

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 144

15 November 2019



This week's news from around the Council.

- **#GE2019 - Your Vote Matters**

As we know there is a General Election 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.

Poll and postal poll cards are now beginning to be sent out so if you've registered to vote, you should receive your poll card in the next few days.

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).

- **Home alone at Christmas? Come and join us!**

Celebrate Christmas at our annual Christmas lunch for retired residents of the district who are over the age of 60 and don't have any family or friends visiting them on Christmas Day. This year's event takes place at the Catering Academy at the Council Offices in Codsall on Friday 20 December 2019 from 12 midday. Places are free but must be booked and are limited to 50 people so early application is recommended. To book a place, please contact:

Val Chapman

Tel: 07718 911367

Email: val.chapman3@btinternet.com

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- **Remembrance Day Service and two minute silence**

On Monday, a Service of Remembrance was held at the Council Offices in Codsall, officiated by the Chairman's Chaplain, the Reverend Morris Price. The service was attended by the Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Colonel Christopher Comport, Parish Chairmen, District Councillors, Council staff and representatives from the Royal British Legion, Codsall Middle School and Codsall High School. Following the two minute silence, poppy wreaths were laid under the commemorative plaque. Click [here](#) to see more.

- **Community safety update - #OpLightning**

On Wednesday, Operation Lightning struck again when the South Staffordshire neighbourhood policing team carried out a road safety and traffic operation in Locality 5 of the district between 8am and 1pm. Locality 5 includes Wombourne, Swindon, Trysull and Himley and officers deploying a mixture of marked and unmarked police vehicles patrolled outside schools and conducted speed checks and checked over 100 vehicles, making sure they were all road worthy and legal. As a result, officers seized three vehicles and four people were reported to court for not having insurance. One person was reported for not having an MOT and four motorists were warned for minor traffic offences.

- **Local Plan Consultation and Interactive Local Plan map**

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.

- **Leisure Centres - bring a friend for free and earn rewards**

From Monday 25 November to Sunday 1 December 2019, members at the Council's four Leisure Centres in Codsall, Cheslyn Hay, Penkridge and Wombourne can bring a friend for free, giving them access to the gyms, exercise classes, swimming pools and toning suites for 1 week. Members can refer up to a maximum of three friends. To refer a friend, simply accompany them to your nearest Leisure Centre and complete the referral form at reception.

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- **All we want for Christmas is YOU!**

You can see that our Leisure Centre staff are getting in the Christmas mood a bit early (click [here](#) and [here](#)) but they're eager to shout about the special offer running in the Council's Leisure Centres this December allowing people to join at any time during December and only pay an initial payment of just £10, then nothing more until 1 February 2020. This gives new joiners the month of January for free. To find out more, email leisure@sstaffs.gov.uk.

- **Lifeguard and swimming teacher courses**

Wombourne Leisure Centre is holding a National Pool Lifeguard Course during the February school holiday next year. The course is taking place from Monday 17 to Friday 21 February with the exam being held on Saturday 22 February 2020. Candidates must be 16 years+ and competent swimmers. There are also swimming teacher courses running at the Leisure Centres in Codsall and Cheslyn Hay. For more details about our courses, visit <https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/south-staffordshire-training-academy.cfm> or call your nearest Leisure Centre.

- **South Staffordshire Community Lottery gift cards**

Looking for a little inspiration for a Secret Santa or Christmas stocking filler? Why not purchase a Community Lottery Gift Card and give someone the chance of winning weekly cash prizes, including the jackpot of £25,000. Gift cards start from as little as £5 and 60% from your donation goes to support good causes, charities and community groups in South Staffordshire. Click [here](#) to purchase your card today. To buy a lottery ticket, simply register on the website (www.southstaffslottery.co.uk) or telephone **01902 213777**.

- **Bulb planting events next week**

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**.

- **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

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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.

- **Free event at The Lydiate Room**

Interested in gardening and want to know more? Join us for a free talk by BBC Radio WM's Laughing Gardener Darren Rudge and Helen Wood from Rudge Wood Horticulture at the Lydiate Room at Baggeridge Country Park on Sunday 17 November 2019 from 11am to 12.30pm. Donations in aid of Compton Care. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Festive events coming up**

- **Christmas Fair** - Codsall Village Centre - Friday 6 December 2019, 4pm to 8pm. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Christmas shopping fair at Himley Hall** - Saturday 16 to Sunday 17 November 2019, 10.30am to 5pm. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Wombourne Parish Council Christmas Light Switch On** - Friday 29 November 2019, 5.30pm to 6pm. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Wombourne Parish Council - Robin Hood The Pantomime** - Saturday 7 December 2019, 6.15pm. Click [here](#) for details.
- **Penn Festive Fair at St Bart's Community Church Hall** - Sunday 15 December 2019, 1pm to 4pm. Click [here](#) for details.

- **Next week's Council committee/panel meetings**

- Planning Committee - Tuesday, 19 November 2019 - 6.30pm - Council Chamber. Click [here](#) to view the agenda.

- **Job vacancies**

- **Relief Swimming Instructor, Wombourne Leisure Centre** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Sunday 17 November 2019 (5pm).
- **Leisure Assistant, Wombourne Leisure Centre*** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Monday 18 November 2019 (5pm). * Internal vacancy.
- **Corporate Director - Planning and Infrastructure** - click [here](#) for more information. Closing date - Sunday 8 December 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



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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](#).

- **Need to report a pothole?**

Staffordshire County Council is responsible for highways maintenance and repairing potholes in South Staffordshire. Click [here](#) to report pothole damage and find out which roads are being worked on and which ones are scheduled for repair. Or report via the My Staffs App [here](#).

- **Traffic information**

Temporary road closure - Suckling Green Lane, Codsall. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - The Hinksford Arms in Hinksford and Mid Counties Co-op in Wombourne.

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