Dear Residents and Parish Councils,

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who placed their trust in me by voting in the recent local elections. Your support means a great deal, and I am genuinely grateful for the confidence you have shown.

I am committed to engaging openly with our community, listening to your concerns, and working hard to support the issues that matter most to us all. I will do my best to attend meetings, events, and discussions whenever I can, so that I remain accessible and connected to the people I serve.

I welcome the opportunity to be invited to attend your Parish meeting however due to various introductory council meetings and training I am unable to attend in person but will do so in the future.

By way of introduction I would like to send this correspondence to be read out at the Pasrish Counil meeting…

My commitment to community service, with substantial contributions to various local initiatives is who I am. I served on the Board of Governors at Bilton School from 2019 to 2025, exemplifying my dedication to advancing education and supporting youth development. Professionally, I hold the role of Senior Manager at Wellcome Trust, where my expertise has played a pivotal part in shaping strategies, driving transformation efforts, and enhancing not-for-profit organizations.

Beyond my career achievements, I actively participate in local governance and cultural associations. I am an engaged member of the Cawston Parish Council and serve on the committee of the Rugby Indian Association. I frequently do volunteer work for community and charitable events that underscores my commitment to enriching local life.

In addition to my professional and volunteer pursuits, I am passionate about sports, regularly taking part in activities like cycling, gym, football and cricket of which the latter two are my preferred sports, all of which he enjoys participating in and watching.

I married and a father to three children who are currently attending school, college, and university respectively.

Thank you once again for your support. I look forward to working with you and for you.

Warm regards,

Councillor Umesh Mistry

Rugby Borough Councillor – Dunsmore Ward

Liberal Democrats

Update from Rugby Borough Councillors Umesh Mistry and Isabelle McKenzie May 2026

Political makeup

Following the elections on 7 May, the borough council make up has changed slightly. Dunsmore ward continues to have a Liberal Democrat councillor with Cllr Umesh Mistry elected in the place of Cllr Jon Bennett. Overall, Liberal Democrats are up 2 councillors to 12; Labour are down 3 to 12; Conservatives are down 2 to 15 and Reform now have 3 councillors. For the last 2 years, it was a Labour minority administration with a supply and confidence agreement from the Liberal Democrats. In view of the change in seat numbers, that agreement is being redrafted and will be published shortly. We will update you once this information is public.

Local Government Reorganisation

This continues in the background and we are still expecting a ministerial decision by July recess on whether we are a one Warwickshire or a North and South Warwickshire Unitary. A cross-party committee is being formed to represent Rugby in this process and parishes will be invited to join/participate. It is important that we seek the right solutions for Rugby and that it is not at the mercy of party politics.

We are also conducting a review of governance arrangements to see whether to form a town council for Rugby. This is also an opportunity for parishes to review their arrangements and make adjustments if appropriate. Please do stay in touch with this process as well. It is important that arrangements for representation are suitable for a unitary world rather than the borough/county system we have now.

Food waste collections

The roll out of weekly food waste collections will start in July. Before that point, all households will receive an indoor and outdoor caddy. Collections will be on the same day as another collection and so there may be changes to your collection days. There will be a information leaflet with your caddies explaining any changes. Once your food waste collection starts, you will no longer be able to put food waste into your green bin.

The collected food waste goes to an anaerobic digestor to create biogas for the national gas network. It is not composted. This means you can line the outside caddy with a plastic bag if you want to keep it clean. The plastic bag will be separated out and recycled at the end of the process.

Local Plan

The Local Plan was submitted for Inspection in Public in April 2026 and the inspection process will hopefully happen in 2026. Now that the plan has been submitted, the policies in the plan start to take some planning weight – this is good news for Cawston Spinney & the Rainsbrook Valley.

Councillor Grants

Each councillor has been allocated a £3,000 grant to dispense in their ward (so £9,000 in total for Dunsmore). We will update you when we know the terms of the grant and how it can be used.