

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 104

8 February 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Good news for award-winning BBO programme**

Building Better Opportunities (BBO) Stafford and South Staffordshire has received approval for an extension of its programme, which supports people who are not currently in work move closer to employment and training. The programme is jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund and European Social Fund (ESF) and was originally a three year project funded until December 2019. This extension means that the programme can now continue until 2022 and continue supporting vulnerable residents and helping change people's lives for the better.

The additional funding awarded to Stafford and South Staffordshire is as a result of the excellent work and commitment of all the partners involved in the BBO programme, who have all helped to achieve the targets and outcomes required by the Big Lottery. For more information about the programme, please visit: <https://bbostaffs.org/>

- **New Leisure web pages go live**

New web pages about the Council's leisure services are now live on the Council website. Over the next few months, we will be introducing many new online features to help inspire staff and residents to use the Council's Leisure Centres in Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, Penkridge and Wombourne and get everyone more active.

The new web pages are fully compatible with smartphones and tablets and soon to be launched features include a join online facility, where you can find out more and sign up to one of the leisure centre membership packages, and an online bookings system, where you can access leisure services quickly and easily, check availability and manage your own bookings.

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure

- **Energy switch surgery success**

The Good Life Energy switch surgery held at Wedges Mills Village Hall on Monday was successful with the team speaking with local residents and lots of new leads to follow up. Don't forget that if you'd like help switching your energy supplier, the Good Life Energy team will be visiting the Council Offices every Thursday between 9.30am and 1pm. Remember to bring along a recent energy bill. www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy

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- **Coming soon to Wombourne**

A new CASS carers' café in the Civic Centre in Wombourne will be opening its doors on Wednesday 13 March 2019, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Click [here](#) for more information about the carers' café and CASS The Carers Association.

www.carersinformation.org.uk

- **Go digital!**

Questions about your Council Tax? Want to pay for council services? Order a bulky waste collection? Track planning applications in your area? Why not register for My Account, available 24 hours, seven days a week. Registering is easy and takes just a couple of minutes.

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/myaccount

- **Scam alert**

Please be aware that there appears to be a fraudulent email/text in circulation asking people to pay their outstanding Council Tax to Thornet.gov.uk. This correspondence is not from the Council so please disregard and delete.

- **Community Lottery 'triple' superdraw - one day to go!**

On Saturday 9 February 2019, there will be a Community Lottery 'triple' superdraw taking place. Supporters will be in the chance of winning either an Amazon Alexa Fire7 Table with Alexa, four tickets to The Up Beat Beatles at Dudley Town Hall or four tickets to see Aretha: Respect at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. To be in with the chance of winning one of these fantastic prizes, please support the Community Lottery before the draw on Saturday 9 February 2019.

Tickets cost just £1 a week. Play today at www.southstaffslottery.co.uk . Good luck!

- **Save the date**

The next Let's work together free training session will take place on Monday 25 February 2019 in the Council Chamber. The theme will be community support and the session will include presentations from Healthwatch, Compton Care, Supported Futures and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue. For more information and to book a place, please call **01902 696238** or email

policyandpartnershipsevents@sstaffs.gov.uk

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- **Candidates and agents' briefing session**

The first candidates and agents briefing session will take place on Wednesday 27 February 2019 at 5pm to 6.30pm at the Council Offices in Codsall. The session will be an opportunity for potential candidates and their agents to collect their nomination packs. For more information, please click [here](#).

- **Switch and save**

If you'd like help switching your energy supplier, the Good Life Energy team will be visiting the Council Offices every Thursday between 9.30am and 1pm. Remember to bring along a recent energy bill. Freephone: **03333 058671**

Email: info@cebltd.com

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy

- **South Staffordshire Connect service now available**

The South Staffordshire Connect dial-a-ride bus service is now available. This local, bookable bus service is once again helping 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 operates between 10am and 3pm to three zones. For more information, please click on the following for more information - [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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Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meeting is scheduled:

- **Licensing Sub Committee** - Monday 11 February 2019 - 2.30pm - Bill Brownhill Room

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspections this week - Perton Primary Academy, Ounsdale High School in Wombourne, and the Summerhouse pub in Gospel End near Sedgley.

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