

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 143

8 November 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **#GE2019 - Your Vote Matters**

A general election will be taking place on Thursday 12 December 2019 and the deadline for voters to register is Tuesday 26 November 2019, with postal vote applications also required by Tuesday 26 November 2019 and proxy vote applications by Wednesday 4 December 2019.

To vote in a general election your name must be on the electoral register. You can register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and it usually takes about five minutes. You will need to confirm your name, address, date of birth and national insurance number. Remember, you only need to register once - not for every election - but if you're not sure if you've already registered, please contact the local electoral registration office at South Staffordshire Council (tel: 01902 696121 or email: elections@sstaffs.gov.uk).

You're eligible to register to vote in elections if you are:

- Aged 16 or over (however, you can only vote when you become 18).
- A UK citizen (or an Irish, EU or Commonwealth citizen with a permanent UK address).

There are three different ways that you can vote:

- In person at a polling station.
- By post.
- By proxy (someone voting on your behalf).

- **Request for help from 4x4 owners**

In the event of heavy snowfall on Election Day, we need owners of 4x4s on standby to help collect and deliver ballot boxes from polling stations in the district to the Count venue in Codsall and for any other election duties. If you, friends or family have a 4x4 and can be available on Thursday 12 December 2019, please contact Emily Ogram as soon as possible (e.ogram@sstaffs.gov.uk or telephone **01902 696289**). Please note, your mileage will be reimbursed and a payment will be provided for your support.

- **Four Ashes Enterprise Centre**

Work is well underway on the new extension to the Four Ashes Enterprise Centre despite the exceptionally wet conditions. Ground stabilisation, levelling and the drainage swales have been

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 143

8 November 2019



completed and Construction Team is now focusing on steelwork and the foundations to Block A. Click [here](#) to see the latest photographs.

- **South Staffordshire Railway Walk - ash dieback disease**

Unfortunately, the disease ash dieback is affecting woodland in the railway walk and a number of trees are showing symptoms. The disease is not harmful to people or animals but it can kill ash trees of all ages. To ensure the safety of visitors, we will be starting to undertake preventive measures this autumn. Following consultation with the Forestry Commission, our plan is to begin felling ash trees at the Castlecroft end and then work back through the Railway Walk over the next few years. Some ash trees may be tolerant and immune to ash dieback so we will leave the larger more mature trees where possible until we know for certain whether they will succumb to the disease or not.

It is anticipated that ash dieback will kill up to 95% of ash trees across the UK and there will be a dramatic change to the landscape. We have significant stretches where ash is the predominant tree so the change will be dramatic but by acting now and felling ash trees as well as adding tree species such as wild cherry, crab apple, field maple and hornbeam we can create a woodland structure along the railway walk that will be more diverse and robust for the future.

- **Local Plan consultation**

Consultation continues on the second stage of the Council's Local Plan, which is focused on broad locations for housing growth and the infrastructure required to deliver the growth. This consultation is not site specific but looks at seven different options to deliver housing to meet South Staffordshire own housing needs and a contribution towards unmet housing need in the wider region. Click [here](#) for more information and to find out how you can participate in the consultation, which runs until 5pm on Thursday 12 December 2019.

Click [here](#) to access the online interactive Local Plan map which shows Local Plan designations, including Green Belt, and other layers such as parish and ward boundaries, and locality areas. This useful tool allows you to zoom in and out and see what policies affect the whole of the district. You can also see areas of open space and sites that have been suggested to the Council for development.

- **Community safety update**

Two men have been arrested as part of a crackdown on vehicle crime in Wombourne and Kinver. Click [here](#) for more information.

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 143

8 November 2019



- **Community Lottery news**

We're delighted to report that over the last six months, the South Staffordshire Community Lottery has welcomed 10 new good causes including Bishops Wood Village Hall and Perton Girl Guiding. If you know of a local charity, community interest group or constituted group providing community activities within South Staffordshire, then please let them know about the Community Lottery and how it could benefit them. Good causes receive 50% from any lottery tickets sold that support them and there are no fees or admin costs.

For more information, please visit the website or email.

www.southstaffslottery.co.uk/good-causes

Email: support@southstaffslottery.co.uk

Why not buy a lottery ticket and you could win the £25,000 jackpot - simply register at www.southstaffslottery.co.uk or telephone **01902 213777**.

- **Next week's Council Committee and Panel meetings**

- **Audit and Risk Committee** - Tuesday 12 November 2019 - 4pm - Bill Brownhill Room.
- **Standards and Resources Committee** - Thursday 14 November 2019 - 2.30pm - Committee Room 2.

- **Bulb planting events**

Come along and help plant some spring flowering bulbs at Strawberry Lane Cemetery in Great Wyrley and Sytch Lane Cemetery in Wombourne.

- Sytch Lane Cemetery - Monday 18 November 2019 between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.
- Strawberry Lane Cemetery - Friday 22 November 2019 between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information or contact our Bereavement Services team for more information on **01902 696111**.

- **Gazetteers @GIS Day**

Wednesday 13 November 2019 is GIS Day, which celebrates geographic information systems (GIS) technology - a scientific framework for gathering, analysing and visualising geographic data. To mark the event, click [here](#) for some interesting facts about South Staffordshire including the most popular house name in our local authority!

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 143

8 November 2019



- **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.

- **Other events coming up**

- **Bilbrook Remembrance Sunday** - Sunday 10 November 2019 from 9.50am. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Christmas Fair** - Codsall Village Centre - Friday 6 December 2019, 4pm to 8pm. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Wombourne Parish Council - Robin Hood The Pantomime** - Saturday 7 December 2019, 6.15pm. Click [here](#) for details.

- **Job vacancies**

- **Relief Leisure Assistant, Wombourne Leisure Centre** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Monday 11 November 2019 (5pm).
- **Relief Swimming Instructor, Wombourne Leisure Centre** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Sunday 17 November 2019 (5pm).

- **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](#).



- **5 Rating**

The following organisation has achieved a 5 Rating following its food inspection this week - D Dobson Refreshments of Featherstone.

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