

County Councillor grants

The Covid crisis has created demands on our communities and County Councillor Peter Butlin received some worthy grant applications and agreed to help in dealing with the crisis, for example:

Bilton C of E Junior School Solar Dome Sanctuary; Citizens Advice Bureau; Rugby and Daventry Radio; Circles Network, working with parents with children with disabilities; By Your Side, a stay and play project to support parents

suffering with perinatal mental illness; Appoint Us Services, who are running 2 projects, delivering therapeutic services to groups suffering from dementia or disabilities in the wider community including care homes; And, Don't let Covid Steal Xmas - a project to raise spirits in places where Covid restrictions have made life difficult; Parenting Project offering counselling support to parents across the area.



Peter and Carolyn agree community grants are vital



The Safe & Active Travel programme is open to all local primary schools

SAFE AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME

On the 8th October 2020 (Clean Air Day), Warwickshire County Council launched a brand new Safe and Active Travel programme. This is a free award scheme that is open to all primary schools.

The scheme aims to reduce the number of car journeys made to and from school - something which is an ongoing issue for schools, residents

and businesses. The award scheme encourages walking and cycling, promotes healthier lifestyles for children and their families, and aims to reduce carbon footprints therefore improving air quality. The Safe and Active Travel team have contacted all local primary schools in Rugby & Bulkington to encourage them to join the scheme.

YOUR CONSERVATIVE TEAM FOR ADMIRALS & CAWSTON

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SEE INSIDE for news from PCC Philip Seccombe

Local councils on your side in fight against COVID

Since the pandemic began Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council have worked together to ensure residents and businesses have been protected as much as possible. A Shielding Hub was set up in just 8 days and mobile testing stations operated on a regular basis until a permanent testing station was established on Railway Terrace.

The existing working relationship between the councils made it easier to respond to the pandemic. Both councils were able to re-

deploy staff in the fight against COVID, businesses grants were paid out swiftly, and accurate data and information regarding the spread of the virus was relayed to the public. Also, every effort was made to maintain essential services including bin collections.

We still have a long way to go in the fight against the virus but the strong relationship and ongoing co-operation between both of our local councils has been key in supporting residents and businesses in Rugby.



Our local councils have been doing the right thing for Rugby

Covid challenges for us all



Cllr Peter Butlin is pleased with how WCC has responded during the pandemic

The last 9 months have been challenging and everyone's lives have changed considerably. The way we all work, interact with other people, socialise and travel have all changed in an effort to keep safe in the pandemic environment. Warwickshire County Council has performed very well in its efforts to keep everyone safe, especially the most vulnerable in the community.

We have all become more digitally aware and County Councillor and WCC Deputy Leader Peter Butlin is impressed how residents have set up WhatsApp Community Groups to keep connected. Virtual meetings using Zoom and Teams are the new normal and have injected

new words into our daily language. The retail and hospitality sectors of the business world have been hit especially hard and a lot of effort is now being put into protecting these businesses as best we can and 'The Recovery' is WCC's big priority in creating and preserving jobs in Warwickshire.

During this year's lockdowns the roads were quieter, giving the Warwickshire County Council Highways team the opportunity to do more road surfacing without causing huge disruption to drivers. County Councillor Peter Butlin had already identified areas in the division that needed work, including Cornwallis Road and Freemantle Road.

A message from Mark Pawsey MP

I want to thank everyone who has helped on the front-line since the start of the pandemic. Our incredible doctors, nurses and NHS staff have ensured that our hospitals and health services have remained open for business despite enormous pressure; our teachers and everyone working in our schools have gone above and beyond to make sure our young people continue to receive an excellent education; and our police officers, fire-fighters, supermarket workers, council staff and everyone in the charitable and voluntary sectors have done so much to support people and businesses through these most difficult of times.

Tragically many families have lost loved ones to the virus and we have all faced challenges at every level and had to make so many sacrifices. At various times this year families have been unable to see elderly relatives; people have been forced to close their businesses; and children have been unable to attend their schools.

I know that there have been severe consequences in our collective efforts to suppress and control the virus. Many businesses now face an uncertain future and, as a former small business owner myself, I know the pain and suffering that many local businesses have gone through. Although the government has provided an

unprecedented package of support for the business community it is a tragedy that not every job could be saved and that some businesses may find themselves unable to re-open their doors. I would encourage anyone facing an uncertain future to explore all avenues of personal and financial support that is available. If you personally are struggling to secure the help you need I would ask that you please contact me directly. I am here to help in any way I can.

We must look to 2021 as a year to recover and rebuild. The Government intends to pursue a policy of investment in both infrastructure and skills with the intention of fostering economic growth. This will build upon the 'levelling-up' strategy outlined within this year's Budget and the Finance Act. The Prime Minister has also been clear that there will not be a 'return to austerity' reminiscent of the economic response to the 2008 Financial Crisis.

The challenges ahead remain significant, but I know that local residents here in Rugby & Bulkington have the resolve and resilience to overcome whatever is thrown in our path. Whether you have supported a vulnerable neighbour, helped out in your local community or simply done the right thing to help control the spread of this disease, you have played an enormous part in helping us get through this difficult period in our history.



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Rugby Town Centre

When Councillor Seb Lowe became the Leader of Rugby Borough Council in May 2019, he pledged to make the town centre a place where people wanted to spend time, that looked great and was busy.

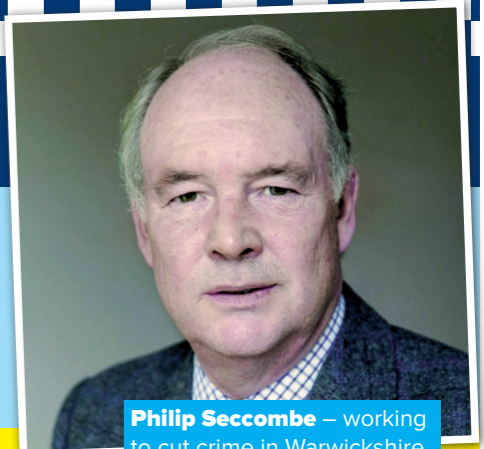
To help make this happen work on the town centre spatial strategy is now underway. Consultations are taking place in December and January with various stakeholders and members of the public and retail consultants Avison Young have been tasked to help shape the council's bold vision for the town centre.

Once the new strategy is in place it will provide a roadmap for the future of the town centre and allow the council to bid for regeneration funding. Everything will be looked at from architecture to road layout.

As Rugby Borough Council does not own the buildings in the town centre it must work closely with its partners, landlords and shop owners. This is an exciting journey for the town centre and will provide a blueprint for how it will evolve over the next few years.



Philip Seccombe – Your local Police & Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire



Philip Seccombe – working to cut crime in Warwickshire.

Police & Crime Commissioners have big powers:

- ✓ Managing a multi-million pound police budget
- ✓ Setting local policing priorities
- ✓ Holding the police to account

So it matters who's in charge

Philip Seccombe – Your local Police & Crime Commissioner is working to cut crime by:

- ✓ **Putting more police on our streets** – with a 25% increase in officers since 2018. And more officers, PCSOs and Special Constables to come.
- ✓ **Supporting victims of crimes** – such as burglary, violence, domestic abuse, road collisions, fraud and cyber crime. Helping them overcome any trauma.
- ✓ **Protecting our communities and businesses** – in the Towns, rural areas and on our roads. By working with neighbouring forces and local partners.

With the extra police that we're working with Government to recruit.

More Police. Cutting Crime. Making Communities Safer.

A stronger & more effective Police Force to fight crime in Rugby

There are now 1040 police officers in Warwickshire which is a substantial increase from the 800 two years ago. There are now more officers in the 999 Response team and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Rugby. New teams have also been created to tackle Rural Crime and Vehicle Crime.

Following the outbreak of Covid 19 the Force have worked with the public in a proportionate way but have issued fines when necessary. Philip has also given extra funds to support victims'

organisations who help sufferers of abuse and those who have lost loved ones as result of road collisions.

Philip says: "If re-elected in May I will continue to support the fight against crime in all its forms and give the Force the tools and funds to do so. In addition, I will not forget my pledge to listen to residents, communities and businesses and address their concerns, so that together, we can all be, and feel, safer in Warwickshire".



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