

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 85

14 September 2018



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Council - Tuesday 11 September 2018**

There were a number of important decisions made by Council on Tuesday, these include:

- **Site Allocations Document (SAD) adopted**

Members resolved unanimously at Full Council to adopt the Site Allocations Document (SAD) which can be seen [here](#). The SAD, together with the Council's Core Strategy, make up the Local Plan for South Staffordshire. There will now be a six week period where a legal challenge to the SAD can be made. The SAD releases land for over 1,000 new homes and more than 60 hectares for employment use.

This will provide much needed housing for local communities and space for new and existing businesses to grow and prosper as well as increase job opportunities.

- **Codsall Community Hub gets the green light**

Also on Tuesday, Members voted unanimously in favour of supporting the Codsall Community Hub (formally known as One Public Estate Project) - click [here](#) for details. This is fantastic news, providing a mandate to commence. The project will now advance from its current 'concept design' into a 'developed design' then 'technical design'. To complete this process, the Council is continuing to work with Kier Business Services and it will take nine months to complete with key outcomes being planning permission determined and specifications completed to tender contractors.

Over the coming weeks, a delivery programme for implementation will be completed with Kier. This will outline key project milestones, identifying when and where we need to work closely together with members, staff and partners to shape the projects design principles and timeframes.

- **Commercial activities budget increase of £60,000**

Council agreed to increase the budget for commercial activities by £60,000 a year to ensure that we can deliver some key projects - click [here](#) for details.

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- **Business Rates Pooling Pilot supported**

The final key item that Council considered was to agree to a joint bid to become part of a Staffordshire-wide bid for a pilot of increased pooling of business rates locally - if this were to be successful it would lead to a significant increase in our resources - click [here](#) for details.

- **Successful prosecution for fly-tipper caught on camera**

Overt CCTV cameras installed by the Council have resulted in a successful prosecution of a Pendeford man for breaching environmental laws. Pics of Terry Baker from Pendeford fly-tipping two bags of sand into a ditch at the side of the road in Pendeford Hall Lane were taken by the cameras and were used as evidence of the offence. Baker was fined £807 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £80 and £1,046.30 costs, resulting in a total cost of £1,933.30. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **New community room opening next week**

A new community room at Baggeridge Country Park will open officially next week on Tuesday 18 September 2018. Cutting the ribbon at 11.30am will be Councillor Len Bates BEM, Chairman of South Staffordshire Council, and Councillor Mary Bond, Cabinet Member for Community Services. Known as 'The Lydiate Room', this room is perfect for educational workshops, children's parties, functions, conferences, corporate meetings and events. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Vote for the People's Choice**

Vote now for Baggeridge Country Park and the Wom Brook Walk in the UK's People's Choice Awards 2018. This award asks the nation to have its say and decide which parks and green spaces are the UK's favourites. Only parks that have won the prestigious Green Flag award qualify for the People's Choice nomination.

To vote, go to www.greenflagaward.org and find your park on the winners map, then click the voting button.

Click [here](#) to vote for Baggeridge Country Park.

Click [here](#) to vote for Wom Brook Walk.

Voting closes on Sunday 30 September 2018. Please note that you can only vote once and multiple votes will not be counted.

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- **Skills and jobs fair**

If you know anyone looking for new employment, a change of career, an apprenticeship or volunteering opportunities, then our skills and jobs fair taking place at the Council Offices in Codsall on Wednesday 26 September 2018 (10am to 2pm) is a must. Forty exhibitors offering hundreds of jobs, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities will be waiting to tell you more about their exciting opportunities and there will be workshops taking place about IT skills, CV writing and interview techniques. In addition, there will be presentations from a number of businesses to tell you more about their company and what opportunities they have available.

The event is free to attend and free transport is also being provided from key locations in Penkridge, Huntington, Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay, Essington, Featherstone, Coven, Kinver, Wombourne, Swindon and Perton. Pre-booking of transport is recommended to secure your seat. For more information, visit: www.sstaffs.gov.uk/skillsandjobsfair

- **Tea & Teach**

Need help with your digital skills or getting online? Our next free 'Tea & Teach' session takes place on Thursday 27 September at the Council Offices in Codsall between 2pm and 4pm. Click [here](#) for more information and to find out how to reserve a place.

- **Community innovation fund**

Applications have until 5pm on Friday 28 September 2018 to submit an application to the South Staffordshire Community Innovation Fund. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for all community and voluntary sector organisations in South Staffordshire including those registered to the South Staffordshire Community Lottery. Please contact policyadmin@sstaffs.gov.uk for an application form and guidance notes.

- **Walking Festival 2018 now underway**

Enjoy a walk in beautiful South Staffordshire and take part in our walking festival, which runs until Tuesday 25 September 2018. All of the walks are free and for more information about how to book, please visit www.walkingforhealth.org.uk or click [here](#) to see a programme.

Don't forget that our regular walks on the South Staffordshire Walking Programme will continue to take place too. Click [here](#) to see more or contact our co-ordinator (tel: **07939 631131** or email: louisewalkingforhealth@gmail.com).

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- **Win £250 off your next vacation**

Are you suffering post-holiday blues? Thanks to Co-operative Travel, South Staffordshire Community Lottery's next super draw is giving one lucky supporter the chance of winning £250 to put towards their next vacation. To be in with the chance of winning this fantastic prize, become a lottery supporter before Saturday 29 September 2018. Tickets cost just £1 a week and can be bought online at www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or telephoning **01902 213777**.

- **Perton Village Show**

Perton Village Show takes place on Saturday 15 September 2018, from 12.30pm onwards. Show schedules are available from Perton Civic Centre and Perton Library and enquires can be made to the Show Secretary by calling **01902 741822**.

- **What's on**

- Heritage Open Days 2018 (13-16 September 2018) - Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. All for free. Click [here](#) for more information and to find out what you can see in South Staffordshire.
- Midland Game Fair (15 to 16 September 2018, 8.30am to 6pm) - click [here](#) for more information.
- Wildlings at Highgate Common (Thursday 20 September and Tuesday 4 October 2018, 11am to 12.30pm) - click [here](#) for more information.

Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meeting is scheduled:

- **Planning Committee** - Tuesday 18 September 2018 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspections this week - Foley Infants School in Kinver and Corbett Primary School in Bobbington.

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