

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 131

16 August 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Visit by Housing Secretary**

Today, the Housing Secretary the Rt Hon. Robert Jenrick MP will be visiting Pastures View, a 14-home rural development situated in Himley Lane in Swindon, South Staffordshire. The site was completed in 2011 and provides 14 affordable homes, four shared-ownership properties and 10 for affordable rent. Representatives from the Council and Housing Plus will be present and pictures of the visit will follow next week. Click [here](#) to see an example of the housing.

- **New Staffordshire Police website**

On Wednesday 14 August 2019, Staffordshire Police introduced Single Online Home (SOH), a new interactive website where members of the public can report non-urgent crime, submit complaints or praise, make requests under the freedom of information act, view local crime statistics and seek advice on a range of crime types and crime prevention methods. Click [here](#) to see more.

Along with Single Online Home, you can also report non-urgent crime via social media and their digital **101** team is available seven days a week from 7am to midnight on Facebook and Twitter.

- **DRoPS campaign success**

Almost 70 inconsiderate drivers have been caught red-handed thanks to an initiative set up between Staffordshire Police and Biffa in South Staffordshire. The DRoPs campaign aims to make drivers aware of the potential implications of driving on pavements to manoeuvre around waste collection vehicles and it has involved Biffa's refuse collection vehicles being fitted with four CCTV cameras, which give a 360 degree view and constantly record what is happening around their vehicles. Click [here](#) to read more.

- **Praise for the Street Scene team**

This week, the Street Scene team received a thank you note praising the "fantastic job" they're doing maintaining the grounds of the prestigious Jaguar Land Rover site at i54 South Staffordshire. The team was awarded the contract earlier this year and the work involves grass cutting, shrub pruning and general grounds duties. Click [here](#) to see the thank you note.

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- **Talking about sight loss**

This week, we received a thank you from Beacon, a local charity that supports people across the Black Country and Staffordshire impacted by sight loss. The charity used the foyer in the Council Offices in Codsall recently to engage with the local community and showcased its sighted tandem bike. Click [here](#) to see more. www.beaconvision.org

- **Local road sweepings help flood relief efforts**

Sandbags filled with material from road sweepings in South Staffordshire and produced at a street sweeping facility in Wolverhampton have been helping the recent flood relief efforts in Derbyshire. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **What's on at Baggeridge this weekend**

On Saturday 17 August 2019, Baggeridge Country Park is playing host to a family fun dog show from 11am to 3.30pm. The event will be raising money for hearing dogs for deaf people and is sponsored by Blacks Vets. Click [here](#) for more information.

On Sunday 18 August 2019, listen out for the Black Country Guys, playing on the bandstand from 3pm to 5pm.

- **Get active!**

Keen to stay active and healthy? The South Staffs Cycling Scheme has developed a series of routes and cycling rides for all ages and cycling abilities across South Staffordshire. These rides are ideal for people who are new to cycling or a bit out of practice. All you need is a roadworthy bike, helmet and some pennies for the important café stop. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **Annual Canvass 2019 - deadline approaching**

It's Annual Canvass time and every household in the district has been sent a Household Enquiry Form (HEF). Every year, we are required to write to every household in the district to confirm that the details we have on the electoral register are correct. It is a legal requirement to respond to this letter and it's quick and easy to reply - you can do this online or by telephoning, texting or signing the form and sending it back. Click [here](#) for more information.

All details must be updated and returned by Monday 19 August 2019. You can do this online – click [here](#) to access the household update service - all you need are the security codes printed on the form sent to you by post.

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- **Funding now available to help you heat your home**

For a limited time, householders and tenants in South Staffordshire can benefit from being connected to mains gas along with a new gas-fired central heating system all installed free of charge (subject to eligibility). The scheme is funded using the Warm Homes Fund, established by National Grid to support local authorities, registered social landlords and other organisations working in partnership with them, to address some of the issues affecting fuel poor households. South Staffordshire Council is working with Staffordshire County Council, E.On and Affordable Warmth Solutions to help fund and successfully deliver this scheme locally and ensure households can afford to heat their homes.

Click [here](#) to view our first installation case study in Perton. For more information, call freephone **0800 193 1902** or email advice@mea.org.uk.

www.staffordshirewarmerhomes.co.uk

- **Energy switch surgery every Thursday**

If you'd like help switching your energy supplier, the Good Life Energy team will be visiting the Council Offices every Thursday between 10am and 1pm. You can book an appointment with the team on Freephone **03333 058671** or turn up with a recent energy bill on the day. For more information, visit www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy.

- **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](#).



- **Having a clear out?**

The Council can help you get rid of your bulky waste items including sofas, beds, wardrobes and white goods such as fridges, freezers and washing machines. Click [here](#) to book online 24/7. Unwanted household items can also be re-used or donated via a series of charities and forums including the British Heart Foundation, Acorns Children's Hospice, the Furniture Re-use Network and others. Click [here](#) for more information.

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- **Together we win!**

Good causes in South Staffordshire need your support and one way you can help is by buying a lottery ticket in our weekly Community Lottery. As well as supporting a good cause you might even win a cash prize ranging from £25 up to a jackpot of £25,000. To buy a lottery ticket, simply register on the website (www.southstaffslottery.co.uk) or telephone **01902 213777**.

- **Events coming up**

- **Good Life Energy Switch Surgery** - Thursday 22 August 2019 - 10am to 1pm - Foyer, Council Offices in Codsall.
- **Skills and Jobs Fair** - Friday 20 September 2019 - 10am to 1pm - Council Offices in Codsall. Come along and talk to employers, skills and education providers, recruitment agencies and specialised services offering support into work. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Parish Summit** - Friday 11 October 2019 - 9am to 1pm - Council Offices in Codsall.

Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Planning Committee** - Tuesday 20 August 2019 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber.
- **Licensing Sub Committee** - Friday 23 August 2019 - 10am - Bill Brownhill Room.
- **Licensing Sub Committee** - Friday 23 August 2019 - 11.30am - Bill Brownhill Room.

A5 Road works

Many complaints have been received about the resurfacing works being undertaken along the A5. The Parish Council has logged a complaint with Staffordshire County Council and requested to be informed of progression. LSWA PC were advised that a highways inspector will be visiting the location and will report back

5 Rating

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - The Cat Inn in Enville, The Three Stirrups in Brewood and Old Wyrley Hall in Great Wyrley.

Everyone is encouraged to submit news items, please email: comms@sstaffs.gov.uk