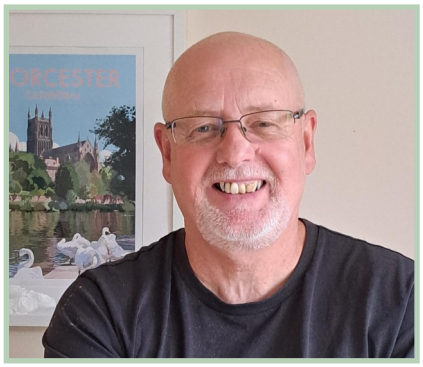
Warndon Villages Parish Council

News December 2025

Chair's Message



It has been a busy and positive few months across the Villages.

We are pleased to confirm that approval has now been granted to officially change our name to Warndon Villages Parish Council. This better reflects the area we represent and helps avoid confusion caused by the former name.

At the Lyppard Hub Summer Fair, the Parish Council focused on road safety and speeding. We have now reached our goal of 500 completed Traffic Safety Measures surveys and are analysing the results. We've also invited the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend one of our meetings, and we're in early discussions with Whittington, St Peter's, and Kempsey Parish Councils to explore a joint approach to speeding and noise along the A4440. We continue to support the Lyppard Hub, a vital community asset, through our grants programme — including funding towards the Summer Fete and Warm Hub.

Our full-time Parish Warden is making a real difference, keeping paths and hedges tidy and reducing litter across the Villages. Thanks go to both the Warden and the Worcester City Green Spaces Team. We also remain committed to protecting our much-valued green spaces and the surrounding green gap, while supporting local projects such as play area improvements.

The Parish Council is also well advanced in purchasing Apex Ponds from the Duckworth Trust for a nominal fee of £1.00. These ponds, located next to the Bosch building on Berkeley Way, form an important green space which we believe should be protected and properly managed.

Meanwhile, the Local Government Reorganisation continues, though final decisions are not expected until June 2026. While this does not directly affect us, it may impact future election timings. We plan to meet with St Peter's Parish Council and Worcester City Council next summer to discuss options.

Finally, although our next elections are some way off, we're keen to encourage new faces — especially younger residents — to get involved. If you're interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact our Clerk at clerk@warndonparishcouncil.org. I would also be very happy for anyone to shadow me to see what's involved.

Cllr Stuart Forrest

Volunteer Work Maintaining Ponds



If you don't mind getting your hands a bit dirty – and aren't afraid of a bit of mud! – then I can highly recommend setting up a volunteer group to try and maintain your local pond. There are about 40 in Warndon Villages, so there should be one not too far away!

My neighbour and I had a go at trying to clear the invasive bullrushes from our pond in Corfe Avenue during this very dry spell when the water was so low. It wasn't easy work because the rushes have roots like cables that creep underground before sending up a new shoot. Bullrushes are great for big expanses of water but will swamp smaller areas.

We didn't get all of them, but we did get a fair amount, and it will now give room for other species such as the beautiful yellow flag iris to grow without being swamped by the faster growing rushes.

If you need expert advice, as we did, then that is available from the City Council biodiversity officer.

Watching butterflies and dragonflies as well as spotting the frogs and the occasional newt is very rewarding - as was watching the birds come down to drink. Nature will flourish if we give it room.

The pond level is still very low, but I do look forward to seeing it fill slowly and watching a few more species make use of the space. If we're lucky, we might even get our ducks back!

If you want a bit of advice do contact the Environment team at the Parish Council – dawn.merriman@warndonparishcouncil.org or myself john.rudge@warndonparishcouncil.org and we'd be more than happy to help.

Dog Poo Update!

We do still have a bit of a problem with people chucking their dog poo bags into trees and hedges. It's very odd behaviour really because it looks so unsightly and because it solves one problem (tidying up after your own dog) but creates another problem (someone having to tidy up after you).



These pics were taken today (03/11) on my own dog-walking stroll, and they highlight the problem quite clearly. They are very visible and very unsightly.

We do have a Parish Warden who picks up litter in the Villages, but it isn't really fair to have to ask them to do this type of litter-picking and we have other jobs we would much rather employ him on to make the Villages look brilliant.

Please be considerate to your neighbour and take pride in your own patch by using the bins provided.

Where there's a poo; there's a bin!

Thank you!


Greenspace opposite Lyppard Hub in October




Dugdale Drive in mid-November



Environment

Well it has certainly been a tough year for our flora and fauna, with the extremely dry summer, leading to low pond levels and making it hard for our wildlife to find food and for the plants, shrubs and trees to survive. However, a warm spring, encouraged lots of insect activity, visiting the fruit blossoms and resulting in a plentiful apple harvest.

The 'wildflower' beds sown in spring began blooming but were cut short by the heat and drought, which was both disappointing for both residents and insects, however it is amazing how nature can recover and it is lovely to see the verges and greenspaces looking green again, which has also meant the mowing has continued until early November.

Have you noticed some of the wild flower beds, particularly those in a sunny location have once again been blooming, providing a valuable late season food source for insects and adding a colourful display brightening our late Autumn days.

Our Parish Warden, Neil regularly litter picks throughout the parish, as do a number of residents and volunteer groups, without their efforts the area would look in a very sorry state. Maintaining the cleanliness of the area also protects our wildlife from harm, so please use the litter bins provided.



At the end of August a small group of volunteers litter picked in and around the Lyppard Grange Local Nature Reserve pond, taking advantage of the low water levels to reach litter and debris in the pond. As an SSSI site, access to the pond is restricted between March and late August due to amphibian breeding season, especially for the Great Crested Newts.

The Parish Warden has installed benches at both Tattersall and Sterling Avenue greenspaces, the latter replacing a damaged one. A third bench was funded by the late County Councillor Andy Roberts's family and neighbours can be found in the Lyppard Grange Nature Reserve.

The Parish Warden has been very busy during the last few months ensuring our road signs remain visible, trimming the overhanging hedges and reducing shrub height on the roundabouts and one instance shrubs have been removed, improving visibility. Now with the ground more manageable he has resumed manually edging the footpaths.

Neil works alongside the City Council's Place Team East and in the last few weeks have been kept busy clearing leaves from the footpaths and play areas, but it is akin to painting the 'Forth Bridge!

Our thanks go to them all for their hard work.

Fallen trees



We have already experienced windy conditions and as we head into the winter, with the likelihood of more stormy weather, it is worth noting what to do if you come across a fallen tree in the parish. In the first instance report it to Worcester City Council through their website **https://selfserve.worcester.gov.uk/carsformswcc/forms/trees/main.jsp**

You will need to identify the location of the tree on a map and if you have access to '**What 3 Words'** App on your phone, you can also provide the 'W3W' location, or you can call **Customer Services 01905 722233.**

Postal Vote Reapplications



Postal Voters are now required to renew their postal applications every three years. The Elections Act 2022 reduced the lifetime of a postal vote to three years and removed the ability to renew one, so voters must now make a new application if you wish to keep voting by post.

A postal vote application lasts until the 31 January following the approval of your application. For anyone who was already a postal voter when this law came into effect, your postal vote will expire on 31 January 2026.

Each year we will contact all affected postal voters by post, email and phone to ask them to re-apply for their postal vote ahead of the expiry deadline. The quickest and easiest way to renew is online at **https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-vote**

Parish Council Meetings 2026

Monday 5 January	**Monday 9 February**	**Monday 9 March**	**Monday 13 April**
Monday 11 May AGM	**Wednesday 13 May Parish Meeting**	**Monday 8 June**	**Monday 6 July**
Monday 7 September	**Monday 5 October**	**Monday 9 November**	**Monday 7 December**

Litter Bins



During the summer you may have noticed **Worcester City Council** have made some changes to their litter bins in the Parish. Each bin now has an allocated 'number' and a 'QR Code', making it simpler for residents to report any overflowing bins.

If you prefer to speak to **Worcester City Council** to report any matters of concern, please call **Customer Services** on **01905 722233** or you can report an overflowing bin online via their website

https://www.worcester.gov.uk/street-care-cleansing/public-bins



RECYCLING



Worcester City Council provides a co-mingled recycling service, allowing residents to place all accepted recyclables into a single bin instead of sorting them into multiple bins.

If non-recyclable items—such as plastic bags, black plastic food trays, drinking glasses, nappies, coat hangers, plant pots, or pizza boxes with leftover pizza—are put in the **GREEN** bin, the bin is considered **'contaminated'**. When this happens, the entire truckload can no longer be recycled. **This also occurs if recyclable tins and plastic containers are not washed clean before being thrown away.**

Vapes and electricals can spark fires in recycling vehicles

Disposable vape waste has increased and continues to cause problems for the waste industry, including fires, despite the UK's ban on disposable vapes in June 2025. A fire on board a refuse collection vehicle can pose a significant danger to staff, the public and could also cause serious damage to the vehicle.



While sales of disposables were high before the ban, waste management firms are seeing more improperly disposed-of vapes in their systems, potentially due to the rise of cheaper reusable devices that are also being binned instead of refilled or recycled.

Residents are reminded all vapes and other small electrical items, including old batteries, should not be placed in their **black** or **green** recycling bins, but should take them to their local Household Recycling Centre or return the vapes to the shop where they bought them from. All these items can be recycled and the precious metals will be taken out and used again and again.

More information on recycling can be found on Worcester City Council's website

https://www.worcester.gov.uk/recycling-waste/household-recycling

NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

E-scooters and Hoverboards



Make sure you know the law and consider safety before buying, or allowing your child to ride, an e-scooter or hoverboard.

In the West Mercia policing area of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire there is only one e-scooter trial, based in Redditch.

Electric scooters

Although e-scooters are available to buy they are currently illegal to use on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes and pedestrian-only areas. E-scooters are currently classed as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs) by the Government and fall under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles in terms of requiring insurance, tax, MOT, license and registration. There is no mechanism in place at the moment to obtain any of these for e-scooters so as this Requirement can't be met their use in public areas is illegal. Anyone found using them in public areas risks having the e-scooter seized by the police. More information can be found at

www.gov.uk/e-scooter

Hoverboards

Hoverboards, also known as self-balancing scooters, are not legal for road use and cannot be ridden on the pavement as this would be an offence under section 72 of the Highways Act 1835.

REMINDER from West Mercia Police

Don't give criminals an easy ride by leaving your car running unattended. Every winter the force receives a number of reports from drivers who have had their car stolen after leaving the engine running, while they wait inside their home for it to heat up and defrost the windscreen.

* **Clear windscreens with de-icer and a scraper**
* **Sit in vehicles while the heater de-mists the windscreen**

Drivers who ignore this advice are taking big risks. It is also worth remembering if your car is stolen when keys have been left in it, you may find your insurance will not cover you. If your house keys are stolen along with your car, your home is then vulnerable too.

For the latest crime prevention advice visit: **www.westmercia.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/**

Junction 6 Update



For those of you who have not been following the improvements at Junction 6 with regard to traffic management, the National Highways team have acknowledged there is a problem following a joint appeal to them by the local City Councillor, John Rudge, and the County Councillor, Andrew Cross.

They have made sure that the road sensors are now working effectively, which means that the lights are more favourable to traffic coming out of the villages when this traffic is moving too slowly.

There are still delays when the traffic is very busy in rush hour, but the general feedback has been positive so far.

If you feel there are still serious problems at particular times of the day, please feel free to get in touch with either Cllr Rudge or Cllr Cross and they will try to pass those on to National Highways when a review takes place about the progress so far.

Thank you all for your patience. It has been a very slow process getting agreement with National Highways and finding solutions that reduce the waiting times for traffic coming out of the Villages.

Cllr Rudge

Warndon Villages Summer Fete



The Warndon Villages Summer Fete took place on Sunday, 13th July drawing strong community support despite the heat. Attractions included fairground rides, pony rides and Punch and Judy show. Local businesses and charities ran stalls to raise funds and offer support, while the 'Raffle', featuring prizes from local companies, organised by the Lyppard Hub, proved to be popular and provided a boost to their fundraising.

Thank you to everyone who visited the Parish Council stand and completed Traffic Surveys to support a safer Warndon Villages. Congratulations to Roy Dipple and Sandra Burch for winning £50 vouchers in our Highway Code quiz.

The Parish Council thanks Lauren and her team for organizing the event and looks forward to doing it all over again next year! Date for your diary ….. **12th July 2026.**

Activities at the Lyppard Hub



The Lyppard Hub offer a whole host of activities, for all ages, with the focus being on supporting the local community. Following the success last year **Warndon Villages Parish Council** have again awarded a grant to the Lyppard Hub to assist with the running of the '**Warm Welcome'** initiative, providing a safe, warm space for residents over 60 to meet up, make new friends and chat with neighbours, whilst having a hot, light lunch.

It will run every Friday from 12 noon - 1.30 pm until the end of March 2026.

Tai Chi for Women



'Peace and Power' a small welcoming group takes place every **Wednesday 7.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m**. Build strength with softness - movements to nourish your body while calming your mind. Gentle, meditative and empowering teaching designed especially for women.

Booking is essential Contact **Charlotte 0775 349 5326** or Email: **dragonsheart-breath@gmail.com.** For more information go to **www.dragonsheartbreath.co.uk**

Here are just a few of the other activities on offer:

Indoor Car Boot Sales - held monthly (check dates)

Book Club - monthly get togethers

Parent & Toddler Group - Playgroup for pre-school children

Lyppard Crafters - Social group for arts and craft enthusiasts

Bereavement Café - Offering support through grief and loss

Children's Clothing Exchange - Swap outgrown children's clothes

Community CAFÉ - a friendly place to meet to reduce social isolation

Tea & Support - Providing support for people living with dementia

Gardener's Exchange - Group for gardening enthusiasts to meet and share knowledge

Walking for Health - Walking group offering free, short local walks

Youth Club - A place for young people age 11-16 to social, local walks

Family Fun Club - Fun family activities to enjoy together Tues 3.30-5.00 p.m.

For more information on any of the activities please call in and ask at Reception or follow on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/lyppardhub **T: 01905 616841** **Email info@lyppardhub.co.uk**