

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news



Issue 142

1 November 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **General Election**

The country is heading to the polls once again on Thursday 12 December 2019 for a snap general election. The deadline for voters to register is Tuesday 26 November 2019, with postal vote applications also required by Tuesday 26 November 2019 and proxy vote applications by Wednesday 4 December 2019.

To vote in a general election your name must be on the electoral register. You can register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and it usually takes about five minutes. You will need to confirm your name, address, date of birth and national insurance number. Remember, you only need to register once - not for every election - but if you're not sure if you've already registered, please contact the local electoral registration office at South Staffordshire Council (tel: 01902 696121 or email: elections@sstaffs.gov.uk).

You're eligible to register to vote in elections if you are:

- Aged 16 or over (however, you can only vote when you become 18).
- A UK citizen (or an Irish, EU or Commonwealth citizen with a permanent UK address).

There are three different ways that you can vote:

- In person at a polling station.
- By post.
- By proxy (someone voting on your behalf).

- **Business Hub welcomes new tenants and reaches full occupancy**

The last remaining offices at both Jubilee House and the Council Offices in Codsall have now been let. New tenants Melissa Ray, who provides hypnotherapy, and Peter Smith-Round, who offers will writing and legal services, have now moved into Jubilee House, whilst Codsall Multi Academy Trust has moved into the Council Offices.

- **Interactive Local Plan map**

This week, the Council launched an online interactive Local Plan map (click [here](#) to access) showing Local Plan designations, including Green Belt, and other layers such as parish and ward boundaries, and locality areas. This useful tool allows you to zoom in and out and see what

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policies affect the whole of the district. You can also see areas of open space and sites that have been suggested to the Council for development.

Consultation is still underway about the second stage of the Council's Local Plan, which is focused on broad locations for housing growth and the infrastructure required to deliver the growth. This consultation is not site specific but looks at seven different options to deliver housing to meet South Staffordshire own housing needs and a contribution towards unmet housing need in the wider region. Click [here](#) for more information and to find out how you can participate in the consultation, which runs until 5pm on Thursday 12 December 2019.

- **Kinver recycling day success**

This week the Council's waste and recycling team and Biffa attended a community recycling day in Kinver to answer questions on all things recycling. Thank you to Kinver Sports and Community Association for hosting the event. Click [here](#) to see some pics taken on the day including some of the posters promoting recycling that were created by local children.

- **Community Lottery - five entertainment bundles to be won this Saturday**

This Saturday, five lucky lottery players in the Community Lottery will win an amazing entertainment bundle including an Amazon Echo, Fire stick, Echo Dot and tablet. To be in with the chance of winning, purchase your lottery tickets before Saturday 2 November 2019 at www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or telephone 01902 213777. Good Luck!

Since the last good cause update back in May, the Community Lottery has welcomed 10 new good causes - Bishops Wood Village Hall, the Kaleidoscope Plus Group (this year's Chairman's Charity), the Albrighton Trust, AED Donate, Weston Park Foundation, Wolverhampton Youth Zone, Midlands Soccer Academy, Perton Girl Guiding, Old Tree Nursery and Bilbrook Juniors.

- **2019 Enjoy Staffordshire Awards**

Congratulations to all the winners and finalists in this year's Enjoy Staffordshire and Good Food Awards, which celebrate Staffordshire's best tourism and hospitality businesses and their valuable contribution to the growing tourism sector. Click [here](#) to view the results. The winners of 14 categories will now go on to represent Staffordshire at the national VisitEngland Awards for Excellence, to be held in June 2020.

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- **Cold weather warning**

Now that we're starting to experience cold, frosty mornings, remember not to leave your car unattended when defrosting it. Opportunist car thieves can take advantage and steal it so don't leave keys in your vehicle and the engine running and make sure you stay with your car at all times. Police advice is to clear windscreens with de-icer and a scraper and sit in the vehicle while the heater de-mists the windscreen. Make sure your car is fully defrosted before setting off and allow extra time for your journey. Please take care on the icy roads and keep a safe distance of other cars. For more winter driving advice, click [here](#).

- **Bulb planting events**

Come along and help plant some spring flowering bulbs at Strawberry Lane Cemetery in Great Wyrley and Sytch Lane Cemetery in Wombourne.

- Sytch Lane Cemetery - Monday 18 November 2019 between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.
- Strawberry Lane Cemetery - Friday 22 November 2019 between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information or contact our Bereavement Services team for more information on **01902 696111**.

- **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.

- **Other events coming up**

- **Bilbrook Remembrance Sunday** - Sunday 10 November 2019 from 9.50am. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Christmas Fair** - Codsall Village Centre - Friday 6 December 2019, 4pm to 8pm. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Wombourne Parish Council - Robin Hood The Pantomime** - Saturday 7 December 2019, 6.15pm. Click [here](#) for details.

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- **Forest of Mercia - autumn and winter courses**

Forest of Mercia CIC has a range of courses and activities coming up in November and December including willow basket making, family bushcraft, willow reindeer sculpture making and natural Christmas decoration making. Click [here](#) for more information or visit www.forestofmerciam.com.

- **Pumpkin rescue**

Don't throw your pumpkin in the bin now Halloween is over. Instead, try out some of these recipes from Hubbub and turn your pumpkin into something delicious like pumpkin houmous or Thai pumpkin curry. Click [here](#) for the recipes.

- **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](#).



- **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](#).

- **Job vacancies**

- **Relief Badminton Instructor, Codsall Leisure Centre** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Friday 1 November (5pm).
- **Relief Leisure Assistant, Wombourne Leisure Centre** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Monday 11 November 2019 (5pm).
- **Relief Swimming Instructor, Wombourne Leisure Centre** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Sunday 17 November 2019 (5pm).

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