

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 109

15 March 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **LGC Awards**

Following on from last week's success at the IESE awards the Council was nominated for the Local Government Chronicle's awards in the Entrepreneurial Council [category](#). Whilst we were pipped to the post by a London Borough it was an accolade to have been short listed for an award with so many entries.

- **Start of Purdah**

Local Elections will be taking place on Thursday 2 May 2019. There are strict rules governing publicity by local government/public authorities in the pre-election period known as "purdah". **Purdah starts on Monday 18 March 2019.**

The Council needs to be very careful in the pre-election period to ensure that public resources are not used for party political purposes and that the Council does not undertake any activity that calls into question its political impartiality. We need to avoid any publicity that identifies individual Councillors and think carefully about any public documents/statements, the rules apply to all communications **including social media** – guidance has been sent out to Parishes in the recent Election bulletin. Click [here](#) to see the LGA's guide to purdah.

As a result of the rules on Purdah this will be the last weekly newsletter for Parishes until after the elections on 2.5.19.

- **Got 5?**

This week, the 'Got 5?' voter registration campaign launched in England, emphasising that it only takes five minutes to register. The deadline to register to vote is midnight on Friday 12 April 2019. Click [here](#) to register to vote.

- **Brexit bulletin**

Click [here](#) to read the latest Local Government Weekly Brexit Bulletin (Monday 11 March 2019).

- **Civil ceremonies**

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Nine civil ceremonies have already been confirmed for 2019 and with a new wedding brochure hot off the press (click [here](#) to view). Every wedding that we host brings additional income into the Council. Karen Riley and the team go the extra mile to ensure every ceremony is perfect for the couple and their guests. If you know anyone looking for a civil wedding location, please suggest they come and view the Ceremonial Suite and meet Karen and the team.

- **New brochure for bereavement services**

A new brochure promoting our bereavement services at Sytch Lane in Wombourne and Strawberry Lane in Great Wyrley is now available (click [here](#) to view). Since introducing the option to pre-purchase plots in November 2018, the team has seen a significant increase in the number of enquiries for both cemeteries. If you would like further information, please contact Bec Morgan on **01902 696111** or email bereavementservices@sstaffs.gov.uk

- **Coming soon - shape up for summer**

The Leisure Centres in Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, Penkridge and Wombourne will be running their summer shape up from Monday 25 March to Monday 8 April 2019. Join between these dates and get April for just £15. To find out more email leisure@sstaffs.gov.uk

- **Well done!**

Wombourne Leisure Centre hosted a charity spin session on 9 March 2019 and raised £250 for a breast cancer charity. Thank you to everyone for getting involved - click [here](#) to see more.

- **Flying a flag for the Commonwealth**

On Monday, the Commonwealth flag was raised at the Council Offices in Codsall at a ceremony to mark Commonwealth Day. Councillor Len Bates BEM, Chairman of the Council, raised the flag and read the Commonwealth Affirmation. Click [here](#) to see more.

- **Chairman's Civic Dinner**

Councillor Len Bates was delighted to have raised more than £700 for his charity CASS (Carers Association) South Staffordshire at his Civic Dinner which took place at the Moat House in Acton Trussell last Friday evening. This event was Councillor Bates' main fundraising event and celebrates his year in office as Chairman of South Staffordshire Council.

- **Site machinery company on the move to i54**

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A leading site machinery business has agreed to buy the flagship site at the i54 South Staffordshire business park adjacent to Jaguar Land Rover at Junction 2 of the M54. This site will provide more than 60,000 sq ft of manufacturing and office space for Morris Site Machinery to relocate from its current site three miles away at Four Ashes into the purpose-built premises. The move is expected to take place in the summer of 2020 at the latest. Click [here](#) to read more.

- **Advance notice of M6 closure (Junction 13 - 14) - Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 March 2019**

There will be an 18 hour closure of the M6 motorway between junction 13 and junction 14 to demolish Burton Bank Footbridge, part of the work underway to upgrade the M6 from junctions 13 to 15 to a smart motorway. Two lanes in each direction will be closed from 5pm on Saturday before the motorway is completely closed at 8pm. It is hoped that work will be completed within 18 hours and the motorway will reopen on Sunday when the work is complete. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **What's on in the Leisure Centres**

The Council's four Leisure Centres in Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, Penkridge and Wombourne have loads planned for the Easter school holiday. From Monday 15 to Friday 26 April 2019, the Leisure Centres will be offering a range of children's activities for young people aged 4-14 years old. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **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.

- **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

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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).

- **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](#).



- **Skills and training**

The LGA is running three training events about data and digital transformation especially for elected members in March 2019. One of these events will be taking place in Birmingham on Tuesday 19 March 2019. Click [here](#) to find out more and to book a place.

The events are free and will focus on what an elected member needs to know to influence, challenge, monitor and oversee the introduction of digital transformation projects within their organisations. Time will also be given to the consideration of the data practices, governance and use that fuels digital projects.

Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

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Next week, the following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Planning Committee** – Tuesday 19.3.19 – Council Chamber at 7pm
- **Standards and Resources Committee**- Thursday 21.3.19 – BBR – 2:30pm

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - Kingswood Centre in Kingswood and Staffordshire Golf Club near Swindon.

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