**County Councillor report Tysoe Parish Council Meeting 11th December 2023**

**West Midlands Sustainability Benchmark 2023**

Warwickshire County Council has been rated amongst the top local authorities for sustainability by the West Midland’s Local Authority Sustainability Benchmark 2023.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4768/council-ranked-amongst-the-best-in-west-midlands-for-sustainability>

**Warwickshire's visitor economy bounces back**

Warwickshire’s visitor economy has bounced back strongly from the pandemic with 15 million trips undertaken by visitors to the county in 2022.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4772/-1-27billion-bounce-back-for-warwickshire-s-visitor-economy>

**Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to consult on new resourcing plans**

Warwickshire County Council’s Cabinet has authorized the Chief Fire Officer to go ahead with a public consultation on a new model for resourcing. The proposed model does not include plans to close any of the current fire stations across Warwickshire.  A public consultation will commence in December and run for three months to allow an extensive and full consultation.

More information about Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is available here: [https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue](http://tracking.vuelio.co.uk/tracking/click?d=3cSjCOQpDDIy0k84YD47E5Odvlj1WHFG26PUip0jq-BohVUrulihux3gX6QsR2qdeSMG3mSNtuGL0FtfSYiOrRLWCRzSwxbk2nROhtg4m8JGLiaA_HiAitMQSo4fgzy8PnjhcvS0CHLZSRP67OTeRg4720Wz_izp7bWRa7xMfUP40)

**County Council launches Kind Communities - Kind Food Grant to support local community food projects**

Residents involved in community-orientated food projects across Warwickshire are invited to apply to a new Warwickshire County Council Grant fund.

The Warwickshire Kind Communities-Kind Food grant aims to support local projects across the county that empower communities to make more affordable, healthy, and sustainable food choices. [The Kind Communities - Kind Food Grant](https://tracking.vuelio.co.uk/tracking/click?d=7tDRkk2FbnPRK7PSkb_uM8X6RS2SRzUkoB5yYs92bpBJ_fTzvGDkmLSXe4PPYPu7N9MC4kPEsXzr8EgXJALAxpnukKMARVfZmgLcxVrCCd9tNpSNzhy8AVKPfeXO30c0gY5rlnMMqVF0zWW_xIxoH_Z3xmNx_STVqt7yi5Owp0Iy0) will provide a total of £25,000 funding to support food projects across the county and will be open for applications from 9am on Monday 27 November. Applicants will be able to apply for up to £1,000 per project. To assist with the application process, the County Council is hosting several face-to-face drop-in sessions and online webinars. These will provide valuable information and guidance to potential applicants at the following locations:

For full details about the Grant, visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/kindcommunities](https://tracking.vuelio.co.uk/tracking/click?d=MXFZ_t1sz-P30ZcdAJBZibfvNB_rbLMDygJ1x0ltrvUORRgs5ffsT0CiRVPXuH_nwOEXdmKGpAMN5Kam1784NmNdz_OeR1TH2BwoP9VJA8g6m7tDNdx8-352BLYLCZPLORG8kLurmYiBKXRsPdlUnpYr76FUc4H4I4M3VVJGhqjd0)

***The deadline to apply is Sunday 7 January 2024 at 5pm.***

**FIS**

Warwickshire’s Family Information Service (FIS) provides information, advice and one-to-one support on issues including family relationships, finance, housing, parenting support and more. Learn more at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/40/family-information-service>

**Loneliness this winter**

We’re reminding residents that support is available to them if they are feeling lonely or isolated this winter.

There are organisations and groups at the end of a phone who are there to help – you are not alone. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4741/support-for-those-experiencing-loneliness-this-winter>

**Domestic Abuse**

Domestic abuse Increased isolation and financial pressure can result in a higher incidence of domestic violence. There is no excuse for abuse. Whether physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or technological, no one should have to suffer alone. Help is available. Information and advice for victims, their friends and family, young people, professionals and perpetrators can be found at talk2someone.org.uk Refuge Domestic Violence and Abuse Service helps anyone experiencing domestic abuse in Warwickshire. The service offers a 24-hour national helpline, safe house accommodation, advocacy and outreach support. Call 0800 408 1552 or visit refuge.org.uk and search Warwickshire

**Warm Hubs Grants Scheme**

## **Launched Friday 1st December 2023**

WRCC’s Winter Warm Hubs grants scheme, available under our Warm Hubs project supported by Cadent, closed in late October 2023. Due to demand, we are today launching a second phase of Winter Warm Hubs grants thanks to new funding from Warwickshire County Council.

Winter Warm Hubs grants of up to £500 each are now available for non-profit organisations in Warwickshire who wish **either** to start a new community event **or** to provide new/extended activity at an existing community hub, to support residents affected by social isolation and costs of living including energy costs. Such community activity is to be carried out during the winter period prior to April 2024. Closing date for applications: 5.00pm, Wednesday 20th December 2023. If you have any questions, please e-mail warmhubs@wrccrural.org.uk.

**Digital Switchover**

Do you know somebody who relies on their landline telephone?

The #DigitalSwitchover may affect them.

Help them find out what to expect <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-transition-from-analogue-to-digital-landlines>

Overview

Telecoms companies in the UK are replacing the technology they use to provide fixed telephone networks (landlines). For most customers, the upgrade is expected to be complete by 2025.

Analogue networks have been in operation for decades and have reached the end of their serviceable life. The telecoms industry is finding it difficult to source the parts required to maintain or repair connections as suppliers are no longer manufacturing them.

New digital phone lines will allow communications providers to offer consumers and businesses clearer and better-quality phone calls, as well as new features such as anonymous caller rejection or three-way calling.

Chris Mills

County Councillor Tysoe

Update on Highway Maintenance

**From:** Shail Chohan <shailchohan@warwickshire.gov.uk>
**Sent:** 08 December 2023 12:17
**To:** Chris Mills <chrismills@warwickshire.gov.uk>
**Cc:** Jan Matecki <janmatecki@warwickshire.gov.uk>; Jacki Morris <jackimorris@warwickshire.gov.uk>
**Subject:** Re: WCC Highways budget

OFFICIAL

Dear Cllr Mills,

* Please see below for direct responses to the specific questions raised by the Parish.  You should note that as part of 'Network North', there are other new funding streams available outside of highways maintenance, details of which are still coming through.  I have not included these, as Parish want to focus on maintenance.
* Please also note, that I have kept the responses related to **Capital**(DfT) funding only, i.e I have not given figures for Revenue funding.  I've done this to align with the main focus from the parish on the DfT additional funding.  However, I would imagine a number of issues the parish have would be rectified using revenue funding.
* I think adding in details on Revenue funding will make the response more complex to understand, however, you may want to add something at the end of the response, along the lines of:
	+ **The County also utilise its own revenue funding for highways maintenance.  This is used for day to day maintenance which includes gully emptying and jetting, verge mowing and reactive defect repair. The revenue budget for these types of works is £7.170m this financial year.**

**Answers to specific questions:**

**My understanding is that Rishi Sunak recently announced that £8bn would be made available for emergency road maintenance in the UK, presumably by allocating that amount to all local authorities who have highways responsibilities.**

**Would it be possible to bring to our meeting on Monday, or send it to us very soon afterwards, the following:**

1. **How much of the £8bn will WCC get.**

As part of the governments recent announcement under the ‘Network North’ banner, £8.3bn has been redirected from HS2 into highway maintenance.  Details are still being sent to us from the DfT on how this funding should be used, however, an overview is below.

Split of £8.3bn

* £3.3bn for North of England
* £2.2bn for the Midlands
* £2.8bn for East, South east (including London) and South West England.

The above funding will be allocated over the next 11 years, with £150m being made available for financial year 23/24 and 24/25.  For Warwickshire, this translates to an additional **£2.056M** per annum for the next 11 years.  The funding is not ringfenced, and we are advised by the DfT to use the funding for highway maintenance, bridge maintenance and streetlighting.

1. **What was the budget for highways maintenance for the current financial year (excluding any of the £8bn)**

For completeness, below is how the current DfT funding has been split across various asset types. this is **Captial**funding only.

* Highway Maintenance: £16.666M
* Bridge Maintenance: £1.019M
* Traffic Signals: £0.250M
* Road Safety: £0.350M
* Streetlighting: £0.543M

1. **What was the actual amount spent by WCC last year on highways maintenance (as against new road build)**
* We spend all of our capital allocation each financial year against 'Highway Maintenance' above.

1. **When Rishi Sunak was Chancellor I remember he made another, smaller sum available to local authorities to mend potholes. Can you tell us how much of that WCC received and in which year.**
* The 2020 budget announced £27bn for pothole funding.  This amounted to £7.187M per annum between 2020 and 2025 for Warwickshire.  This figure is included in the £16.667m in response to Q2.
* It should be noted that there were reductions / changes in other DfT funding streams at the time of the announcement.

Regards,

Shail Chohan

Head of County Highways

Environment Planning & Transport, Warwickshire County Council

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[www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/)

**Report highway problems:**[**www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit**](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit)

**Follow County Highways on Twitter:**[**www.twitter.com/WarksHighways**](http://www.twitter.com/WarksHighways)