

# Council news round-up



Your weekly guide to the latest news

**Issue 148**

**13 December 2019**



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

- **#GE2019 result**

### South Staffordshire Seat

Gavin Williamson, Conservative (elected)	36,520 votes
Adam Freeman, Labour	8,270 votes
Chris Fewtrell, Liberal Democrat	3,280 votes
Claire McIlvenna, Green	1,935 votes

Turnout was 68.2%

### Stafford Seat

Theo Clarke, Conservative (elected)	29,992 votes
Joyce Still, Labour	15,615 votes
Alexander Wagner, Liberal Democrats	3,175 votes
Emma Carter, Green	2,367 votes

Turnout was 70.8%

A big thank you to the Elections team and all members of staff as well as our volunteer polling station staff, poll clerks and counters.

- **Parish by-election result - Kinver - Potters Cross Ward**

Eunice Lord, Green (elected)	1,304 votes
Michael Vaughan, Labour	371 votes

- **Local Plan consultation now closed**

The consultation on the second stage of the Council's Local Plan, which focused on broad locations for housing growth and the infrastructure required to deliver the growth, is now closed. The next consultation will look at specific sites for housing, employment, gypsies and travellers and policies for the plan, it's expected that this consultation will be in summer

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2020. To sign up for regular updates about the Local Plan, please visit:

[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/localplanupdates](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/localplanupdates)

- **Successful fly-tipping prosecution**

CCTV cameras and the determination of enforcement officer Kate Evans and solicitor Rachel Maddocks to trace and fine a fly-tipping offender resulted in a successful prosecution of a Walsall man for breaching environmental laws. The case was heard at North Staffordshire Magistrates' Court last week and the defendant pleaded guilty. In January 2019, building and household waste along with a fridge freezer were fly-tipped at the entrance to the Four Ashes Industrial Estate. Evidence found within the rubbish led to the number plate of the defendant's vehicle being caught on CCTV camera. The man was fined £3,033.50 in total including fines and clean-up costs. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **Sytch Lane Cemetery celebrates 10 years**

Sunday 15 December 2019 marks the tenth anniversary of Sytch Lane Cemetery. Located on the outskirts of Wombourne, this seven-acre cemetery opened in 2009 and includes an area for lawn burials, a babies and children's section, a natural burial meadow area, a bird bath memorial and a Four Seasons woodland scattering area.

[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/bereavement-services](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/bereavement-services)



- **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](mailto:v.wilson2@sstaffs.gov.uk)

Val Chapman    Tel: 07718 911367    Email: [val.chapman3@btinternet.com](mailto:val.chapman3@btinternet.com)

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- **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](http://www.southstaffslottery.co.uk) or telephone **01902 213777**.

- **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](mailto:leisure@sstaffs.gov.uk).

- **Christmas opening times - Leisure Centres**

Click [here](#) to view.

- **Christmas Santa hunt**

There are only two more days to help find all the hidden Santa heads in the Council's Leisure Centres. To take part in this competition you'll need to grab an entry form from reception and find all the missing letters displayed on the Santa heads. But beware the Grinch or you'll need to complete a forfeit. Competition closes on Sunday. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **#DrinkORDrive campaign**

Staffordshire Police's #DriveORDrive campaign launched this week and will run from now to New Year's Day. The aim is to encourage people to plan ahead and avoid drink driving during the festive season. The campaign consists of social media activity, advertisements on beer mats and badges for staff in over 30 licenced establishments across Staffordshire to ensure that motorists think twice about driving while under the influence of alcohol. In addition, there will be officers on patrol carrying out random roadside checks in the evenings and early mornings in hotspot areas. Click [here](#) to see the campaign.

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- **Community safety - advice about lost and found property**

### Lost property

If you wish to report lost property or obtain a lost property reference number, please be aware that Staffordshire Police no longer provides this service. This is a national change affecting all police forces.

If your item is serial numbered, Staffordshire Police recommends you register it at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) free of charge. This will help the police if your property is stolen.

You can report any loss at a number of places online including:

[www.mylostbox.co.uk](http://www.mylostbox.co.uk) - free service.

[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) - free service.

[www.reportmyloss.com](http://www.reportmyloss.com) - this allows you to print a numbered ownership certificate, confirming the details of the loss. There is a charge for this service.

[www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com) for pedal cycles but you will need to have previously registered it.

Details of losses reported via these methods are made available to Police forces across the UK and ensures the best chance of being reunited with your property. This information is already available to insurance companies and service providers using the NMPR (National Mobile Property Register) and bike register system, which makes any further loss report unnecessary.

If you think you have lost your property in a public place/premises or on public transport then you should make direct contact with them as they often operate their own lost and found property service.

Click [here](#) for more information about lost property.

### Found property

Most found property does not need to be passed to police. If you find something in a public place or on a bus or train, lost items can be handed to the premise's owner or public transport provider. If the property is identifiable and contains personal data, it is your responsibility to make reasonable efforts to trace the owner or report to the issuing authority. If you are unable

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to do this, hand it into the police and they will forward it (the item will not be retained by the police).

There are certain items that members of the public are not allowed to retain and claim under any circumstances. These include drugs, firearms, weapons, ammunition, passports, items suspected of being involved in crime, high value items, laptops and cameras, mobile phones, unidentifiable substances or other items that may pose a danger or harm to others. Please hand any of the above into a police station so they can trace the owner or otherwise deal with them safely.

Click [here](#) for more information about found property.

- **Job vacancies**

- **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).

- **Events coming up**

- **Codsall Christmas Fair, Codsall Village Hall** - Saturday 14 December 2019, 11am to 4pm.  
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.

- **Next week's Council Committee/Panel meetings**

- **Planning Committee** - Tuesday 17 December 2019 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber.

- **Waste and recycling advice**

Online shopping over the festive period and lots of leftover cardboard? If you have excess cardboard that you can't fit in your blue bin, flatten it and place next to your blue bin on your next collection day. This will be collected along with the contents of your blue bin.

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- **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](#).



- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Patshull Park Hotel near Pattingham and the Roe Deer in Lawnswood.

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