

County Councillor's Report, July and August 2026

Cllr James Norris, Warwickshire County Council, Alcester Division

Local government reorganisation

- On 16 July the Government confirmed two unitary councils for Warwickshire. **A new South Warwickshire Council** will cover this area, replacing the county council and the district councils.
- Elections to the new councils are due in **May 2027**. They take over on **1 April 2028**, when Warwickshire County Council ceases to exist.

Highways

- Birmingham Road, Alcester: pressing for carriageway and footway resurfacing and renewed road markings, and pursuing the parking problems outside Alcester Grammar School.
- Ragley Mill Lane: chasing the proposed resurfacing scheme.
- Stratford Road, Alcester: hedges and weeds restricting the footway. Inspected, works commissioned, update chased in August.
- Bleachfield Street to Mill Lane: pursuing repairs to the pedestrian bridge and the ramps at either end.
- Mill Lane: litter, benches and environmental maintenance taken up with officers.
- Augustus Drive: the redundant Openreach marker post causing a trip hazard is now being removed.
- Church Bank, Temple Grafton: traffic safety pursued and further assessment requested. Chased in August ahead of the Parish Council meeting on 7 September, which I plan to attend.
- A46, Oversley Green: resident concerns about excessive motorcycle noise taken up.
- Alcester: pavement defects and bus service complaints followed up.

Speeding and parking

- Wilmcote: speed survey on Station Road funded from my delegated budget, with results shared with the Parish Council and local Speed Watch volunteers.
- Alcester: supporting residents raising speeding concerns, particularly on Birmingham Road and Moorfield Road.
- Pavement parking: a motion was carried on 21 July with one abstention and I spoke in support. Officers will identify problem areas, consult residents and local members, and review policy ahead of new powers.

Schools and young people

- A new Children's and Young People Travel Assistance Policy was adopted on 16 July, applying to new applications from 1 September 2026. Around 250 pupils countywide are expected to lose eligibility.
- Education, Health and Care Plans: 19.4% issued within the statutory 20 weeks in 2025/26 against a national average of around 47%, and 424 overdue at 22 June. I will pursue this at scrutiny in September.
- Great Alne: supporting local groups seeking to preserve community assets, and pressing for clarity on the site's future.
- A motion on young people at risk of becoming NEET was carried on 21 July with no votes against: a costed prevention plan, employer engagement, an annual careers fair and more apprenticeships.
- Casework on school and college transport.

Moorfields, the former St Nicholas School site

- Now formally marketed following sustained pressure. I have handled enquiries from residents, community groups, sports clubs and potential purchasers.
- The overgrown field was raised as a summer fire risk. I had already raised grass cutting and am pressing for the boundaries to be maintained.
- My own position: I would like to see community use. The decision rests with the county council as landowner and, separately, with the planning process.

Community

- The Councillors' Grant Fund was promoted over the summer. The deadline has passed and I am considering the applications received. I will report the outcome.
- Promoted Warwickshire's Mobile Library Service routes locally, and supported Fortitude School with its fundraising efforts.

Other county council business

- A safeguarding and corporate parenting motion was carried as amended, 49 to none with three abstentions. Full Council will receive an assurance report after 31 December 2026. I spoke in the debate.
- A motion supporting Healthwatch Warwickshire was carried unanimously.
- A motion on environmental priorities was carried as amended, 34 to none with 19 abstentions, repealing the 2019 climate emergency declaration and creating a cross party Environment and Flood Resilience Working Group. I spoke in the debate.
- Conveyed residents' thanks to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service after the major incident at Salford Priors.