

# Council news round-up

Your weekly guide to the latest news

Issue 171

5 June 2020



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

- **More shops get ready to open**

As part of the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown, this week saw the re-opening of outdoor markets including Penkridge Market on Wednesday. From Monday 15 June 2020, non-essential retailers will be able to re-open and work is underway at the Council to help re-open high streets safely. This includes introducing a range of safety measures including practical safety measures such as new signs, street markings and temporary barriers. More information will be available soon so please keep an eye on social media and the Council website.

- **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...

- 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.
- 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.

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- 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.

- **Save water to meet lockdown demand**

Please reconsider using your hosepipes and filling paddling pools in this hot weather. Water companies such as Severn Trent and South Staffs Water are struggling to keep up with demand and this is leading to a loss of pressure or even a loss of supply for some residents. There's plenty of water in the reservoirs at the moment but people are using it faster than the water companies can treat it.

- **Work starts on new play area**

This week, work got underway on the new play area at Baggeridge Country Park. 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. Click [here](#) to see some pics and follow the Baggeridge Facebook page for the latest updates.

- **New garden waste collection service attracts 18,000 registrations**

With just over three weeks to go until the start of the Council's garden waste collection service over 18,000 permits have now been requested. The service is scheduled to start on Monday 29 June 2020 but residents need to sign up by Friday 12 June 2020 to guarantee no loss of collections. 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.

- **Volunteers' Week 2020**

This week is national Volunteers' Week, an annual celebration of the contribution that millions of people make across the UK through volunteering. Click [here](#) to view a short video from Support Staffordshire, praising the contribution that volunteers make across Staffordshire.

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- **Helping good causes in the district**

Good causes in South Staffordshire need your support and the South Staffordshire Community Lottery is raising funds to help the district recover from the impact of COVID-19. One way you can help is by buying a lottery ticket in this weekly Community Lottery and 60p from every £1 ticket will support local good causes and charities. 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**.

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