

Parish Council report for Bearley, Charlecote, Hampton Lucy, Moreton Morrell, Snitterfield

September 2026

Report by Councillor George Cowcher

Warwickshire County Councillor for the Wellesbourne Division

07812584432

Georgecowcher@warwickshire.gov.uk

1. South Warwickshire Local Plan Although this is being prepared by Stratford District Council, much of the infrastructure needed to support development is to be provided by Warwickshire County Council. I have been prompting both Highways and Education services to positively address the requirements of the Plan. The phasing and potential financing of new infrastructure is a formidable challenge

2. Local Government Reorganisation The work for preparing for a South Warwickshire Unitary Local Authority has been paused on the order of the Government. We do not know how long the pause will be or whether we will need to reconsider a single Council for the whole of Warwickshire favoured by some parties. What has been confirmed is that Stratford District Elections will now take place in May 2027. It therefore appears that any shadow elections for a Unitary Authority will not take place until May 2028 with a new authority not coming into place until May 2029. To confuse matters further the Government has asked us what “strategic authority” we would like to be part of. This is highly complex and without knowing about Council structure is difficult to determine. Generally all councils are required to progress business as normal however both Stratford and Warwickshire intend to ask for financial compensation for the time and expenditure already spent on preparation.

3. Highway Matters All of the Area Surveyors are now back at work. There are issues in each of the parishes and I will give a verbal update at each of the meetings.

4. County Council Community Grants I have awarded grants this year to: The Repair Café, Warwickshire Young Carers, The Parenting Project, Stratford Sports Club, Rag Tag Toddler Group, Cottage Tavern Community Pub project, Warwickshire County Schools Football Association, Wellesbourne Youth Club.

5. Wellesbourne Household Waste Station. Wellesbourne “Tip” remains very popular especially at weekends and it has been necessary to reintroduce a booking system again on Saturdays and Sundays. I am concerned at how the limited skips at Wellesbourne get full and the site has to close prematurely which is very frustrating. I have asked Officers to consider extending opening hours and increase the capacity of the station.

6.Fire Service The fire services have been under substantial pressure due to the long dry hot summer. Locally we have benefitted locally for the upgrade of the Wellesbourne station

7. Traffic Regulations The County Council is currently consulting on the Council taking on traffic regulation powers. This would allow it to erect ANPR cameras to help control key junctions, weight restrictions, yellow box junctions, pedestrian zones. These will be additional to existing police powers. I think that this would benefit our area.

8. Home to School Transport I am aware of a number of issues affecting pupils from villages and I am attempting to get them resolved.

George Cowcher

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