

Bearley Parish Council

September 2025

Report by Councillor George Cowcher

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County Council

1. The administration made an announcement entitled “Recalibrating Warwickshire”. Last week. This was intended to set out a direction for the Council. It was heavy on crime prevention and a flag policy. Mention was made of SEND, budget pressures and highways but there were few practical indications of what in practice will happen. At the Cabinet Meeting on the 4th I raised concerns that the County was failing to find the savings required to balance the budget and expressed concern that the working party set up by the administration to find a further £20million in savings needs to be transparent particularly if it is going to lead to significant cuts in services. Once again there was no Transport Portfolio Holder present and it was difficult to get answers to questions on Highway Matters. Reports also made assumptions that Local Government Reorganisation is going to result in significant savings and I pointed out that the reality from the reorganisation of other Shire Counties is that savings are very limited.
2. I am a member of the County Council’s Local Government Reorganisation sub committee. The public consultation on its proposals have now closed. The Council has yet to debate its formal response which needs to be submitted to Government by 28th November. The Leader announced that he will be organising a Local Government Reorganisation Summit in October but it remains unclear when the County Council will take a view and come to a preferred option. I remain convinced that the two Unitary Authority solution for Warwickshire is preferred.
3. I am dealing with a number of individual problems in the parish including the need to flush drains in the village and the main A3400, Proposals for a new gateway on the entrance to the village from Snitterfield and I think there is a need for painted 30 roundels on the road and repeater signs. Visibility of some signs is obscured and I have asked for vegetation to be trimmed.
4. I have a delegated highways budget of £80000 due to underspending in previous years. I am asking parishes to submit any suggestions about repairs/improvements that should be made. I am not short of suggestions and am needing to prioritise.

George Cowcher

4 September 2025