

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 145

22 November 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **#GE2019 - Your Vote Matters**

A General Election is taking place on Thursday 12 December 2019. To vote, your name must be on the electoral register. Poll and postal poll cards are now beginning to be sent out so if you've registered to vote, you should receive your poll card in the next few days.

Your vote matters and you need to register to vote by Tuesday 26 November 2019 to vote in the general election. You can register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and it usually takes about five minutes. You will need to confirm your name, address, date of birth and national insurance number. Remember, you only need to register once - not for every election - but if you're not sure if you've already registered, please contact the local electoral registration office at South Staffordshire Council (tel: 01902 696121 or email: elections@sstaffs.gov.uk).

- **£300 fixed penalty for fly-tipped waste**

This month, a man from Wednesbury was issued a £300 fixed penalty by the Council for paying someone to remove his waste, which was then fly-tipped and blocked a road in Swindon, South Staffordshire. Evidence was found in the rubbish to identify the man. Click [here](#) to see more and to find out how to check if a person or business is registered with the Environment Agency.

- **Bulb planting**

Thank you to all the volunteers including the High Flyers (South Staffs) who came along to help plant spring flowering bulbs at Sytch Lane Cemetery in Wombourne on Monday. The weather was kind to us with blue skies and sunshine and we're looking forward to seeing the results next spring.

- **New - 2019-2021 waste and recycling booklet**

Bin crews are currently delivering the new 2019-2021 waste and recycling booklets to households in the district so keep an eye out for it on your next grey bin collection day.



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- **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

- **Interactive Local Plan map and Consultation on Local Plan**

Consultation continues 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. 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.

Click [here](#) to access the online interactive Local Plan map which shows Local Plan designations, including Green Belt, and other layers such as parish and ward boundaries, and locality areas. This useful tool allows you to zoom in and out and see what policies affect the whole of the district. You can also see areas of open space and sites that have been suggested to the Council for development.

- **Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week 2019**

This week marked Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week, a time to address the potential dangers of carbon monoxide (CO). If you know of anyone who is vulnerable who has not had their gas appliance serviced for a while, then they could be at risk. Through the Council's South Staffordshire Warmer Homes scheme, residents can get a free gas service and we try and provide visits to everyone who needs them such as people on low incomes, young families, older people and those in ill health. Call Freephone **0800 193 1902** or visit <https://bit.ly/2L93LAH>.

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Issue 145

22 November 2019



- **Staffordshire Police launch new campaign**

This week, Staffordshire Police launched their 'Let's Talk Stalking' campaign in a bid to help raise awareness of the signs of stalking. Stalking can affect anyone and the campaign features a video which focuses on the four warning signs that someone's behaviour amounts to stalking. If you or someone you know is experiencing this type of behaviour, please seek help now. You can private message Staffordshire Police on Facebook or Twitter, call **101** or report via their website. You should always call **999** in an emergency. More information on the campaign can be found here at <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/letstalkstalking>.

- **Leisure Centres - bring a friend for free and earn rewards**

From Monday 25 November to Sunday 1 December 2019, members at the Council's four Leisure Centres in Codsall, Cheslyn Hay, Penkridge and Wombourne can bring a friend for free, giving them access to the gyms, exercise classes, swimming pools and toning suites for 1 week. Members can refer up to a maximum of three friends. To refer a friend, simply accompany them to your nearest Leisure Centre and complete the referral form at reception.

- **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.

- **Social netball comes to Codsall**

Women in Codsall and Perton are invited to get "off the couch and onto the court", as a new social netball league comes to town. Run by leagues4you, the season will kick-off with a Couch2Court session at Codsall Leisure Centre on Thursday 28 November (8pm to 10pm). Courts, umpires, bibs and balls are all provided - just come along and play. Individual players and whole teams at all levels welcome. Following the Couch2court session, the league will run from Thursday 5 December 2019.

www.leagues4you.co.uk

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Issue 145

22 November 2019



- **Lifeguard and swimming teacher courses**

Wombourne Leisure Centre is holding a National Pool Lifeguard Course during the February school holiday next year. The course is taking place from Monday 17 to Friday 21 February with the exam being held on Saturday 22 February 2020. Candidates must be 16 years+ and competent swimmers. There are also swimming teacher courses running at the Leisure Centres in Codsall and Cheslyn Hay. For more details about our courses, visit

<https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/south-staffordshire-training-academy.cfm> or call your nearest Leisure Centre.

- **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**

- **Wheaton Aston Christmas Light Switch On** - Saturday 23 November 2019, 4pm to 6pm.
- **Bilbrook Light Switch On - Bilbrook Village Green** - Friday 29 November 2019, 6pm. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Wombourne Parish Council Christmas Light Switch On** - Friday 29 November 2019, 5.30pm to 6pm. Click [here](#) for details.
- **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.

- **Come and have a chat with an IT Buddy**

IT buddies are volunteers who offer their time in libraries to offer support to residents and help them get to grips with technology. Help is available for residents of any age and IT Buddies can be found in the libraries at Perton, Penkridge, Codsall and Wombourne. Click [here](#) to find out more or contact Maggie Quinn m.quinn@sstaffs.gov.uk.

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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](#).



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

- **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** - Tuesday 26 November 2019 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber.
- **Licensing and Regulatory Committee** - Thursday 28 November 2019 - 2.30pm - Bill Brownhill Room.

- **Council job vacancies**

- **ICT Support Officer (fixed term)** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Friday 6 December 2019 (5pm).
- **Corporate Director - Planning and Infrastructure** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Sunday 8 December 2019 (5pm).

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Brindley Heath Junior School in Kinver and the Maori Coffee Shop in Kinver.

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