County Councillor’s Report for the meeting of 12 September 2017

**10th Anniversary of severe flooding**

We recently marked the tenth anniversary of the floods in Warwickshire when so many areas in the County were devastated by the adverse weather, especially in my division at Welford . How could we forget!

A great deal has happened in the interim to safeguard Warwickshire against a repeat of what happened in July 2007 but, with the best planning and safeguarding measures, we can never say for certain that Warwickshire will not suffer from flooding again. If people are displaced from their homes, and flooding might be only one such reason, the County Council has a responsibility to provide rest centres. The scrutiny which local authorities have faced in recent months in reacting to emergencies means that there is no margin for error. We have to be prepared and we have to get it right.

In order to increase our resilience there has been a call for council staff to join a roster of volunteers who would man the rest centres More work has to be done but David Carter WCC Joint Managing Director has stated: -

We are very pleased to be able to say that the response from staff has been very encouraging. It reflects well on their values that so many should be willing to give up their own time to help others in their time of need.

**NHS survey: Local views needed for local pharmacies**

Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council are conducting a Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA) to evaluate community pharmacy services against local health needs across Coventry and Warwickshire. We want to hear the public’s views and experiences of using local pharmacy services. This will help to guide decisions on how services can be improved. This review takes place every 3 years.

You can help us by:

1. Completing the survey using this link <http://tinyurl.com/CovWarPNA-Public-Survey>

2. Promoting the survey by sharing the link to the survey with your family and friends, on your social media sites, in your newsletters and on your website.

For further details please email: mlcsu.pna@nhs.nett

**Coventry - Solihull - Warwickshire Broadband Update - September 2017**

Things are progressing well with the CSW Broadband rollout, and many more communities now have access to the superfast fibre network. Over the next few weeks we expect to be in a position to announce the outcome of the procurement for Contract 3, which is looking extremely positive.

The CSW Broadband team are recognised as national exemplars for the level of information that is currently given, although we do appreciate that it can be sometimes be confusing for people trying to find out what is happening in their area. At the beginning of October Wave 8 of Contract 2 will be announced, and we have been working on some exciting new mapping which will give even more information. It will still be in the development stage when issued, so we will welcome feedback to help us to improve things still further.

On 3rd September there was an announcement about Local Full Fibre Networks and the Coventry and Warwickshire are to be one of 5 national pilots. At the time of writing we have no further information on this, and will include any updates in future newsletters. To register for the project newsletters, and to be advised directly on progress in your area, please visit [www.cswbroadband.org.uk/register](http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/register)

**SWRR**

Although we've seen 3 illustrations of the proposed bridge recently as part of the SWRR proposal. We still await a formal planning application, but don't be under any illusion, this proposal is a real engineering challenge with what I consider to be a price tag to match, which may we'll be too expensive to deliver unless it can attract more than the developers contribution from the government or other sources. We shall have to wait a bit longer before we have more information, which is frustrating. In the meantime I am seeking meetings to discuss the safety of the B4632 which has seen far to many Road Traffic Accidents between then Waitrose Island and County Boundary at Lower Clopton Nr Mickleton. See Stats later in this report.

Happy to meet and talk with Councillor's or SRAG.

**Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) - A4632**

Road Traffic Collisions are on the increase especially at Clifford Mill, where approximately 15 injury RTC's have occurred over the previous 3 years. From Waitrose Traffic Island to the County Boundary over the same period 27 RTC's with 36 casualties (8 serious; 26 slight).  “Damage Only” RTCs are not recorded. These figures are unacceptable and therefore I am campaigning to have the whole of the B4632 surveyed to see how we can reduce RTC's and improve road safety. Parish Councils and other councillors are supporting the campaign. Meetings with Cala Homes and WCC are scheduled. Obviously, Clifford Chambers is the main priority to find solutions at The Mill & Freshfields Children's Nursery. Also, a traffic island at the crossroads, but a wider focus will be on the entire length of the B4632 to the County boundary.

**New Bus Stop**

Following a request for a bus shelter at the junction of the Welford turn and B439, which had my support, I am now please to report that it has now been installed at my request.

**New Speed Limits at Welford**

All new speed limits have now been installed again with my support i.e. : Extended 30mph limits at Long Marston Road & Milcote Road. 50mph from Welford-on-Avon to Long Marston and 50mph from Binton Bridges to the B439. Sadly, we were unable to implement a reduced speed limit below 50mph from Welford’s southern boundary to the Golf Club as it didn't meet the necessary criteria, but I will keep it on my aqgenda together with any other mitigation measures available re speeding in other villages.

**Warwickshire County Council Councillors’ Grant Fund 2017/18**

Warwickshire County Council Councillor’s Grant Fund for 2017/18 has now been launched. The Fund is aimed at community and voluntary organisations Each of the County’s 57 Councillors is provided with a pot of £5,000 to support small scale projects within their Division with the following objectives helping to ensure that: -

* Warwickshire’s communities and individuals are safe, healthy and independent,
* Warwickshire’s economy is vibrant and supported by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure

Applications for grants are now invited from organisations and individuals by completing the application form using the link below. Before completion you may like to see wish to read the list of questions on the application form. Go to :

 <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants>.  Closing Date 9th October 2017.

Many of my villages have benefited previously with my decision to fund various schemes including Scouts, Millennium Trust, Defibrillators, Speed Camera Contribution, “Welford Matters” , Community Shop, Historical Records, Play Equipment etc. Don't miss out.

**HGV Routing**

We have carried out a great amount of work to try and route HGV's away from our villages by liaising with adjoining authorities and erected new signage to this end.

 We need to keep HGV's on A' & B' class roads and away from the “C” roads that run through our villages. We will keep fighting this problem, but with foreign vehicles and Satnav it's not always easy.

**Hedge Trimming**

I was pleased to see after 31st August (end of bird nesting season) that residents are once again acting responsibly and are trimming back trees and hedgerows that may cause a risk to pedestrians and road users. Thank You.

**World Suicide Prevention Day 2017**

Take a minute today and do something that could change a life

Warwickshire County Council is assuring residents that ‘it’s okay to talk’ about suicide, and suicidal thoughts as part of World Suicide Prevention Day 2017, which takes place on Sunday 10 September.

Every 90 minutes in the UK, someone takes their own life. In 2013 and 2014, Warwickshire Coroners recorded 105 deaths by suicide. This figure compares to 51 people who were killed in road accidents in Warwickshire during the same time period, reflecting the fact that deaths from suicide nationally are the leading cause of death for males in three age groups (5-19, 20-34 and 35-49 years), and the leading cause of death for females in two age groups (5-19 and 20-34).

In order to respond to the issues of suicide and part of the Council’s commitment to keeping residents as healthy as possible, the Suicide Prevention Strategy for Warwickshire was launched on Wednesday 30 November 2016 at Leamington Spa Town Hall.

Warwickshire’s strategy regards every death by suicide as potentially preventable, and outlines plans and priorities required to reduce the number of deaths by suicide across the county. Find out more: [apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-630-979](http://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-630-979)

The Warwickshire Strategy outlines a broad ambition to reduce suicides to zero as part of the County Council’s commitment to keeping its residents healthy – this will be achieved through a range of actions, including:

Providing specialist suicide prevention training for GPs

Targeted suicide prevention campaigns in the community

Partnership working with our Specialist Mental Health services provided by Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust

Working with our local media to deliver sensitive reporting on suicides and suicidal behaviour

Reducing the impact of suicide on survivors, families and the bereaved

The theme of this year’s world suicide prevention is ‘it’s okay to talk’ and encourages everyone to reach out to someone in crisis as this can make a huge difference to them. A spokesperson for charity The Samaritans explains: “When a person reaches a point where they are focused on taking their life, they’ve often lost sight of trying to find a way through their problems. This period usually only lasts a short while and often it doesn’t take a huge amount to bring someone back from that decision – something as simple as saying, ‘it’s ok to talk’ can be enough to move someone out of suicidal crisis.

For information about a range of mental health and wellbeing services, including face to face, telephone, online and self-help resources available in Warwickshire, please visit: [warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth)

You may also find it helpful to view the Suicide Prevention campaign for Coventry and Warwickshire, targeted at men: [ittakesballstotalk.com](http://ittakesballstotalk.com)

If you are struggling to cope, please call Samaritans for free at any time, from any phone on 116 123 (UK and ROI) or visit the Samaritans website to find details of the nearest branch. Samaritans is available round the clock, every single day of the year, providing a safe place for anyone struggling to cope, whoever they are, however they feel, whatever life has done to them.

My contact details are: Tel: 07980 308568 (m);  01789 720728 (h); Please contact me with your thoughts or concerns by :-

Email: mikebrain@warwickshire.gov.uk.