County Councillor's update: Warndon Villages Parish Council meeting on 5th Oct 2026

County Council meetings of note:

Next Full Council meeting is Thurs 12th Nov, 10am at Wyre Forest District Council offices in Kidderminster. Agenda, papers and video record of the meeting are available at Agenda for Council on Thursday, 12th November, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council

Next Cabinet Meeting: Thurs 22nd Oct
Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 22nd October, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council

All County Council meeting dates and papers are available via:
https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1

LGR being 'paused' by government makes council budget-setting harder

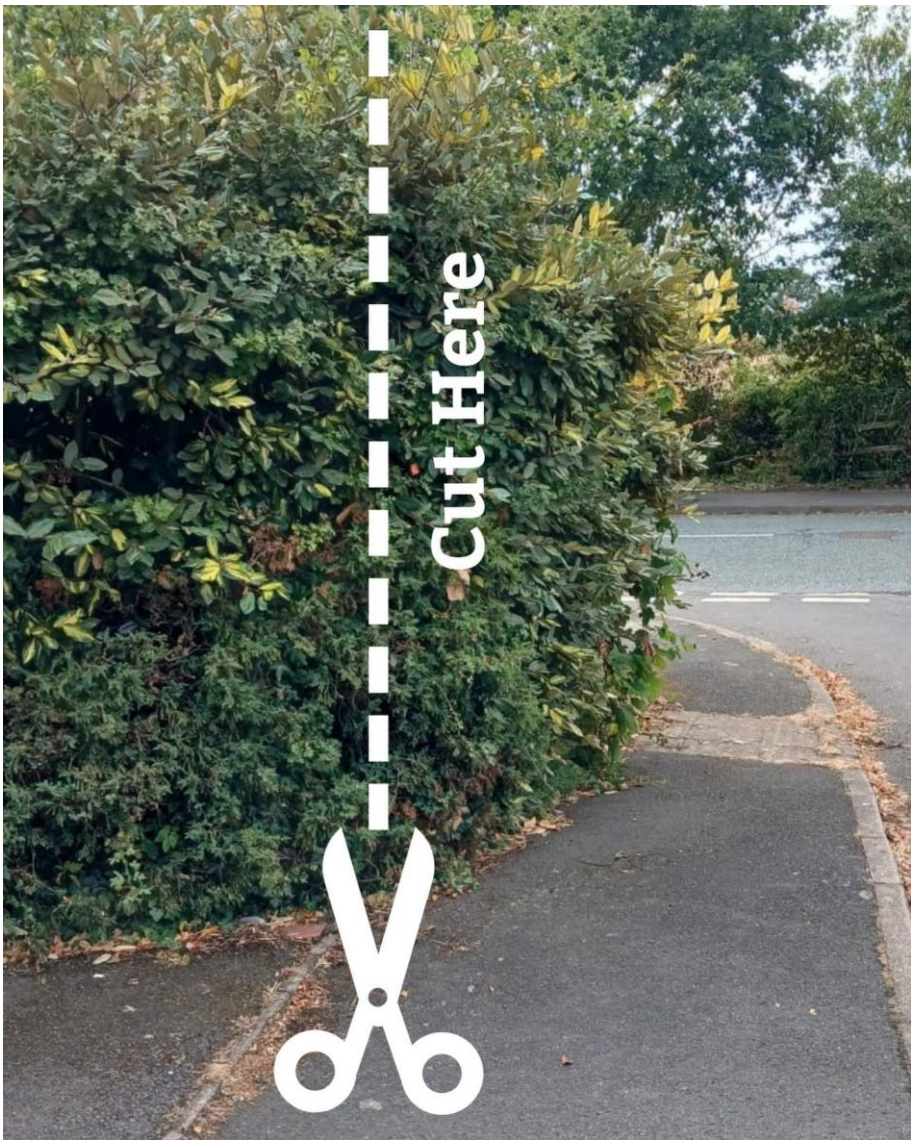
The county council's financial position is extremely concerning. Services overspend is £15.5m, other savings bring this down to £8m overall overspend in this financial year. Almost all of the financial pressure is in adults and childrens' social care.

Contingency funds have been fully committed. Risk Reserves (unearmarked and deemed usable) are down to £9.4m. County council total expenditure 2026-2027 was budgeted at £620m and is forecast to be £628m.

Recent media articles have focussed on differences of opinion about one or two unitary authorities, with one group suggesting the government's pause of LGR should enable a re-think of the government's one unitary authority decision for Worcestershire.

However, re-starting the process from the beginning will delay the new authority being vested, and increase the risk of government commissioners being called in to run the county council. A section 114 notice would mean the immediate end of any discretionary or non-statutory services, a reduction of service provision to the lowest legally-compliant level, and very likely a higher level of council tax above the 4.99% cap. There are concerns that the new authority would also be run by government commissioners for the first few years if commissioners are called in to run the county council.

Residents urged to trim back hedges, especially at junctions



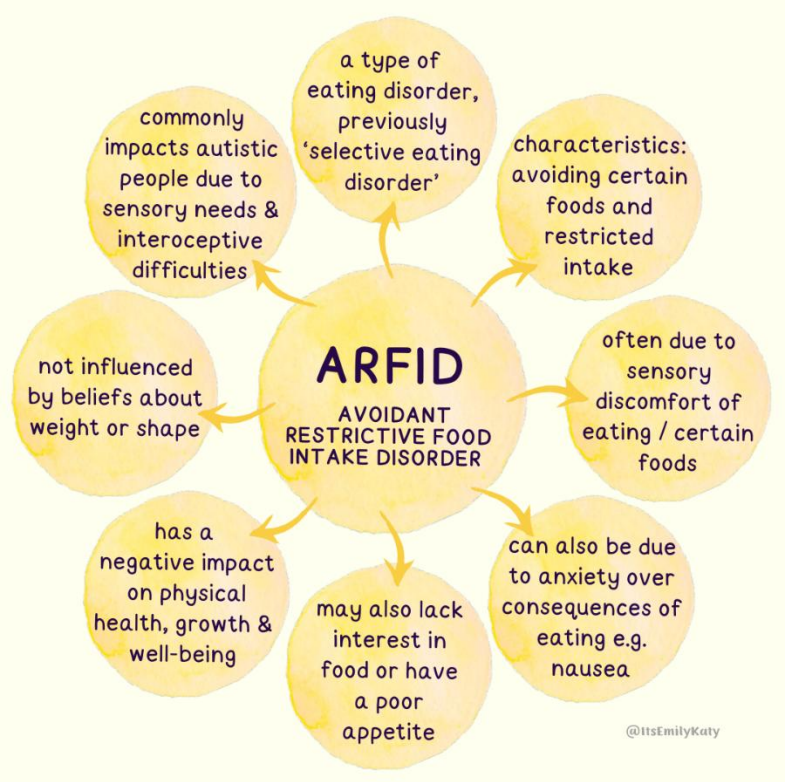
With the bird nesting season now coming to an end, autumn is the perfect time to cut back hedges and vegetation on private property that may be overhanging public pavements and roads.

Council teams work hard to keep pavements clean, roads swept and to improve public spaces in Warndon Villages. Keeping your hedges on your property trimmed back helps them access areas more effectively, enabling them to carry out thorough cleaning and restore public pavements to their full width for everyone to safely access.

Clean pavements and kerbs, with improved visibility and accessibility – especially at junctions - benefits everyone.

Thank you to all residents who already help keep their boundaries tidy. Your support makes a real difference and helps keep Warndon Villages at its best.

Does someone in your family have an eating disorder?



"The difference between a 'picky eater' and a child with ARFID, is that a picky eater won't starve themselves to death. A child with ARFID will."

— Dr. Gillian Harris, Clinical Psychologist. via ARFID Awareness UK.

(ARFID image and quote text taken from https://www.authenticallyemily.uk/blog/

At last week's Childrens and Families scrutiny panel, one of the topics discussed was the lack of support for families with children with eating disorders such as ARFID (**A**voidant/**R**estrictive **F**ood **I**ntake **D**isorder). These disorders are often associated with ADHD & autism. Specialist support is recognised to be lacking here in Worcester - the nearest is a small specialist team in Birmingham.

Directors from Worcestershire Integrated Care Board met recently with The Feeding Trust to discuss how to improve support and service in this area. ARFID and feeding difficulties are now in Worcestershire ICB's commissioning intentions for 2027. This is the first time ARFID has been on the list and a named lead has already been tasked to develop a pathway.

Diagnosis can take a long time and parenting or looking after children with feeding disorders can be a traumatic experience. It is important for parents and carers to be supported and not judged by others - a good place to start looking for help is Worcestershire Parent Carers Forum - https://worcspcf.org/health/arfid/ and to connect with other parents and carers who can give peer support and advice. Have a look at https://www.facebook.com/WorcestershirePCF

It is also important that schools take this issue seriously and listen to pupils' and parents' requests. Reasonable accommodation might involve providing a quiet secluded place for children to eat, away from the noise, sights and odours of others eating.

A local parent recently raised their concerns with me on this topic, so last week's meeting was especially useful. Please email me if you have questions or wish to discuss this issue.

Libraries - Who needs them?

Under section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, Worcestershire County Council must provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service for everyone who lives, works, or studies full-time in the county. However, the law does not specify a precise number of buildings or opening hours required, meaning what counts as "comprehensive and efficient" depends on local needs. Councils can redesign or alter services, but they must first assess local needs, comply with equality laws, and properly consult the public.

Worcestershire County Council provided an annual update on libraries to yesterday's Corporate and Communities meeting – see Agenda for Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Tuesday, 29th September, 2026, 2.30 pm - Modern Council for details. Part of this work showed a low level of engagement by young people in county surveys of library users and showed also they are under-represented as customers of "Libraries Unlocked" (a transformation project to keep libraries open for longer hours, with reduced staffing, and to protect community libraries from being closed due to the county's financial pressures). To improve this, library managers and teams are proactively promoting the benefits of library services and Libraries Unlocked to young people, attending school council meetings and freshers' events to promote libraries as safe and supportive spaces for study, wellbeing and connecting with others. Examples of social media campaign images are included below. Please share on your social media!











Damaskfield Gate, Ankerage Green

The County Council have recently cleared obstructive vegetation and they plan to remove the unauthorised Heras fencing to return the access gate to its original state, per original planning and highways adoption conditions.

The gate will be assessed to see if a replacement is needed. This maintenance work is separate from the evaluation of 'opening up' the gateway for non-vehicular access. Discussions are ongoing with local residents and I will share details and further updates in due course.

Homestead Ave / Woodgreen Drive junction

No update yet on when this junction will be modified. Will share when known.

Connect Worcestershire launches to make travelling around the county easier

Worcestershire County Council and local transport operators have joined forces to launch Connect Worcestershire, a new initiative designed to make travelling via public transport around the county easier, more connected and more accessible.

Connect Worcestershire will serve as a single source of information for bus travel, Worcestershire on Demand services, transport improvements, ticketing initiatives and future investment projects across the county.

The initiative aims to make it easier for people to plan journeys, access travel information and stay informed about improvements to public transport services across the county.

Connect Worcestershire launches to make travelling around the county easier | Worcestershire County Council

Nominations open for The King's Award for Voluntary Service 2027

Volunteer groups across Worcestershire are being encouraged to put forward nominations for The King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) 2027, the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK.

Often described as the equivalent of an MBE for voluntary organisations, the Award recognises exceptional groups whose volunteers make a significant and lasting difference to their communities.

From supporting young people and vulnerable residents to protecting the environment, preserving heritage and bringing communities together, Worcestershire is home to hundreds of volunteer groups whose dedication and commitment improve lives every day.

The Worcestershire Lieutenancy is encouraging residents, community leaders, local authorities, businesses and partner organisations to consider whether there is a volunteer group in their area that deserves national recognition.

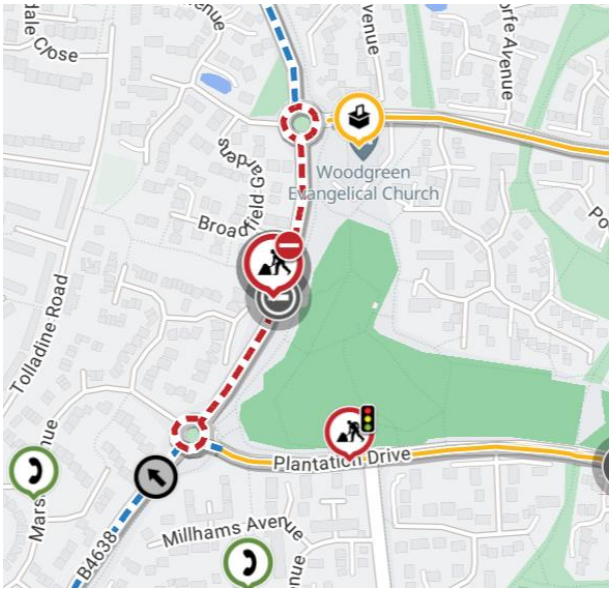
Nominations for the 2027 Awards are now open and will **close on 1 December 2026.**

Nominations open for The King's Award for Voluntary Service 2027 | Worcestershire County Council

---

Notable road / path works in/near Warndon Villages - *see https://one.network/ for full details*

Night time closures of two roundabouts on Woodgreen Drive and the road between them for two nights, for resurfacing work starting 6th Oct https://one.network/?GB149717233



Tolladine Road traffic lights 4th Oct for emergency gas repair work near the Virgin Tavern – see https://one.network/?GB152673385

County events: see Events | Worcestershire County Council

Other County News: see https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news

Andrew Cross
County Councillor, Warndon Parish Division
30/09/2026
across1@worcestershire.gov.uk