough Councils.

The government set out six criteria upon which they wish proposals to be assessed, and the proposed final submission to government addressing each of those six criteria is as per Appendix 11 of the Cabinet papers.

All of the reports and papers that have been considered by Cabinet (and by the time the Parish Council meets will have been considered by Full Council) may be seen here: [Agenda for The Cabinet on Monday, 10th November, 2025, 10.00 a.m. | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Each of the District and Borough Councils and the County Council are required to make a final submission to government by 28 November. The government will then consider the proposals and make the decision on which options they wish to formally consult on in the New Year.

### State of the District

At the Council meeting on 13 October a report was presented which sets out a considerable number of facts and figures about Stratford District area. The full report can be read here in the Council papers (scroll to page 17): [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Council, 13/10/2025 14:00](#)

Some interesting points to note are:

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- (i) Population. The population increased by 19.74% between 2014-2024. This is the 8th highest growth of all local authorities in England and Wales (average 7.74%). Over 65s make up 25% (average 19%).
- (ii) Housing. The housing stock type availability does not follow the same pattern as Warwickshire or England, Stratford-on-Avon has far more detached houses and far fewer flats/maisonettes than the Warwickshire or English average. However like the rest of the country there are far fewer bungalows (10%) than any other type despite the ageing population.
  - a. House price growth was negative - the median house represented a fall of £25,000 from September 2023. The 2024 median price was 19% above the Warwickshire median of £294,725, and 21% above the England median. Our District no longer has the highest median house price to median earnings ratio (9.07) in the West Midlands region: Wychavon has edged higher than Stratford.
  - b. The average overall monthly private rent payable in the District was £1,069. This was the third highest rent across the West Midlands, with Solihull and Warwick higher.
  - c. Approximately 2,287 dwellings were thought to be vacant across the District in October 2024.
  - d. A total net of 1,011 new dwellings were added to the housing stock in 2023/24. This represented 138% of the target for total new dwelling completions in 2023/24. Our District had the 15th highest figure of net completions out of 164 district authorities in 2023-24. (Bizarrely this high performance has not stopped the District being penalised and told it does not have a 5 year housing land supply.)
- (iii) Crime. The total number of recorded crimes in the District in the year to July 2025 was 10,108. This reflects a rise of 2,204 on the previous year, although changes to the way data is released by Warwickshire Police may be responsible for some of this increase.
- (iv) Employment. 15% of the population aged between 16-64 years were classed as 'economically inactive'. In July 2025 there were 1,685 residents claiming unemployment benefit in the District.
- (v) Fuel Poverty 14.9% of households in the District were in fuel poverty according to the latest data for 2023, compared to 17% in the West Midlands and 11.4% in England. There was huge variation across the District in the proportion of households in fuel poverty, ranging from 25% in 'Ladbroke & Priors' with many of the areas in this Ward being similar poor performers. This is thought to be a combination of lack of mains gas heating, and lower rural incomes.

Summary Apart from the statistical review summarised above, the report includes an assessment by a local government association 'peer challenge' and lists 32 achievements by the Council. The report also alludes to the challenges faced by the government's proposed reorganisation of local councils.

### **Community Grant Scheme**

A reminder of the Community Grant Scheme 2025 to allow Town and Parish Councils, charities and community groups to apply for a share of £350,000 to support their valuable community assets during the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of VE and VJ day.

There are two different pots to apply for: Small Grants (£5,000-£20,000) or Large Grants (£20,001-£100,000).

Deadlines for applications are 31<sup>st</sup> January for Small Grants and 27<sup>th</sup> February for Large Grants.

More details can be found on the website: [Community Grant Scheme 2025 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](https://www.stratford-on-avon.gov.uk/community-grant-scheme-2025)

If you have any questions, please email [socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk).

### **Noticeboard Grants**

We were delighted to learn that both Fenny Compton and Bishop's Itchington Parish Councils were successful in their applications for a Community Noticeboard Grant from Stratford on Avon District Council. Natalie and Nigel were pleased to join their Cabinet colleague, Cllr Liz Coles, together with officers to see the noticeboards.

Natalie Gist  
[Natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Natalie.gist@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

Nigel Rock  
[nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

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## Appendix D – County Councillor Report

### Council issues

An extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> October. The Council met to consider its response to the Government's consultation on unitary authorities. The motions were approved:

1. the Council stated its support for the retention, and, in certain larger towns, the creation of, parish and town councils;
2. the Council accepts that full constituent membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority would be the best arrangement for any new unitary authority or authorities in Warwickshire to meet the Government's requirement of full devolution; and
3. the Council supports the proposal of a single unitary council for Warwickshire as the optimum model of local governance.

The financial argument in favour of having one unitary authority across Warwickshire was significant and persuasive. The financial evaluation indicates that overall, a single unitary offers a significantly more compelling financial case than a two unitary model, with increased net benefits over time, lower transition costs, a shorter payback period and a model which will maximise the financial resilience and sustainability of Warwickshire's future local government system. Based on updated modelling and assurance of the numbers supported by PwC, a single unitary will deliver the following comparative benefits;

- Over a 5-year period a single unitary would ease financial pressures across Warwickshire by £57.1m (net benefit) whereas two unitaries would worsen the financial position by £11 million in additional cost, a £68.1 million difference.
- One-off transition costs for a single unitary are £22.3m, £8.9m (30%) lower than for two unitaries.
- There are no additional disaggregation costs (for example duplicated leadership and delivery of county wide services such as children's, adult social care, education, public health, corporate support services, and additional democratic costs of an additional council) in a single unitary scenario, whereas a two unitary scenario generates £8.6m each year in additional disaggregation costs.

### HS2

Following the closure of the A423, and the significant, and unmitigated, impact of diverted traffic using the village to bypass the closure, I had a meeting with Simon Matthews, EKFB's Interface & Stakeholder Director, at the Southam Compound along with a senior officer from WCC.

Feedback from that meeting will seek to ensure that the piecemeal approach to signage, with very limited signage being put in place when the closure was implemented and gradually additional signage being supplied over the period of the two week closure, with the final signs on the B4451 not being put in place until the final two days of the closure was inadequate.

EFFB closed the B4451 from 11<sup>th</sup> November for four days, during working hours only, as stage one of enabling a new water supply to be installed from the Southam Rugby club towards Southam. The consultation approach for this relatively minor road closure was considerably improved

Regrettably this, short piece of work had had an impact on Ladbroke, but EKFB and WCC cannot prevent vehicles from using the public highway. Hopefully this four day closure will have minimal impact, but we need to ensure for the following and longer complete closures are better planned.

### Highways

The hedgerows on Station Road, Fenny Compton, by the railway bridge and on the junction with the A423 have been trimmed back.

The team have investigated the drain and the mud on the road beneath the railway bridge. The problem with flooding on the road is not the location of the drains from the railway surface, but the capacity of the outflow in the road.

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Further the mud is not obstructing the outflow off the road and the “mud” is part of the former verge and falls outside the highway extent. The cost of removing the soil and tarmacking the former verge cannot be justified.

Work has now completed on improving road side gulleys and drainage on the north west of Station Road, Fenny Compton. Some road markings still need to be reinstated.

The new chevrons on the B4451 have been installed, funded from my delegated budget, as requested by Jeff Hobday. Other improvements to pavement surfaces are scheduled for the spring.

Officers are looking at whether funding might be available to include a 3<sup>rd</sup> gateway on Ufton Hill.

### **Severn Trent**

WCC officers, at my request, raised concerns with Severn Trent both about the closure of the B4451 and the diversion onto the Knightcote Bottom Lane. Severn Trent did accept that the diversion, onto a lower class of road, was not correct, and helpfully removed the diversion signs on the last day of the closure, but volunteered no alternative route. I have asked Severn Trent for a written explanation as to why a full closure was necessary when the previous four mains bursts were managed under traffic lights. I am awaiting a response.

### **Hambridge**

Repairs to Hambridge have been completed and the road will be reopened once “Road Narrows” and a reduced weight limit signs are delivered. Regrettably a local HGV driver appears to have driven over the closed but repaired bridge, and the weight of the vehicle has done further damage resulting in the bridge being reclosed whilst further and more substantial repairs are carried out.

### **Budget 26/27**

We will shortly be beginning the budgeting process for 2026/27. Whilst the 2025/26 budget is only showing a minor overspend in the annual forecast to date, there are significant overspends in social care and education, which are being offset by savings within the Council. The SEND overspend continues to cause concern, with the cumulative overspend, which is “sort of” funded by a government policy “the statutory override”, expected to reach £150 million by the end of this financial year.

For clarification, Councils are not allowed to spend Council tax revenues on main or High Needs education which is funded by a central Government Grant, the “DSG”. However, as WCC must meet the need of its residents, an annual overspend is now inevitable whilst we await the Government’s decision about future SEND funding.

### **Flooding**

WCC have continued to commit resources to the flooding problems impacting properties in Long Itchington. It must be noted that this is beyond WCC’s statutory responsibilities. The works WCC required Bloor Homes to carry out on the culvert within their land, along with the clearing of the culvert crossing the Marton Road seem to have worked with no flooding reported of the land behind Willow Grove during Storm Claudia. I would like to record my thanks to Cllr Jon Venn for his diligence in monitoring water levels during the storm, and over the entire remediation process.

Met Office predictions for Storm Claudia were considered to put Warwickshire at a major risk of widespread flooding with the forecast indicating that the rain would stall over the County over Friday night. Resources were put in place across Warwickshire, to be ready to respond, but luckily the storm continued north and the volume of rain, although high, did not have the impact expected.

**Warwickshire expands surface dressing programme** Warwickshire County Council’s County Highways team is hard at work applying surface dressing to around 120km of roads throughout the county this year - the equivalent distance from Warwick to Wembley - the largest programme ever delivered. Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7125/warwickshire-county-council-expands-surface-dressing-programme-](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7125/warwickshire-county-council-expands-surface-dressing-programme-)

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[with-record-investment-](#)

**Warwickshire’s Volunteering in Schools programme** Schools across Warwickshire are benefiting from the Volunteering in Schools programme, which brings trained volunteers into classrooms to help pupils with English as an additional language. Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7124/warwickshire-s-volunteering-in-schools-programme-strengthens-pupils-and-school-communities](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7124/warwickshire-s-volunteering-in-schools-programme-strengthens-pupils-and-school-communities)

**Recognising the vital role of Warwickshire's Fire** Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is proud to once again honour the vital work of its Control Room operators during International Control Room Week, which runs from 27 October to 2 November. Find out more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7135/recognising-the-vital-role-of-warwickshire-s-fire-control](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7135/recognising-the-vital-role-of-warwickshire-s-fire-control)

**New flavours for ancient woodland** A new kiosk recently opened at Hartshill Hayes Country Park near Nuneaton, run by a popular local family business. Discover more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7134/new-flavours-for-ancient-woodland-discover-the-kiosk-at-hartshill-hayes-country-park](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7134/new-flavours-for-ancient-woodland-discover-the-kiosk-at-hartshill-hayes-country-park)

**Rugby communities celebrate Asian Mid-Autumn Festival** Communities across Warwickshire gathered last weekend to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival 2025 – a cultural event traditionally observed across East and Southeast Asia symbolising by unity, harmony and reunion under the full moon. Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7136/rugby-communities-come-together-to-celebrate-asian-mid-autumn-festival](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7136/rugby-communities-come-together-to-celebrate-asian-mid-autumn-festival)

**Choosing the right NHS service this winter** In preparation for winter 2025, Warwickshire County Council and health partners are working with hospitals and essential services to reemphasise the need to avoid A&E, unless absolutely necessary. Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7144/check-the-right-nhs-service-you-need-before-you-check-in-with-a-e-this-winter](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7144/check-the-right-nhs-service-you-need-before-you-check-in-with-a-e-this-winter)

**Carers invited to workshops to help shape support** People in Warwickshire who provide unpaid care to a loved one are warmly invited to join workshops in early November. These relaxed sessions will be an opportunity to have meaningful conversations and shape the support available. Book a free place here: [www.eventbrite.com/cc/carers-workshops-4746333](http://www.eventbrite.com/cc/carers-workshops-4746333)

**Warwickshire County Council supports the power of early intervention this Occupational Therapy week** Warwickshire County Council will be showcasing the outstanding work of its occupational therapists this Occupational Therapy Week, which takes place from 3-9 November with a theme of “the power of early intervention”. Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7150/council-supports-the-power-of-early-intervention-this-occupational-therapy-week](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7150/council-supports-the-power-of-early-intervention-this-occupational-therapy-week)

**Residents invited to share their stories to help improve social care services in Warwickshire** Warwickshire County Council is launching a series of online Experience Exchange events for people who work in adult social care or have experience of using its services, designed to help improve social care services in Warwickshire. Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7149/residents-invited-to-share-their-stories-to-help-improve-social-care-services-in-warwickshire](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7149/residents-invited-to-share-their-stories-to-help-improve-social-care-services-in-warwickshire)