

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 139

11 October 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Local Plan Review**

On Thursday, Councillors gave the green light for consultation to commence on the next stage of South Staffordshire Council's Local Plan Review. This will consist of a Spatial Housing Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery (SHSID) consultation, which will open later in October 2019. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Every Mind Matters**

This week, Public Health England, in partnership with the NHS, launched the Every Mind Matters mental health online resource to help people take simple steps to look after their mental health, improve their mental wellbeing and support others. To find out more visit www.everymindmatters.co.uk and click [here](#) to see a special film written by Richard Curtis, showing how we can all look after our mental health.

- **Get ready for Brexit**

The Government has launched a public information campaign 'Get ready for Brexit', which sets out what all members of the public and business owners need to know. Visit the Council website (click [here](#)) and find out more at www.gov.uk/brexit.



- **Annual Canvass 2019**

Canvassers are now out in the district to chase up any outstanding Household Enquiry Forms. If you haven't returned your form, please spare a couple of minutes to complete it with them. Every year, we are required to write to households 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. We have to follow up any non-responding households so please help us save money by responding quickly.

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- **Take part in our Leisure Centre survey**

We are seeking the views of existing users and members of the Council's four Leisure Centres in Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, Penkridge and Wombourne about our group fitness classes and timetables. To complete the survey, click [here](#). The survey shouldn't take longer than five minutes to complete and your answers will help us shape what we offer in future. Thank you.

- **Volunteers required for filming 'mince pie class blast'**

Wombourne Leisure Centre will be filming a free Christmas themed exercise class workout on Wednesday 23 October 2019 at 12.30pm and is looking for volunteers! The film will be posted on social media over the Christmas holiday. The session will run from 12.30pm for around an hour and it will consist of 10-15 minute 'mini class blasts', which will focus on strength, cardio and core work. Members and non-members are welcome and we need 10 people to take part. Everyone will receive a Good Life Leisure sports bottle, towel and a free mince pie. To book, please call **01902 898202**. Participants must be happy to be filmed and go on social media. We need you to be smiley and please try and wear something red to make sure our class blast is full of festive cheer.

- **Charity spin**

Travel through the 80s, 90s and 00s in a three-hour marathon charity spin at Wombourne Leisure Centre on Sunday 27 October 2019 from 10.30am to 1.30pm. Click [here](#) for more information about how to take part.

- **Booking is now open for October school holiday camps**

The Council's Leisure Centres are starting to take bookings for the October school holiday children's activity camps. Click [here](#) to book your place at Codsall, Cheslyn Hay or Wombourne Leisure Centres and receive our early bird pricing if you book before 5pm on Friday 11 October 2019. Click [here](#) to find out more about activities at Penkridge Leisure Centre and call 01785 714152 to book a place.

- **Courses coming up this autumn**

Forest of Mercia CIC has got a range of courses and activities coming up this autumn including witches broomstick making, willow basket making, family bushcraft, willow reindeer sculpture making and natural Christmas decoration making. Booking is essential. Click [here](#) for more information or visit the Forest of Mercia website for prices. www.forestofmerciamerica.com

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Or why not join Community Forest Services on Thursday 17 and 24 October 2019 at Jubilee Wood in Bilbrook for a Nature and Hypnotherapy course. The cost of the two day course is £20 per person and booking is essential. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **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.

- **Need to report a pothole?**

Staffordshire County Council is responsible for highways maintenance and repairing potholes in South Staffordshire. Click [here](#) to report pothole damage and find out which roads are being worked on and which ones are scheduled for repair. Or report via the My Staffs App [here](#).

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following Council meeting is scheduled:

- **Planning Committee** - Tuesday 15 October 2019 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber

- **Events coming up**

- **Apple Day - Forest of Mercia** - Sunday 20 October 2019, 11am to 3pm. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Bilbrook Remembrance Sunday** - Sunday 10 November 2019 from 9.50am. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Wombourne Parish Council - Robin Hood The Pantomime** - Saturday 7 December 2019, 6.15pm. Click [here](#) for details.

- **Wellbeing events - October 2019**

The Seisdon Wellbeing team offers free and confidential help for anyone struggling with their mental health. Come in for a chat and get wellbeing advice at their next community events.

- **Wombourne Library** - Wednesday 16 October 2019, 9.30am to 11.30am.
- **Codsall Library** - Friday 25 October 2019, 9.30am to midday.

For more information, follow the Seisdon Wellbeing Team on Facebook or click [here](#).

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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.

For more information, call freephone **0800 193 1902** or email advice@mea.org.uk.
www.staffordshirewarmerhomes.co.uk

- **Room available - Wombourne Civic Centre**

A room has become available to rent at Wombourne Civic Centre (owned by Wombourne Parish Council). The room is available for immediate occupation in this sought after location right in the village centre with onsite parking. Priced at just £275 per month, which includes gas, electricity and water. For enquiries, please call the Parish Council Office on **01902 896300**.

- **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](#).



- **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**.

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