

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 95

23 November 2018



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

- **Local Plan consultation closing soon**

This is the last week for comments on the Local Plan review 'Issues and Options' consultation, which closes at 5pm on Friday 30 November 2018. Three drop-in sessions have taken place and the main issues raised included the need for more smaller, affordable homes and bungalows, the impact of new development on existing and future local services and facilities, and how best to protect sensitive and important areas of the natural environment, including wildlife. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **Reminder - relocation of County Council data centre**

The Staffordshire County Council's secondary data centre is in the process of relocating and there is a potential risk of disruption to our internet service this weekend commencing Friday 23 November 2018 from 5pm. The work is scheduled to run throughout the weekend and they hope any unintended disruptions will be resolved over the weekend although there is a risk that disruption may occur early next week too.

- **#OurDay trends at number 1**

Thank you to all staff who took part in this year's #OurDay on Tuesday, the annual social media day organised by the LGA that takes a look at a day in the life of local government. More than 10,000 different contributors took part including South Staffordshire Council and a collective 33,558 tweets were sent during the day. Our combined efforts saw local government trending at number one in the UK all day and peaking at number four worldwide.

- **Locality Profile now available to view online**

Click [here](#) to see this year's Locality Profile for South Staffordshire, which captures and compares a range of data sets across the district. This year, we've included data from a wider range of sources including Mosaic and the document is structured around the Council's three key priorities.

- **Donations for food bank needed**

The Waste and Recycling team at the Council is once again joining with Biffa Municipal Ltd to collect food and toiletries for the local food bank based in Wombourne. If you would like to help, please bring any donations to the Community Services team based on the second floor by

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Friday 14 December 2018. Blue bags for donations will also be available in the Leisure Centres and Depot. For every item donated, Biffa will match the equivalent. Click [here](#) to see the full list of accepted food, toiletry and household items.

- **Volunteers needed - spring bulb planting continues**

Thank you to everyone who helped plant spring flower bulbs at Sytch Lane Cemetery in Wombourne on Wednesday. We'll be doing the same at Strawberry Lane Cemetery in Great Wyrley on Monday 26 November 2018 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and everyone is welcome. All bulbs will be provided as well as gardening equipment. Please wear sensible footwear and warm clothing. If you would like to help, please contact Rebecca Morgan ([r.morgan@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:r.morgan@sstaffs.gov.uk)) so we can co-ordinate transport.

The Community Services team will also be holding its annual bulb planting event here at the Council Offices on Thursday 29 November 2018 from 1pm to 2pm. There are 1000+ spring bulbs to plant so please come along and help. This year, we will be focusing on the area by the wedding entrance/exit. If you'd like to help, please contact Andy Aston ([a.aston@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:a.aston@sstaffs.gov.uk)).

- **Are you #WeatherReady?**

The annual #WeatherReady campaign launched by the Met Office earlier this week aims to help the public prepare for and cope with severe weather. Run in partnership with Cabinet Office, this initiative provides expert advice on travel, protecting your home and your health and wellbeing. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Christmas lights switch on across the district**

- Friday 23 November 2018 - Bilbrook Christmas lights switch on at Bilbrook Village Green (from 6pm). Click [here](#) for more information.
- Friday 30 November 2018 - Wombourne Christmas lights switch on, outside the front of the Civic Centre (from 5.40pm). Click [here](#) for more information.  
[www.wombourneparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.wombourneparishcouncil.org.uk)
- Saturday 1 December 2018 - Perton Christmas Fair from 1pm to 5pm in Anders Square, the church, the Civic Centre and the library. Lots of craft stalls to buy Christmas presents, food stalls, Father Christmas plus Animal Man, Punch and Judy, and story time in the library.
- Friday 7 December 2018 - Codsall Christmas Fair from 2pm to 9.30pm - live music, carols around the tree, Santa's Grotto, hot food, entertainment, fairground rides, stalls and much more. [www.codsallchristmasfair.co.uk](http://www.codsallchristmasfair.co.uk)

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- **Switch and save**

Two Good Life Energy bill surgeries are coming up in Brewood and Wheaton Aston.

- Friday 23 November 2018, 2.30 to 4.30pm - Brewood Community Library.
- Thursday 6 December 2018, 7.30pm - Wheaton Aston Village Hall.

You don't have to be a South Staffordshire resident to benefit and Good Life Energy can also help businesses as well. Call Freephone **03333 058671** Email [info@cebltd.com](mailto:info@cebltd.com)

- **More weddings take place at the Ceremonial Suite**

Love is in the air at the Council. The Ceremonial Suite hosted another beautiful wedding service last Friday and the next one is scheduled to take place on Saturday 8 December 2018. If you would like to find out more about Ceremonial Suite, please 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.

- **New link worker for CASS**

Welcome to Lisa Brickles who is the new Caring Communities Link Worker for South Staffordshire at the Carers Association (CASS). Lisa supports unpaid carers (family, friends and neighbours) in their communities and promotes the Good Life project, which aims to improve life for residents in South Staffordshire by enabling people to be better connected and informed. The aim is to reduce isolation and improve health and wellbeing. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Trustees required**

South Staffs Work Clubs (SSWC) is a registered charity that operates seven work clubs across the district. The charity is looking for new Trustees to join their Board of Trustees - click [here](#) for more information about how to apply.

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## Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** - Tuesday 27 November 2018 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber
- **Licensing Sub Committee** - Thursday 29 November 2018 - 2.30pm - Committee Room 2

- **5 Rating**

The following organisation has achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Jethro's Marinades in Huntington.

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