

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 58

9 March 2018



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Blue Peter in action at Challenge Academy**

On Tuesday, a film crew from Blue Peter visited the outdoor activity experience at Challenge Academy based at Baggeridge Country Park in South Staffordshire. Blue Peter Presenters Radzi Chinyanganya and Lindsey Russell are taking on their very own 'Mile-a-thon' challenge for Sport Relief 2018, running 26 individual miles with children from 26 different schools across the country.

One of the locations was the Challenge Academy at Baggeridge Country Park and Radzi and Lindsey donned their trainers and were joined by youngsters from Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletic Club. Blue Peter's Sport Relief Challenge will air on Thursday 22 March 2018 at 5.30pm on CBBC. Click [here](#) to see some pics.

- **Bulky Waste online bookings surge ahead**

The new Bulky Waste collection facility on 'My Account' is proving very popular with residents and out of the 112 bulky waste collections booked in February, 52 were booked through 'My Account' totalling 46% of all bookings. Encouraging customers to book this service online is saving calls to the Customer Contact Centre as well as providing residents with a more seamless and accessible service - please find it [here](#) on the Council website home page.

- **Changes to national planning policy**

As you may have seen from the national press, on Monday the Prime Minister launched significant proposed changes to national planning policy, which she stated as being:

"Maximising the use of land, strengthened protections for the Green Belt and a greater emphasis on converting planning permissions into homes are at the heart of new planning reforms.... to deliver the homes the country needs.

"Although significant progress has been made, we must do more to deliver 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s. More planning permissions need to be fast tracked into homes for a generation of first time buyers locked out of the housing market and our increasing older generation need the right homes designed to their needs."

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As part of this, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has commenced a consultation on a number of significant changes to national planning policy, see [here](#) for details.

As you would expect, the relevant service teams are working through how the proposed changes would impact on our communities.

- **Tackling drug crime in South Staffordshire**

Earlier this week, partnership working between Staffordshire Police and South Staffordshire Council resulted in a large number of cannabis plants worth an estimated street value of £125,000 being recovered from Hilton Park Industrial Estate. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Together we win!**

South Staffordshire Community Lottery is a weekly online lottery created to support local good causes in the district. Tickets are only £1 with 60% going to local good causes and prizes worth up to £25,000. To buy a ticket, simply register on the website at www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or telephone **01902 213777**.

- **Swim Academy newsletter now available**

Click [here](#) to read the latest Swim Academy newsletters, tailored specifically for each of our leisure centres. This newsletter provides important information for parents including details about the Swim Academy home portal.

- **Book now for Easter school holiday activity camps**

Bookings are now being taken for the Easter school holiday activity camps at our four Leisure Centres. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **5 Rating**

The following companies have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Cheslyn Hay Fish Bar, Astons of Coven, Burger King Southbound Hilton Park Motorway Services, Mary Herman-Smith Catering of Trysall, Momtaj Spice in Wheaton Aston, the Bradford Arms on the A5 at Ivetsey Bank and Wightwick Hall School.

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Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following meetings are scheduled:

- Cabinet - Tuesday 13 March - 2pm - Committee Room 2 - see the papers [here](#)

Please note that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee scheduled for Tuesday 13 March has been moved to Tuesday 3 April 2018.

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