(Appendix 3)

Report of Steve Stuart
Councillor for Water Orton
at North Warwickshire Borough Council – October 2026

Meetings3

Since the last meeting of the Parish Council, I have represented the Village at the following meetings:

28/9 – Sustainability Action Group

29/9 – Executive Board

30/9 – Full Council

7/10 – Shop Front Panel

20/10 – Full Council

I have also acted as substitute for NWIR colleagues to allow for attendance and voting rights at the Planning and Development Board on 5th October which, amongst other items, considered the Old School Site.

I have also seen that the Village has been represented at meetings of the Parking Working Group (1/10) and Executive board (20/10) via written submissions, pre-meets and substitutions with other members of the North Warwickshire Independent Representatives.

NWIR also have been present at meetings of Community and Environment Group on 19/10

Surgeries

I have held surgeries at the following times:

29/9, 6/10, 13/10, 20/10 at Robert Lloyd Room 10-11am

25/9, 9/10, 23/10 at Water Orton Library 2-3pm

Appointments are available at other times and venues, including online, by request.

NWCAB

I have been assisting North Warwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau in finding a suitable venue for them to provide an outreach service to enable in person access to their services without having to travel into Atherstone.

NWCAB ran a session at Spud Club on 19th October and there are two further sessions planned at this venue in the coming months.

Proteas House

Proteas House is the proposed Children's Residential Unit on Birmingham Road. Requests were made to residents whether they wished to see the matter "called in" to Planning Board. Whilst there as some comments in relation to parking and safety there were no requests to see the matter not be delegated to an officer.

I have met with the manager of the home and was able to detail the level of concerns raised by residents and the nature of said concerns. He was able to impress upon me that the establishment wanted to be good neighbours and a part of the village as a whole.

Proteas House is planning to open its doors in the New Year.

LGA

On 15th October I was in London at the AGM of the Local Government Services National Employers Body. This body represents the employers' side of local government in pay negotiations with 1.4million workers. I sit on this body as the representative of the Independent Group of Councillors.

NALC / NWAC / WALC

The National Association of Local Councils to which the Parish Council subscribes also has a seat on the LGS employers' body to represent Parish and Town Councils. However, I have been informed that they have not taken up their seat for several years. I would suggest that the Parish Council may wish to enquire as to why. This may be directly or via NWAC or WALC.

Local Plan

The Local Plan has now progressed to Regulation 19 stage and the consultation on this document went live on 16th October. This runs for 6 weeks.

I have raised the issues around perception of the consultation and asked that all steps be taken to help raise awareness of this document.

Whilst the present iteration of the plan only details one site within the village (the old school site) there are many issues relating to the wider infrastructure within the borough. At full council on 30th September, I specifically raised questions around Public Transportation as these had been prevalent in many of the previous consultation responses from residents within the village.

There is consultation drop in event at the Methodist Church at 2.45 – 4.45 on Tuesday 10th November. There are many others around the borough, and you can attend any that you wish to.

Residents are encouraged to respond in the same forthright manner to which they have done to the last consultation.

Old School Site

The Old School Site was considered at Planning Board on 5th October. I attended this meeting, acting as substitute for my NWIR Colleague Emma Whapples. I detailed that whilst it should be acknowledged that the developers had made many adjustments to the plan there were still many aspects which were of concern and it was hoped that the strong imposition of conditions would help alleviate some of these concerns.

I did detail that the concern was also about what the alternative would be for the site and indeed the school frontage whose future is secured by the plan. The expressed opinion from other members acknowledged these concerns and that whilst the plan was not perfect it was the best that was likely to come for the board's attention.

Approval, with conditions, passed. All were in favour, with my vote abstaining being the only other vote.

LGR

LGR is still officially paused. This means that presently scheduled elections for Borough Council – and Parish Councils for May 2027 will go ahead.

HS2 - Community engagement

Following discussions at SMZ in recent meetings I have recently met with HS2 / BBV to work on matters of community engagement and perception. This was particularly around matters of the benefits and efficacy of their complaints process.

Parking

Whilst not present at the Parking Task and Finish Group on 1st October (Michael Osbourne acting as Group Substitute) I did make written representations and had spoken to the Leader of the Council relating to the issues of Parking within the village.

Parish Council will be aware that the matter for the policing and enforcement of Parking in the front of the shops is a county council matter and therefore outside of the Borough Councils remit. However, the matter of the operation of the car park near the station is a matter for the borough council.

The leader of the council has agreed to visit the site and meet with me there to see the problems for himself.

Business Letters

I have written to the business owners of those with premises in the centre of the village to highlight business awards and shop front grants. I also detailed about the proposed visit of the Leader of NWBC to the Village to look at the issues relating to parking outside of their premises.

North Warwickshire Prosperity Fund

The NWPF remains open. A recent award has supported the delivery of the physiotherapy service at the Rugby Club Warm Hub, in full, for a further year.

I am working with several village organisations to support the submission and progression of bids to this fund.