

Your local Councillors

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Jeremy Wright MP (Con – Kenilworth and Southam)

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Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

Kenilworth Station, Smalley Place. 01926 684404 or kenilworth.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

Kenilworth Town Centre Manager

David Butler (Warwick District Council) 07767 411844 or david.butler@warwickdc.gov.uk

Have you got any comments about the Community Forum, the way we publicise the Forum's work, or this newsletter? WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Contact 01926 456103 or warwick@warwickshire.gov.uk

Behind the Scenes

Kenilworth Community Forum – 6th September 2010

'Behind the Scenes' is the newsletter of the Kenilworth Community Forum. If you want to find out more about the Forum's ongoing projects and priorities, important changes to local services, and public consultations, we aim to provide all the information here. For more information on any items listed please ring **01926 456103** and ask for Jane Coates or email warwick@warwickshire.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Last December the Community Forum awarded funds to John Durling on behalf of Kenilworth Neighbourhood Watch. John had spotted, and become concerned, about the dwindling numbers of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the area, particularly in streets where community safety issues are more likely to be reported. John also made the Forum aware of the difficulty in recruiting coordinators.

In partnership with Mid-Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association we have produced two yellow leaflets, which will be distributed house to house across the town. Keep an eye out for these leaflets to arrive: they contain important information about Neighbourhood Watch, and give details about how you can join, and what are the benefits of having an active scheme in your road.

In addition, anyone can sign up to receive crime alert information by text or email. If you would like to add your name to the list please contact **01926 684385** or **01926 684355**, or email **Julie Dale**, Watch Coordinator, on watch@warwickshire.police.uk

Ridding Kenilworth of graffiti

Many thanks to the **Community Payback Scheme** (CPS) who have nearly completed removing graffiti from the four sites previously mentioned - Priors Rd/Farmer Ward Rd; Lime Grove/Brooke Rd; Leyes Lane/Dencer Drive, and Bertie Rd/ Waverley Rd. **Andy Garsed** and the CPS have also worked very hard to substantially clear the rough ground at the rear of the Bertie Road Medical Centre to make this a much safer area for pedestrians using the bordering alley and Nursery school. Andy is also active with **Martyn Stacey** of WDC on outstanding graffiti removal issues on a number of Network Rail railway bridges. If you need to report an incidence of graffiti please ring **WDC on 01926 456456**.

Free swimming sessions

The new Government recently announced their immediate withdrawal of funding to support free swimming sessions. Warwick District Council is continuing to offer these until next April.

Under 16s and over 60s are eligible.

The next Kenilworth Community Forum is on Monday 6th December from 7pm at Kenilworth School Upper School Hall, Leyes Lane, CV8 2DA. Please put the date in your diary!



High Speed Rail 2

The 'exceptional hardship' scheme for those people whose properties will be most affected by the route of HS2 opened on **20th August**. The scope of the scheme has also been extended following the consultation. An explanation of the new scope, along with detailed information on HS2, is available from www.warwickshire.gov.uk/hs2

Consultation: the Licensing Act 2003

The Home Office is proposing a radical overhaul of the Licensing Act 2003 and has released a consultation document to the public for comment. The consultation can be found by visiting the **Home Office website** and searching their **publications**.

David Davies, Licensing Services Manager at Warwick District Council, is preparing a local response. Anyone wishing to contribute a comment should contact David by **31st August** using his email address: david.davies@warwickdc.gov.uk

'Twenty's Plenty' scheme

Following the 'in year' savings that Warwickshire County Council has had to make in a number of areas, the council is no longer planning to develop the 'Twenty's Plenty' scheme locally. This means that the money the Forum committed to the project last year (**£1,204.08**) will go back into the main pot to be allocated in 2010/11

Farm Crisis Network – local helpline

Warwickshire Farm Crisis Network (FCN) was set up in 2009 and is staffed by **11 volunteers**. FCN responds to a variety of issues including personal stress, health, family and succession issues, struggling businesses, Rural Payments Agency payments, compliance, cash flow, animal welfare and disease and the many other events that put real lives under enormous pressure.

Farming can be a lonely and isolated job which can lead to feelings of isolation and sometimes suicidal thoughts. FCN volunteers cannot solve all of these problems, but they do 'walk alongside' those who are struggling, to provide friendly, confidential support, to help open doors, offer an alternative perspective and stand by the client through the difficult days.

If you would like to know more about the work of Farm Crisis Network please visit www.fcnc.org.uk or contact **Karen Ellis**, FCN Warwickshire co-ordinator on **024 7685 3081**.

Fire Station review

The results of Warwickshire County Council's review have now been announced. The Kenilworth fire station is safe and will continue to operate as usual.

Adult Social Care charges and contributions

WCC is currently consulting with people about proposed changes to the way that adult social care services are paid for.

The consultation will close on **17th September**, and everyone who uses these services or has a relative using them is encouraged to take part in the consultation.

More information can be obtained from the Customer First team by ringing **01926 418661** or by emailing the team at customerfirst@warwickshire.gov.uk

Abbey Cinema – a great success!

Following a Forum grant of **£3,786** the cinema, hosted by Kenilworth Youth Centre, is going from strength to strength. Two screenings take place every Saturday, one for under-13s, and one for over-13s. Contact **Andy Norman** for information on **01926 855205** or andynorman@warwickshire.gov.uk

Speed limit on Glasshouse Lane

After our June Forum a member of the public contacted the panel to raise the issue of the **varying speed limit** on Glasshouse Lane, which results in some people driving at high speed along the road.

The issue was passed to the **Road Safety Unit** at Warwickshire County Council, who contacted the resident to give a full response. Briefly, the current speed limit complies with **Department for Transport guidance** for the type of road, and this is supported by the low number of recorded incidences of personal injury collisions on the stretch in question.

Evidence suggests that simply lowering the speed limit on some roads does not change the speed at which people drive. This can often only be achieved by extensive re-engineering of the road, such as narrowing, introducing chicanes, or installing speed bumps. This sort of work can run into the hundreds of thousands of pounds and therefore needs to be supported by clear evidence. There are at present no plans to reduce the speed limit on the road. **Cllr Dave Shilton** is pursuing the issue.

Grants for local projects

The Community Forum holds a pot of money to support local projects and tackle issues raised as priorities in Kenilworth. The District and County Councils provide the money for the Forum to spend.

Local groups and projects can apply for Forum grant money now! The closing date for applications to the next Community Forum is **15th November**. The Community Forum on **6th December** will decide how the grant money is allocated across the projects. Applicants must be able to attend the Forum meeting to talk about their project.

Remember: when it's gone it's gone!

The application form and guidance notes can be obtained by ringing **01926 456103** and asking for **Jane Coates**.

2011 Forum dates and venues

We are due to set new dates and venues for our 2011 Community Forum meetings. Up to this time we have followed a rotation of meeting on the first Monday of the month, every quarter, at 7.00pm. Our meetings are held in the Upper School Hall at Kenilworth School. Continuing the same pattern into 2011, the dates for next year will be:

- 7th March 2011
- 6th June 2011
- 5th September 2011
- 5th December 2011

We also propose to remain using the school as a venue.

Please send your comments on this proposal to **Jane Coates** on **01926 456103** or janecoates@warwickshire.gov.uk

Castle Farm skate ramp

A group of local skateboarders secured a Forum grant of £5,000 in December to improve their facility at Castle Farm Rec.

The skaters have met with council officers to talk about the changes they would like, which include timer-switch lighting to enable the ramps to be used until 9.30pm. It has taken some time to sort out requirements around planning consent, but Warwick District Council have now allocated a Cultural Services officer to pursue the planning issues and schedule the work.

Additional money has been pulled in through local Community Safety initiatives as well. The estimated cost of the lighting alone is £14,000, and equipment upgrades are also on users' wish lists.

WCC care homes for older people

A **consultation relating to the future of residential care homes for older people** is currently underway.

The consultation will assist the Council in considering the possibility of a planned closure programme for some or all of its Homes over a specified period.

The Cabinet report is open to members of the public and can be read by visiting www.warwickshire.gov.uk and clicking on 'Council and Democracy', 'Agendas and papers...', 'Cabinet' and the date of the meeting.

Kenilworth Community Speedwatch

The scheme, originally piloted in Kenilworth, has now been adopted county-wide by Warwickshire Police. Where Kenilworth has led, others are now following!

After a successful recruitment campaign the scheme will double its volunteer 'pool' from six to twelve, enabling better coverage of sites across the town. The list of speed monitoring sites is being constantly reviewed. At the moment, the sites consist of:-

Abbey ward: Beehive Hill, Clinton Lane, Cromwell Lane, Priory Road, Red Lane.

Park Hill ward: Dalehouse Lane, Leyes Lane, Rawnsley Drive, Windy Arbour.

St. John's ward: Birches Lane, Farmer Ward Road.

Any new speed monitoring sites have to be risk-assessed by the Police to ensure the safety of volunteers and drivers. Potential new sites include **Rounds Hill/John O'Gaunt Road, Rouncil Lane, Coventry Road and Common Lane**. The scheme tries to achieve the broadest coverage possible across the locality.

The additional equipment funded by the Community Forum - the monopod and the voice recorder - is proving very beneficial to the volunteers. The monopod helps to keep the laser speedgun steadier especially in windy conditions, while the voice recorder helps to ensure the accuracy of vehicle data recording.

Feedback from the public received by the volunteers remains overwhelmingly positive. The Community Speedwatch team believes it is making a visible impact on the problem of speeding traffic on our streets, which remains one of the top concerns of local residents. Further information can be obtained from **Cllr John Whitehouse** on **01926 512130** or cllrwhitehouse@warwickshire.gov.uk