

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

**Issue 107**

1 March 2019



## This week's news from around the Council.

- **Annual billing** - This week, the Welfare Services team has been busy going through their annual billing cycle which sees the creation of approximately 47,000 Council Tax bills, 2,700 Business Rates bills and 6,000 Benefit notification letters. Annual billing is important to the Council due to the income streams it generates and thank you to all staff who have helped support this process. The hard work doesn't stop there though - bills will be issued on Friday 8 and Monday 11 March 2019 and Welfare Services and Customer Services will then be busy handling customers enquiries.
- **Council catches more fly-tippers** - South Staffordshire Council has successfully prosecuted two men from Wolverhampton and Littleover, Derby for breaching environmental laws. The cases were heard at North Staffordshire Justice Centre in Newcastle-under-Lyme on Monday 25 February 2019 and both defendants pleaded guilty. Click [here](#) to find out more.
- **Prosecution success for illegal tree cutting** - The Council has also successfully prosecuted a Stourbridge man for unauthorised tree works carried out to a mature yew tree on a property in Kinver, which was protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Click [here](#) to read more.
- **Brexit bulletin** - For recent developments and a look ahead at key parliamentary activity and upcoming events across the country, please click [here](#) to read the Local Government Weekly Brexit Bulletin (Tuesday 26 February 2019).
- **Be part of the Great British Spring Clean**  
Keep Britain Tidy is once again urging communities to get involved in the Great British Spring Clean between Friday 22 March and Tuesday 23 April 2019. This year, the campaign is focusing on single-use plastics and Friends of Essington and Friends of Bilbrook are just two of the groups organising their own litter pics.

If you are thinking about holding your own litter pick, please visit the Keep Britain Tidy website to register your event. Click [here](#) to find out how you can get involved and remember to get in touch with Ryan Taylor at South Staffordshire Council ([r.taylor2@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:r.taylor2@sstaffs.gov.uk)) if you would like any assistance from the Council in organising events or if you would like our Street Scene crews to pick up any of the bagged litter that you collect.

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- **New dementia singing friends group**

Earlier this month, a new dementia singing friends group was launched in Wombourne. Taking place every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm in the Community Room in Wombourne Library, the sessions are relaxed and informal where people affected by dementia and their carers can get together, have a good chat and a laugh while also singing favourite songs or even having a dance. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Calling all photographers!**

Staffordshire Police is in the process of implementing a new website and needs your help concerning the 'localities page'. They're in search of photographs that represent your local area - scenery, monuments or a recognisable place. Please send your photos to [nw@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nw@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk) and include your location.

- **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](http://www.carersinformation.org.uk)

- **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](mailto:info@cebltd.com) [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy](http://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](#).



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- **Volunteers needed** - The Enforcement team needs help distributing its free dog fouling stickers and dog poo bags to local shops, post offices, pubs, community rooms and any other suitable locations. Volunteers are needed to approach suitable locations and ask them if they would like to participate in the scheme. You will then need to give them stickers for the window, so they can let the public know that dog poo bags are available for collection there, and a supply of the bags. If anyone can help, please contact Lucy Macdonald ([l.macdonald@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:l.macdonald@sstaffs.gov.uk)).

## Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following public meeting is scheduled:

- **Audit and Risk Committee** - Tuesday 5 March 2019 - 4pm - Bill Brownhill Room

- **5 Rating** - The following organisation has achieved a 5 Rating following its food inspection this week - Lychgate Coffee Shop in Pattingham.

Everyone is encouraged to submit news items, please email: [comms@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:comms@sstaffs.gov.uk)