

County Report Ilmington Parish Council

22 January 2026

Happy New Year to all

Councillor Grant Fund

This year the Round 1 deadline for applications was Sunday 20 July 2025 so I expect a similar date for 2026. I'll keep you posted. There have been moves to remove this fund due to budget pressures, but this is being resisted by Members on all sides.

White Lines

Renewing white lines is a relatively inexpensive and effective way of increasing road safety. The budget for white lining is agreed early in the financial year and is best carried out in late spring/summer.

Please let me know by your April meeting what priorities the Parish has for white lines, I can then get these requests into the system early.

20mph

There are a number of groups across the county campaigning for 20mph limits in rural areas. Currently it's a lottery, if you're in Oxfordshire, Gloucs etc you can have a 20mph limit, in Warwickshire it seems almost impossible. I'm campaigning for a 20mph zone in Ettington and have the support of our MP who I'm seeing Saturday morning. I will keep you posted.

Budget

We have now had the Government Settlement which was circulated shortly before Christmas. In brief it's not good news for the shires and the Government is prioritising urban rather than rural areas of deprivation.

I understand the Leader of ReformUK is pressing to increase Council Tax by 3.99% rather than the maximum allowed of 4.99%.

These may seem marginal figures, but over the 5 Year Medium Term Financial Strategy, (MTFS), this amounts to a cut of revenue in excess of £25m. So, the question is, what services would the Leader want to cut to make this saving?

PS Acton Energy Community Grant Funds

Heart of England Community Energy is dedicated to supporting local charities and organisations. Through our Community Grant Fund, we reinvest surplus profits into community projects with a positive social and environmental impact. We fund projects in South Warwickshire, Stratford upon Avon, and nearby areas.

If you're part of a local community organisation with an idea that can benefit both your community and the environment, we're eager to hear from you. We have £50,000 to invest in projects that reduce carbon impact and enrich the community.

<https://www.hecommunityenergy.org/#:~:text=About%20Us,and%20sustainable%20electricity%20since%202016>