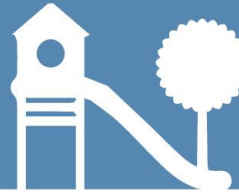


Council news round-up

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This week's news from around the Council.

- **Council nominated for three national awards**

South Staffordshire Council has been nominated for three separate awards at this year's MRW National Recycling Awards. This is the first time the Council's work has been shortlisted for these awards, which recognise and celebrate best practice and innovation in recycling and waste management.

The Council has been nominated in the 'Campaign of the Year' and the 'Local Authority Innovation' categories for its Christmas communications campaign, which included the 'Festive Bin Men of Christmas' posts on social media. It has also been short-listed for the prestigious 'Team of the Year' award for waste management.

The results will be announced on Thursday 28 June 2018 at a ceremony in London. Well done to the Waste and Recycling team!

- **Council's website security rated A+**

The Council's website recently achieved a score of A+ on the Qualys SSL test, the highest possible score that can be awarded to a website's security. SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) certificates are an integral part of website security and the ICT team continues to do great work keeping our website secure and safe to use.

- **Data Protection/GDPR update**

Work is underway within the Council to ensure it meets the requirements of the new general data protection rules that come into force on Friday 25 May 2018. Contracts that we have with external organisations to process personal data on our behalf are now being collated and will be reviewed and amended in due course.

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

Councillor Val Chapman, Chairman of the Council, her Consort Richard Chapman and Mrs Jane Marshall completed their 'Walk for Robbie' last Sunday and are on track to raise approaching £1,000 for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. The 12.4 mile charity walk around the parish boundaries of Bilbrook and Codsall was held in memory of the late Councillor Robert (Robbie) Marshall and the trio were joined on the walk by 21 people (plus several dogs). Click [here](#) to see a pic.

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- **Coming soon - Business Hub pop-up shop**

Watch this space for news on developments regarding our new South Staffordshire Business Hub pop-up shop. The idea is to encourage small, local businesses that don't have a presence on the high-street to come and showcase themselves within the Council building in Codsall and help promote shopping locally and building the economy. If you know of anyone who would be interested in having a stand then please contact Hayley Copper (h.cooper@sstaffs.gov.uk).

- **Sports Relief**

On Sunday 25 March 2018, 63 people took part in a three-hour sporting event at Codsall Leisure Centre in aid of Sports Relief. The 5 Zone Challenge for Sports Relief consisted of five stations - cycling, boxercise, 'legs, bums and tums', boot camp and body impact - with participants working for 30 minutes at each one. In total, they raised over £400 for Sports Relief.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and to the staff and instructors for organising the event. To see all posts about the event, please visit Codsall Leisure Centre's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Codsall/>

- **Leisure Centres - Easter opening details**

The Leisure Centres in Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, Penkridge and Wombourne will be open on Good Friday and Saturday but will be closed Easter Sunday and Monday.

- **Easter 'super draw' for Community Lottery**

Thanks to Enjoy Staffordshire, this month's Community Lottery 'super draw' is giving players the chance to win a Family Thrill Hopper Ticket. This ticket gives two adults and two children one entry into four of Staffordshire's top attractions - Alton Towers, Drayton Manor Theme Park, WaterWorld and Snowdome. The draw takes place at 8pm this Saturday (31 March 2018) and to be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, lottery tickets need to be purchased before Saturday. Play today at www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or telephone **01902 213777**.

- **Community Safety Day in Essington**

South Staffordshire Council and South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership joined forces to deliver a Community Safety Day in Essington on Saturday 24 March 2018. Around 80 people attended the event and local residents were invited to St John's Church to learn about crime prevention and fire safety in the home. The next Community Safety Day will take place in Penkridge on Saturday 28 April 2018. Click [here](#) to see some pics.

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- **Schoolchildren help plant trees in Perton**

Over 50 children from Perton First School took part in a tree planting event alongside the River Penk in Perton this week on Tuesday 27 March 2018. Each child planted a tree adjacent to the river to help thicken up the existing tree belts and it's hoped that these will provide some shade and help reduce the amount of weed in the river. The trees were provided by the Woodland Trust through the Forest of Mercia CIC and the event was organised by Ryan Taylor at South Staffordshire Council and Keith Elder from Wild about Perton. Special thanks to Gill Davies from the Parish and members of the Perton Townswomen's Guilds who joined in as well.

- **Community Safety - warning over impersonation fraud**

Staffordshire Police is warning people, particularly the elderly, to be wary of a growing fraud in which criminals pose as police officers and ask their victims to withdraw cash or to give their bank details over the phone.

Three offences were reported to the police earlier this week.

One incident involved a woman in her 80s from Lower Penn, Wolverhampton, being called by a man claiming to be a police officer investigating a cloned bank card. The man asked her to visit her bank and withdraw a large sum, and to hand it over to the 'police'. She became suspicious and contacted police. Two further incidents took place in Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stafford. They both involved a man claiming to be from the Serious Crime Squad at Scotland Yard. He said someone had been caught taking £500 from their account and that they should leave their phone line open for the bank to contact them. They too became suspicious.

Here's some advice about how to avoid this type of fraud:

- The police will never ask you to become part of an undercover investigation or for you to withdraw cash and hand it to them for safe-keeping.
- Be wary of any calls, texts or emails purporting to be from the police asking for your personal or financial details, or for you to transfer money.
- If you are approached, or feel something is suspicious, hang up the phone and don't reply.
- Report any fraud to Action Fraud (www.actionfraud.police.uk) and your bank on their advertised number.
- Visit the Take Five to Stop Fraud <http://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk> for more advice on how to stay safe from scams.

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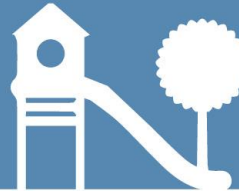


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- **5 Rating**

The following companies have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Merchants in Kinver, Hilton Service Station in Hilton and St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School in Wombourne.

Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, there are no meetings scheduled due to the Easter break.

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