

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 89

12 October 2018



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

- **Winning entry for the Council at the IRRV's 2018 Performance Awards**

At the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV) 2018 Performance Awards this week South Staffordshire Council won the award for 'Excellence in Social Inclusion' and received a highly commended in the 'Excellence in Partnership Working' award category. Congratulations to Ryan Cresswell, Angi Holden, Clare Stevens, Janine Timms and Liam Kilgallen from the Welfare Services team for their work on the Building Better Opportunities programme. Click [here](#) to see a video of their work.

- **Two new property acquisitions for the Council**

The Council has just completed the purchase of the two remaining undeveloped plots on the Hilton Cross Business Park in Featherstone. Hilton Cross is located just off of junction 1 of the M54 and is one of four key strategic employment sites in the district. The investment will provide the Council with an exciting opportunity to bring forward further employment opportunities to enhance the economic prosperity of the area in line with both Council and E&I Plan priorities. The Council also completed the purchase of a property next to our existing site at Station Road, 4 Ashes which was bought at Auction in September.

- **Local MP guest speaker at business breakfast**

Over 60 local business people attended the Council's business breakfast meeting hosted by the Business Hub on Friday 12 October 2018, which featured guest speakers the Rt Hon. Gavin Williamson CBE MP and Les Ratcliffe, former head of community relations at Jaguar Land Rover and now MD of Community Engagement Ltd.

- **Local Plan Review 'Issues and Options' consultation - drop-in sessions**

The consultation on the Issues and Options for the Local Plan Review started on Monday 8 October 2018 and the planning team has already received a complimentary email thanking them for "... your user-friendly approach to consultation." (John R.)

During the eight-week consultation, the Council will be holding three all-day, drop-in sessions where residents can speak to the Local Plans Team. Click [here](#) to view information about the consultation and the drop in sessions.

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- **Good Life Energy - Are you paying too much for your energy bills?**

Come along to our first ever Good Life Energy bill surgery in the reception area of the Council Offices in Codsall on Wednesday 24 October 2018 from 11am to 3pm. Whether you find your energy bills confusing, don't have time to switch or you've just had a bad experience trying to switch energy companies by yourself, don't let this put you off switching. It could be costing you a lot of money. Click [here](#) for more information about the energy bill surgery and remember to bring your bills along so we can help talk you through your best deals.

- **Attempted break-in at Baggeridge**

Police are investigating an attempted break-in at Baggeridge Country Park just after midnight on Sunday 7 October 2018. The occupants of a silvery BMW could help police with their enquiries and if anyone recognises the vehicle in the photograph on Baggeridge's Facebook page (click [here](#) to view), please contact Staffordshire Police on **101**.

- **EnviroGrant scheme now open**

This year's Staffordshire Envirogrant scheme is now open. The grant scheme has been set up by Veolia in partnership with Staffordshire County Council and it is a community fund that not-for-profit community groups based in Staffordshire, including South Staffordshire, can apply for grants of up to £1,000 for projects that aim to improve their local environment or the quality of life for their local communities. The closing date for application is 29 October 2018 and grants will be awarded in early December 2018.

Click [here](#) to read more about the scheme and click [here](#) for a funding application form.  
<https://www.veolia.co.uk/staffordshire/>

- **Community safety - part 1**

On 20 September 2018, a South Staffordshire builder who stole £1,200 worth of tools and equipment from a community centre in Penkridge was sentenced at Stafford Crown Court. The defendant pleaded guilty at Stafford Crown Court and was given a 46-week sentence, suspended for two years, and 120 hours' unpaid work to complete. He was also ordered to pay compensation to his victims and costs of £1,140. Click [here](#) for the full story.

- **Community safety - part 2**

A man has been jailed for his part in a series of distraction burglaries across Staffordshire and north Wales, where vulnerable pensioners were targeted and almost £20,000 stolen. The men's

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crimes included tricking their way into an 83-year-old's house in Great Wyrley, South Staffordshire, and stealing £10,000 from a set of drawers after claiming they were from the water board. Click [here](#) for the full story.

- **M54 to M6/M6 Toll link road improvement scheme - preferred route**

There will be a drop-in session about the M54 preferred route announcement at Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre on Saturday 13 October 2018 from 10am to 4pm. Click [here](#) to read more.

- **Apple Day at Hilton Green**

Celebrate Apple Day with Forest of Mercia CIC at a free family event at Hilton Green, Essington, on Saturday 20 October 2018 between 11am and 3pm. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **SPACE scheme is back**

The SPACE scheme is back again this October half term thanks to funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner. SPACE provides young people aged 10-19 years access to hugely discounted leisure activities. Throughout the school holiday, young people aged 10-19 have the opportunity to purchase a weekly swim pass for just £1 and young people aged 16-19 years can purchase a membership pass giving them access to the gym, classes and swimming for just £2.

To purchase SPACE passes pop into your nearest South Staffordshire Council Leisure Centre in Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, Penkridge and Wombourne.

- **Book now for October school holiday activity camps**

South Staffordshire Council's leisure centres provide school holiday activity camps for children aged 5-12 years and bookings are now being taken for the October school holiday activity camps from 29 October to 2 November 2018. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Home alone at Christmas**

The annual Christmas lunch for retired residents of the district takes place on Friday 21 December 2018 from midday to 2.30pm in the Academy Restaurant at the Council Offices in Codsall. The lunch is free for pensioners over the age of 60 who don't have friends or family visiting them on Christmas Day. Numbers are limited to 50 people so early application is recommended. Click [here](#) for more information.

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- **Community Lottery - October Super Draw**

Food lovers - it's time to eat, drink and be merry! October's monthly super draw is giving away two tickets to the Winter BBC Good Food Show at the NEC in Birmingham, which takes place from 29 November to 2 December 2018. To be in with the chance of winning this fantastic prize, buy your lottery tickets before Saturday 27 October 2018.

## Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Planning Committee** - Tuesday 16 October 2018 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspections this week - The Barns in Huntington, Greens Doughnut Stall and Percy Plonkers in Hollybush Garden Centre in Saredon and Burger King (Northbound) Hilton Park Motorway Services.

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