

Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 172

12 June 2020



This week's news from around the Council.

- **High streets starting to reopen**

Shops in England selling non-essential goods will be able to reopen their doors from Monday 15 June 2020 and the Council has been supporting local retailers in their preparations and offering practical advice and guidance on how to manage queueing inside and outside retail premises, and appropriate social distancing and hygiene measures to protect customers and retail staff. Posters and other helpful resources, which can be downloaded and used in shops, will be available on the Council website shortly.

From Monday, outdoor attractions where people can stay in their cars such as safari parks and drive-in cinemas will be allowed to open too as the risk of transmission is lower outdoors. Local attraction Weston Park will be reopening this weekend to its members and from Tuesday 16 June to other visitors. Please check online for further information (www.weston-park.com).

- **Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives**

Everyone's actions have helped to reduce the transmission of coronavirus in our communities. As the UK moves to the next phase in our fight against coronavirus, the most important thing we can do is stay alert, control the virus and in doing so, save lives.

From this weekend, single adult households - adults living alone or single parents with children under 18 - are allowed to form a "support bubble" with one other household. All those in a support bubble will be able to act as if they live in the same household - meaning they can spend time together inside each other's homes and do not need to stay two metres apart. If any member of the support bubble develops symptoms, all members of the bubble will need to follow the normal advice on household isolation. In addition, from Monday places of worship will be permitted to open for individual prayer in line with social distancing guidelines. Communally led prayer, worship or services will not be possible just yet.

Remember...

- Track and trace is now underway and anyone who tests positive for coronavirus will be contacted to help trace any close recent contacts. Any of those contacts deemed at risk of catching the virus will be instructed by the NHS to go into isolation for 14 days. Click [here](#) to find out more.

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- Keep your distance from people outside your household and keep two metres apart from others at all times.
- Keep your hands and face as clean as possible and avoid touching your face.
- Work from home if you can.
- Avoid being face-to-face with people if they are outside your household - you can lower the risk of infection if you stay side-to-side rather than facing someone.
- Reduce the number of people you spend time with in a work setting.
- Avoid crowds.
- If you have to travel (for example, to work or school), think about how and when you travel.
- Wash your clothes regularly.
- Keep indoor places well ventilated.
- If you can, wear a face covering in enclosed public spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet. From Monday 15 June all passengers on public transport in England must wear a face covering.
- Please remember to dispose of your face coverings and disposable gloves responsibly. Worryingly, a growing number of single use PPE items are being littered in parks and dropped on pavements. Please take your rubbish home.
- You can book a test by visiting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and those unable to access the internet can call **119** in England and Wales to book an appointment for a coronavirus test.
- While you are at home, it's still easy to get NHS help using your smartphone, tablet or computer at <https://www.nhs.uk/health-at-home/>
- Domestic abuse can often get worse during times of stress and uncertainty. If you are in an abusive relationship and need help, click [here](#) for some useful telephone numbers.

Click [here](#) to view frequently asked questions.

- **Do the honours for Staffordshire**

Did you know you can nominate anyone for an honour? There are so many unsung heroes who deserve to be nominated but they need someone to nominate them. The honours system recognises people who have made achievements in public life and committed themselves to serving and helping Britain. Click [here](#) to read correspondence from the Lieutenancy and Shrievalty Offices of Staffordshire and click [here](#) to read more or visit the website.

<https://www.gov.uk/honours>

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- **Macmillan Support Grant COVID-19 Guidance**

Macmillan Cancer Support wants to reach out to those who most need them at this time and so they have established a new COVID-19 Emergency Grant Fund, a sub-stream of its Macmillan Support Grant. Applications are welcome for up to £5,000 from any group, organisation or professional who is supporting their community to overcome the social impact of the coronavirus.

Please email midlandsengagement@macmillan.org.uk to register your interest.

Further guidance can be found in the document [here](#).

- **New garden waste collection service attracts over 22,000 registrations**

With just over two weeks to go until the start of the Council's garden waste collection service 22,758 permits have now been requested, a sign-up rate of 51.14% of eligible properties in the district. The service is scheduled to start on Monday 29 June 2020. You can sign up now at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/gardenwaste or by calling **01902 696000**. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **Community safety - Police warning**

Staffordshire Police has issued warning information from the National Business Crime Centre concerning razor blades being hidden behind anti-5G posters. Please be aware and take care as this could cause injury to anyone removing a poster.

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

- **Planning Committee** - Tuesday 16 June 2020 - 6.30pm - virtual meeting.

Click [here](#) for the agenda documents and for details of the meeting.

- **Work continues on new play area**

Work is progressing well on the new play area at Baggeridge Country Park - click [here](#) to see more. The Council has commissioned leading playground equipment supplier KOMPAN to create and install the new play area, which will offer an enhanced play area for all age groups from toddlers upwards and, most importantly, offer improvements in safety and access for disabled users.

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