

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 137

27 September 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **Parish Summit** - the Parish Summit is taking place on Friday 11 October 2019 from 9am until 1pm - it will cover a number of aspects particularly focusing on planning issues. The agenda will be circulated next week.
- **Extension to local enterprise centre gets underway**
Building work has now started on an extension to the Four Ashes Enterprise Centre in South Staffordshire, which is set to more than double in size. Due for completion in Spring 2020, the local enterprise centre was first developed in 2004 and is owned by South Staffordshire Council. Click [here](#) to find out more.
- **South Staffordshire schools and business forum**
A schools and business forum will be taking place next week in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 2 October 2019 from 7.30am to 9am. Organised by South Staffordshire Council in partnership with the Careers and Enterprise Company, the aim of this event is to bring together local schools and businesses and support them to strengthen careers opportunities for young people and prepare them for the world of work. This event is free to attend. Click [here](#) for more information and to book a place.
- **Moat Brook set to be revived**
Further river restoration work is set to be carried out over the next couple of weeks to help improve the habitat of Moat Brook, which flows around the north side of Codsall and Bilbrook. The work will be funded by Keep Britain Tidy and its WatersideCare project and it will be delivered in partnership with the Council, a partnership which is coordinated by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, and the Friends of Bilbrook. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Community Safety update - locality police engagement meetings**
Chief Inspector Mark Ward and Helen Marshall, the Council's Community Safety Officer (h.marshall@sstaffs.gov.uk), will be present at the next series of police engagement meetings, which take place in each locality twice a year. The purpose is to give an opportunity to all Parishes and elected Members from within the locality to meet and discuss issues relating to crime and disorder in their locality. Meetings are for Parish Councillors and District Members and they take place from 5pm to 7pm.

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- Locality 3 - Wednesday 9 October 2019 - Council Chamber, Essington Community Centre.
- Locality 4 - Wednesday 23 October 2019 - Codsall Parish Chambers.
- Locality 5 - Wednesday 30 October 2019 - Swindon Community Centre.

- **Annual Canvass 2019**

Canvassers are now out in the district to chase up any outstanding Household Enquiry Forms. If you haven't returned your form, please spare a couple of minutes to complete it with them. Every year, we are required to write to households in the district to confirm that the details we have on the electoral register are correct. It is a legal requirement to respond to this letter and it's quick and easy to reply - you can do this online or by telephoning, texting or signing the form and sending it back. Click [here](#) for more information. We have to follow up any non-responding households so please help us save money by responding quickly.

- **Free Brexit training course for local businesses**

The Council in partnership with Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce is providing a free workshop about trading successfully across borders and how to get your business 'Brexit ready'. This free workshop will take place on Thursday 10 October 2019 from 10am to 4pm at the Council Offices in Codsall. Click [here](#) for more information and click [here](#) to book a place.



**Get
ready
for
Brexit**

- **Get ready for Brexit**

Find out more at www.gov.uk/brexit.

- **Landlords forum**

South Staffordshire Council is holding a Landlords Forum on Wednesday 2 October 2019. These forums are a great place for landlords to ask questions and network as well as learn and build up their continued professional development record. Local Authorities use the meetings to consult with landlords about proposed initiatives, launch schemes and convey necessary local messages and the evening offers further development and information for individual or established landlords with larger portfolios. Click [here](#) to register your interest.

- **#RecycleWeek**

This week, the Council helped support national 'RecycleWeek and shared a number of useful recycling hints and tips on social media throughout the week. Recycling saves energy, helps

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protect the environment and reduces the amount of materials sent to incineration and landfill and you can find out more with our online Recycling Finder, which details over 100 materials and shows which bin they should be placed in (click [here](#) to view).

- **Carpentry and Christmas with Forest of Mercia**

A carpentry and Christmas course will run for five weeks this November and December on Monday afternoons at Perton Library from 11 November to 16 December 2019. For more information, contact Forest of Mercia or pop into the library to book your place.

www.forestofmercia.com

- **Energy switch surgery every Thursday**

If you'd like help switching your energy supplier, the Good Life Energy team will be visiting the Council Offices every Thursday between 10am and 1pm. You can book an appointment with the team on Freephone **03333 058671** or turn up with a recent energy bill on the day. For more information, visit www.sstaffs.gov.uk/energy.

- **September Leisure Centre membership offer - ending soon**

Get **#BackToIt** with our special Leisure Centre membership offer this September. Join between Monday 9 and Monday 30 September 2019 and you could get up to three months free as part of our **#BackToIt** promotion (terms and conditions apply). Click [here](#) to find out more.

There's something for everyone in our Leisure Centres including swimming pools, fully equipped gyms, exercise class programmes and toning suites. The Council runs four Leisure Centres in Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, Penkridge and Wombourne and they offer everything you need to get fit, stay motivated and on track to a fitter and healthier you. For more information about this promotion, please contact your local Leisure Centre.



Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre Tel: 01922 417790
Codsall Leisure Centre Tel: 01902 844032
Penkridge Leisure Centre Tel: 01785 714152
Wombourne Leisure Centre Tel: 01902 898202

Email: leisure@sstaffs.gov.uk
www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure

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- **Funding now available to help you heat your home**

For a limited time, householders and tenants in South Staffordshire can benefit from being connected to mains gas along with a new gas-fired central heating system all installed free of charge (subject to eligibility). The scheme is funded using the Warm Homes Fund, established by National Grid to support local authorities, registered social landlords and other organisations working in partnership with them, to address some of the issues affecting fuel poor households. South Staffordshire Council is working with Staffordshire County Council, E.On and Affordable Warmth Solutions to help fund and successful deliver this scheme locally and ensure households can afford to heat their homes.

Click [here](#) to view our first installation case study in Perton. For more information, call freephone **0800 193 1902** or email advice@mea.org.uk.
www.staffordshirewarmerhomes.co.uk

- **Events coming up**

- **Wombourne Music Festival 2019** - Saturday 21 to 28 September 2019. Tickets available now. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Perton Library** is celebrating Staffordshire History Festival with a family-friendly open day - Saturday 5 October 2019. 11am to 4pm.
- **Apple Day - Forest of Mercia** - Sunday 20 October 2019, 11am to 3pm. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **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](#).



- **Together we win!**

Good causes in South Staffordshire need your support and one way you can help is by buying a lottery ticket in our weekly Community Lottery. As well as supporting a good cause you might

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even win a cash prize ranging from £25 up to a jackpot of £25,000. To buy a lottery ticket, simply register on the website (www.southstaffslottery.co.uk) or telephone **01902 213777**.

Regular information

- **Committee/Panel meetings**

Next week, the following meetings are scheduled:

- **Your Community Challenge Panel** - Monday 30 September 2019 - 4pm Bill Brownhill Room
- **Your Place Challenge Panel** - Monday 30 September 2019 - 4pm - Committee Room 2
- **Asset Scrutiny Panel** - Thursday 3 October 2019 - 5pm - Committee Room 2
- **Personal Development Review and Appointments Panel** - Wednesday 2 October 2019 - 2pm to 5pm - Bill Brownhill Room

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - the Gardener's Retreat Restaurant in Shipley, Adventure Street Indoor Play Centre at Baggeridge Craft Village in Gospel End, the Crown in Pattingham, Glasshouse College in Kinver and the Firs Residential Home in Gospel End.

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