

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 146

29 November 2019



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

- **#GE2019**

The deadline to register to vote in the UK Parliamentary general election on Thursday 12 December 2019 has now passed.

Click [here](#) for more information about voting in person. If you are registered to vote, you will be posted a poll card before the general election and the location of your polling station will be on the poll card. You can still vote even if you do not have a poll card, as long as you are on the electoral register.

Click [here](#) to find out more details about using your postal vote. Voters who have opted to vote by post must return their postal ballot pack in good time so it arrives by 10pm on polling day. If you don't have time to return it by post, you can hand it in at your polling station too.

Click [here](#) to find out more about voting by proxy, getting someone else to vote for you. The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on Wednesday 4 December 2019. To apply for a proxy vote, you have to complete a form and give a reason why you can't get to your polling station in person.

- **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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- **Affordable Housing and Housing Mix SPD 2019 - consultation**

Consultation is underway on an update to the Council's Affordable Housing and Housing Mix Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This update will reflect recent changes to national policy on affordable housing and other matters and will strengthen the Council's position when negotiating on housing sites that come forward in the District. The consultation closes at 5pm on 12 December 2019. We will then consider any comments received and make any required changes to the SPD, with a view to it being adopted by the Council by the end of March 2020. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Consultation continues on 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. 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.

- **Fuel Poverty Awareness Day - Friday 29 November 2019**

Did you know there are 4,300 homes in South Staffordshire - that's 1 in 10 households - that can't afford to cover the cost of heating and powering their home? We need your help to find these people and make them aware of the help we can provide through the Council's Good Life Energy scheme. This will get them the very best energy deals to make living in a warm home affordable. To refer a friend, click here [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy) and complete the call back form or call **03333 058671**.

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- **Bulb planting events**

A big thank you to all the volunteers who came along to Sytch Lane and Strawberry Lane cemeteries last week and took part in our bulb planting events. Thank you again to High Flyers from Wombourne, volunteers from the Wombourne Best Kept Village group and our other helpers and we look forward to seeing the cemeteries full of colour next spring. Click [here](#) to see some pics and keep an eye out for other community events coming up at our cemeteries.

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

- **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).

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- **Festive events coming up**

- **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.

- **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](#).



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