

Council news round-up

Issue 222

11 June 2021



Your weekly guide to the latest news



This week's news from around the Council.

Council News

- **Boundary Review**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has announced that it is minded to recommend that the council should have 41 councillors in the future. They are now drawing up a new pattern of wards to accommodate 41 councillors and asking local people and organisations for their help to draw up the new ward boundaries across South Staffordshire District Council.

Please share [this information on the Boundary Review](#) and the Commissions dedicated consultation section on its website <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/27826>, to local people and organisations.

- **Council job vacancies**

- Waste & Recycling Team Manager, closing 5pm on 28 June 2021. [Application information](#).
- Digital Apprenticeship, closing midnight on 16 July 2021. [Application information](#).
- Legal Apprenticeship, closing midnight on 16 July 2021. [Application information](#).
- Relief Leisure Assistant (Codsall & Penkridge), closing 5pm on 14 June 2021. [Application information](#).
- Homelessness Prevention Officer, closing 12pm on 16 July 2021 [Application information](#).
- Covid 19 Support Officers, open until sufficient appointments [Application information](#).

Good News

- **Volunteer Star Awards**

Support Staffordshire will be hosting their Volunteer Star Awards on Tuesday 15 June at 7:30pm to celebrate the valuable contribution that volunteers play in supporting our community.

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Chair of the Friends of Wom Brook, Anita Ferguson has been shortlisted for the South Staffordshire 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in recognition for her years of work to promote and conserve the Wom Brook Walk in Wombourne.

The event will be live online and then available shortly after on their website. [Click here to watch the live stream of the Award Ceremony.](#) Well done to all of the nominees involved!

[Click here for further information on the Volunteer Star Awards.](#)

- **Baggeridge Country Park visitor numbers hit another all-time high.**

With a positive change in the weather during the last school holidays, Baggeridge Country Park recorded its second ever busiest week. Since the park opened on 17 June 1983, the last 2 months has seen record breaking numbers from visitors wanting to enjoy the outdoors. A huge well done to the Ranger Team who have faced extremely high pressures during the last 12 months.

For flora enthusiasts, in a second year of odd unseasonable weather the Marsh Orchids are now flowering at Baggeridge. Due to the weather conditions, they are numbering in hundreds rather than the many thousands we would normally see. Bee Orchids are also now coming into flower – another sign of the weird seasons with them in flower at the same time as the marsh orchids. Normally they would flower a good month apart! [You can see some pictures of the Marsh and Bee orchids on the parks Facebook page.](#)

- **Westcroft litter pick 2021**

On Saturday June 5, in conjunction with the Great British Spring Clean and South Staffordshire's Street Scene, 30 adults, 3 children and 2 dogs participated in a cross-boundary litter pick covering parts of Staffordshire and Wolverhampton.

The group consisted of Staffordshire residents joined by their MP Gavin Williamson and Wolverhampton residents joined by their MP, Jane Stevenson and city councillors.

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On this sunny day, a light-hearted gathering of enthusiastic litter pickers met on the Berry Brook Restaurant/Pub car park which was kindly made available by the management.

Altogether there were 46 bags of rubbish, a shopping trolley, various parts of cars and a fly tipped bag of industrial waste which will be investigated. A fly tipped bed frame and mattress has been reported to W'ton Council and a pile of rubble in Old Hampton Lane has been reported to South Staffs Council. Thanks to South Staffs Council for providing equipment and collecting the rubbish, and also Jamie Harper of Alvaston Loft Conversions.

A big thank you to everyone involved and it was a pleasure to organise the litter picking event for such a delightful and enthusiastic gathering.

Colin, Dot & Wayne (on behalf of the Friends of Essington).

Leisure News

- **Couch to 5K Starts Next Week**

Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centres Couch to 5K starts next Wednesday 16 June. The 9-week course is being held every Wednesday 6.45-7.30pm on the field next to the leisure centre. Advanced booking is essential. [To find out more about the Couch to 5K, please click here.](#)

We are looking to extend this programme out to the other leisure centres and will post more here once dates have been confirmed.

- **Online Exercise Classes**

The online class platform has been a valuable tool throughout lockdown and although the home workouts are not for everyone, there is no doubt that some people have found them a great support both physically and mentally. We are keen to keep this platform available so please support us and give them a try. The online and on-demand classes are still currently free for

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members to use; if you are a member and would like to try the online classes, email us at Leisure@sstaffs.gov.uk. [To find out more about online classes; please click here.](#)

- **Leisure Services Training Academy**

We held two successful Swimming Teachers Courses during half term week with 6 Candidates passing their STA Level 2 Award in Swimming Teaching (3 internal and 3 external candidates) and 9 Candidates passing their STA Level 2 Certificate in Swimming Teaching (6 internal and 3 external). We would like to wish them every success in their Swimming Teaching careers!

If you are interested in joining the team for a very rewarding role within the council – please contact the Swimming Academy Co-ordinator for details – swimcoordinator@sstaffs.gov.uk

Information and Resources

- **Enjoy the Euros safely – Message from Staffordshire Police**

Many of you will be looking forward to supporting England and watching the matches with your friends, however, it's important to stress that Covid restrictions remain in place. Currently, this means if you're watching the game inside, you can only do so seated, with up to five others.

Extra officers policing Staffordshire's streets and towns, particularly during key England games. Their aim is to make sure you enjoy the football safely.

Police also want to remind anyone intending to have a drink to make sure they leave car keys at home, plan ahead and book a taxi home or arrange a lift. This applies to the morning after too. Throughout the tournament police will have extra patrols stopping vehicles and breathalysing motorists.

- **Domestic Abuse**

- **Show Domestic Abuse the Red Card**

As the Euros football fixtures get underway some supporters may be enjoying a drink or two. Unfortunately, this can sometimes lead to increased tensions in relationships, so we're joining @StaffordshirePolice to reassure anyone who is suffering from domestic abuse that help is on hand – a bad score is not a valid excuse for your partner to kick-off. Domestic

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abuse can be triggered by many things, including alcohol, and it isn't always just physical – it can be a pattern of controlling, threatening and coercive behaviour, which can also be emotional, economic, psychological or sexual.

Victims are not alone; they can find help. [There are specialist support agencies who have online advice services and confidential helplines, you can find them by clicking here.](#) In an emergency always call 999.

- **People with Learning Disabilities suffering Domestic Abuse**

[The Transform Toolkit](#) contains several resources and Factsheets 1-5 may be used by some people with a learning disability themselves (with sufficient levels of literacy to read them unsupported). However, the toolkit has a much wider application in helping different professionals to support and enhance understanding, among people with a learning disability, about domestic abuse, and sources of help.

- **Supporting Children with their Emotional Wellbeing**

- Anxiety - [Seven ways to respond to children and young people's fears.](#)

- **Staffordshire Libraries**

- Perton library recently produced a series of videos to promote World Environment Day and as part of this, the locality enablers were on hand to discuss some of the new tree planting along St Andrews Drive in Perton. [The video can be accessed here.](#)
 - [Library opening times, information about current services and Covid compliancy.](#)
 - [For information on Kindness Month and the Library's June activity timetable; please click here.](#)

COVID-19 Update

- **Variant of concern**

There is, nationally, a growing concern about the Covid Variant that originated in India which is now called the Delta. This Variant is highly transmissible and could potentially become the dominant variant within the next few weeks. Already we are beginning to see a spike of cases in Leek, but cases in South Staffordshire remain low. This means, however, that the next milestone date of 21 June 2021 when most restrictions were to be lifted, is now in doubt. But by following national and local restrictions and surge testing; it can be contained. Please do not give up now.

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- **Covid-19 Asymptomatic testing options**

Asymptomatic residents are encouraged to test at least twice a week. If you test positive, please isolate for 10 days. There are three options available, of which are all free:

- [Collect test kits from a pharmacy; click here to find the nearest one to you.](#)
- [Order test kits online by clicking here.](#) These will be sent to your home address.
- Visit a test site to either collect test kits or to have a test done.
- South Staffordshire's semi-permanent Covid-19 Community Testing site is Wombourne Library.
- Updates on daily pop up testing sites all around South Staffordshire can be found on South Staffordshire Councils Facebook page.

Please note: [Anyone with symptoms should not attend and instead book a PCR test online here.](#)