

County Councillor Update March 13th 2023

One Year Anniversary of the war in Ukraine.

As the war sadly continues, more Ukrainians need a place of safety, and the Council are seeking new hosts in Warwickshire to help those coming to the UK as well as those already in Warwickshire who need to move on from their initial sponsorship arrangement.

If you are interested in hosting Ukrainians, you can join the '[Homes for Ukraine' Sponsorship scheme](#). This bespoke scheme will offer a route to those who want to come to the UK who have someone here willing to provide them with a home. It will enable individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to volunteer accommodation and provide a route to safety for those forced to escape their homeland. Alternately if you are interested in hosting in Warwickshire we now have a dedicated team who are supporting matching and rematching. Please get in touch via the helpline, 0800 408 1447 or email ukraine@warwickshire.gov.uk to discuss further.

£2 Bus Cap

Warwickshire welcomes extension to £2 bus fare cap. Warwickshire County Council has welcomed news, released by the Government, that bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months.

Help for Warwickshire residents struggling to pay utility bills.

Warwickshire residents who are struggling to pay their utility bills can seek extra support from WCC.

The councils Local Welfare Scheme is distributing government funding through the Household Support Fund to provide short term financial assistance for people in Warwickshire.

It is a one off voucher payment to meet immediate needs and help those struggling with utility bills. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from Local Welfare Schemes for residents in financial crisis. **Applications must be made by 24th March 2023 by calling 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182**

Warm Welcome locations

Warwickshire residents can now search over 150 Warm Welcome locations to find their nearest one, if they are looking for somewhere warm and safe to spend time.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3989/find-your-nearest-warm-welcome-location>

Easter Holiday Activities and Food

The Warwickshire Holiday Activity and Food programme will once again offer free and fun activities for eligible children and young people this Easter.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4012/easter-activities-for-warwickshire-children-and-young-people>

Clean Air.

Warwickshire County Council has recently re-launched their popular ‘Kids Need Clean Air’ campaign in partnership with Warwickshire Primary Schools.

This campaign aims to educate drivers of the benefits of switching off their vehicle engines when stationary, with a particular focus on engine idling outside schools during drop-off and pick-ups. Idling uses unnecessary fuel and is a significant contributor to local air pollution. By stopping engine idling, drivers will reduce fuel costs and save money, improve air quality, and reduce air pollutants which can help cut heart disease, reduce lung cancer and prevent asthma attacks. By reducing the amount of fuel being used, drivers can improve the quality of the air that we breathe.

Throughout February 2023, 27 primary schools across the county launched this campaign, with each of these schools receiving a banner for the schools’ railings, a digital animation offering advice and guidance for parents and carers, and an article for newsletters.

NO MORE Campaign re Domestic Abuse.

Warwickshire County Council and partners including Warwickshire Police, Refuge and colleagues from across the District and Borough Councils, unite together to say NO MORE to Domestic Abuse.

The national campaign, UK SAYS NO MORE, now in its 10th year, ran from 5th – 12th March. It looked to highlight domestic abuse and sexual violence for everyone across the UK. One in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime and more shockingly, two women a week are killed by a current or former partner in England Wales alone. Warwickshire says NO MORE.

The Act also looks to promote greater awareness of domestic abuse and ensure it is the top of everyone’s agenda. Warwickshire has implemented a number of safe spaces for victim-survivors. The idea behind the safe spaces is just as the name suggests, a safe room for anyone who wants to escape an abusive partner or family member.

Anyone wishing to use the room would either simply ‘Ask for Ani’ or give a specific password unique to a supporting pharmacist or job centre. Inside the room is a phone that connects to a domestic abuse helpline. Information and advice is also available. To access a full list of participating pharmacists and jobs centres in Warwickshire, go to www.uksaysnomore.org/safespaces/

SEND Supported Internships in Warwickshire.

In a drive to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to access their full potential, young people in Warwickshire with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will benefit from a life changing supported internships programme, thanks to a grant of £105,000 from the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi).

The grant, which will be distributed over a three-year period is designed to support more young people with additional needs to have greater choice and control over opportunities that prepare them for adult life and enable them to gain long-term meaningful employment.

Currently, only 4.8% of people nationally with special educational needs and disabilities gain permanent paid employment in the UK, compared to 80% of their peers.

Supported internships help young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) to achieve paid employment.

Businesses looking to grow in, or relocate to, Warwickshire now have access to £40m of financial support as the latest pillar of a major economy-boosting initiative goes live.

The Property and Infrastructure Fund is the third and final strand of the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund. This major £100m initiative was launched to provide access to debt finance and safeguard businesses in, or those expanding to, Warwickshire from any of the adverse economic effects caused by the pandemic.

The focus of the PIF is on supporting and enabling new development that will help provide sites and premises needed to drive the future growth of the local economy and, with ambitions that match the County Council's goals on reducing emissions, to build on the strong links that the county has established in low Carbon fields such as digital creative, electric vehicle development and battery manufacturing.

The £40m fund will be managed by CBRE following a competitive procurement process, providing loans of £2m-£10m to support commercial projects, with repayment terms available up to five years. Eligible developments include office, industrial and warehouse developments and refurbishments, new housing projects offering innovative sustainability solutions, early-stage infrastructure funding and mixed-use schemes.

Those looking for more information or wishing to discuss investment proposals with the council should use the expression of interest form on the council's website at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wrif

Kindest Regards

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Division Member Wellesbourne

SEND Cabinet Support.

