

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 50

12 January 2018



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

- **My Account goes live**

The new My Account online facility giving residents access to council services is now live and so far 55 users have signed up to My Account with another 137 registered users accessing it from the Self-Service section of the Council website. My Account is a personalised service giving online access to council services 24/7. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for My Account.

- **Site allocations update**

There were over 260 attendees at the recent public hearing sessions that formed part of the examination process for the site allocations document (SAD), which contains new housing sites, safeguarded land for future development, extensions to two of our main strategic employment sites and additional gypsy and traveller pitches.

There were eight days of sessions towards the end of 2017 and, following them, the Local Plans team has been preparing some modifications in readiness for a public consultation. Draft changes will be sent to the Independent Planning Inspector who is scrutinising the SAD and once they have been approved, the Council will begin a public consultation for six weeks.

Once the public consultation is over, the Inspector will consider the responses and prepare his report, which we hope will give the Council the go ahead to put the plan in place in Summer 2018.

- **By-Elections**

A number of By-Elections are taking place on Thursday 8 February 2018 including Codsall Division - County seat, Codsall South Ward - District seat, Codsall South Ward - Parish seat, Bilbrook Lane Green Ward - Parish seat and Essington Central Ward - Parish seat

The close of nominations for candidates is today - 4pm on Friday 12 January 2018. Click [here](#) for more information.

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- **Leisure Centres - 'Make 2018 YOUR year' campaign**

A promotional campaign encouraging people to start their New Year's resolutions early and sign up for membership of the Leisure Centres has proved successful with 135 new members joining. Leisure Services is set to launch a new staff membership scheme and more details will be announced shortly. Watch this space!

- **Community Lottery**

There are now 44 local good causes signed up to the South Staffordshire Community Lottery including Friends of Bilbrook, the Wombourne Volunteer Bureau and the Staffordshire Retired Police Dog Fund. Who will you choose to support? You can help support the lottery by buying a ticket - register on the website ([www.southstaffslottery.co.uk](http://www.southstaffslottery.co.uk)) or telephone **01902 213777**. Click [here](#) for more info.

- **Shrub pruning viewed 1000+ times**

There have been over 1,000 views of the videos and images posted on the Council's Facebook page showing the recent shrub pruning carried out by our Street Scene Team over the last few weeks. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to see more.

- **Community safety**

Please be aware that fraudsters are cold calling people and pretending to be police officers with the intention of obtaining personal and financial information and money. What's happening is that victims are receiving a phone call from a fraudster impersonating a police officer from Greater Manchester Police. The fraudster then asks for assistance in an undercover investigation and asks the victim to withdraw cash from their bank accounts (which is collected by a courier later that day).

If you receive one of these calls, end it immediately and call the Police on **101** (if the fraudster has stated they are coming to collect the money) or Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**. The Police or your bank will never ask you to aid an investigation by withdrawing or transferring money. Never give out or confirm personal or financial information to anyone over the phone.

Click [here](#) for the latest fraud alerts and advice.

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- **Free business start-up course at the Business Hub**

In partnership with Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, the Business Hub is holding a free business start-up course at the Council Offices in Codsall on Wednesday 28 February 2018 from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Available to aspiring entrepreneurs, social enterprises and community businesses based in Staffordshire, this five-stage programme is designed to take you through the essential steps of starting your own business. There's been a fantastic response to this course and five extra spaces are now available. For more info, please contact Hayley Czyzyk (email: [h.czyzyk@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:h.czyzyk@sstaffs.gov.uk)).

## Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Cabinet** - Tuesday 16 January - 2.00pm - Committee Room 2
- **Licensing Sub Committee** - Thursday 18 January - 12 midday - Bill Brownhill Room
- **Licensing and Regulatory Committee** - Thursday 18 January - 2.30pm - Bill Brownhill Room

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