

County Councillor Report Oxhill Parish Council 17th January 2023

Warwickshire County Council Highways

Following last December's cold spell, WCC received questions about their winter service:

WCC have 29 gritting routes across Warwickshire, which cover 46% of our highway network. Our 29 gritters run out of various depots across Warwickshire (Coleshill, Dunchurch, Henley, Budbrook, Wellesbourne) to ensure that all gritting routes are completed within our target of 3 hours.

Our gritting policy is to grit: All main traffic routes, A roads, most B roads and some other strategic routes

In urban areas, the accesses to hospitals and main industrial estates

A single route into all villages.

Where we have accumulations of snow, we will prioritise the roads on the gritting routes. We also aim to keep at least one route into villages clear of snow.

Warwickshire Cost-of-Living Summit

At the Warwickshire Cost of Living summit, Warwickshire County Council focused on practical help and advice for the most vulnerable and those groups likely to feel the pressure most. WCC will tailor their help to local needs and support mental health and wellbeing about the help that's available.

Support for the most vulnerable – WCC will focus their help on those who need it most. We will work to minimise the impact of cost-of-living pressures on the mental health of children and young people. WCC will provide help to ensure our residents receive their full benefit entitlement and free school meals where applicable.

For older people - we will provide support to access and use digital means of support. We will provide help to ensure the full benefit entitlement and support for utility bills. For people with disabilities - we will ensure that information is available in a format that suits all needs. For people whose first language isn't English - we will produce information in a variety of languages.

2 Single bus fare cap in 2023

Warwickshire residents are encouraged to get around by Bus in 2023 thanks to a new Government-backed scheme to save money on fares.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3678/getting-around-warwickshire-by-bus-gets-cheaper-in-2023>

Tackling child modern slavery

Responsibility for decision making around child victims of modern slavery in Warwickshire is being granted to Warwickshire County Council.

Find out more:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3666/warwickshire-leading-a-new-approach-to-tackle-child-modern-slavery>

Lonely, scared or vulnerable-domestic abuse

Warwickshire County Council are reminding residents of the mental health and domestic abuse support services available to help those in need of assistance.

Domestic Abuse.

There have been 494 fewer domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police during the period April-September, than the previous year. However, it is determined that the figures were so high previously due to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as other factors, such as football events and changes in police recording. There was a targeted campaign during the recent World Cup and a focus on male victims of domestic abuse.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3680/feeling-lonely-scared-or-vulnerable-help-is-available>

New Year's Honours List 2023

The extraordinary achievements of five people living in Warwickshire have been recognised in the King's first New Year's Honours list.

Professor Robert Alan Dover from Leamington Spa CBE, for Services to the Automotive Industry

Mr John Hares Kenilworth OBE, for services to the Financial Services Sector

Mr Aston Moore from Rugby MBE, for services to Athletics

Mrs Joanne Amy Horne BEM for services to the community in Stratford-upon-Avon

Mr Douglas Shorter from Nuneaton BEM for services to Young People in Warwickshire

Voting Identification

New identification rules for 2023's local elections

The government intends the new identification rules to be in place for next year's local elections. For voters in Scotland and Wales, and in local areas that aren't holding elections in 2023, these new rules will come into effect for the first time in what is likely to be a general election year.

Accepted forms of photographic identification for voting in the UK

The following documents will be accepted as long as poll workers think the photo is a good enough likeness.

- A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- A driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- Biometric Immigration documents
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- A Blue Badge
- A national identity card issued by an EEA state
- An Older Person's Bus Pass
- A disabled person's Bus Pass
- An Oyster 60+ card
- A Freedom Pass
- A Scottish National Entitlement card issued in Scotland
- A 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel card issued in Wales
- A Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- A Senior Smart Pass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Registered Blind Smart Pass or Blind Person's Smart Pass issued in Northern Ireland
- A War Disablement SmartPass or War Disabled SmartPass issued In Northern Ireland
- A 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Half Fare Smart Pass issued in Northern Ireland
- An Electoral Identity Card issued In Northern Ireland
- A Voter Authority Certificate or a temporary Voter Authority Certificate

Expired documents, such as passports, will also be accepted.

Acceptable forms of ID are predominantly held by older people

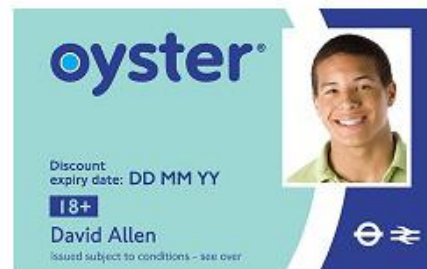
The list, contained in recently tabled secondary legislation, includes passports and driving licences and a range of travel cards – predominantly those held by older people. This has prompted concern that younger people without ID will find it comparatively harder to vote.

Counts as ID



Oyster 60+

Does not count as ID



Oyster 18+

Chris Mills
County Councillor
Kineton and Red Horse