

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 170

29 May 2020



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

- **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.

Remember...

- 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.
- You can book a test by visiting [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://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/>

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

- **NHS England test and trace system**

The national NHS England test and trace system began on Thursday 28 May 2020. From now on, people who test positive for coronavirus will be contacted to help trace any close recent

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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.

- **Council's recovery – Office reopening**

As part of the Council's Recovery Plan for COVID-19, the Council Offices have re-opened to a limited number of staff and tenants. Days are restricted to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays for staff, with the offices open from 9am to 1pm. From Tuesday, 2 June, a limited number of tenants will also have access. For tenants the offices will initially be open Tuesday through to Friday 9am to 5pm and from Monday, 8 June, the offices will be open Monday through to Friday, 9am to 5pm. As the Government continues to ease the lockdown restrictions, more staff, tenants, Members and the public will be able to gain access to the Council Offices.

Government information on safe working environments can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>, including 5 overarching considerations <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/5-steps-to-working-safely>. This guidance forms part of the governments COVID-19 Recovery Strategy which is updated regularly to reflect the easing of lockdown restrictions <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>.

- **Opening of retail establishments**

This week, it was also announced that retail establishments and other services for the public will be allowed to open in June 2020 as part of the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown. These include:

- From Monday 1 June 2020 - outdoor markets and car showrooms.
- From Monday 15 June 2020 - all non-essential retailers.

To support this, the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund is helping councils in England introduce a range of safety measures in a move to get people back to work and customers back to the shops. This funding is to help councils introduce a range of safety measures including practical safety measures such as new signs, street markings and temporary barriers. The Fund is providing £50 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to councils across England and South Staffordshire Council has been allocated £99,469. More information will be available soon.

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- **Over 14,000 registrations for new garden waste collection service**

This week, more residents have signed up for the Council's garden waste collection service, which is scheduled to start on Monday 29 June 2020. You can sign up now at [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/gardenwaste) or by calling **01902 696000**. Click [here](#) to find out more.

- **Virtual business support**

The Council is holding a free, 30-minute virtual business support session about finances, cashflow and survival budget on Wednesday 3 June 2020. The session will last for 30 minutes and will start at 8.30am. Places can be booked through Eventbrite and the sessions will run through Microsoft Teams. For this session, the Council has partnered with Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and their dedicated business advisor Pete Ball, a business banker for over 25 years. Click [here](#) to reserve a place.

- **£1,000 raised for the NHS**

Well done to Tim, an instructor from Wombourne Leisure Centre, who raised £1,063 as a result of his 24-hour cycle last Friday morning. You can continue to donate until the end of this week - click [here](#) to donate and click [here](#) to see a pic of the man in action. Thank you to everyone for their support and generous donations.

- **Success story**

If you need some inspiration to get fit and lose some weight take a look at this video of Gary Downes, a member of staff at Penkridge Leisure Centre who has lost over seven stone. Click [here](#) to view.

- **And finally...**

Even the goats are making an appearance on the social distancing posters at Baggeridge Country Park - click [here](#) to view. The park is home to the Bagot Boys and they feature on the latest posters encouraging visitors to abide by the recommended social distancing guidelines and keep at least two metres (six ft) away from other people. The park is open but all amenities on site remain closed and car parking capacity is restricted to 50 cars at any one time.

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