

Bearley, Snitterfield and Hampton Lucy Parish Councils

January 2026

Report by Councillor George Cowcher

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Happy New Year everyone. I sincerely apologise for the lateness of this report.

County Council

1. Home to School Transport. The Council has resolved to instruct the Leader of The Council to withdraw his letter to the Secretary of State asking that Warwickshire be allowed to set its own criteria in the distance from schools triggering free transport. So far the Leader of the Council has not responded. Formal consultation on changes to home to school transport has closed and this will become a budget item.
2. County Council Budget. Is challenging_ and discussions are on going. We are aiming to protect children's services and care and improve on the delivery of highway matters. We are also trying to protect the south of the county from an obvious bias which the administration has for favouring the north.
3. My Discretionary Highways budget. I will give a verbal update to each Council as there are a number of pressing items requiring attention.
4. Community Fund. I have awarded Snitterfield School a grant for their Eco Warriors Project
5. Highways Community Action Fund. The *Government* has created this fund which for Warwickshire is £1million. It can be used for resurfacing, speed reduction, gateway signs and local drainage works. I will look to see how this can augment my highways budget.
6. Childrens School Places. Applications for school places have opened for children born between 1/9/2021 and 31/8/2022. Applications have to be made by 15 January 2026.
7. Road Closure notices. There are a number of these throughout the area many awarded to Severn Trent to repair burst water pipes. If there are any particular problems please let me know.
8. County taking responsibility for administering some traffic offences. I am promoting this which would enable in particular for the county to erect cameras on traffic sensitive areas such as yellow box junctions and help control weight limits such as Hampton Lucy Bridge.

George Cowcher

7 January 2026