

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 57

2 March 2018



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Bad weather - update**

We will be putting out regular updates on how the Council's services are affected by the bad weather on www.sstaffs.gov.uk, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Keep wrapped up warm and check on vulnerable people and neighbours. If your journey is essential, take care, plan your route and allow more journey time.

- o Dig out the scraper and de-icer so that you can de-frost your windows, or use a windscreen cover overnight.
- o If you need to de-frost your vehicle, ensure you stay with it and don't leave it unattended with the keys inside. Drivers should always be in control of their vehicle when the engine is running. Don't make it easy for opportunist thieves.
- o Ensure windows and mirrors are fully de-misted before driving off.
- o Ensure vehicle lights are clear and working.
- o Check your windscreen wash bottles are topped up with anti-freeze wash and that your windscreen wipers are in good working order.
- o Check vehicle type tread and pressures.

Keep an emergency kit on board for long journeys consisting of de-icer/ice scraper, large torch (don't rely on your smartphone torch), warm clothing including high-visibility items, boots, in-car phone charger, first aid kit, jump leads, shovel, blankets, reflective road triangles, empty fuel container, and food and drink.

Please take care and check the Met Office weather forecast before heading out.

Keep wrapped up warm and check on vulnerable people and neighbours. If your journey is essential, take care, plan your route and allow more journey time and properly prepare before you set out.

For more info, visit:

<https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/winter>

<https://metoffice.gov.uk/barometer/advice/travel-advice>

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<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast>

- **Budget approval**

On Tuesday night the Council approved the budget and set the Council Tax for 2018/19 see details [here](#) (at item 14) – this sets a balanced budget for the next three financial years (up to 31 March 2021). The Council Tax remains the 4th lowest of all District Councils in England and the lowest in the West Midlands.

- **First wedding on the way**

The new Ceremonial Suite at the Council Offices in Codsall has secured its first booking, which will take place on Friday 27 July 2018. The bride-to-be was very impressed with the room and is looking forward to sharing her special day with us.

The Ceremonial Suite delivers a bespoke and affordable package, offering an elegant and relaxed setting for civil weddings and partnership ceremonies, renewal of vows and naming ceremonies. In the summer, the Council will be hosting its first Wedding Fayre in partnership with 'Tied with a bow' on Sunday 3 June 2018 from 11am to 3pm.

- **V festival**

We have this week had formal confirmation that there will be no "V" festival at Weston Park in 2018. As you may have seen from the press V have withdrawn as the sponsors of the event and the organisers have confirmed that they are not running a festival in 2018 but intend to return in 2019.

- **Consultation continues on i54 Western Extension**

A consultation by Staffordshire County Council and City of Wolverhampton Council is underway over plans to carry out a major expansion on the i54 South Staffordshire business park, home of Jaguar Land Rover, Moog, Eurofins and other multinational companies. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **Community Lottery**

Don't forget to buy a ticket this week for the South Staffordshire Community Lottery. Every ticket you buy helps support local good causes. This weekly online lottery takes place every Saturday night at 8pm and you can purchase lottery tickets at www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or by telephoning **01902 213777**.

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- **Funding for 'Friends of Bilbrook'**

Congratulations to the 'Friends of Bilbrook' which has recently received funding through the Tesco 'Bags of Help' community grant scheme, administered by Groundwork UK. This funding will be used to develop an outdoor class room on the Jubilee Wood site in Bilbrook. The area is now fully laid out and includes four bespoke oak benches and a willow weave fence (click [here](#) to see the latest pics). Two outdoor education sessions involving Bilbrook First and Middle Schools will be taking place later on the spring term when the area will be officially opened.

- **Vikings at Baggeridge**

Not a sight you see every day! One of the local community groups in action at Baggeridge Country Park at their first training day session recently. Click [here](#) for more info.

- **STA award course at Wombourne**

Wombourne Leisure Centre is holding an STA Award Course for people interested in becoming qualified to teach children to swim. The course lasts 4 days (from 3 to 6 April 2018) and candidates must be able to swim and be willing to complete a one-day safety award. This will take place Monday 9 April 2018 at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre. The cost is £285 (STA Award Course - first part of teaching award) and £95 (safety award). For more information, please contact Bridget Chambers on **01902 696558** or **07966 255432**.

- **Easter school holiday camps**

Bookings are now being taken at the Leisure Centres for the school holiday camps taking place during the first two weeks of April 2018. Cheslyn Hay, Codsall and Wombourne Leisure Centres will be holding half-day and full-day activity camps for children aged 5 to 12 years olds (book now at www.fitforsport.co.uk or telephone **0845 456 3233**). Penkrige Leisure Centre will be holding shorter, two-hour sessions each day and you can book by calling the centre directly on **01785 714152**.

- **5 Rating**

The following companies have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week – Himley Hall, Codsall Spice, Westfield Primary School in Wombourne, Three Hammers Bar and Bistro in Coven, The Truckers Rest Café on the A5, the Co-op in Brewood, HMP Featherstone Visitor Centre in Featherstone, the Oaken Arms in Oaken, Papa John's Pizza in Codsall, ,

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

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Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Wellbeing Select Committee** - Tuesday 6 March 2018 - 5.30pm - Council Chamber – papers can be seen [here](#)
- **Audit Committee** - Tuesday 6 March 2018 - 4pm - Bill Brownhill Room – papers can be seen [here](#)