

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 100

11 January 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **South Staffordshire Connect service returns next week**

The South Staffordshire Connect dial-a-ride bus service is 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.



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

- **Zone 1** (Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay, Essington, Featherstone, Shareshill, Wedges Mills and Calf Heath) on Tuesdays and Fridays. This service will connect with Cannock Bus Station, The Orbital Centre, Morrisons and Asda supermarkets.
- **Zone 2** (Codsall, Bilbrook, Perton and Patteringham) on Tuesdays and Fridays. This service extends to Morrisons supermarket at Pendeford, and parts of the Tettenhall and Albrighton areas).
- **Zone 3** (Wombourne and the surrounding villages of Seisdon, Trysull, Lower Penn, Gospel End, Swindon and Himley) on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This service will make cross-border links at Sedgley Market (Lloyds Pharmacy side) and Wolverhampton Langley Road bus stop.

For more information, please click on the following - [Zone 1](#), [Zone 2](#) and [Zone 3](#).

- **Warmer Homes - funding now available for broken gas boilers**

Do you or anyone you know need help to replace an old or broken gas boiler? Funding is available through the Council's Warmer Homes scheme so please get in touch. Funding is for South Staffordshire residents on limited household incomes with hard to heat homes or for residents who are vulnerable to the cold through ill health or age. Please apply now before the funding runs out.

Warmer Homes South Staffordshire.

Freephone **0800 193 1902** or email info@mea.org.uk

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- **Coming soon - Big Energy Saving Week (21 to 28 January 2019)**

The New Year is when high winter energy bills start coming in and our Good Life Energy team is here to help residents and business check they are getting the best price for their energy and make them aware of any savings they can make. This year our Good Life Energy Team is being supported by several Parish Councils by hosting our Energy Surgeries during Big Energy Saving Week, a national campaign taking place in January that encourages residents and local businesses to 'Check, Switch, Save'.

We are holding several Good Life Energy Surgeries around the district on:

- o Tuesday 22 January 2019, 9.30am to 1pm - Perton Civic Centre.
- o Wednesday 23 January 2019, 9.30am to 1pm - Wombourne Civic Centre.
- o Thursday 24 January 2019, 9.30am to 1pm - Codsall District Council Offices.
- o Friday 25 January 2019, 9.30am to 1pm - Great Wyrley Community Centre.
- o Monday 4 February 2019, 4pm to 7pm - Wedges Mills Village Hall.

If you could help us publicise these community events through posters and leaflets or if you would like to join the above Parish Councils in having a no cost one-to-one energy review for your Parish or community buildings, please email the Good Life Energy team now.

Email: a.munro@sstaffs.gov.uk to book a preferred location, date and time between Monday 21 January and Friday 25 January 2019.

Many residents and local businesses have already saved hundreds of pounds on their energy bills and have seen the benefits and been quick to praise the initiative. Local MP the Rt Hon. Gavin Williamson CBE gave his wholehearted support to the Good Life Energy Bill scheme earlier this year - read more at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy

- **LABC Regional Building Excellence Awards**

The South Staffordshire Building Control Partnership, which South Staffordshire Council is a part of, is urging builders and developers to enter the 2019 Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Awards. The partnership works to provide a healthy, safe, sustainable and accessible built environment across South Staffordshire and the awards are the largest business-to-business awards in the building control sector, recognising quality in all types of building projects.

Building control surveyors, builders, architects, designers and anyone else involved in a construction project, where building control was provided by a local authority team, can submit

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an entry to their region's awards. The submission deadline for the West Midlands regional awards is Friday 15 February 2019.

To find out more go to www.labc.co.uk/awards

To find out more about the Southern Staffordshire Building Control Partnership, please visit www.southernstaffs-buildingcontrol.co.uk

- **Green bin collections**

Green bin collections have now finished for the year and will recommence from Monday 14 January 2019. Click [here](#) to view your bin collection dates.

- **Street Scene out and about**

The Street Scene team has been out and about completing path works on the Wom Brook Walk this week. Click [here](#) to see more.

- **'Issues and Options' update**

The recent public consultation on the 'Issues and Options' stage of the Local Plan review generated just under 500 responses. These were split between petitions (3), agents/developers (198), statutory bodies (43) and residents/general public (253). The responses have been recorded and published for information on the Council's website - click [here](#) to view. The Strategic Planning Team is now reading through and analysing all the comments made and this will help us work towards the next stage of the Local Plan.

- **Be A Councillor**

On Tuesday, over 30 people attended the two 'Be a Councillor' sessions held in the Council Chamber for anyone interested in standing as a Councillor in the elections on Thursday 2 May 2019. If you were unable to attend and would like to find out more about becoming a Councillor, click [here](#) for more information.

- **Pre-purchasing option now available**

Grave plots at the Council's two cemeteries in Sytch Lane in Wombourne and Strawberry Lane in Great Wyrley are now available to pre-purchase. Plots are available for residents of South Staffordshire as well as people from outside the district and there's a variety of grave types including lawn graves, cremated remains graves and natural graves. For more information, please contact Bereavement Services for more details on **01902 696111**.

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- **Community Lottery - January Superdraw**

Thanks to Ellis Live, we have four tickets to give away to see Aretha 'Respect' at Oakengates Theatre on Friday 25 January 2019. Lottery tickets need to be purchased before the Superdraw date on Saturday 12 January 2019. To buy tickets simply go to www.southstaffslottery.co.uk. Tickets cost £1 per line with 60p supporting local good causes in South Staffordshire.

Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Cabinet** - Tuesday 15 January - 2pm - Committee Room 2
- **Planning Committee** - Tuesday 15 January - 6.30pm - Council Chamber

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