

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 108

8 March 2019



## This week's news from around the Council.

- **Silver Award at 2019 iESE Awards**

This week, we heard the great news that South Staffordshire Council won the Silver Award for Reinventing Local Services at the 2019 iESE Awards. This award is for totally transforming the way that services work and improving outcomes for the local community and recognises the Council's Efficiency and Income Plan. Click [here](#) to see a pic taken at the awards event.

- **Partnership working success**

This week, the Council carried out a joint operation in various localities throughout the district with Staffordshire Police, stopping vans or carriers of scrap metal to make sure they all had the relevant licences. They also visited known fly-tipping hotspots. The joint operation involved four police officers and four officers from the Council and as a result five vehicles were stopped in total. Of these, one could not produce a waste carrier licence and this will be followed up.

- **Mobile breast screening unit returning to Codsall**

Historically in the south of the district, a mobile breast screening unit has been located within Wombourne and Codsall as part of the tri-yearly breast screening cycle. In 2010, the mobile breast screening unit was removed from Codsall with residents either having to travel to the mobile unit in Wombourne or the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital for their screening appointment. This has been a source of local concern and has been frequently discussed at the Council's Wellbeing Select Committee.

Thanks to the work of the Committee and local campaigners and following an agreement with Wolverhampton City Council and Dudley NHS Foundation Trust, the mobile screening unit will return to Codsall week commencing Monday 11 March 2019 for a period of 16 weeks. Screenings will take place Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm and the unit will be hosted by the Council outside the main Wolverhampton road entrance to the Council offices.

- **Chairman's Civic Dinner**

The Chairman, Councillor Len Bates BEM, will be hosting a Civic Dinner on Friday 8 March 2019 at The Moat House, Acton Trussell, where The Rt. Hon. Gavin Williamson CBE MP, together with Civic Heads from Staffordshire, Members and personal friends will attend. The evening is the main fundraising event of the Chairman's year in office for his chosen charity, CASS (Carers Association) South Staffordshire.

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- **Annual billing**

We will shortly be issuing approximately 47,000 Council Tax bills for April 2019 to all households in the district. This will also include 2,500 e-bills for those who have signed up to this online option.

Following the introduction of the Council's MyAccount facility, this now allows 24/7 secure access to a number of council services online. These services include Council Tax, Housing Benefits, bulky waste collections, payment of fees and rent. Customers can also subscribe for eAlerts such as Council Tax payment reminders, planning applications, bin collections and updates in their local area.

- **National Apprenticeship Week 2019**

This week it's been National Apprenticeship Week (4 to 8 March 2019). This annual celebration of apprenticeships brings the whole apprenticeship community together to celebrate the positive impact of apprenticeships on individuals, employers and the wider economy. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **Workforce champions programme supported by Council**

Local Employers including South Staffordshire Council are joining a new campaign tackling domestic abuse. The Workplace Champions programme is the first county-wide scheme of its kind to offer support in the workplace to both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. Led by deputy Staffordshire Commissioner, Sue Arnold, the programme is co-ordinated by Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce and delivered by New Era, which provides free and confidential round-the-clock advice and support for anyone in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent affected by domestic abuse. The programme is being rolled out around the county and the first training session took place in February in Codsall, hosted by South Staffordshire Council. Click [here](#) for more information about New Era.

- **Be part of the Great British Spring Clean**

Keep Britain Tidy is once again urging communities to get involved in the Great British Spring Clean between Friday 22 March and Tuesday 23 April 2019. This year, the campaign is focusing on single-use plastics and Friends of Essington and Friends of Bilbrook are just two of the groups organising their own litter pics.

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If you are thinking about holding your own litter pick, please visit the Keep Britain Tidy website to register your event. Click [here](#) to find out how you can get involved and remember to get in touch with Ryan Taylor at South Staffordshire Council ([r.taylor2@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:r.taylor2@sstaffs.gov.uk)) if you would like any assistance from the Council in organising events or publicity or if you would like our Street Scene crews to pick up any of the bagged litter that you collect.

- **Volunteers needed**

The Enforcement team needs help distributing its free dog fouling stickers and dog poo bags to local shops, post offices, pubs, community rooms and any other suitable locations. Volunteers are needed to approach suitable locations and ask them if they would like to participate in the scheme. You will then need to give them stickers for the window, so they can let the public know that dog poo bags are available for collection there, and a supply of the bags. If anyone can help, please contact Lucy Macdonald ([l.macdonald@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:l.macdonald@sstaffs.gov.uk)).

- **New dementia singing friends group**

Earlier this month, a new dementia singing friends group was launched in Wombourne. Taking place every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm in the Community Room in Wombourne Library, the sessions are relaxed and informal where people affected by dementia and their carers can get together, have a good chat and a laugh while also singing favourite songs or even having a dance. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Coming soon to Wombourne**

A new CASS carers' café in the Civic Centre in Wombourne will be opening its doors on Wednesday 13 March 2019, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Click [here](#) for more information about the carers' café and CASS The Carers Association.

[www.carersinformation.org.uk](http://www.carersinformation.org.uk)

- **Switch and save**

If you'd like help switching your energy supplier, the Good Life Energy team will be visiting the Council Offices every Thursday between 9.30am and 1pm. Remember to bring along a recent energy bill.

Freephone: **03333 058671**

Email: [info@cebltd.com](mailto:info@cebltd.com)

[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy)

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- **South Staffordshire Connect service now available**

The South Staffordshire Connect dial-a-ride bus service is now available. This local, bookable bus service is once again helping many people who struggle to get out and about and it is aimed at residents who live away from regular bus routes or who find it difficult to use a standard bus. The new Connect service operates between 10am and 3pm to three zones. For more information, please click on the following for more information - [Zone 1](#), [Zone 2](#) and [Zone 3](#).



## Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** - Tuesday 12 March 2019 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber
- **Licensing Sub Committee** - Friday 15 March 2019 - 10.30am - Committee Room 2

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Essington Fruit Farm and Butchery, Astons of Coven, and Baked @ No 3 in Great Wyrley.

Everyone is encouraged to submit news items, please email: [comms@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:comms@sstaffs.gov.uk)