

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 158

6 March 2020



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

- **Gold Award for Council**

This week, the Council celebrated a gold and two bronze awards at this year's iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards.

- **Gold Award for Best Transformation Team** - this award recognises a team who has made an exceptional contribution and long-term positive impact in their organisation through a series of transformation and continuous improvement. A team that continuously looks for new ways to innovate and push the boundaries of local public service deployment.
- **Bronze Award for Intelligent Public Service** - this award recognises the better use of data in better decision making, transparency and understanding community need, as exemplified in the Local Government Association's Intelligent Council Initiative.
- **Bronze Award for Working Together** - this award is for simplifying the way that residents and local businesses deal with public services, bringing together multiple contact points, removing the barriers between organisations and moving resources closer to the customer.

Click [here](#) to see some pics of the awards ceremony.

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) update**

On Thursday 5 March 2020, it was confirmed that two residents in Staffordshire have contracted coronavirus COVID-19. People who have been in close contact with the residents are being contacted and there is no significant risk to anyone else in the county. There are no cases in South Staffordshire at the present time and South Staffordshire Council and health partners continue to keep a close watch on the development of the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak.

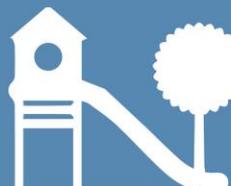
Nationally, Public Health England is leading on the health response and their website is updated on a daily basis with the latest information and guidance. Click [here](#) for the latest advice from the Public Health England blog and click [here](#) to view a video about the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including coronavirus. Residents should dial NHS **111** if they are worried about any symptoms. The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus and the Council is monitoring the situation closely and coordinating with Public Health England.

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- **Delay to West Midlands Interchange decision announcement**

The Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, has yet to issue his decision about the Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct a new Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) development on land west of Junction 12 of the M6 motorway at Four Ashes in South Staffordshire. The decision was expected on Thursday 27 February 2020. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Flood recovery support**

If your property or business was flooded as a result of the recent storms, then there may be funding available to support you. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **New play area for Baggeridge**

Following a procurement exercise with Staffordshire Country Council, the project to replace the current play area at Baggeridge Country Park has been awarded to Kompan. This new play area will be a significant improvement over the existing one and will include extra elements as well as enhancements for all age groups and, most importantly, offering improvements in access for disabled users. All the key areas of inclusivity, swing, dig, climb and spin have been met in this exciting design. Following acceptance of the tender, it is hoped that the new play area will be open for the Whitsun Holidays. Click [here](#) to see more.

- **South Staffordshire online chat**

Staffordshire Police is holding a series of online chats giving residents the opportunity to chat live with local police officers regarding any issues or concerns relating to South Staffordshire. The next online chats will take place on Thursday 19 March 2020 at 7pm. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **2020 Support Staffordshire Volunteer Star Awards**

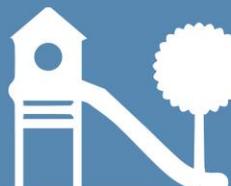
Do you know someone who volunteers and supports people and commits their time, energy and resources to helping people locally? Or maybe a community group or club that offers support to local people or a business where the staff volunteer in the local area and show a social responsibility? Then please make sure their actions are recognised in this year's Support Staffordshire Volunteer Star Awards. Nominations for this year's awards are now live and these awards celebrate the contribution that volunteers make to our local community. Find out more

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on the Support Staffordshire website - click [here](#) for more information. Nominations close on Friday 3 April 2020 (5pm) and the results will be announced at a ceremony at Rodbaston Hall in Penkridge on Tuesday 23 June 2020. Any queries, please contact Maggie Quinn ([m.quinn@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:m.quinn@sstaffs.gov.uk)).

- **NHS health checks**

Did you know that the NHS Health Check programme offers eligible people between the ages of 40 and 74, with no underlying health issues, free advice to help prevent diseases such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, kidney disease and certain types of dementia? Everyone Health are carrying out free health checks in the South Staffordshire area now. Click [here](#) to view a poster and for more information call **0333 005 0095**, email [eh.staffs@nhs.net](mailto:eh.staffs@nhs.net) or visit the website at [www.everyonehealth.co.uk/staffordshire](http://www.everyonehealth.co.uk/staffordshire)

- **Sport Relief 2020**

Sport Relief is back and on Friday 13 March 2020 the Council's four Leisure Centres are all getting involved by running sweep stakes. Donation buckets will be at the ready for anyone to donate to this year's Sport Relief and staff will be wearing red headband boppers to show their support. We're hoping that our customers will get in the spirit too and show their support for this great fundraising event by wearing red when they work out at the Leisure Centres.

- **Easter school holiday camps**

Bookings are now being taken for the Easter school holiday camps at the Council's Leisure Centres in Cheslyn Hay, Codsall and Wombourne. Running from Monday 6 to Friday 10 April 2020 and from Tuesday 14 to Friday 17 April 2020, the activity camps are a great way for children to have fun in a safe and structured environment and at an affordable price. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **Your March motivation starts here**

This March, members of the Council's leisure centres in Cheslyn Hay, Codsall, Penkridge and Wombourne are being encouraged to complete and log 16 fitness sessions throughout the month to be in with the chance of winning some amazing prizes. Prizes include a Fitbit Charge 3, Hybrid resistance bands, a 'Lean in 15' cookbook, Grenade protein bars, swimming goggles, water bottles and towels and discounts off monthly fees. To enter, collect a log card from your local leisure centre and have it stamped every time you work out at your leisure centre.

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- **Falls prevention class**

A new strength and balance class has started at Penkrige Leisure Centre on Tuesday afternoons from 2.30 to 3.30pm. The class is open to residents in Penkrige and in the surrounding villages with the aim of increasing strength and improving mobility. Classes on Tuesday 10 and 17 March 2020 are free of charge and from Tuesday 24 March 2020 there will be a nominal fee of just £1.50. Places are limited so please call to book on **01785 714152**. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Special offer on swimming lessons**

There's no better time to learn to swim at the South Staffordshire Swim Academy at Cheslyn Hay and Penkrige Leisure Centres. New joiners can start their swimming lesson journey at any point in March, pay £10 and get April free, with normal payments starting on 15 May 2020. Click [here](#) to find out more or visit [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/swimacademy](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/swimacademy)

- **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 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](http://www.southstaffslottery.co.uk)) or telephone **01902 213777**.

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- **Next week's Committee/Panel meetings**

- **Commonwealth Day Service** - Monday 9 March 2020 - 10am - Flagpole outside Council Offices.
- **Standards and Resources Committee** - Thursday 12 March 2020 - 2.30pm – Bill Brownhill Room.

- **Council job vacancies**

- **Customer Services General Advisor** - click [here](#) for more information.  
Closing date - Friday 13 March 2020.
- **Solicitor** - click [here](#) for more information.  
Closing date - Friday 20 March 2020.

- **5 Rating**

The following organisations have achieved a 5 Rating following their food inspection this week - The Six Ashes Inn in Bridgnorth and Prestwood Coach House in Prestwood.

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