

## County Councillor Update September 2023

I do hope this finds you well as we are still “enjoying“ a late summer.

### **RAAC**

Understandably parents are concerned regarding the safety of school buildings due to the Reinforced Autoclaved aerated concrete.

Please see below the statement from WCC regarding this.

**A Warwickshire County Council spokesperson said:**

**"Until early afternoon on 5 September, guidance on Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) indicated that Warwickshire's only maintained school which the DfE had confirmed had RAAC within its construction - Outwoods Primary in Atherstone - would be able to open as usual, after a series of remedial actions were put in place in recent months as part of a significant investment from the County Council's Capital Maintenance Fund for Schools.**

**"However, that national guidance has now been changed and so the school has had no choice but to close to some year groups. As a result, Reception, years 1 and 2 will not be able to return to school this week. The County Council is working with the school to carry out whatever additional mitigating action now needs to be undertaken in order to enable the school to safely reopen as soon as possible. While the school and the County Council regret any time that the children miss from school, their safety has to be the foremost priority. A further update on the situation will be provided to parents by Friday 8 September.**

**"We are also aware of two academies within Warwickshire that have construction involving RAAC. We are in close contact with the schools and providing any support that they need during this difficult time in order to minimise disruption to pupils there."**

### **Green Bus Company**

The past week has been increasingly challenging for parents whose children use the Green Bus company to transport them to Alcester Academy, Alcester Grammar School, Stratford Girls' Grammar School and King Edward VI School.

WCC was only notified of the cessation of the service on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August which leaves a very tight window pre returning to school Whilst the officers are working to

try to find providers who can provide transport for the 500 children, their priority are the 50 children who receive free transport and are the responsibility of the WCC team.

WCC have been reassured by The Green Bus company that all parents have received a full refund.

For further information regarding transport options please see the link below.  
information here <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homepage/378/journey-planner>.

For all those impacted by the withdrawal of The Green Bus there are now spaces between Stratford and Alcester.

Please continue to follow Ridleys Coaches Limited for updates on new routes and bookings. [https://facebook.com/ridleyscoaches?ref=embed\\_page](https://facebook.com/ridleyscoaches?ref=embed_page)

### **Charging Devices safely.**

I am sure I am not alone in worrying re the safety of charging our devices. Indeed only this morning I disconnected a plug that suddenly felt very hot to touch.. Please see the warning from the Fire and safety team, it may appear obvious but how many of us charge our devices overnight in the bedroom?

### **In the wake of a recent house fire believed to have been caused by a tablet charger, Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service is urging residents to exercise caution when charging electronic devices.**

Moreno Francioso, Fire Prevention and Arson Manager at Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS), said:

“Please don’t ever place devices on charge on your bed or other soft furnishings, and especially not under your pillow. It’s very easy for electronics to overheat in this environment, and then there’s the added risk being surrounded by mattresses and bedding often made of highly flammable materials. What’s more, lots of people charge their phones overnight while sleeping, meaning it takes much longer to become aware if a fire does break out – it’s really a recipe for disaster!

“The safest way to charge devices is during the day with someone around to keep an eye on things, and on a hard surface such as a desk or table. You should also ensure you choose reputable brands that meet safety regulations when purchasing electronics and chargers.

## Alzheimer's awareness month

Memory advice is constantly in the news. September is focus on dementia month.

**September is World Alzheimer's Month and Warwickshire County Council is using the month to help people learn more about dementia.**

September is World Alzheimer's Month and Warwickshire County Council is using the month to help people learn more about dementia, how to spot its early signs and symptoms and find information about support available for those diagnosed with the disease.

There is currently no way to completely prevent dementia, but research suggests a healthy lifestyle may reduce the risk of developing certain types of dementia in the same way that it can reduce the risk of having heart disease or a stroke, this can include:

- Maintaining an active lifestyle
- Eating a healthy, balanced diet
- Limiting your alcohol intake
- Stopping smoking.

For more information about how to reduce the risk of developing dementia, visit <https://dementia.warwickshire.gov.uk/reducing-risk-dementia-1>

For more information about dementia and the support available, visit Warwickshire's [Living Well with Dementia website](#)



**Finally nobody should live in fear of Domestic Abuse and Coercive behaviour..**

**Warwickshire County Council, along with domestic abuse service provider Refuge, has utilised Government funding to offer a new way to provide safe accommodation to anyone who may be affected by domestic abuse.**

Warwickshire County Council already commissions Refuge to provide emergency accommodation for women and their children fleeing domestic abuse. This new model of dispersed accommodation will build off the already well-established service delivered by Refuge, ensuring victim-survivors who may have previously struggled to access accommodation-based support, now can. Those victim-survivors include male victim-survivors (with and without children), larger families, female victim-survivors with sons over the age of 12, transgender victim-survivors, victim-survivors who have disabilities, victim-survivors with pets and older victim-survivors with mobility needs.

This new accommodation model will offer self-contained properties dispersed across Warwickshire for victim-survivors. Tailored wrap-around support will be available for these individuals through dedicated specialist domestic abuse workers.

The new pilot model of dispersed accommodation will initially run as a pilot for the next two years, with ongoing reviews until 2025.

Anyone worried about domestic abuse for themselves or someone they know can find support at [www.talk2someone.org.uk](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk). Follow #YouAreNotAlone on social media. To contact Refuge please go to [www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk) or call the 24/7 helpline on 0808 2000 247.

Do please let me know if there are any matters I can be of assistance with.

Have a great September.

Kindest Wishes

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