

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news



Issue 51

19 January 2018



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Getting ready for GDPR**

Work is underway across the Council to prepare for the new data protection requirements under GDPR (the General Data Protection Regulation) which comes into effect on Friday 25 May 2018. David Campbell in the Legal Services team is leading on this for the Council.

The Legal Services team is also offering a 'Getting ready for GDPR' service for Parish Councils. There will be a brief session for Parishes at the Council Offices in Codsall on Friday 26 January 2018. There will be further training sessions for staff between now and May. For more information about GDPR training, please contact David Campbell (d.campbell@sstaffs.gov.uk).

- **Record breaking week**

Last week, we collected 320 tonnes from blue bins in the district, the equivalent weight of 60 elephants. This is the most that has ever been recycled in blue bins during a one week period (our previous best was 242.74 tonnes). Well done everyone!

- **'Say No to Plastics'**

As a Council, we are actively involved with the Organics Recycling Group, a leading trade organisation for the biodegradable waste management industry in the UK. They have recently launched a 'Say No to Plastics' campaign to raise awareness of the level of plastic contamination in garden waste and a case study on our Council's garden waste collection service appears in the latest issue of the quarterly Organics Recycling Journal. Click [here](#) to read the article.

- **Win a romantic meal for two**

Buy your South Staffordshire Community Lottery tickets before Saturday 10 February 2018 and you could win a romantic meal for two at the Orangery Restaurant at the Moat House in Acton Trussell. To buy a lottery ticket and support good causes in the district, register on the website (www.southstaffslottery.co.uk) or telephone **01902 213777**. Click [here](#) for more info.

- **Planning fees increase**

On Wednesday 17 January 2018, the Government increased planning application fees by around 20% although pre-application fees are remaining the same for the time being. Click [here](#) to see the fees.

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- **Traveller/showman count**

The next traveller/showman count is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 30 January 2018. This happens twice a year and records the numbers of caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites in the district.

- **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch**

The annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch is taking place on Saturday 27 January 2018 and lots of local groups will be taking place. One of the groups taking part is the Friends of Bilbrook - click [here](#) to find out more.

- **'Look out, Look up' campaign**

On average, one farm worker dies each year as a result of contact with an overhead power line. Many people are simply unaware of the dangers and a new 'Look out, look up' campaign has been launched this week by Western Power Distribution, working jointly with all electricity distribution companies and the trade association Energy Networks Association. The campaign is urging as many people as possible to be aware of, and to follow, simple safety tips. Click [here](#) to view their video and find out more.

- **5 Rating**

The following companies have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - The Olde Horsebox Home Baking in Cheslyn Hay, Village Coffee, Kitchen and Bakery in Codsall, Hilton Catering at Hilton Hall and Bonnie's Place in Essington.

Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** - Tuesday 23 January 2018 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber
- **Standards & Resources Committee** - Thursday 25 Jan - 2.30pm - Bill Brownhill Room

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