

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 97

7 December 2018



This week's news from around the Council.

- **#FestiveBinMen 2018**

Today, the Council in partnership with Biffa Municipal Ltd released a festive Christmas video. The video is now on Facebook and Twitter and we would love it if you would check it out and share it with friends and family. So, grab some popcorn - here are your South Staffordshire bin crews as you've never seen them before! Click [here](#) to view the video on Facebook and click [here](#) to view it on YouTube.

- **Codsall community hub update**

Last week, the staff group visited Newcastle-Under-Lyme's new integrated Hub building containing Police, Borough and County Council services. The group used the experience to reflect on and learn from a building with a similar concept to Codsall Community Hub and created design principals for future office space that the architect will use to shape the first drawings. Over the coming days, a number of surveyors will be on site at the Council Offices, specifically walking around surveying the external grounds.

- **Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 14 December 2018**

Everyone is encouraged to get in the festive mood and put on their favourite Christmas jumpers next week on Friday 14 December 2018 in order to raise money for Save the Children. You can wear your jumper all day in return for a £2 donation to the charity. Your £2 donation could help bring essential food, healthcare, education and protection to millions of children around the world who are missing out.

- **Local food bank needs your help**

Tinned foods, cereal, part-baked bread, pasta, jam and household items such as soap, shampoo and toilet rolls are just some of the things that the Kingsway Food Bank based in Wombourne urgently needs. There's just one week to donate any items - please take them to the reception desk at the Council Offices in Codsall (blue bags also available in the Leisure Centres and Depot). Biffa will be doubling anything we collect and the donations will make a huge difference to local residents in need. Click [here](#) to see the full list of accepted food, toiletry and household items.

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- **South Staffordshire Connect to return in January**

The South Staffordshire Connect dial-a-ride bus service will be returning to the areas of greatest demand in the district from Tuesday 15 January 2019. This local, bookable bus service will once again help many people who struggle to get out and about and it is aimed at residents who live away from regular bus routes or who find it difficult to use a standard bus.

We have concentrated the service in the areas of highest demand. South Staffordshire Council will keep passenger demand and the budget available under review in order to design the service in the most effective way. The district is fortunate to have many community and voluntary transport schemes and the Council will work with communities to better understand local transport needs and identify options for further community-based transport solutions.

The new Connect service will operate between 10am and 3pm on the following basis:

- **Locality 3** (Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay, Essington, Featherstone, Shareshill, Wedges Mills and Hilton) on Tuesdays and Fridays. This service will connect with Cannock Bus Station.
- **Locality 4** (Codsall/Bilbrook/Perton/Pattingham) on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- **Locality 5** (Wombourne and the surrounding villages of Seisdon, Trysull, Lower Penn, Gospel End, Swindon and Himley) on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Further information about how to access the South Staffordshire Connect service will follow shortly.

- **Home alone at Christmas**

The annual Christmas lunch for retired residents of the district takes place on Friday 21 December 2018 from midday to 2.30pm in the Academy Restaurant at the Council Offices in Codsall. The lunch is free for pensioners over the age of 60 who don't have friends or family visiting them on Christmas Day. Numbers are limited to 50 people so early application is recommended. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Community safety - Christmas shopping reminders**

Keep safe when out Christmas shopping. Shopping with lots of bags can draw unnecessary attention and always keep an eye on your belongings.

- Ensure your car is parked in a well-lit area.
- Have your keys at the ready and be aware of those around you.
- Avoid isolated areas.

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- Avoid distractions such as looking at your phone or listening to music.
- Take your own carrier bags - thieves can quickly work out who is buying high-value items.
- Don't leave your shopping in your car or in plain sight.

Click [here](#) for more advice. #SaferXmas

- **Community safety - out on patrol**

On Thursday 29 November 2018, Council enforcement officers were out on patrol with the neighbourhood policing team. A total of 16 vehicles were stopped and searched with the driver of a van in Essington being issued with a £300 fine for not having a waste carrier licence. In Pattingham, officers arrested a 41 year old male for driving offences and for failing to have a waste carrier licence and a scrap collecting licence. His vehicle was seized and towed away and he was later released under investigation. This is another example of the Council and police working jointly to continue to ensure South Staffordshire is a safe place to live, work and visit.

Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Audit and Risk Committee** - 11 December 2018 - 10am - Bill Brownhill Room
- **Full Council** - 11 December 2018 - 7pm - Council Chamber
- **Standards and Resources Committee** - 13 December 2018 - 2.30pm - Bill Brownhill Room

- **5 Rating**

The following organisation has achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Lazy Days Café in Brewood.

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