



Warndon Parish Council News

August 2023

Meet your Parish Councillors 2023

Councillor Kate Collier- I live on Corfe Avenue with my husband and two young children. I've worked in education for all of my career and I'm keen to see that interests of young people and families are represented in the Parish. My other areas of interest are active travel, including road safety, and the importance of green spaces and biodiversity in our area.



Deputy Portfolio Holder—Communications. Committees: Finance, Parish Communications. Responsible for speed machines (Deputy), Newsletter (Deputy). Represents Warndon Parish Council at the Lyppard Hub Board (Deputy)



Councillor Stuart Forrest—I moved to Worcester in 1982 and to Warndon Villages in 2021. I worked in Finance for nearly 40 years taking early retirement in 2017. My role is to listen and help residents making our community a better place to live. I have three grown up children and live with my partner, Sarah Murray, and our dog Harry.

Deputy Portfolio Holder—Finance. Committees: Finance, Planning and Rights of Way, Policies and Procedures, Staffing, Urgent Business. Responsible for Allotments (Deputy)

Councillor Lucy Hodgson (Chair)—I have been on the parish council for four years. At the Annual meeting this year I was elected to be Chairman of the Parish Council. Having had many years in local government I know the right person to get things done. I am married to Stephen and moved to Brecon Avenue just under 8 years ago. You can often see me walking our Dachshund Henry.



Portfolio Holder – Finance. Deputy Portfolio Holder – Leisure and Community. Committees: Environment, Finance, Planning and Rights of Way, Parish Communications, Policies and Procedures, Staffing, Urgent Business. Represents Parish Council at Worcestershire CALC Area and Executive



Councillor Stephen Hodgson—I am married to fellow Parish Councillor Lucy Hodgson and live on Brecon Avenue with Henry our dachshund. I am also a Worcester City Councillor and I also have a full-time job with a national grocery retailer. My hobbies include watching live sport and travel.

Portfolio Holder – Planning and Rights of Way. Committees: Planning & Rights of Way. Responsible for Speed Indicator Devices, Defibrillators

Website: <https://warndonparishcouncil.org>

Email: clerk@warndonparishcouncil.org **Tel.** 07743 623543



Councillor Edward Kimberley—is a local musician, private tutor and housing activist who has been living in Warndon Village for 25 years. He serves as a member of Worcester Arts Council and regularly performs with local amateur music groups.

Deputy Portfolio Holder – Environment. Committees: Environment, Parish Communications Working Group, Policies and Procedures. Responsible for Website (Deputy), Defibrillators (Deputy)

Councillor Dawn Merriman—I moved to Warndon Villages in 1997 with my husband, Mark. I was first co-opted as a Parish Councillor in Autumn 2004 and have served my community for almost 19 years. I care passionately about the area and have a keen interest in the local environment working with the City Council and my fellow Councillors to ensure we retain the character of the area as it was originally planned, which has also led me to join the steering group for the Warndon Parish Neighbourhood Plan. I am also a member of several local volunteer groups. In my spare time I enjoy gardening and watching wildlife.



Portfolio Holder – Environment and Parish Communications ; Deputy Portfolio Holder – Neighbourhood Plan. Committees: Environmental, Finance, Parish Communications, Policies and Procedures, Staffing . Responsible for Newsletter, Website development, Facebook and other social media, Neighbourhood Plan (Deputy). Represents Warndon Parish Council at Worcestershire CALC Area and Executive Committee meetings and the Worcester City Council Standards Board

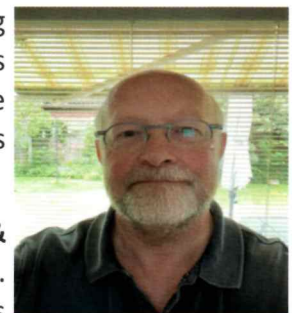


Councillor John Rudge— I am a semi-retired teacher of English and Psychology who has spent most of my teaching career in Worcestershire schools. I now also work as a gardener. My interests outside work include playing golf, bird-watching and drinking good wine.

Portfolio Holder – Leisure and Community. Committees: Environment, Parish Communications, Staffing, Urgent Business. Responsible for Allotments

Councillor Andy Taylor—I joined the Parish Council back in 2015, following concerns about Planning issues within the parish. Since then, my main focus has been working towards a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish that seeks to ensure that the balance between the housing, employment sites and the environment is maintained well into the future.

Portfolio Holder – Neighbourhood Plan ; Deputy Portfolio Holder – Planning & Rights of Way. Committees: Planning & Rights of Way, Urgent Business. Represents Warndon Parish Council at the Worcester City Council Standards Board



Parish Council Surgeries 2023

Warndon Parish Council drop-in surgeries will be held at the Lyppard Hub, on the last Monday of each month from **6pm – 7pm**, for residents to meet with a Parish Councillor to raise any matters of concern .

Thursday 31 August, Monday 25 September, Monday 30 October, Monday 27 November

New Pelican Crossing on Woodgreen Drive

The new pelican crossing has been installed by the county council and is fully operational. It is part of the active travel corridor which will connect the Lyppard Hub, Aconbury and down to the city.

Plans for new Secondary School



Plans for a new 600-place secondary school are currently in the process of being finalised before being submitted later this summer. The location of the new school will be on Newtown Road, between the hospital and the A4440 roundabout. Oasis Community Learning- a multi academy trust that runs schools across five regions of the UK- will operate the school and there is a target of Summer 2026 for the opening of the school, with the school reaching capacity by 2031. The new school would offer children and young people living within Warndon Parish a reduced journey to school but there are implications for parking, congestion and traffic. The online consultation has now closed, but should anyone have any questions or feedback it can be emailed to NewSecondarySchool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk More information can be found on the County Council website

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/new-worcester-secondary-school>

Brecon Avenue MUGA

The Brecon Avenue MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) was completed by the City Council contractors in the middle of April. It is well used and really appreciated. It will be officially opened at the beginning of August.

Police officer numbers hit historic high in West Mercia

A record number of police officers, 2494 in total, are now serving in West Mercia, as officer numbers hit new highs. Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion has supported West Mercia Police's Chief Constable to not only meet the Government's uplift target for West Mercia, but exceed it. Your police force now has a headcount of 2494 officers, with officer numbers increasing by 508 since the PCC was first elected in 2016. A further boost to officer numbers will happen in this financial year, with an additional 40 officers recruited to create new community crime fighting teams. The PCC is committed to ensuring police officers are accessible and visible in your community, tackling the issues that matter to you.



Worcester Environmental Group (WEG)

In May, Worcester Environmental Group (WEG) working in collaboration with Worcester City Council officially launched the 'Wild about Worcester Way' a way-marked 12-mile route, which enables residents to explore greenspaces in our beautiful city, learn about nature and improve their own health and wellbeing. This route is also a 'wildlife corridor', promoting an increase in biodiversity and protection of the environment. With people's increased desire to get out into green-spaces, having a marked route can give people the confidence to do it!

Feedback from users has been very positive, with people, having lived in Worcester for more than 30 years discovering greenspaces they did not know existed. You can either complete the full circular 12-mile route, or split it into a number of shorter walks. If you wish to find out more about the Wild about Worcester Way go to website <https://www.theweg.org.uk/wild-about-worcester> .

Worcester Environmental Groups run a number of volunteer events throughout the city and following the recent recruitment of a volunteer co-ordinator, there will now be weekly events taking place. If you wish to find out more about how you can get involved, you can follow them on Facebook or sign up to their monthly Newsletter.

Environmental Matters

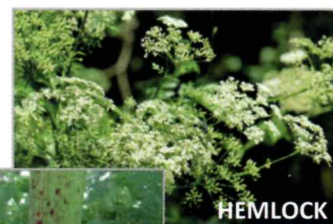
This year, due to the combination of a wet spring followed by a prolonged warm spell, has created ideal growing conditions and we have seen some exceptional growth in our hedgerows and greenspaces. With so many of the footpaths/cycleways affected it has been necessary for the City Council Streetscene Team to carry out some light pruning work, earlier in the season than in previous years. The team are observant of bird nesting guidelines and ensure no birds are present before commencing this work. You may also have noticed that areas of our greenspaces are being left unmown, this is intentional to try to encourage more flower species to develop, which in turn will attract more insects and wildlife and increase biodiversity, evidenced by the presence of wild orchids in the parish in more recent years!

It is also so important to be aware of other native plants growing in the parish and the UK. At first glance hemlock, cow parsley, ground elder and wild carrot may appear to be the same plant, as they all have white flowers and bloom around the same time, but while cow parsley is edible, hemlock is poisonous.



Cow Parsley flowering in May, the flowers are small and delicate and are arranged in groups of up to 10 to form an umbel. The leaves are green and feathery and the stalk is striated. It is edible but it can be difficult to identify from some very poisonous relations.

Hemlock all parts of this plant, when ingested, can be fatal to humans and animals. In appearance, hemlock could very easily be mistaken for wild carrot or cow parsley and is often found in similar areas, it flowers in June/July and its leaves have a glossy sheen and its stem has distinctive purple blotches and can grow up to 2 metres. One of its defining characteristics is its foul odour, reminiscent of rodent urine.



HEMLOCK



Giant Hogweed often grows in excess of 2 metres and sometimes as tall as 5 metres, with thick stems. The large leaves are deep green in colour with clear lobes and jagged edges but with reddish-purple blotches and pronounced white hairs. The umbels are enormous, measuring up to 60cm across. Contact with giant hogweed should be avoided, particularly under strong sunlight, as, even after minimal contact, its sap can result in large, painful blisters on the skin.

Also be aware some really common plants can cause canine poisoning, especially spring bulbs, daffodils, tulips, bluebells and crocus along with foxgloves, rhododendron, and deadly nightshade are all poisonous.

Ticks We also need to take care when going for walks and check ourselves and our pets for ticks on our return. Numerous species of tick are found in the UK, they look like small, large-bodied spiders. generally reddish brown/black in colour and some can be carrying harmful bacteria, like Lyme disease that can spread to humans. Tick season is usually between March and October but it may last longer. If you've been bitten by a tick, you should try to remove it as soon as possible. Symptoms of a tick bite can take up to 2 to 3 months to develop When walking in long grass or woodland cover up with long sleeved tops and tuck trousers into your socks limiting the opportunities for ticks to attach to you. Using a chemical repellent such as DEET can also help. For more information including how to remove a tick, then go to the NHS website. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>

Parish Warden

Mike, the Parish Warden works in both Warndon and St Peter's Parishes. Since May he has increased his workdays in Warndon, so you will now see him on Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri. He will be working on our many footpaths & cycleways over the next few weeks to ensure they are accessible until the City Council commence the Autumn hedge reduction programme in October. If you do notice an issue, please report it to **Worcester City Council 01905 722233** or via their website **'Report it'** <https://www.worcester.gov.uk/report-it> or if there is a problem with streetlights, potholes, roads or pavements contact **Worcestershire County Council** <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tell-us-about>