



News & Views

2019 – Issue 1

Winter safety and weather - This winter has been mild so far, however, there is still a chance of cold weather. Please follow the Staffordshire Police advice about driving in snow and icy conditions:

- Keep checking the local weather forecast for warnings about icy or snowy weather.
- Stay with your car at all times when defrosting it to prevent your car from being stolen.
- Clear all snow and ice from your windows to ensure sure you are able to see.
- Remove all snow that might fall off into the path of other road users and ensure your lights are clean and number plates are visible and legible.
- Take care on the road and allow extra time for your journey.
- Check your planned route is clear of delays.

A message from PCSO Lloyd and PCSO Price - As local officers engaging with residents it has become apparent that the number of issues reported and the number of issues that can be viewed on social media do not correlate. Police levels are dependant upon jobs reported so it is essential that **all** concerns are reported via the most appropriate route (101 or 999). Social media comments do not generate an incident report. Please see the Staffordshire Police 101 non-emergency guidance below: Some examples of when to call 101:

- if your car has been stolen
- if your property has been damaged or vandalised
- where you suspect drug use or dealing
- if you want to report a minor traffic collision
- if you want to provide information about crime
- if there is no immediate danger to life
- if the crime is NOT in progress
- if the offender is NOT nearby

Calls to 101 (from both land lines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call, or how long you are on the phone. To contact the Staffordshire Police from abroad, call (+44) 1785 236211

Report a crime anonymously: Call independent crime-fighting charity Crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or through their Anonymous Online Form at Crimestoppers. No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

If there is a significant incident affecting the force we sometimes set up a Casualty Bureau - this is a dedicated number for those who have family members affected by the incident. The number will be published on our social media and by the media. This allows the contact centre to separate 'normal' calls from the incident specific calls.

You can meet with PCSO Lloyd or PCSO Price ahead of the next Parish Council on 28th February at 6.30pm

Up coming police surgeries

- 28/02/2019 – 18:30 – 19:30, Wheaton Aston Village Hall
- 06/03/2019 – 10:30 – 11:30, St Marys Church, Wheaton Aston
- 27/03/2019 – 10:30 – 11:30, St Marys Church, Wheaton Aston
- 11/04/2019 – 18:30 – 19:30, Wheaton Aston Village Hall
- 08/05/2019 – 10:30 – 11:30, St Marys Church, Wheaton Aston
- 19/06/2019 – 10:30 – 11:30, St Marys Church, Wheaton Aston
- 04/07/2019 – 18:30 – 19:30, Wheaton Aston Village Hall

Jeremy Lefroy MP Advice Surgery - For details of the next surgery please contact the MP office direct on 01785 252477 or at jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk

Citizens Advice South Staffordshire – This has now been taken over by the Citizens Advice Staffordshire South West. Contact 01902 897377

Voluntary Car Scheme - The Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme organises lifts for local villagers, usually the elderly or housebound, who have no transport of their own but need to get to doctors surgeries, clinics or hospital appointments. Could you help? Could you spare a few hours a week? You can contribute as little or as much as you like, on whatever days of the week that suit you or simply subject to your availability at a given time. Please give it some thought – all travelling expenses are refunded and you may be surprised to find just how enjoyable it is. Please phone the office on 01902 851786 between 9.30am – 12.30pm weekdays for more information. A voicemail service is in operation outside of office hours.

Potholes - The quickest way to get potholes/damaged pavements / problems with lighting columns and road signs repaired is to call Highways on 0300 111 8000, email highways@staffordshire.gov.uk or download the "My Staffs" app, which lets you send in photos and locations straight from your phone.

Community Speed Watch Volunteers still needed! - Can you spare some time to help with the newly formed Community Speed Watch Group? Would you like to be a volunteer trained by Staffordshire Police? The training will last for about 2 hours, is free and will cover all elements of Community Speed Watch. If you are interested please email the Parish Clerk: office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you see it, report it! - If you see a crime in progress, call 999 immediately. Please also report any non-urgent crime including graffiti, damage and anti-social behaviour by calling the police on 101. Officers can only investigate matters which are reported.

Staffordshire Police Smart Alert - Get free, localised crime alerts and community safety advice with the Staffordshire Smart Alert App. This can be downloaded for both Apple and Android devices at: www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk

Crime Prevention / Cybercrime - There is a wealth of advice on the Staffordshire Police website. For more information please visit: www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime

Civil Weddings - The new Ceremonial Suite at the District Council Offices at Codsall has now been completed. The suite offers an elegant and relaxed setting for civil weddings and partnership ceremonies, renewal of vows and naming ceremonies.

South Staffs Community Lottery – You could win up to £25,000, and help support local good causes by taking part in the South Staffordshire Community Lottery. This weekly online lottery takes place every Saturday night at 8pm and you can purchase lottery tickets by telephoning 01902 213777. or at www.southstaffslottery.co.uk

Additional Green bins - You can now book additional green bins and collection of bulky waste items on- line from "My Account" the Council's personalised service giving residents on-line access to Council services 24/7

Aspire Active Camps - Looking for ways to keep your children active in the school holidays? Aspire Active Camps offer holiday clubs at Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, and Wombourne Leisure Centres. www.aspire-sports.co.uk

South Staffs Leisure Centres - offer affordable memberships with the use of 4 leisure centres for 1 great price and a list of benefits including affordable Prices Flexible Packages No Joining Fees or Long-Term Commitment-Free Inductions Open 7 Days A Week Free Health checks and Fitness Programmes Discounts for Students, Apprentices and Corporates

- 14-day advanced booking
- Free public swimming*
- No joining fees
- No long term contracts
- Free Health checks and fitness programmes.
- Discounts for Students, Apprentices and Corporates

More information about memberships can be found at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/memberships

South Staffordshire Work Clubs - If you are out of work, there are 7 Work Clubs throughout South Staffordshire to help you. Tel: Cllr Val Chapman 07718 911367 or email: v.chapman@sstaffs.gov.uk



Are you paying too much for your energy bills?

Good Life Energy has been set up by South Staffordshire Council to help you get the best energy deal and save money.



Many people find their energy bills confusing and feel they don't have time to switch. Our team is here to help you find the best deal so you get the savings you deserve.

Here's how we can help:

- Best deals for you.
- Personal advice.
- Home visits if preferred.
- Best deals on LPG and oil as well.
- Complete after-care service.



Switch and Save - If you'd like help switching your energy supplier, the Good Life Energy team will be visiting the Council Offices, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PE every Thursday between 9.30am and 1pm. Remember to bring along a recent energy bill.

Freephone: 03333 058671

Email: info@cebltd.com

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy

Warmer Homes - funding is now available for broken gas boilers Do you or anyone you know need help to replace an old or broken has boiler? Funding is available through South Staffordshire Council's Warmer Homes scheme so please get in touch. Funding is for South Staffordshire residents on limited household incomes with hard to heat homes or for residents who are vulnerable to the cold through ill health or age. Please apply now before the funding runs out. Warmer Homes South Staffordshire - Freephone 0800 193 1902 or email info@mea.org.uk

Lapley Green - Work is now well underway at Lapley Green with the main body of work expected to finish in early March. There will be more news of progress in the next issue of News and Views.

Appeal for Community First Responders

Wheaton Aston Community First Responders (CFRs) are appealing for new members. CFRs are volunteers trained by the Ambulance Service to respond to 999 requests for medical assistance in their locality. When the scheme was first started it had twelve CFRs but over the years as people have moved away or left through other commitments the numbers have dwindled so that only two active responders remain.

New recruits should have a clean driving licence, be reasonably fit and aged between 18 and 70. They will need to complete a training course with West Midlands Ambulance Service. New members will be supported by an experienced responder until they are confident they are able to respond on their own.

The scheme is well supported financially by the community but without members to book on call it could soon no longer be viable. David Leaper, scheme coordinator, is hoping to hear from people who live or work in the area and agree to book on call for a minimum of 24 hours per month. Anyone interested is invited to contact David on 840967 or 07971 191786 for more information.

The Great Fire of Wheaton Aston in 1777

Do you remember the Great Fire of Wheaton Aston in 1777? Probably not, even if you were only 10 at the time you would still be an incredible 252 years old! However I need your help. I am researching the history and circumstances surrounding the Fire. Do you have any information that would help me put together a living history of the event. It could be factual, anecdotal passed down from ancestors in families still living in the village or any thing else that may be relevant to the history at that time. I look forward to hearing from you. Malcolm Bissell (malcolm@biss59.plus.com or 01785 840535)

Classic Ibiza - Weston Park have confirmed that they are hosting "Classic Ibiza" on Saturday 13th July 2019. Classic Ibiza is a picnic style event where the Urban Soul Orchestra and DJ Goldierocks will perform classical dance tracks. They are expecting around 6,000 attendees to the event (the maximum capacity is 7,500) with the programme as follows:
6:00pm - Car parks and gates open
8:00pm - Chill out set
9:00pm - Interval with DJ
9:30pm - Dance set and laser light show
10:45pm - Concert finishes

Classic Ibiza is relatively small and intimate in scale, has been running since 2016 and now operates out of 7 leading stately home venues in the country. The event will operate under Weston Park's licence. You can find out more at www.classicibiza.co.uk

What's happening at St Mary's, Wheaton Aston and All Saints.

There is plenty going on in the churches across February and March. Please see Noticeboards, Grapevine or Facebook (Watershed Benefice Page) for more details, or contact Revd Rachel at revrachedale@gmail.com, 01785 840395.

Don't forget our regular Sunday services, Tuesday - Thursday Morning Prayers, and Tuesday and Wednesday drop-ins.

This year is our six-yearly renewal of the electoral roll for our churches. If you wish to be on the new roll, please collect a form from either of the churches.

March

Friday 1st - World Day of Prayer (Zion Chapel)
Friday 1st - Oliver Cromwell - LCRFHistory Event
Saturday 2nd- SACRED Brunch
Sunday 3rd - Quiet Evening Worship
Wednesday 6th- Bible Study
Wednesday 6th- Ash Wednesday Eucharist
Saturday 9th March - Big Breakfast for Christian Aid
Wednesday 13th, 20th & 27th - Lent Lunch
Thursday 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th- Lent Quiet Hour
Saturday 16th - Cafe Church
Wednesday 20th - Service of Healing & Wholeness
Saturday 30th - Quiet Day
Sunday 31st - Mothering Sunday

April

Wednesday 3rd - Bible Study
Wednesday 3rd & 10th - Lent Lunch
Thursday 4th & 11th - Lent Quiet Hour
Saturday 6th - SACRED Brunch
Sunday 7th - LCRF AGM
Monday 9th - Lapley with Wheaton Aston APCM
Sunday 14th - Palm Sunday
Monday 15th - Messy Grown ups
Wednesday 17th - Healing & Wholeness for Holy Week
Thursday 18th - Maundy Thursday - Last Supper and Foot washing
Friday 19th - Messy Church
Friday 19th - Good Friday Stations of the Cross
Saturday 20th - Cafe Church
Sunday 21st - Easter Sunday

Your Council

WARD

Stretton
Wheaton Aston
Wheaton Aston
Lapley
Lapley
Wheaton Aston
Wheaton Aston
Wheaton Aston
Stretton
Wheaton Aston
Wheaton Aston

COUNCILLOR

Mrs A Anderson
Mrs B Cox
Mr P Elson
Mr M Fox
Mr M Griffiths
Mrs W Millington
Mr T Noblett (Chairman)
Mr P Timson
Mr B Wells
Ms S Whittingham
Mrs S Whittingham

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Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Amy Watson
Assistant Clerk: Mrs Karen Daker

office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
assistant@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PE
Telephone: 01902 842556
Website: www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.co.uk Also find us on Facebook and Twitter

Other Key Contacts

Jeremy Lefroy MP	01785 252477	jeremy.lefroy.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor Mark Sutton	01902 851682	mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk
District Councillor Roy Wright	01902 745587	r.wright@sstaffs.gov.uk
District Councillor Brian Cox	01785 840482	b.cox@sstaffs.gov.uk
South Staffordshire Council	01902 696000	www.sstaffs.gov.uk
Staffordshire County Council	0300 111 8000	www.staffordshire.gov.uk
Police	101 (non-urgent) 999 (emergency)	www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	www.crimestoppers-uk.org
Highways	0300 111 8000	highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 2ND MAY 2019

Why is it important that everyone votes in local elections?

Did you know that your local councillors are consulted on nearly everything that happens in your area? They take an active part in influencing what services are and are not provided - and that affects you and your family!

Parish and Town Councils are responsible for many things like: bus shelters, litter bins, local halls and community centres, parks, public clocks and footpaths to name but a few. They are also consulted on planning applications, highway improvements, street signs, grant funding and projects that affect where you live and what facilities your community has or receives. Local councils are delivering more services for residents than ever before and with District/Unitary/County Council reviewing their services, Parish and Town Councils will be in a position to do even more in the future.

Everything we come into contact with on a daily basis affects how we feel and what we do - so how much effort do you actually make to get your opinions known? Voting in local parish and town council elections takes so little time, but will have a daily impact on you for the next four years, because councillors remain in office for a four year term and their decisions affect the future for your whole community. If you leave voting to others your opinions and wishes will not be heard and simply by voting for a candidate you feel will reflect your view sends a clear message of your opinion to the decision makers.

It is said 'people get the local council they deserve'. Do you know who in your community is standing for election and what they hope to achieve? The names of your councillors should be on your parish notice boards, in local post offices or displayed around your community. If you cannot find this information locally your District/Unitary Council may be able to advise you. Councillors live side by side with you in your community; they are the most local level of government, being easily contacted and directly answerable to the community every time they walk out of their front doors. They raise money primarily through your council tax to administer their decisions and others will and their views may change your life. Have a voice - vote in the local elections on 2nd May 2019 you need to be sure that you have voted for the right people to look after your community. If you do not vote,

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Be a voice for your community

Want to stand up for where you live or work and make real changes? If you are over 18, then you are probably eligible to be a parish councillor for the parish where you live or work, tackling issues that matter to your local area – like the provision of leisure facilities, youth projects, community centres and community transport, festivals and celebrations.

There are 180 parish and town councils in Staffordshire. Councils strive to provide services efficiently and increasing numbers are taking on delegated powers from other tiers of local government. Responsibilities can vary from parish to parish, but services they can take on may include street lighting, parks and open spaces, public toilets.

Parish council meetings are generally held monthly or perhaps once every other month, depending on the size of the Parish and the range of activity. With few exceptions the proceedings at all meetings are open to the public in order that the decisions being made on the work of the council and the reasons behind them are made fully apparent. Attending a council meeting is the best way of finding out what it does, so see your village noticeboard or give the council a call and find out when the next meeting is due.

Staffordshire's town and parish councils will be holding their next elections on 2nd May 2019. If you wish to stand for election you need to submit your nomination by 4pm on 3rd April 2019 to your local District or Borough Council elections officer.

What does a councillor do?

Most people's impression of what a councillor does is that they just attend council meetings and nothing could be further from the truth. The duties and pleasure, of being a local councillor are many and varied, however it is the ordinary day to day contact with local people in their own community that is the most important part of being a councillor. A Parish or Town Councillor signs a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thereby undertakes to observe an ethical Code of Conduct when dealing with matters on behalf of the community. A councillor also completes a register of interests.

Listening: One of the most important tasks of a Parish or Town Councillor is listening to and understanding the views of people in their community. Many public bodies or organisations acknowledge this is the hardest information for them to capture and they in turn use the skills and local knowledge of the parish or town council for advice to assist and inform their services.

Meetings: A councillor agrees to attend all meetings (reasonably possible) that he or she is summoned to. In a smaller council this may only require one meeting of full council a month (there are however a few small councils that still only meet once every two months). In medium and larger councils however, along with full council meetings, there are further committee meetings or working groups. Most meetings are held in the evening but some committees and group representation may be during the day. Some of these committees may include planning, finance and staffing, properties or policy. Where committees are used however the council usually consists of a larger number of councillors and therefore each councillor is only expected to serve on one or two committees.

Representation: Parish Councils also need representation at other local government meetings or on local bodies/organisations and councillors may be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the parish council. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on District/Unitary, County and regional changes. Councillors represent the voice of their community as a whole, whilst being aware of and considerate to, specific minority needs.

Ceremonial Duties: In some larger councils there will be times when councillors are asked to attend civic functions as part of their duty to the community. This may entail Remembrance Parades, civic dinners or attendance at public functions such as the Christmas Light Switch on to name but a few.

Extra skills: Through all of these functions councillors will draw on their own skills and experiences and it is the sharing of these skills that makes a strong team. Parish and Town Councils provide a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects and endeavour to solve them locally themselves. Councillors working as a team will need to deal with employment issues, budgeting, asset management, staff management, project management or grant funding and probably lots more if they are creative and involved. All councils must be aware and owe a duty to their community to manage staff considerately, whether it is employing one parish clerk or a whole host of office and grounds' maintenance staff. Accounts must be kept and whilst the clerk (or Responsible Financial Officer) will be employed to carry out this duty, councillors together as a team are responsible for the financial decisions made and implemented. A clerk is employed to advise and seek advice on behalf of councillors to assist them in their decisions. Councillors are there to consider the information gathered and make a group decision on all matters. No individual councillor is responsible for any single decision. This is democracy at its best.

Training and support: Training is available to any council, large or small. Legislation allows for councils to pay for training and ongoing training for councillors is sound business management. The County Secretary for the Association of Local Councils in your area will be able to provide details of professional training programmes designed specifically for councillors, see the useful contacts section in this pack for contact information.

Responsibility: All councillors are expected to abide by the Parish Councils Code of Conduct. Each local council must adopt and publicise a Code of Conduct that is in line with the Nolan principles. The Code deals with councillors obligations about their conduct, including the registration and disclosure of their interests.

If you would like to know more about parish councils or becoming a parish councillor, a useful booklet entitled "The Good Councillors Guide" is available in electronic format from your local council.

BE A COUNCILLOR

South Staffordshire District Council

'Be a Councillor' Event 08/01/19

Our 'Be a Councillor' event was attended by over 30 people and we received positive feedback from those who attended the two sessions.

Attendees were able to hear from existing Councillors including the Leader of the Council, Councillor Brian Edwards, Chief Executive, Dave Heywood and Helen Murray from the Local Government Association.

For more information visit our 'Be a councillor' website:

<https://beacouncillor.co.uk/south-staffordshire/>

To view the presentation from the event and the newly launched 'Be a Councillor' Workbook and Guidebook please visit:

<https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/council-democracy/be-a-councillor.cfm>

Candidates and Agents Briefing Sessions

We will be holding 2 Candidate and Agents Briefing sessions.

The 1st session takes place on 27 February 2019 at 5pm to 6:30pm at the Council offices in Codsall. The session will be a chance for potential candidates and their agents to gather information about the nomination process and how to complete their nomination form. Nomination packs will also be available at the session.

The 2nd session will be held on the 10 April 2019 at 5pm to 6:30pm at the Council offices in Codsall. The session will be outlining arrangements for the verification and count.

The Election team will be on hand at both sessions to answer any questions.

To reserve a place please contact us:

Telephone: 01902 696242 or 01902 696245

Email: elections@sstaffs.gov.uk

Timetable of key dates

Publication of notice of Election/beginning of the nomination period

18 March 2019

DEADLINE: Close of Nominations and appointment of Election Agents

4pm on 3 April 2019

PUBLICATION: Notice of Statements of Persons Nominated

4pm on 4 April 2019

DEADLINE: New voter registrations

12 April 2019

DEADLINE: Application for a Postal Vote

5pm on 15 April 2019

DEADLINE: Application for a Proxy Vote

5pm on 24 April 2019

DEADLINE: Appointment of Counting/Polling Agents

25 April 2019

Polling day

2 May 2019

Stand as a Local Councillor



Polling Day
Thursday 2nd May 2019

Make a difference to Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council

- **Get involved with your community**
- **Have a say about the local issues people care about**
- **Influence local service delivery**
- **Decide how local money is spent to improve your community**

For nomination packs contact:

The Elections Team:
elections@sstaffs.gov.uk
01902 696000

2019 Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are to be held on the following dates (Thursday) at Wheaton Aston Village Hall:

28th February

4th April

16th May (Annual Parish meeting and Annual General meeting 6pm start for APM)

4th July

5th September

24th October

5th December (Precept 2020-21)

All meetings commence at 7:30pm (unless otherwise stated) with a public forum where members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions of the Parish Council and raise issues. After this, they may stay and observe the rest of the meeting.