

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 59

16 March 2018



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

- **South Staffordshire Review gets a new look**

The spring 2018 issue of the South Staffordshire Review has been published and is now being distributed to all households in South Staffordshire over the next two weeks.

The Review has a new look and is now printed in a smaller, A4/magazine format. Moving to this format strengthens the Council's ability to ensure value for money and reinforces our ongoing commitment to communicating and engaging with residents of the district across a variety of communications channels including both print and digital.

- **Val's 'walk for Robbie'**

In memory of Councillor Robert (Robbie) Marshall, Councillor Val Chapman, Chairman of South Staffordshire Council, and her Consort, Richard Chapman, together with Mrs Jane Marshall are undertaking a 12.4 mile charity walk around the parish boundaries of Bilbrook and Codsall on Sunday 25 March 2018.

The charity walk will be raising funds for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. If you'd like to sponsor and make a donation, click [here](#) for the link to Councillor Chapman's 'Just Giving' page.

- **'Operation Steptoe' targets waste licence dodgers**

Partnership working between the Council's Enforcement and Licensing team and Staffordshire Police has highlighted our zero tolerance with people carrying any form of waste without the relevant licences. Our 'Operation Steptoe' this week involved five Officers from the Council being paired with five Police Officers in marked and unmarked police cars. Each pair was sent to one of the district's five localities to ensure that the law is being enforced. Nineteen vehicles were stopped and of these:

- One vehicle was carrying scrap metal but had all relevant licences.
- A number of vehicles were given verbal warnings/advice.
- One vehicle was stopped carrying scrap metal without the relevant licences.
- One vehicle was stopped carrying fresh fish, which was being sold door-to-door and a warning was given about food hygiene and pressure buying.

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In addition, one of the police vehicles had automatic number plate recognition technology on board and a total of 398 vehicles were checked. Of these, 12 had a mark against them. We and the Police are now looking at what action can be taken.

- **Tenancy Fraud Knowledge Hub is launched**

Well done to the Fraud Investigations team and the Legal Services team who hosted an event at the Council Offices last week to help promote their commercial services. Four housing associations and a local authority attended the event and subjects discussed included the ethical, financial and social problems caused by tenancy fraud and the need to address the issue as social housing demands far outweighs supply. This was the first 'Tenancy Fraud Knowledge Hub' event and it's hoped they will take place on a quarterly basis to share knowledge and provide networking opportunities too.

- **Flying the flag**

On Monday morning, South Staffordshire Council played tribute to Commonwealth Day at a ceremony to mark Commonwealth Day. Councillor Val Chapman, Chairman of the Council, raised the flag at the Council Offices in Codsall and read the Message from the Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations and the Commonwealth Affirmation. This was followed by the Reverend Delphine Howarth saying a closing prayer. Click [here](#) to see some pics.

- **Consultation closing for SAD**

Please be aware that there are only a few days left to forward any responses to the consultation on changes to the Council's Site Allocations Document (SAD).

Responses must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 21 March 2018 and should only relate to the proposed changes which resulted from discussions with the Independent Planning Inspector and other participants at the public hearing sessions held in late 2017.

Any responses to the consultation will be sent to the Independent Planning Inspector who will take them into account when making his decision on whether the SAD is sound and can be adopted. The Council hopes to receive his formal report in May 2018. Click [here](#) for more information about the Modifications Consultation.

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- **Community Lottery update**

The South Staffordshire Community Lottery has now been up and running for almost four months. Since the first draw on Saturday 25 November 2017, 46 local good causes have benefitted and there have been 207 winners with two people winning £250, 17 winning £25 and 188 people winning three extra lottery tickets for the following week's draw. To date, the lottery is on track to raise a total of £24,000 for good causes in South Staffordshire and our target is to raise £50,000 by 31 July 2018.

Are you supporting good causes in South Staffordshire or know a good cause in South Staffordshire that could benefit? Play today or register a good cause at [www.southstaffslottery.co.uk](http://www.southstaffslottery.co.uk). Remember, there's also a jackpot of £25,000 up for grabs. Someone has to win big... and it could be you!

- **Business Hub events and training**

On Wednesday 28 February 2018, the South Staffordshire Business Hub hosted an event for business start-ups in collaboration with Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce. There was a fantastic turnout and feedback has been excellent. These events are invaluable to the community and are shaping the future businesses of our local area.

Coming up, we have our final free session for local businesses on GDPR arranged for Thursday 22 March 2018 at 8.00am in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices in Codsall. The response for this event has been over-whelming and confirms that local businesses need help preparing for this major data regulation change in May 2018. If you know of any local businesses that would benefit from attending the seminar, then please let them know about the event. You can find information on the Business Hub website at [www.sstaffsbusinesshub.co.uk](http://www.sstaffsbusinesshub.co.uk) or click [here](#) to book.

- **5 Rating**

The following companies have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Fresh Coffee Shop in Wombourne, Flamingo Pink Restaurant in Perton, Aramark Catering Ltd at Rodbaston College near Penkridge, Maypole Café in Wombourne and Essington Fruit Farm.

## Regular information

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- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Planning Committee** – Tuesday 20 March at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber see the papers [here](#).
- **Standards and Resources Committee** – Thursday 22 March at 2:30 pm in the Bill Brownhill Room see the papers [here](#).

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