

REVIEW



Summer 2006

Issue No. 34

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£200,000
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Fixed penalty fines to clean up South Staffordshire's streets

Litter louts face instant justice

Litter louts in South Staffordshire will soon be paying for their anti-social behaviour in the form of fines.

Council Officers and Police Community Support Officers will be issuing fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for littering offences.

They are working together to cover the District's village centres in a concerted clean-up campaign.

Anyone caught littering could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £75. Early payment within 7 days will see the fine reduced to £50 and payment can be made by telephone, post, online and at the Council Offices.

South Staffordshire Council and Staffordshire Police are working in partnership to reduce environmental crime in the District and they now have the powers of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA) 2005, to back them up.

Even small items such as cigarette ends and chewing gum constitute litter and one of the most important tasks of the new clean-up campaign will be to change people's behaviour so that everyone uses litterbins for all litter, even the small items people sometimes think it is acceptable to discard.

Cllr Joan Williams, Deputy Leader Environmental Services said: "We hope that the possibility of fines will be enough to deter people from littering. Litter is simply not necessary, there are usually bins close by and even if you are in an area where there may not be a bin, is there

really a need to just throw it on the ground? I don't think so and I know the majority of people agree. I would like to thank the Police for supporting the initiative and working with us to improve the environment we all live in".

Inspector Ian Haigh of Chase Community Safety Team added: "We are more than happy to work with

one of the many roles of the PCSOs, but will hopefully help reduce the amount of rubbish being dropped on our streets".

POWERS OF POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are being given a robust set of standard powers to help tackle low level crime and anti-social behaviour.

They are designed to enable PCSOs to deal with localised issues and contribute more effectively to neighbourhood policing.

Among them is the authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling, littering, graffiti and /or fly-posting.

Others are aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour, including the authority to request a name and address for a person causing anti-social behaviour and the power to

detain if this information is not forthcoming.

In addition, a PCSO has powers relating to illegal use of tobacco and alcohol and can confiscate alcohol and tobacco being consumed by under-age persons.

The new powers have been standardised across every police force, so that every PCSO in the country now has the same authority.

For more information about the new laws against fly tippers see page 6.

Anyone caught littering could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

South Staffordshire Council who are making great efforts to keep the District clean and tidy for residents and visitors alike. Perception of anti-social behaviour is higher in areas suffering litter and graffiti, despite crime being low in the District in comparison to other areas. Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will balance education and enforcement by offering advice to anyone they see dropping litter and issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice if this advice is not acted upon. Persistent offenders will however receive instant FPNs. Litter enforcement will be just

SUSS it out this summer



Children prepare for a Summer of Fun with South Staffordshire Council's Children's Activity Programme 'SUSSSED'.

- check out page 4 to see what we have on offer.

Chairman's charity tonic for children's hospice



A children's hospice has been boosted by a £10,000 donation from the outgoing Chairman of South Staffordshire Council.

Cllr Michael Hampson nominated Acorns Children's Hospice as his charity appeal during his year of office. His fundraising efforts brought in a magnificent £10,198.69.

A cheque for that amount was handed over to Mrs. Ann Smallman, representing the hospice, at the Annual Council Meeting on 9th May.

Cllr. Hampson told the meeting: "In presenting this cheque to Acorns Children's Hospice I feel immense pride for all of the people that have helped me to raise such an amount for this worthwhile cause, and I thank them for their generosity.

"I hope that this can bring pleasure to the children, who have only a short life span, and to their families, so that they can enjoy either respite or the freedom to have a short space of time with their loved ones without the daily chores intervening.

"Now that my year in office reaches its conclusion, I wish to thank my fellow Councillors for giving me the privilege of serving as Chairman of South Staffordshire Council. It has been a wonderful year and a marvellous experience, and thanks must go to everyone concerned. I would like to thank all of the people that I have met during this year, and I am pleased to see a great community spirit in all of the parishes that I have visited. Finally, I must pay tribute to and thank my wife for the support she has given me during this year."

Great Days out on your Doorstep

Fancy a great day out?

Want a nice place to take your family or friends?

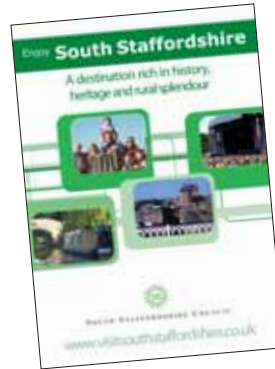
What you're looking for could be right on your doorstep!

South Staffordshire has a great deal to offer - from historical attractions to sophisticated restaurants. To mention just a few there's Weston Park, Chillington Hall and Moseley Old Hall.

Don't forget the events and museums, or if you love the outdoors, South Staffordshire's rural makeup offers fantastic opportunities to take in its beautiful countryside with a host of walking routes and scenic open spaces, such as Baggeridge Country Park, Enville Common or Shoal Hill Common.

All these attractions, and more, are listed in one handy guide, 'VISIT South Staffordshire'.

For a FREE copy of 'Visit South Staffordshire' please call South Staffordshire Council on 01902 696539, or pick up your guide from your local library or at the Council Offices, Codsall. So remember, before you jump in the car, think of your own back yard! You don't have to drive miles to



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

INDUSTRIAL UNITS TO LET

Landywood Enterprise Park, Great Wyrley

874 - 4,500 sq ft (various sizes)

Hilton Main, Featherstone

921 sq ft

South Staffs Business Park, Cheslyn Hay

1076 sq ft

Contact:

Glen Parker, Commercial Development Section, Council Offices, Codsall, South Staffordshire WV8 1PX

Tel: 01902 696117 Fax: 01902 696705

Find good food on your doorstep

The new edition of Staffordshire's Local Food Directory has just been published.

The directory aims to promote sustainable food production and healthy eating across the county and contains listings of local food businesses producing and selling good quality fresh foods.

South Staffordshire Council is one of the sponsors of the directory, now in its third edition.

Shopping locally has the benefits of keeping money in the local economy, reducing transport and pollution and cutting packaging to a minimum.

The directory is available from Local Authorities, Libraries and Tourist Information Centres across Staffordshire.



Cllr Robert Marshall is pictured with operators and representatives from the following local food businesses, alongside a display of their produce:

Coopers Fine Foods, Brewwood; W Maiden and Son, Brewwood; Martin Thomas Butchers, Pattingham; Halfpenny Green Vineyard, Bobbington; Allan Bennett Ltd., Codsall; Whitegate Farm Shop, Ivetsey Bank; Essington Fruit Farm and Restaurant, Essington; Springslade Organics, Teddesley; Castlecroft Produce, Lower Penn; Gailey Fruit Farm, Penkridge; and Belt View Farm Shop, Bednall Head.

Scullers flying high

A team from South Staffordshire Council took to the water to help raise cash for the County Air Ambulance.

The South Staffs Scullers took part in the Dragon Boat Race held at Himley Hall Lake in May.

The Scullers got through to the Grand Final, but were beaten on the day.

The event, which also included a raffle, was staged as a fundraiser and the chosen beneficiary was the South Staffordshire Council Chairman's Charity, the County Air Ambulance.

Raffle prizes were kindly donated by local businesses:



The South Staffs Scullers

Co-op, Sabins Pine, The Jewellery Box, Codsall Lighting, Brindley Honda, Bradspors, Café Saffron.

Cllr Kath Perry, Chairman of the Council, drew the raffle, which along with sponsorship raised a superb £815.

Top of the class for food safety

Vital training in hygiene for South Staffordshire's caterers and food businesses is being undertaken by the Council's Food Safety Officers.

Seventeen food handlers recently attended a Foundation Certificate Course run by the Council.

The one-day course provided instruction on food safety hazards and the good practices that must be followed in order to keep food safe.

A special awards ceremony was held at the Council Offices on 23rd May to mark the fact that the 17 food handlers had

completed the course successfully.

Food business operators have a legal obligation to ensure that their workforce is adequately trained.

Further courses are planned, so if you are interested in attending please contact one of our Food Safety Officers on 01902 696665 or email env.commercial@sstaffs.gov.uk



Pictured with Councillor Robert Marshall who presented their certificates, are Ian Craig, Carol Gall and Perry Watkins of the Three Hammers Bar and Bistro, Coven together with Jean Leatherdale, Rosemary Smith, Patricia Brown and Rita Ash from the Church of the Holy Cross, Billbrook.

Preserving the best of South Staffordshire

A review of South Staffordshire's 19 conservation areas is now under way. The Council has seized the opportunity to examine, in depth, how they are managed and to find the best options for their future preservation.

Each village or designated area will be assessed in turn and the review will take up to five years to complete.

Conservation areas are an important aspect of the planning system and South Staffordshire is blessed by having so many. Officially, they are defined as "areas of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance".

South Staffordshire's 19 conservation areas were designated between 1969 and 1997, starting with Brewood on 22 November 1969.

The County Council also designated the next eight: Trysull (1969); Kinver, Penkridge (1970); Chillington, Wombourne (1971), and Codsall, Enville, and Weston-under-Lizard (1973).

Jointly with Wolverhampton MBC, a Lower Penn conservation area was created in 1976, and on its own, South Staffordshire Council designated conservation areas in Blymhill, Lapley, and Pattingham (1977).

Similarly, conservation areas were designated for Wheaton Aston (1978) and Himley (1983).

Finally, the County Council has designated three linear conservation areas to cover the lengths of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire (1978), Stourbridge (1983), and Shropshire Union (1984) canals which run through the county.

New legislation has placed greater emphasis upon conservation areas; required local authorities to keep them under periodic review, and to produce plans for their management.

South Staffordshire Council has seized this opportunity to undertake the first wholly comprehensive review of its conservation areas.

In 2004, Trysull was selected for a pilot study, because it was one of the first designated and it has a varied selection of listed and other historic buildings, together with valuable open spaces that contribute to its character.

The Council recently appointed consultants to reappraise the Trysull Conservation Area, and the main change proposed is its extension along the water meadows that link Trysull and Seisdon.

In Seisdon there is a collection of buildings, both listed and unlisted, which formed the historic core of the village. In the context of the links between Trysull & Seisdon, these are clearly of sufficient interest for inclusion in a conservation area.

The other major change is the identification of 'buffer zones' - land around the conservation

area, where development would affect the visual aspect of the conservation area. While the buffer zones will not have the statutory significance of the conservation area itself, they will play a part in protecting the special interest or character of the conservation area.

There has already been public consultation over the proposed changes to the Trysull Conservation Area and approval will soon be sought for designating the redrafted area.

Following the completion of the Trysull pilot

study, consultants have been appointed for the first phase of a comprehensive programme of conservation area appraisal and management plan production. This is just about to start and over the next five years, these will cover all conservation areas in South Staffordshire. The next four areas to be appraised are: Brewood, Kinver, Penkridge and Wombourne.

For further information contact Dr Paul Collins on 01902 696425 or e-mail paul.collins@sstaffs.gov.uk



Alms house style cottages in The Holloway at Trysull which make a major contribution to the Conservation Area there.

Bench mark for Wombrook Walk

A couple flew half way round the world to make a gift of two benches for the Wombrook walk in Wombourne.

Mr Simon Hopcutt, who now lives in Malaysia, wanted to donate the benches in memory of his late parents, who loved this beautiful piece of South Staffordshire.

He arranged with South Staffordshire Council to purchase and install the benches. In May, Mr Hopcutt and his wife visited the Wombrook to formally mark the completion of the work.

"We are thrilled to receive these commemorative benches from Mr Hopcutt," said Cllr Mrs Joan Williams.

"It is a real testimony to the value and enjoyment Wombourne residents attribute to the Wombrook Walk. The Council is working hard to protect and enhance the walk with the help of a number of other agencies, including the Friends of Wombrook."



Cllr Mrs Joan Williams with Mr and Mrs Hopcutt when they visited the benches.

Anita Ferguson (Chairperson - Friends of Wombrook) added: "The benches are a valuable addition to the walk and will provide users of the site the opportunity to stop and admire the wonderful surroundings."

For further information contact Howard Medlicott on 01902 696406 or e-mail h.medlicott@sstaffs.gov.uk

Wyrley walkers step out in a good cause

Walkers of all ages put their best feet forward to raise money for breast cancer research while enjoying some of the beautiful South Staffordshire countryside.

Over 40 set out for the Great Wyrley Crocus Walk along the Council-managed Linear Walk, which is part of the old Wyrley and Essington canal

The event was organised by Pat Jones and Sheila Smallwood and raised a total of £2,050 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer, which researches the causes and treatment of the disease.

The walkers' route was along the

old canal from Long Lane, Newtown to Dundalk Lane, Cheslyn Hay, around four miles out and back.

It is owned and managed by South Staffordshire Council as public open space and a wildlife haven.

Essington Parish Council provided participants with free use of their facilities.

Sheila said: "The walk was one which neither Pat nor I had tried fully before and it was a delightful surprise, with plenty of variety and minimum exertion. We would particularly like to thank Howard Medlicott, the Landscape Manager at South Staffordshire, who was extremely supportive and encouraging throughout."



A safer environment at Windmill Bank

Environmental improvements for the Windmill Bank area of Wombourne are due to get under way later this year.

The work will involve the car park and frontage area to the shops on the corner of Planks Lane.

The Council has joined forces with Wombourne Parish Council to implement a scheme that will complement earlier improvement projects.

improve public safety

On the schedule are new surface paving for safer pedestrian areas, improved parking arrangements and additional trees and shrubs within the street scene. The design aims to deter parking along the footpath and to improve public safety.

There is likely to be some disruption to the immediate

area while work is underway during the coming Autumn. Every effort will be made by the Council and its appointed contractor to minimise inconvenience to public and businesses during the period of the works.

Cllr Joan Williams, Deputy Leader (Environmental Services) said: "I welcome this exciting opportunity for the Council, working in partnership with Wombourne Parish Council, to complete the environmental improvements at Windmill Bank. The proposals will create safer access for all and demonstrates the Council's commitment to protect and enhance the Conservation Area in Wombourne".

Anyone with queries about the scheme can contact the Council: please ask for Mr Pat Davies (Senior Landscape Officer), Architectural and Landscape Services on 01902 696411 or e-mail pat.davies@sstaffs.gov.uk.

AT YOUR LEISURE

Calling all Sports Clubs!

South Staffordshire Sports Council is looking to widen its scope with more representatives from local clubs and different sports.

The Sports Council was set up as a forum for the promotion and development of sport in the District.

It is made up of local people involved in organising local sport and provides local clubs with the opportunity to meet other enthusiasts from a variety of sports and leisure activities.

This interaction often leads to improvements in club affairs by discussing and comparing issues like organisation, finance and good practices.

By acting as a forum for all agencies involved in sport, the Sports Council allows clubs to have input into the planning of sport in the District as well as a forum to discuss current issues affecting clubs.

New members are always welcome.

If you would like to be considered, please contact the secretary on 01902 696540 or email leisure@sstaffs.gov.uk



SUSSED stands for Summer Fun in South Staffordshire

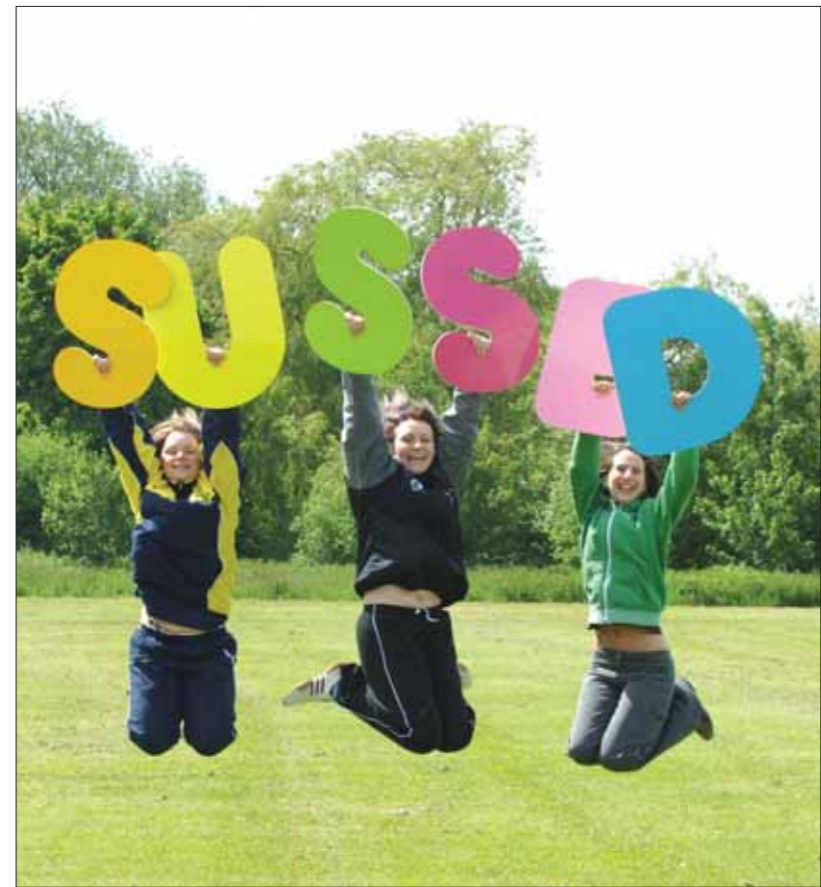
South Staffordshire's famous SUSSED activity programme for youngsters will be up and running again this summer.

A wide range of exciting activities has been lined up for the Council-inspired scheme aimed at keeping children entertained throughout those long summer holidays.

In fact, this year's programme has over 800 activities taking place including sports courses, circus skills, music making, drama, cheerleading, snorkelling and much more.

They will be based at Cheslyn Hay, Penkridge, Codsall and Wombourne Leisure Centres, as well as South Staffordshire Libraries and Baggeridge Country Park.

SUSSED will also be going Out and About this summer, touring the parishes of South Staffordshire. A series of fun activities, planned within the parish, for children aged 5-12 years have been funded by parish councils. They will therefore be at a reduced rate or FREE OF CHARGE for residents of the parish.



For a 44 page bumper brochure or to book a Place on Out and About (places are offered on a first come first served basis) call South Staffordshire Council Leisure Services on 01902 696531 or e-mail leisure@sstaffs.gov.uk.

Large it at our BIG Summer Event

Kids from all over South Staffordshire are invited to "large it" at the Council's BIG Summer Event.

The biggest ever children's extravaganza in South Staffordshire will take place at Baggeridge Country Park in August.

A day full of games, giggles, creative thinking, new friendships and most of all fun that will live long in the memory is promised.

On Wednesday 23rd August, the park will be alive with activity and, it's hoped, swamped with youngsters.

Children will have a wide range of options, including: Kite making, Aikido, Smoothie Making, Parachute Games, Tag Rugby and Sand Sculpture, as well as watching a variety of main arena demonstrations.

This huge day of fun not only promises to be a great day for children aged 5-13, but also to encourage them to participate in physical activity. Partner organisations such as Staffordshire County Council and South Western Staffordshire Primary Care Trust will also be working to promote Healthy lifestyles as part of everyday life.

All of this has been possible thanks to funding from the Children's Fund.

South Staffordshire Council has received more than £85,000 to use over the next two years for the "Every Child Matters" themes of 'Stay safe, Making a positive contribution and Be Healthy'.

To book places at the BIG event please contact South Staffordshire Council Leisure Services on 01902 696531 for a booking form or e-mail leisure@sstaffs.gov.uk.

TOTALLY FREE!!



the BIG Summer event
SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL
CH. CHILDREN'S FUND

Tobacco Control

Businesses and traders in South Staffordshire are being urged to jump the gun and ban smoking on their premises as quickly as possible - for the sake of their customers and their staff.

Next year there will be a nationwide ban on ALL smoking in ALL enclosed public places.

But the Council's environmental health and leisure chiefs say it's a case of the sooner the better.

They want employers and business owners to look at the possibility of introducing their own smoking bans ahead of the legislation.

According to Smoke Free Staffordshire, up to 1,000 people a week die from regular inhalation of second-hand smoke. Of these people, around 50 a year will work, or have worked, regularly in the hospitality industry.

South Staffordshire Leisure Services and Environmental Health Commercial Services have launched a partnership with the NHS's South Western Staffordshire Primary Care Trust to give Smoke Free Staffordshire Awards to businesses that are already smoke free, or are working towards becoming smoke free.

The first local Public House to receive an award was The Rainbow Inn, Coven, which implemented a smoke free policy after their refurbishment in June. Landlord Mike Antoszkiwicz commented that,

"We have had excellent feedback from our customers and staff that it is great to go home after a meal, night out or working shift and not have to wash the smell of smoke from their clothes and hair". Having given up smoking 15 years ago, Mike is also keen to offer his staff every opportunity to stop smoking themselves. As an added incentive, any member of staff that gives up smoking is awarded a bottle of Champagne.

As part of the award process, the Council will advise on drawing up and implementing a No Smoking Policy, detailing the reasons for its implementation. Staff who smoke will also be offered a smoking cessation service through the Primary Care Trust's Time to Quit service.

In the last three years 'Time to Quit' has helped over 3,000 people quit smoking for four weeks or more.

The Council is also setting up a Smoke Free page on its website, where people can locate smoke free places to go.

If you would like to give up smoking and need advice, contact the **Time to Quit Service** on **0800 056 7890**.

If you would like to apply for an Award, or just want more information on becoming smoke free and the benefits for you, your business and employees, contact Marc Neeld, Healthy Lifestyle Coordinator on 01902 696802 or e-mail m.neeld@sstaffs.gov.uk

Energising Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre

Cheslyn Hay's Leisure Centre's new £300,000 fitness facility will soon be open for business. Work on the centre's Multifunction Studio is due to be completed by mid October.

The new facility will boost provision of the "energise" fitness programme, which will hopefully bring more customers through the doors.

The project is principally being developed by Cheslyn Hay High School and has cemented the already excellent relationship between the centre and the school.

South Staffordshire Council has put up £70,000 towards the total cost of £290,000, to ensure appropriate sprung wooden flooring and air conditioning is installed.

In addition to the multifunction room, the reception and foyer are being revamped.



Cllr Robert Marshall and Tony Ward discussing the plans

Walk your way to Health

Three new organised Health Walks designed to put a spring into your step have been launched in South Staffordshire.

The walks aim to encourage people to build physical activity into their daily routine, with the ultimate target of "10,000 steps every day".

Each of these new, short walks will add up to around 2,500 - 3,500 steps. They last only between 30-45 minutes so it shouldn't take up too much time.

South Staffordshire Council and the Health Visiting Team at Penkridge have set up a regular walk in Penkridge. The Walk & Talk takes place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, meeting at the Haling Dene Centre at 10am. The walks will take various routes around Penkridge and are already proving popular with around 10 - 15 people attending each walk.

Wombourne's second Health Walk is also now up and walking! After a recent BodyWatch event at Blakeley Heath Primary School, parents who

attended were looking for new, cost effective ways to increase their physical activity. What better way than walking. The walk now takes place on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. Meeting at 9am, from just inside the school gates, the walkers can enjoy the fresh air, a chat and meet new people.

Meanwhile, in Bilbrook, Lane Green First School and Bilbrook Middle School are looking for ways to improve the health of families in their community. The children already enjoy a regular breakfast club and now the adults of the area have a chance to get more exercise. Bilbrook Walk & Talk takes place on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 9am from the top of the drive at the school entrance.

The new walks bring the total in the District to five. The two established walks in Wombourne and Perton continue to go from strength to strength. The Health visitors in Perton lead a walk from the Health Clinic on Coleridge Drive on the first and third



Tuesday of every month leaving at 11am. In Wombourne, the Health visitors will meet you at the notice board by the Civic Centre at Gravel Hill at 12pm every Thursday lunchtime.

As the walks progress, it is hoped that they will become more frequent and that the walkers will train to lead the walks themselves. To get walking just turn up at the dates, times and locations set out above. However, if it is your first walk please come 10 minutes early. Alternatively if you would like to lead walks in the above areas, and for details on Training, please contact Marc Neeld, Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator, on 01902 696802 or e-mail m.neeld@sstaffs.gov.uk.

Aid for artists

Awards totalling more than £1,300 have been given out to local organisations in South Staffordshire under the Council's arts grants scheme.

The money will help local groups - and individuals - develop their artistic projects and performances.

Among those to benefit in the first round of awards this year are the Aerospace & Vehicle Club, which is holding a Model Show and Make & Take event in Wombourne Civic Centre.

Victory Art Group, meanwhile, will be spending their grant on a series of art trips, while Histons Players Amateur Dramatic Society is developing a website.



Perton Parish Council receiving funding towards their Music Festival in 2005, which is running again in October 2006.

The Arts Grants Scheme for organisations has set deadlines throughout the year for considering applications. The next deadline is Friday 29th September at 5pm.

Organisations can apply for funding towards a wide variety of arts activities, including paying for visiting professional artists, trips, arts festivals, arts workshops, or even training for leaders. Individuals can also apply to the Scheme and there are no deadlines for individuals.

Applications can be for activities taking place within the District, or to support local artists in their continuing professional development.

Would-be applicants are strongly advised to discuss their needs with the Council's Community Development Officer (Arts) before submitting any proposals.

The Community Development Officer can also provide advice on a number of other funding schemes, which are available, such as the National Lottery and Arts Council Funding.

If you have an idea for a project, but are unsure of how to take it forward, contact Rachel Henley, the Community Development Officer (Arts) on 01902 696534 to arrange an appointment for further advice or e-mail r.henley@sstaffs.gov.uk.

BodyWatching over you

The BodyWatch health check tours around South Staffordshire are proving so successful, they're becoming a regular community event.

Since the start of April, BodyWatch has been to eight local venues and carried out health assessments on almost 300 residents.

BodyWatch offers a series of basic health tests including, Blood Pressure, Body Mass Index and Waist Measurements.

Exercise professionals then give feedback on the relevance to your health and advise on

making positive lifestyle changes.

Among people who have benefited from the tour are residents of South Staffordshire Housing Association's Deansfield House in Brewwood; parents of children and staff at Blakeley Heath School in Wombourne; Lane Green First School



Bodywatch

and Bilbrook Middle School, plus staff and inmates at Featherstone Prison.

To bring the tour to a venue near YOU, organisations and community groups are being urged to contact Marc Neeld, Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator, on 01902 696802 to discuss

Fit Club 50+

Are you over 50?

Do you want to exercise regularly?

Not sure the gym is for you?

South Staffordshire Leisure Services could have just what you need!

The Council runs 50+ classes in the gym at Codsall and Penkridge at reduced rates to provide affordable physical activity.

On Tuesdays at Codsall Leisure Centre, there are two 50+ circuit type exercise classes.

There to guide you round a series of simple exercises will be Alwin Collins. The exercises are designed to improve your cardio-vascular fitness, muscular strength and endurance.

The classes start at 11.15am and 12.20pm. Booking in advance is advised as they are very popular. For more information or to book your



place, contact Codsall Leisure Centre on 01902 844032.

On Wednesdays at Penkridge Leisure Centre, you can enjoy a 50+ Tai Chi class at 10.15am for an hour. Evidence suggests that Tai Chi can improve your strength and flexibility and could also reduce your blood pressure and help you relax.

For more information contact Penkridge Leisure Centre on 01785 714152.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Working for a greener world

South Staffordshire Council is playing its part in protecting our planet with the launch of an Environmental Management System (EMS).

The authority takes its corporate social responsibilities very seriously and has now adopted a best-practice method of addressing them.

An EMS provides a structured approach to managing environmental performance.

The Council's environmental drive began in 1999 with the publication of its Local Agenda 21 Strategy.

Since then work has gone on both within the Council and alongside the local community to protect and enhance the environment.

Cllr Joan Williams explained the thinking behind the strategy: "We aim to maximise the positive impacts our operations

have on our environment, whilst reducing any environmental damage caused by them. In addition to reducing usage of valuable resources such as fuel, electricity, water and paper, we also expect to achieve considerable efficiency savings in the longer term.

"The Council intends to build upon its corporate commitment to protect and enhance the environment and will actively encourage suppliers and other partners to adopt a similar approach".

Considerable progress has already been made in South Staffordshire, including:

- Publishing an environmental policy statement.
- Establishing environmental targets and reporting mechanisms.
- Purchasing electricity from a cleaner, greener combined heat

and power source.

- Signing up to the 'Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change'.

- Committing resources to an energy conservation programme.

Current plans centre on paper reduction, energy conservation, green transport solutions and development of a climate change action plan. The system will also improve processes, educate and involve staff and expand involvement in environmental activities.

A staff team recruited from all sections of the Council is currently undergoing training sessions with a leading environmental consultancy.

How green is your world? We hope that tomorrow it will be just that little bit greener because of South Staffordshire Council's Environmental Management System.

Mobile phone masts monitored by the Council

Mobile phone masts in South Staffordshire are under scrutiny from the Council's environment watchdogs amid health fears voiced by local residents.

The Council has started monitoring emissions of radio waves and electrical discharges from the phone masts using a newly acquired radiation meter that features the latest technology.

Villagers at Essington have been particularly concerned about the number of masts in their area.

The Council is carrying out a number of monitoring exercises across the village to measure the levels, in people's homes, from phone mast emissions.

Cllr Mrs Joan Williams, the Council's Deputy Leader (Environmental Services), said: "We monitor noise, air and water quality in the District and this is a natural extension of this work.

independent

"There is a great deal of public worry about emissions from mobile phone masts. We are delighted to be able to offer this new service to residents of the District. We feel that the provision of reliable, independent data can only aid public debate."

Any South Staffordshire resident concerned about emissions from a mobile phone mast near their home can contact the Council's Pollution Control Section to discuss monitoring the site. The phone number is: 01902 696203.

Results of monitoring of phone masts will be posted on the Council's website to put the data in the public arena. Residents can check whether monitoring

has taken place near their homes and if so, what the tests reveal.

The Government has confirmed a recommendation by the Health Protection Agency, its experts on this type of radiation, that emissions from mobile phones and base stations should meet the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure.

South Staffordshire Council can now respond to local concern by monitoring the levels to which residents are exposed, and compare this with the recommended guideline level.

For further information contact Mr Graham Colling, Senior Environmental Health Officer (Pollution Control) on 01902 696217 or e-mail g.colling@sstaffs.gov.uk



Pictured during the recent monitoring are South Staffordshire Council's Deputy Leader (Environmental Services) Cllr Joan Williams, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Graham Colling and Pat Griffin, Vice Chairman of South Staffordshire Council.

Fly-tippers will pay the price

Continued from front page ...

Residents should be aware of new changes to waste regulations under the 2005 Act which mean that all householders now have a responsibility ('Duty of Care') to ensure their rubbish is passed on to authorised carriers only. Those householders not taking reasonable measures could face fines of up to £5,000.

Registered waste carriers can now be found online thanks to a new 'waste carrier register', set up by the Environment Agency, and there is a link to this from the South Staffordshire Council website. All householders have a responsibility to check for that registration.

Waste cowboys who dump rubbish will be fined or prosecuted if detected, but if that rubbish is traced back to the household it came from, the resident is also likely to be fined.

Cllr Williams said: "If everyone takes responsibility for their own waste and uses only licensed carriers, we can put the fly-tippers out of business, which would save council taxpayers money. Equally, we would ask that any instances of fly tipping are reported to the Council so that we can clear up the mess and investigate the circumstances as soon as possible."

Responsible

The Council has made clear it will not be targeting responsible citizens who keep their neighbourhoods clean, but will go after those intent on dumping their rubbish for others to clean up.

The Council does not want to fine people, but wants to encourage them to think carefully about who

they give their waste to, and not to simply choose the cheapest option.

For those using waste carriers other than the Council to remove household, garden or construction waste, residents should ask the contractor whether they are a registered waste carrier and ask for their waste carrier number.

If they are not registered, refuse the service. If they claim to be registered, telephone the Environment Agency on 08708 506506 and request an instant Waste Carrier Validation Check or check online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/publicregister.

Recycling hard to save our planet

A recent report showing how recycling is helping to cut greenhouse gases has been warmly welcomed by South Staffordshire Council.

The latest international study by the Waste and Resources Action Programme has shown that the current level of recycling in the UK saves 10-15 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gases every year when compared to landfill and incineration.

This is equivalent to removing 3.5 million cars from our roads.

The Council has been enthusiastically promoting its own programme of recycling domestic waste.

Cllr Joan Williams, Deputy Leader for Environmental Services at South Staffordshire Council is delighted the report

indicates that recycling is working to good effect:

"Before introducing kerbside recycling, we considered whether or not it represented the best environmental option for dealing with waste," she said.

climate change

"It is very gratifying to see that this has now been proved correct. It is an issue often raised by residents, so it is important that we have such solid information that supports the decision. Recycling is one way for everybody to do their bit for the environment and reduce the impact of climate change.

"Our residents are now recycling an enormous amount of material that previously would have been landfilled. In fact, we have collected over 1,000 tonnes more green

waste over the last 2 months than for the same period last year.

"With the addition of card and cardboard to the kerbside recycling scheme, the volume of waste that needs to be placed in the grey bin, and subsequently landfilled, has been further reduced".

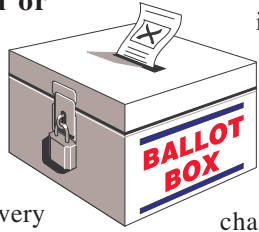
The findings from Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) was based on over 200 individual international scenarios focussing on the recycling of common materials such as paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, aluminium and steel.

The report can be viewed in full at the WRAP website at www.wrap.org.uk.

Full details on waste and recycling at South Staffordshire Council can be viewed on the website at www.sstaffs.gov.uk.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS - DON'T LOSE YOURS!

Choosing not to vote in an election is not a crime - but failing to make an electoral registration return or giving false information, could land you in trouble!



Some people may not be aware that it is a legal requirement for every household to make a return to register all eligible adults in a household EVERY YEAR.

You can be fined up to £1,000 for not giving this information, or if you give false information.

Electoral registration is a totally separate matter from any other dealings you have with South Staffordshire Council, such as paying your Council Tax.

Don't assume that because you pay your Council Tax you will automatically get to vote!

If you move home, you need to re-register your new address.

Every year the Council is required to undertake an annual canvass of all households in its area. This year it will start around mid-August and the Council encourages all households to make a return as soon as you receive your personally hand-delivered form. The Council is legally required to pursue non-responders.

Last year the response rate was 93% and the Council is now aiming for at least 94% this year.

Apart from the legal requirement, you will find it difficult to obtain credit, including a mortgage, if your name is not on the electoral roll. Credit reference agencies purchase all electoral registers in the country and use them as a basis for proof of existence.

South Staffordshire District Council's next elections will take place on Thursday, 3rd May, 2007, and all councillors' seats will be up for election for a new 4-year term. Parish elections will also take place on the same day. To be able to vote in these elections and have your say, you must be registered to vote! To stand in an election, you must also be

registered to vote.

Anyone who meets the basic qualification can put themselves up for election: no fee is involved and you do not have to represent a political party. Next year, the minimum age of candidacy will be reduced from 21 to 18, one of many changes introduced under the Electoral Administration Act. For further information on how to stand please view our website or ring Phil Hardy on 01902 696119.

Every household in South Staffordshire should receive a green registration form by early September and a return can be made in a number of ways:

BY FREEPHONE OR INTERNET

If there are no changes you can call the free phone number **0800 197 4418**. Statistics show 70% of all households in the area have no changes from the previous year. You can also use the telephone or internet facility if your only change is about being on the edited register (please see under 'By Post' for what this means).

Alternatively, you can log on to the Internet site:

www.registerbyinternet.com/sstaffs

Using this technology speeds up the registration process: if you can use it, please do so.

This year, the telephone service is available in six other community languages: Bengali, Cantonese, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. You can also request electoral registration forms in different languages and different formats on request, or via the link to the Electoral Commission on our website.

BY POST

Registration forms can be returned by post or handed in at the Council offices in Codsall if:

- You want to add or remove a householder; or
- You need to make any other changes.

The Council will publish a revised register on 1st December and a copy

of the full-published version will be available for viewing at the Council Offices. There is good access for personal callers and facilities including a hearing loop, disabled toilets and a baby changing room. The Customer Contact Centre for personal callers stays open late on Tuesday evenings to 8pm and is open Saturday mornings from 9.30am to 1.00pm.

Copies of the edited version of the register are freely available for inspection at local libraries and post offices, but it will only hold the specific parts of the register that relate to the local area. The edited version omits electors who do not wish to be included on this copy, which is freely available for purchase by anyone on request.

If you find out that your name is missing, or you have moved, or there are other changes since the canvass, you can request a copy of the monthly registration form. The Council has to update the register monthly, from January each year. A copy of the form is required to be completed per person and can be posted on request or be downloaded from our website.

Phil Hardy, Head of Customer and Electoral Services said: "We value your views on electoral services and in particular we are currently reviewing polling stations for continued suitability and accessibility and will revise poll cards for next May to include a location map of your station. We are continually looking to improve our services to you and welcome any views."

If you have any views or suggestions, contact Phil Hardy:

Write to him at:
South Staffordshire Council,
Council Offices, Codsall,
South Staffordshire, WV8 1PX;
 e-mail: elections@sstaffs.gov.uk or
 call on **01902 696119**.

For general information on electoral services please ring **(01902) 696121** or log on to our website at www.sstaffs.gov.uk.

South Staffordshire Council Chairman 2006 - 2007



Councillor Mrs Kathleen Perry

South Staffordshire Council's new Chairman for the next 12 months is Cllr. Mrs. Kathleen Perry.

A ward member for Great Wyrley, she was officially elected as Chairman at the Council's Annual Meeting on 9th May, 2006.

Mrs. Perry has lived in Great Wyrley all her life, and was elected to Great Wyrley Parish Council and South Staffordshire Council in 1995. In the 2005 elections, she also became a member of Staffordshire County Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Perry currently serves on several South Staffordshire Council committees including Regulatory, Licensing, and Scrutiny.

A member of the British Legion, she is also very active and supportive in community projects, being involved on numerous committees helping to raise funds for various charities.

Married with one son, Cllr. Mrs. Perry will be supported in her role as Chairman of the Council by her husband Ray.

The Chairman has chosen the COUNTY AIR AMBULANCE as her nominated charity during her year in office.

Accepting her nomination at the Annual Council Meeting, Cllr. Mrs. Perry said: "I am delighted and extremely honoured that my fellow councillors have given me the opportunity to serve as Chairman of South Staffordshire Council. I will do my utmost to carry out my duties with pride and dignity, promoting South Staffordshire as a community of communities, each being unique, a beautiful place to live, work and to visit".

THANKS FOR ENTERING

The correct answer to the last word search was **Chocolate**.

A big thank you to everyone who entered and well done if you got the answer right.

For those who thought that all the words were included in the grid, there were the letters chocolate but not actually chocolate!

WORD SEARCH COMPETITION

Can you find the names of the following Tourist Attractions in the grid? They may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal and could be backwards or forwards.

- KINVER • EDGE
- ROCK • HOUSES
- BOULTON • PAUL
- CHILLINGTON • WESTON
- BRATCH • LOCKS
- PUMPING • STATION
- MOSELEY • OLD • HALL
- BAGGERIDGE • COUNTRY
- PARK • WALKING
- VINEYARDS • CANALS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | E | N | M | O | S | E | L | E | Y | O | E | D |
| W | A | L | M | A | H | C | U | E | B | S | E | C | R |
| N | S | O | U | D | A | A | S | K | C | O | L | H | P |
| L | P | A | S | N | O | Y | L | H | P | S | S | I | R |
| W | L | A | A | T | R | E | C | L | P | D | E | L | E |
| K | E | L | U | T | A | T | U | G | U | R | S | L | V |
| C | S | S | N | L | A | T | K | C | M | A | U | I | N |
| O | U | U | T | R | K | H | I | D | P | Y | O | N | I |
| R | O | P | B | O | E | C | K | O | I | E | H | G | K |
| C | E | A | R | G | N | K | L | N | N | N | D | T | S |
| C | O | R | P | C | V | H | A | E | G | I | L | O | A |
| H | Y | K | I | N | G | A | W | L | R | V | O | N | V |
| L | N | O | T | L | U | O | B | E | D | G | E | R | E |
| Y | B | A | G | G | E | R | I | D | G | E | I | C | D |

There is one word in the list that is **NOT** included in the grid.

Write it on the back of a postcard (or sealed envelope) TOGETHER WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS and send to:

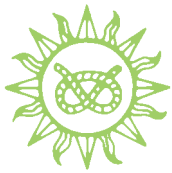
Helen Dye
Word Search Competition,
South Staffordshire Council,
Council Offices, Codsall,
South Staffordshire. WV8 1PX

The first correct entry picked after the closing date of

15th September, 2006,
 will win a
£25 Prize

WORDSEARCH WINNER:

Congratulations to **Tom Hughes** from Penkridge who won £25 in the Word Search Competition in the Spring 2006 Edition of the South Staffordshire Review.



Commonwealth VIPs drop by for lunch



The Commonwealth Parliamentarians who visited the District are pictured with
Centre: Cllr Mrs Kathleen Perry - Chairman of South Staffordshire Council, Sir Patrick Cormack MP, Mr Ray Perry - the Chairman's consort, Andrew Tuggey - UK Branch Secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association,
Left: Cllr Roy Wright and Rolf Levesley - Chief Executive of South Staffordshire Council.

South Staffordshire was proud to welcome a visiting group of Commonwealth Parliamentarians this Spring.

Their hosts were the Chairman of South Staffordshire Council, Cllr Mrs. Kathleen Perry, and local MP, Sir Patrick Cormack.

Lunch was provided at the Council Offices and Sir Patrick gave a talk on Local Government in England.

The Commonwealth visitors were:
the Hon. Tony McGrady MP (Speaker) from Queensland, Australia;
Mr. Bruce Crozier MPP (Deputy Speaker) from Ontario, Canada;
Mr. Kieran Rijju MP from Federal India;
the Hon. Tuan Amiruddin bin Setro from Selangor, Malaysia;
Dr. Hon. Balkissoon Hookoom MP from Mauritius and
the Hon. Almajir Geidam MP from Federal Nigeria.

Also attending the lunch were Andrew Tuggey, UK Branch Secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Chairman's Consort, Mr. Ray Perry, Cllr Mrs. Joan Williams and Cllr Roy Wright.

Cllr Mrs. Perry said "I was absolutely delighted to welcome our colleagues from the Commonwealth to South Staffordshire. It was an excellent occasion to exchange views and appreciate the similarities of concerns across national boundaries".

The Speaker of the Queensland Assembly, the Hon. Tony McGrady MP, thanked the Chairman for the Council's hospitality.

The Group went on to visit Moseley Old Hall and Chillington Hall, accompanied by Sir Patrick.

Playing for Big bucks

South Staffordshire will be playing for big stakes as the Council bids to claim £200,000 of lottery funds for the District's children.

The cash is earmarked for children's play facilities, play projects and other innovative ideas for play.

The £200,000 is South Staffordshire's share of a £155 million treasure chest provided by the Big Lottery Fund towards the development of Children's Play in England.

But to get their hands on the cash, the Council must first develop a Play Partnership to convince them that the money will be used effectively and in the best interests of children.

This will entail drawing up a strategy which highlights the priorities in the area, involving consultations with children and young people, parents, community groups and any other organisation with an interest in play provision locally.

Several consultation events are being planned from the summer and will be occurring across the District, allowing individuals and groups to voice their thoughts and ideas for the development of priorities for Play in South Staffordshire.

After the priorities have been agreed, local groups, organisations and parish councils will be invited to submit project proposals, later this year, for an action plan, which must be lodged with the Big Lottery by March next year. Once assessed by the Big Lottery, successful projects should be confirmed and funded by July 2007.

In the meantime, Big Lottery has used part of the remaining allocation to launch a national 'Playful Ideas' programme, offering funding of between £10,000 and £250,000 over five years for innovative projects from local community groups.

The Council is confident of producing a winning strategy and that the District's youngsters will reap the benefits of enhanced play provision in the years to come. In fact, Council chiefs say you can bet your money on it!

For more information on the Big Lottery Play initiatives please log on to www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

If you would like to be contacted about consultation events please contact leisure services on 01902 696531, or fill out our web form at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure



LOTTERY FUNDED


SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

CONTACTS:

Tel: (01902) 696000
Fax: (01902) 696800
Website: www.sstaffs.gov.uk

OPENING TIMES

for personal visits to the Council's Customer Contact Centre are:

8.45am to 5.00pm - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

8.45am to 8.00pm - Tuesday

9.30am to 1.00pm - Saturday

For Further Information:

If you would like a copy of this document in another language or format (eg Braille, audio cassette), please contact:

**South Staffordshire Council,
Council Offices,
Codsall,
South Staffordshire.
WV8 1PX
Tel: (01902) 696000**

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم رابطہ کریں
ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ایک نਕਲ اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم رابطہ کریں
अगर आप इस दस्तावेज की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं तो कृपया सम्पर्क करें
ਜੇ ਤਮਨੇ ਆ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਨਕਲ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ
যদি আপনি এই দলিলের আপনার ভাষায় প্রতিলিপি চান অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ :
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COMMUNITY SAFETY



Domestic Violence: We won't stand for it



- new strategy to help victims

Help is at hand for victims of domestic violence in South Staffordshire.

A new Domestic Violence co-ordinator was appointed in May under a strategy drafted by the South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership.

It is also planned to have at least four domestic refuge hostel opened in South Staffordshire by 2008.

The co-ordinator is Tracy Groom, who will work closely with the Community Safety Team to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse within South Staffordshire and make sure that the strategy is implemented.

The strategy has been drawn up following a working partnership, formed two years ago, between The Haven in Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership. Its purpose was to help identify and address the need for services to support people in abusive situations within South Staffordshire.

A Forum was developed from this partnership, so that other agencies could get involved with the work in reducing Domestic Violence within the District.

A full Domestic Abuse Strategy is now in place and funding secured for the Co-ordinator within South Staffordshire.

The plan for the next three years is to increase community awareness of Domestic Violence by organising Local and county-wide awareness campaigns. A directory of local services for people suffering Domestic Violence will be posted on the South Staffordshire Council website.

The partnership will also look at preventing Domestic Violence by sharing data with other agencies and training other organisations such as schools, health, medical and dental staff and child minders.

A shortage of support for victims and survivors of Domestic Violence has been flagged up and the Partnership aims to have at least four refuges set up in South Staffordshire before 2008.

The partnership will make plans to enable survivors to stay in their own homes and develop services to provide an outreach and floating support service in the District. Information and advice will be provided to children and young people through training in schools.

Specialist support will be more accessible over the next three years, through the legal process of dealing with domestic violence with the aim of reducing repeat offending, reducing the number of retractions and increasing the percentage of offenders charged and brought to justice.

Overall, the partnership plans to implement the Strategy with the help of several agencies and will closely monitor the evidence of Domestic Abuse.

If you need to contact Tracy, her email address is t.groom@sstaffs.gov.uk or alternatively you can telephone her on 01902 696500.

Useful contacts

24hr Helplines:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Domestic Violence national helpline | 0808 2000 247 |
| The project helpline | 01543 500324 |
| Pathway project helpline | 01543 676800 |
| Stafford Women's Aid | 01785 243333 |
| The Haven Wolverhampton | 01902 713001 |
| Victim Support Staffordshire | 01785 715666 |
| Karma Nirvana | 01332 604098 |

South Staffordshire Council's outreach project:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| The project Outreach Support | 01785 607828 |
|------------------------------|--------------|

This project can provide a variety of support including:

- A safe confidential environment
- One to one emotional support
- Resettlement Support
- Support in seeking refuge anywhere in the country
- To Liaise with other agencies
- All in complete confidence

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Men's Advice line (mankind) | 01643 863352 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Child Line | 0800 1111 |
|------------|-----------|

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL

999

Introduction to the partnership



The South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership was set up to tackle crime and disorder and reduce the fear of crime.

The Partnership is made up of statutory members from Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service, South Staffordshire Council, Staffordshire County Council and South Western Staffordshire and Cannock Chase Primary Care Trusts.

In addition, the Partnership also plans to work in the future with other organisations, in the private and voluntary sectors, to carry out the objectives of the Community Safety Strategy and promote community safety in the District.

Your Neighbourhood Policing

by Chief Superintendent Nick Howe



**Chief Superintendent
Nick Howe**

Neighbourhood Policing was officially launched in the Chase Policing Area in April 2006.

By 2007, the number of police community support officers (PCSOs) will have risen by nearly four-fold across the Chase Division, and they will work alongside regular police officers, special constables and other volunteers.

The wider aim is for increased partnership working involving all partners from the Police, the Fire and Rescue

Service, Primary Health Care Trusts, Local Councils as well as the public. This closer working relationship will assist in solving problems of crime and disorder, and increasing a sense of security and well being in communities.

The Policing Service will now have to concentrate on fear of crime as well as volume crime.

Due to overall crime figures falling significantly, Chase Division is now looking to build on its achievements, and also focus on reducing the perception of fear of crime. In

part, this will be achieved by more emphasis on community consultation, including street meetings, surgeries and other methods of direct contact. It has been recognised that the public already consulted are expressing concerns in areas such as anti-social behaviour, litter and other visual environmental crime types.

It is envisaged that with an increased police family presence in the community, there will be more opportunity to raise local issues and make regular contact with local officers.

Parking to Perfection

P2P Scheme relieves school parking problems

Parking problems caused by the daily 'school run' in Codsall are being driven out by an innovative permit scheme launched by local bobbies.

Chase division constables Dave Underhill and David Layton believe they have cracked the issue of cars clogging the roads outside school gates in the mornings and at the end of the day.

They were asked by Head teacher Kathleen Brown of St. Christopher's Catholic Primary School in Magnolia Grove to look at the problem at her school.

Parking at the rear gates had been a particular problem for some time, and parents and residents had all expressed concerns about child safety and inconsiderate parking.

As an alternative to closing the gates completely, the bobbies came up with the permit plan, which has been welcomed with open arms by the school and parents alike.

The scheme needed the full cooperation of parents and the school staff to make it work, while South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership has also given its full backing.

Everyone wishing to park at the school's Magnolia Grove and Carter Avenue entrances has joined the scheme.

Drivers register their personal details, together with the make and registration of their vehicle, with the school.

Each vehicle is then issued with a permit which must be displayed on the dashboard when parking at the



Children from St. Christopher's Catholic Primary School, Codsall and their headteacher Mrs Kathleen Brown, are pictured with PC Dave Underhill & PCSO David Layton - Codsall Neighbourhood Policing Unit; Judith Russon and Maggie Quinn from South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership.

rear of the school. Anyone parking inconsiderately can be reported to the school by parents, the police or local residents and appropriate action taken.

PCSO David Layton said: "School locations are statistically more prone to accidents and child safety is the greatest priority. Supported by the local Community Safety Partnership and St. Christopher's school, this scheme has been introduced to reduce any risk of children getting injured because of having to cross between parked cars."

To complement the permit scheme, a

competition was held at the school to design a badge to raise awareness of safety issues around school entrances and exits. It encouraged everyone to consider the importance of parking safely and considerately. Super prizes of two family tickets for Alton Towers were donated to the winners by South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership.

For further information contact Maggie Quinn/Linda England at South Staffordshire Council on 01902 696530 or e-mail communitysafety@sstaffs.gov.uk

KEEP VALUABLES OUT OF SIGHT

What thieves can't see they can't steal.

That's the message from South Staffordshire's Community Safety Team, who are warning local residents to take care of their valuables.

In a campaign to combat the theft of purses, wallets and mobile phones, Staffordshire Police is urging people to secure valuables in bags and pockets away from would-be thieves.

Some simple crime prevention methods will keep the crooks at bay:

- Keep purses and wallets out of sight
- Keep mobiles out of sight
- Keep bags securely fastened

PC Jack Welsh of the Community Safety Team said: "We want the local community to enjoy using the village centres for shopping and leisure activities. To lose valuables when doing so can be very distressing. By following this simple advice, members of the public can prevent themselves from becoming victims."

Off-road bikers warned

Trail and mini-motorbikers riding 'off-road' around the South Staffordshire countryside have been warned they could be prosecuted and their machines impounded.

The message from the police follows a number of complaints from local residents about the anti-social manner of the riding of some bikers.

One problem hot-spot appears to be the Biffa owned landfill quarry and wooded area adjacent to Gibbet Lane, Kinver.

Contrary to popular local belief, it is NOT an authorised venue for off road motorcyclists.

Biffa DO NOT give permission for members of the public to be at the quarry or in the woods, whether on foot or otherwise. This is for health and safety reasons in addition to any motorcycle issues.

People riding bikes or using any vehicle in an anti-social manner are committing an offence. The police have powers, usually following a formal warning, to seize any vehicle, which may be

impounded at a release fee of £121 (cost correct at time of going to press). The vehicle may be stored for a maximum of 28 days during which time the vehicle can be claimed back. Storage is £12 per day and if it is not claimed, the vehicle will be disposed of. The owner/keeper will then be liable for the recovery and storage costs. Failure to pay would result in court action and court costs be added.

During the last 12 months, 50 formal warnings have been issued by the Neighbourhood Policing team based at Wombourne - 42 of these to members of the public at the Biffa site.

Between February and May this year, 27 warnings have been issued by the Neighbourhood Policing team at Watling Local Policing Unit in the areas of Penkridge, Cheslyn Hay, Huntington, Great Wyrley, Featherstone and Essington. Four bikes have been seized from the High Hill area of Essington.

Top Tips for Home Safety

- LOCK all doors and windows, always, even if you pop out for just a few moments.
- FIT deadlocks on outside doors. They are locked from the inside and removing the key can make it harder for a thief to get out.
- WINDOW LOCKS should be fitted to all accessible windows. Burglars are less likely to break in if they have to smash a window.
- DON'T leave car keys or garage keys near windows, put them out of sight in the house.
- TIMERS for lights and radios, if you are out in the evenings or overnight, can deter burglars.
- VISIBLE burglar alarms and good outside lighting can also act as deterrents.
- FENCES at the back of the house can feel more secure, but walls and solid fencing may let a thief break in without being seen. Chain-link fencing or trellis with prickly shrubs is a good alternative.
- CHECK the identity of all unknown callers before opening the door. Fit a 'spy hole' and a door chain for extra security.
- MARK your property with your postcode and house name or number.
- BUYING goods you know or suspect are stolen encourages thieves and burglars. Don't do it - you will also be committing an offence!

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUPS

Residents concerned about problems with crime, anti-social behaviour or environmental issues can make their voice heard at a South Staffordshire Environmental Action Group.

The meetings take place twice a year, and recent topics raised have included speeding, anti-social behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, litter and dog fouling.

The Community Safety Partnership and South Staffordshire Council's Environmental Health department have linked together to tackle 'enviro-crimes' flagged up by local people.

The meetings are open to anyone from South Staffordshire.

If you attend a meeting, you will:

- meet a member of the Community Safety Team and Environmental Health Services.
- hear what the crime figures are for your village
- have the chance to air your concerns in respect of community safety
- listen to feedback from concerns expressed at previous meetings
- have the chance to get involved in activity days to help make your community feel safer
- meet your community police officer or community support officer

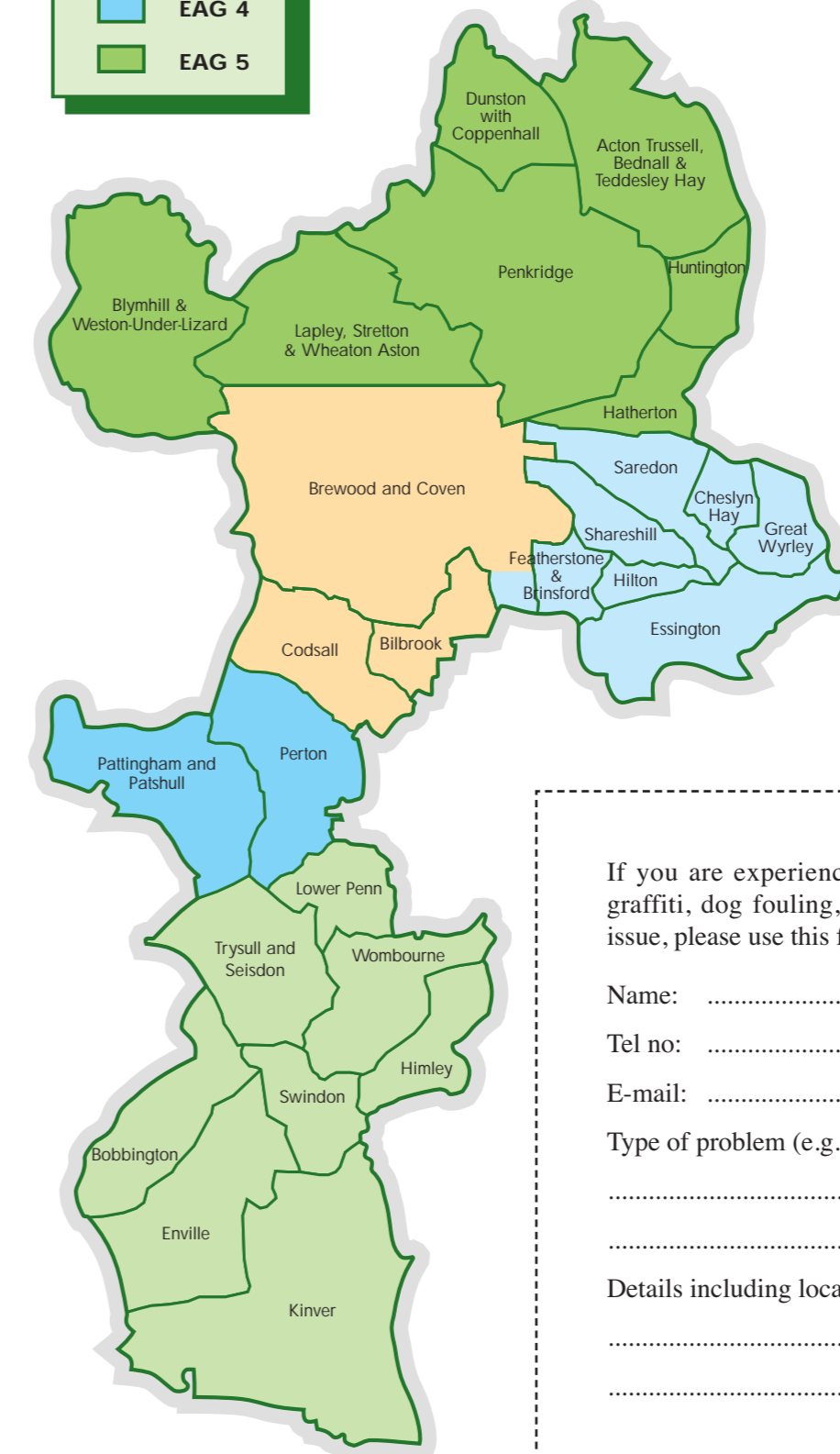
There are five Environmental Action Groups linking the twenty-seven parishes together (see map).

If you would like to get involved in your local group please ring Sherminder Dhillon on 01902 696501 or e-mail communitysafety@sstaffs.gov.uk.

If you are experiencing any problems with anti-social behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, dog fouling, litter, fly tipping or have any other concerns, you can complete and return this slip.

KEY
Environmental Action Groups

- EAG 1
- EAG 2
- EAG 3
- EAG 4
- EAG 5



If you are experiencing any problems with anti-social behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, dog fouling, litter, fly tipping, or any form of crime or environmental issue, please use this feedback slip.

Name:
 Tel no:
 E-mail:

Type of problem (e.g. anti-social behaviour, dog fouling):

Details including location and time



"Making South Staffordshire a safer place"

Perton People Power slows the Way

Villagers at Perton are opting out of the rat-race and slowing down the pace to make it a safer place.

In a show of people-power, they are tackling speed and traffic danger by reclaiming their streets.

In a Safer Routes to School Survey, 193 local people complained of speeding traffic at 35 separate locations within Perton.

"Set the Pace" is an innovative new scheme which has been proved to reduce fatalities and serious injuries in other parts of the country.

Now Perton is determined to make one corner of South Staffordshire a quieter and safer place to live.

The scheme was launched in Perton at Easter by children from the village's two schools, Perton and Sandown First, with a direct appeal for villagers to sign up.

Since then nearly 40 villagers have joined in and have put stickers in their cars and are driving purposefully and carefully.

In Lincolnshire, the scheme has 980 drivers signed up and the number of serious accidents has been cut by a stunning 20%.

Perton is the perfect place for "Set the Pace" as there are no through roads, so the majority of drivers are local. The power to set the pace lies at their feet - by taking their foot off the accelerator.

Potential

The scheme has massive potential for other villages and communities in Staffordshire once it proves its worth.

The scheme is supported by local councillors, the police and village schools. Pamphlets giving joining instructions are available in Perton schools, the library, doctors' surgeries, and the Civic Centre.

Local Councillor Robert Marshall said "Perton residents are a responsible bunch and the village was the perfect

place to set the ball rolling.

"Most drivers in Perton are responsible - but there is a small minority who drive too fast. Perhaps they just don't know they are doing it and need a gentle reminder, or if they are simply pushing the limits perhaps this scheme will help them realise the risks they are taking with children's lives.

"We hope the scheme can really improve safety in the village and create a place where children and their parents want to walk, cycle and play. So sign up now and help put Perton on the map as Staffordshire's safest village," he said.

08453 30 20 10

Staffordshire Police have a special number for non-emergency calls. It is: **08453 30 20 10** and the call is charged at local rate.

You can use it to report incidents and crimes that do not require an urgent response.

When you call, an answer message welcomes you to Staffordshire Police and informs you that all calls will be recorded.

DO NOT HANG UP if your call is not answered within a few rings as THIS NUMBER IS ALWAYS ANSWERED. The police urge residents to report any incident or crime.

Problems you may be experiencing in your village or neighbourhood will not be logged if things go unreported. That means enforcement orders such as Alcohol Bans etc. will not be granted unless the police have the statistics to back up their applications.

ALWAYS dial 999 if a crime is in progress or there is an emergency situation.

Responsible retailers say 'no' to under-18s

Under-age drinkers are finding it tougher to get their hands on alcohol - especially in South Staffordshire.

That's the conclusion of an under-cover operation aimed at testing off-licence booze outlets, carried out by the County's Trading Standards and the police.

Volunteers posing as under-age 'customers' were sent into 95 off licences across the county and monitored as they attempted to buy alcohol.

All but six came away empty handed. In South Staffordshire, only one retailer breached the law.

Both trading standards and the police say the findings show that off-licences are acting more responsibly in relation to alcohol sales to young people. Last year, a total of ten failed the test.

Of the six who failed this time around, further investigations will follow and sellers could face fines of up to £5,000 if convicted and also have their licence revoked.

The test purchase operation was carried out between 11th May and the 8th June as part of the response to growing problems of anti-social behaviour.

Community Safety Co-ordinator Linda England commented: "On behalf of South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership, I am pleased to note the positive results arising from this campaign. It is rewarding to see that progress has been achieved since February, as hopefully the message promoted by the Challenge 21 Scheme is getting across to retailers."

It appears the Challenge 21 policy is making a real difference, with more retailers asking to see identification from young people rather than asking their age. The scheme encourages retailers to ask anyone under the age of 21 for identification and reduces the likelihood of mistaking



somebody under the age restriction as being old enough. However, while there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of retailers selling to underage people, there continues to be an issue with anti-social behaviour related to alcohol.

Surveys of young people have shown that:

- More young people get their alcohol from the home.
- More people over the age of 18 now buy or attempt to buy alcohol on behalf of under 18s.

Parents need to be more vigilant and people buying for under 18s should be aware that they could receive an £80 on the spot fine if caught and could also face a court appearance, resulting in a fine up to a maximum of £5,000.

It is crucial that young people are protected from the harm of excess alcohol consumption and that alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour is reduced.



South Western Staffordshire **NHS**
Primary Care Trust

Cannock Chase **NHS**
Primary Care Trust



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL



Staffordshire
County Council



No Name

No Number

Nowhere to go !!!

SIGNS SAVE LIVES

Emergency services in South Staffordshire need to know where you live - and how to get there, quickly! It could be a matter of life or death.

Valuable seconds, even minutes, can be lost if police, fire crews or paramedics have to search for a property that is not suitably identifiable.

In a mostly rural area like South Staffordshire, property location can be a real problem.

That's why the Fire, Police and Ambulance Services have joined this campaign to bring home the importance of having your property, whether in an urban area or the countryside, properly identified.

Ask yourself these questions and help the emergency services locate your property, if you ever need them:

- Is your property suitably named or numbered, and is that clearly displayed?

- If you live on a named road, is the nameplate visible and unobstructed?
- If you live off a track, could you tell an emergency operator how far from the track your home is?
- Are there any distinctive features close to your property to help identify it? For example, a post box, telephone kiosk, church or other building.
- Is your road or street nameplate missing? If it is, have you reported it to your local authority?

To report a damaged or missing street nameplate, please contact the Council's Engineering Services unit on 01902 696541 or via the website on www.sstaffs.gov.uk.

999

If you need help we need to know where you are!



ARSON ALERT

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue has attended a number of incidents in South Staffordshire which have involved primarily small nuisance fires requiring the attendance a fire engine. To continue to provide an effective response to more serious incidents Staffordshire Fire and Rescue service is asking the local community to be vigilant over the forth coming months, particularly during the school holiday period. You can report any incidence of deliberate fire setting to the police via the crime stoppers number below.

Chris Bromley
Area Commander
South Staffordshire
Area Command



Racism kicked in to touch!

The campaign to kick racism out of sport scored a winning goal thanks to young people from South Staffordshire

A 'Love Football, Hate Racism' event at Aldersley and the Molineux Stadiums, co-ordinated by South Staffordshire Youth Development Worker Julie Jones, was Premiership quality.

The event, in April, involved teams of young people from youth projects across South Staffordshire in a five-a-side football tournament at Aldersley Stadium followed by a trip to Molineux to watch Wolves v Coventry.

Working in partnership with the 'Wolves in the Community' team and linking in with national charities 'Show Racism the Red Card' and 'Kick Racism out of Football', over 90 young people took part.

The youngsters got a training programme prior to the event that aimed to raise awareness of the effects of racism on individuals and communities and to challenge stereotypical attitudes.

The day was a huge success, thoroughly enjoyed by the young people that took part. An announcement on the P.A. system at the Molineux during half time

about the event meant that the young people's anti-racist message was broadcast to an audience of over 20,000 fans.

The winners of the tournament were Great Wyrley Youth Centre and the fair play award went to Wheaton Aston Youth Club. All young people involved received a Staffordshire Youth Award Certificate at separate presentation evenings in their own youth clubs.



Park here in safety

Motorists in South Staffordshire now have a choice of six award-winning village car parks where they can leave their vehicles in safety.

The Council has this year doubled its number of car parks which have earned the prestigious "Park Mark" status.

The awards are made under the National Safer Parking scheme, run by the British Parking Association in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The purpose of the scheme is to bring car parks up to defined standards aimed at reducing the opportunity for criminal activity and the fear of crime.

The three car parks in South Staffordshire to achieve the Park Mark standard this year are in Bilbrook, Codsall and Wombourne.

It brings the total number of officially recognised safer car parks in the District to six. Last year's three "Park Mark" award winners are at The Acre and High Street, Kinver, and at Station Road, Codsall.

The Council is working to bring more of its car parks up to the award standard through a rolling programme of minor improvements.

Cllr Mrs Joan Williams,

Deputy Leader (Environmental Services) said: "Achieving these awards recognises the Council's commitment to tackling community safety issues as part of a package of measures, which also

includes improved lighting and public space CCTV, which are all intended to make South Staffordshire safer".

For further information, contact Steve Poyser (Head of Engineering Services) on 01902 696503 or e-mail s.poyser@sstaffs.gov.uk



Sgt. Maurice Annett, Cllr Mrs Joan Williams and Steve Poyser at Wombourne High Street car park which has recently received Park Mark status.

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. WV 737

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South Staffordshire Council
Environmental Health (General) Services
Council Offices
Codsall
South Staffordshire
WV8 1PX