

Council news round-up



Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 147

6 December 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **#GE2019**

A general election is taking place next week on Thursday 12 December 2019. The result for the South Staffordshire Constituency is expected in the early hours of Friday 13 January 2019 and will be announced on the Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Click [here](#) for more information about voting in person.

Click [here](#) to find out more about voting by post.

Click [here](#) to find out more about voting by proxy, getting someone else to vote for you.

- **Community Safety update**

The Council's Enforcement team were out with colleagues from Staffordshire Police on Thursday 5 December 2019 to conduct a joint operation. Alongside the standard police checks, our officers were checking that anybody transporting waste had a valid waste carrier licence and/or scrap metal licence. A total of nine vehicles were stopped and checked. Of the ones that were carrying waste, one had no waste carrier licence and was issued with a fixed penalty for £300, three had a waste carrier licence and were able to produce them, and one had a waste carrier licence but could not provide documents at the time. Policing issues encountered included speeding, potential drug driving and vehicles in a poor state of repair.

- **Safety warning over smoke alarm 'failure' rate**

LGA analysis of official figures shows that almost 40% of battery-powered smoke alarms failed to activate in house fires in England in the last year - a figure that has remained virtually unchanged in nearly a decade. The LGA is urging householders to test their smoke alarms regularly, but especially during the run-up to Christmas when festive decorations, candles and lighting pose a potentially greater fire risk, and to fit more than one smoke detector in their homes, with at least one fitted on the ceiling of every floor. Read more [here](#).

- **Help keep crowded places safe over the festive period**

As the festive season gets underway, Counter Terrorism Policing is calling on the public to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious. This annual campaign asks everyone to be the

Council news round-up



Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 147

6 December 2019



extra eyes and ears of the police and work together to tackle terrorism. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Community Hub update**

Next week, the Street Scene Tree team will begin work on removing some of trees around the Council Offices. This work forms part of the enabling works for the Codsall Community Hub and concerns the area surrounding the west wing of the building, occupied by the library and includes the grounds adjacent to Histons Hill and Wolverhampton Road. This work needs to take place before the nesting season and in advance of the main contract commencing work onsite early in the New Year. The trees being removed have been independently assessed and the agreed landscape plan forms part of the recently granted planning permission.

- **Catering Academy celebrates 10 years**

Congratulations to the Catering Academy at the Council Offices in Codsall, which celebrated its 10th birthday this week. Click [here](#) to see a pic of Richard and Jayne and their birthday cake.

- **Home alone at Christmas? Come and join us!**

Celebrate Christmas at our annual Christmas lunch for retired residents of the district who are over the age of 60 and don't have any family or friends visiting them on Christmas Day. This year's event takes place at the Catering Academy at the Council Offices in Codsall on Friday 20 December 2019 from 12 midday. Places are free but must be booked and are limited to 50 people so early application is recommended. To book a place, please contact:

Victoria Wilson Tel: 07592 883270 Email: v.wilson2@sstaffs.gov.uk

Val Chapman Tel: 07718 911367 Email: val.chapman3@btinternet.com

- **Local Plan consultation closes on Thursday**

Consultation on 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, is closing shortly. 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.

Council news round-up



Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 147

6 December 2019



- **National Grief Awareness Week (2 to 8 December 2019)**

This week marked the first ever National Grief Awareness Week. Run by the Good Grief Trust, this awareness week encourages people to open up about grief, remember their loved ones and share memories and photographs. The awareness week and hashtag #openuptogrief was trending within hours of its launch and members of staff in Community Services took part with a collage of their memories and tributes. Click [here](#) to see more.

www.thegoodgrieftrust.org

- **All we want for Christmas is YOU!**

You can see that our Leisure Centre staff are getting in the Christmas mood a bit early (click [here](#) and [here](#)) but they're eager to shout about the special offer running in the Council's Leisure Centres this December allowing people to join at any time during December and only pay an initial payment of just £10, then nothing more until 1 February 2020. This gives new joiners the month of January for free. To find out more, email leisure@sstaffs.gov.uk.

- **Community Lottery Christmas bonanza giveaway**

Live music, panto tickets, afternoon cream tea and 10 free lottery plays - some of the prizes the South Staffordshire Community Lottery is giving away in its Christmas Bonanza Giveaway. Buy a £1 lottery ticket to be in with the chance of winning. As well as supporting a good cause you might even win a cash prize ranging from £25 up to a jackpot of £25,000. To buy a lottery ticket, visit www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or telephone **01902 213777**.

- **Festive events coming up**

- **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.
- **Penn Festive Fair at St Bart's Community Church Hall** - Sunday 15 December 2019, 1pm to 4pm. Click [here](#) for details.

- **Job vacancies at the Council**

- **ICT Support Officer (fixed term)** - click [here](#) for more information.
Closing date - Friday 6 December 2019 (5pm).

Council news round-up



Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 147

6 December 2019



- **Corporate Director - Planning and Infrastructure** - click [here](#) for more information.
Closing date - Sunday 8 December 2019 (5pm).
- **Street Scene Operative (Codsall)** - click [here](#) for more information.
Closing date - Thursday 19 December 2019 (5pm).
- **Relief Leisure Assistant (Penkridge)** - click [here](#) for more information.
Closing date - Monday 13 January 2019 (6pm).

- **Next week's Council Committee/Panel meetings**
 - **Wellbeing Select Committee** - Tuesday 10 December 2019 - 5.30pm - Bill Brownhill Room

- **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](#).

- **Having a clear out?**

The Council can help you get rid of your bulky waste items including sofas, beds, wardrobes and white goods such as fridges, freezers and washing machines. Click [here](#) to book online 24/7. Unwanted household items can also be re-used or donated via a series of charities and forums including the British Heart Foundation, Acorns Children's Hospice, the Furniture Re-use Network and others. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Prestwood Lodge in Prestwood and The Littleton Arms in Penkridge.



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