

REVIEW



Summer 2004

Issue No. 28

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Youth Games point the way for London's Olympic bid

South Staffordshire kids carry the torch

The Olympic spirit is burning bright in South Staffordshire after more than 150 youngsters from the district competed in the region's biggest sports tournament for young people.

The Sport Across Staffordshire Youth Games - now recognised as a 'beacon' event for London's 2012 Olympic bid - had over 2,000 up and coming young athletes taking part.

With ages ranging from 10 to 16, they competed in athletics, basketball, girls cricket, girls football, hockey, netball, girls tag rugby, mixed rugby, swimming and tennis.

The event, held at the Shobnall Leisure complex and Meadowside sports centre in Burton, has grown in stature year on year and is now recognised as one of the highest profile games in the country.

Competition just to get into the team to represent South Staffordshire was fierce.

A series of sports festivals and selection days was organised by the Council's Leisure Services. More than 500 children from 20 schools competed in the 'trials', through the 'Get Set' Sport Initiative.

And in the Games themselves, the

South Staffordshire team acquitted themselves very well, achieving three awards.

The strong swimming team made up of young people from both Wombourne and Phoenix (Cheslyn Hay) swimming clubs took gold for the second year running.

"The Staffordshire Youth Games is a real opportunity for our youngsters to demonstrate their many skills and to represent South Staffordshire."

- Cllr Robert Marshall

The Girls' Rugby team were winners of their tournament and the district's good sportsmanship was highlighted with the girls' hockey team being awarded the fair play award.

Besides the 2,000-odd competitors, over 200 volunteers supported the games, contributing to junior sports leaders awards and personally developing their skills, coaching and officiating at a competitive level.

In true Olympic style, the Games started with a parade of the athletes, watched by proud parents, spectators and VIP's from across the country.

Among the guests was Commonwealth Games hammer thrower Suzanne Roberts, who commented: "I am delighted to have made this visit to encourage young people to take part in sport. It was

great to see all the districts working together and achieve such a magnificent event, there were lots of good performances and smiling faces."

The youth games is only the beginning for those taking part - all athletes who represented South Staffordshire will be encouraged to continue their chosen sports activity after the Youth

Games through local club links and community sports courses.

Cllr Robert Marshall Deputy Leader (Community Services) said: "The Staffordshire Youth Games is a real opportunity for our youngsters to demonstrate their many skills and to represent South Staffordshire. It is great to see our teams returning with so many medals."

Our Golden Girls



Smiles all round as South Staffordshire's team take first place in the Youth Games swimming event.

Turn to page 4 to see the winning hockey team.

Council Chairman 2004 - 2005



The new Chairman of South Staffordshire Council for the coming 12 months is Councillor Mrs. Pamela Bromley.

A member for the Perton ward for the last 13 years, Cllr Mrs Bromley was chosen at a meeting of the Council on May 18th.

During their term of office, the Chairman chooses a charity to benefit from fund raising efforts and Mrs Bromley has selected COUNTY AIR AMBULANCE as her nominated charity.

Mrs. Bromley has lived in South Staffordshire for 23 years, being elected to Perton Parish Council in 1991 and was Chairman of the Parish Council in 1994/5, 1999/2000, and 2000/2001.

She was first elected to the District Council in 1991 and currently serves on a number of committees.

She will be supported in her role as Chairman of the Council, by her husband, Cyril, also a Councillor with South Staffordshire Council.

After being elected Chairman, Mrs. Bromley told the Council meeting: "My Councillor colleagues have bestowed on me today the greatest honour, to serve South Staffordshire as Chairman of the Council, and I will endeavour to carry out my duties with great pride".

Councillor Mrs Pamela Bromley

COMPLAINTS DEPT.

Got a gripe with the Council?

Do you know where to go to get it independently investigated?

The answer is - *probably not!*

Research shows that over half the population remains unaware of the service provided by the three Local Government Ombudsmen in England.

This seems amazing when 2004 will be the 30th year of investigating complaints against councils by the Ombudsmen.

Since 1975 when they were first introduced, the number of complaints nationwide has risen from 2,250 to over 18,000 a year.

The Local Government Ombudsman with responsibility for the South Staffordshire area, Mr Jerry White, reckons he could have even more work to do:

"Despite the fact that most councils have now set up good complaints procedures of their own, demand for our service continues to rise - but if more people knew about the service we provide, there is no doubt that we would receive even more complaints each year." he said.

Varied

Complaints received by the Ombudsmen are as varied as local government itself: from parking restrictions to homelessness; from refuse collection to special educational needs.

Looking at Councils generally, the main areas of complaint relate to Council housing, including Council house allocation and repairs, which make up 20% of the total. A further 17% are about the payment of housing benefit. Some 22% of complaints relate to planning matters - mainly about the way in which the Council approved applications for development of a neighbour's land.

Where a potential complainant has

an alternative remedy available to them, such as an applicant's right to appeal against the refusal of planning permissions, the Ombudsman cannot generally become involved. The same applies where a potential complainant could take the Council to court, or where a tribunal is available to review a Council's decision.

The Local Government Ombudsman does not, therefore, simply provide another appeal. What he and his staff are looking for is some fault or failure which causes an identifiable injustice for complainants.

But before he can become involved at all, complainants are expected to have first made their complaint to the Council and given it enough time to look into the matter and respond.

Of the complaints which are investigated, 20% are settled locally by the Council, because it recognises that it has made an error and sorts the matter out with the complainants, often making a small payment to compensate the complainant for whatever injustice has been caused. The Ombudsman encourages such local settlements.

But about 10% of complaints require more detailed investigation. For this the Local Government Ombudsman and his staff have the power of the High Court to require both Members or officers of the Council to release their files and to attend for interview.

Where an investigation finds maladministration by the Council causing injustice to the complainant then the Ombudsman may issue a public report, which must be considered by the Council and



Jerry White
Local Government Ombudsman

generally receives much local publicity. These reports do not name the complainant.

The biggest problem for the Ombudsmen is knowing how many complaints they will receive each year. But one thing is sure - they have risen steadily over the years!

You can get advice about complaining to the Ombudsman by ringing **0845 602 1983**. A booklet "How to Complain to the Local Government Ombudsman" is available from the Council offices, by ringing the above number or writing to:

Local Government Ombudsman
The Oaks No 2 Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
Coventry CV4 8JB

The booklet is in several languages, in large print, braille and on tape. The booklet contains a complaint form, or you can just write explaining what has gone wrong.

Information about the service is available via the Internet at www.lgo.org.uk. You can also submit a complaint electronically at this site.

Details of the complaints procedure for South Staffordshire can be found on the Council's website www.sstaffs.gov.uk

WORD SEARCH COMPETITION

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

- SOUTH • STAFFORDSHIRE • COUNCIL
- CANNOCK • SEISDON • RURAL
- MERGED • THREE • DECADES
- HIGH • QUALITY • PUBLIC • SERVICES
- LOWEST • POSSIBLE • COST
- PRESERVE • GREEN • BELT
- AFFORDABLE • HOUSING • WHEELIE • BINS
- ONE STOP • SHOP
- PROUD • RECORD
- LOOK • FORWARD • WITH
- CONFIDENCE • TO THE • FUTURE

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

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:

Chris Mantle
Word Search Competition,
South Staffordshire Council,
Council Offices, Codsall,
South Staffordshire. WV8 1PX

The first correct entry picked after the closing date of
30th August, 2004,
will win a
£25 Prize

WORDSEARCH WINNER:

Congratulations to
Mrs P. A. Hough
from Trysull
who won £25 in the
Word Search
Competition
in the Spring 2004
Edition of the South
Staffordshire Review.

Scrap cars: Bangers and cash

The Council is offering South Staffordshire residents a £20 "reward" to help them dispose of their old car properly.

The money can be claimed if car owners use the Council's official contractor to get rid of their scrap vehicles. The reward scheme has been introduced to try to cut down the number of abandoned cars blighting the roads of South Staffordshire.

Cllr Joan Williams, Deputy Leader (Environmental Services) said "the problem of abandoned vehicles within the district is getting worse, and we feel that by offering our residents this inducement of £20.00 it will reduce illegally abandoned vehicles and save Council tax payers money because this is less than the cost of removing them ourselves".

Residents within the district of South Staffordshire who wish to use this scheme should make contact with the Council's contractor -

CANNOCK AUTO SALVAGE LTD
UNIT 1, CANNOCK MOTOR VILLAGE
CHASESIDE DRIVE
CANNOCK
Tel: (01543) 504494

Details of the scheme can also be obtained by contacting the Council's Environmental Health (General) Services section on (01902) 696200 or (01902) 696314 and ask to speak to either Mr. J. Siviter or Mr. R. Taylor or email j.siviter@sstaffs.gov.uk or b.taylor@sstaffs.gov.uk



Licence law changes

Liquor licencing and pub opening times in South Staffordshire will become the responsibility of South Staffordshire Council from next year.

A new Licensing Act, expected to come into force in February next year, switches powers from magistrates courts to local authorities in respect of licencing pubs, clubs and other premises supplying alcohol.

The Act also applies to those persons responsible for supplying alcohol and to places providing public entertainment and late night refreshment (between 11.00 pm and 5.00 am), whether or not they involve the sale of alcohol.

Existing licence holders will have up to nine months from February 2005 to convert their existing licences but before then, South Staffordshire Council will be publishing its Statement of Licensing Policy.

This is a document setting out the policies that the Council will apply in exercising its licensing functions and, in particular, matters it will be taking into consideration to ensure licensed activities promote the four licensing

objectives described in the Act.

These are:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm

Before publishing its Statement of Licensing Policy, the Council will be undertaking an extensive consultation exercise on the draft document with the Police and Fire Authorities, as well as Social Services and representatives of existing local licence holders, other local businesses and residents in the area.

The draft document and an opportunity for anyone to comment on it will be placed on the Council's website at www.sstaffs.gov.uk.

If you would like a written copy, write to: Ken Walker Head of Environmental Health Commercial Services, South Staffordshire Council, Codsall, South Staffordshire, WV8 1PX.



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL



NEED HELP TO PAY YOUR RENT AND/OR COUNCIL TAX?

HOUSING BENEFIT AND/OR COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT COULD BE THE ANSWER

If you are on a low income Housing Benefit could help you pay your rent and Council Tax Benefit could help you to pay your Council Tax.

WHO CAN CLAIM?

Anyone who has to pay rent can make a claim for Housing Benefit.

Anyone who has to pay Council Tax can make a claim for Council Tax Benefit.

HOW TO CLAIM

Contact us by telephone on (01902) 696669 between 8.45am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday or you can call in at the Council Offices, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall during the above times. Also, our reception is open on Tuesday evenings until 8pm and Saturday mornings 9am - 1pm. Our staff will be pleased to help you or if you are elderly, ill or infirm we can visit you in your own home at your request.

WHEN TO CLAIM

Immediately! Do it now! Lost time is lost money!
 Speak to us, come and see us or ask us to come and see you!

TELEPHONE (01902) 696669

TOP MARKS FOR FOOD SAFETY

Four South Staffordshire youngsters have been rewarded for helping to get Food Safety messages across to the public.

The quartet, from Codsall High School, were winners of the Council's Food Safety Bookmark design competition, timed to coincide with National Food Safety Week in June.

Their designs, illustrating the importance of good kitchen hygiene, have been incorporated into printed bookmarks available free of charge at local libraries and leisure centres.

Councillor Robert Marshall, Deputy Leader (Community Services), thanked all Year 9 pupils of Codsall High School for helping the Council with its campaign, before presenting the four winners with £25 gift vouchers.

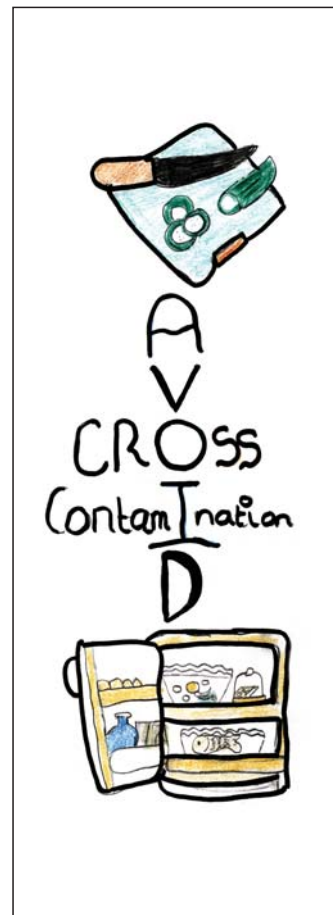
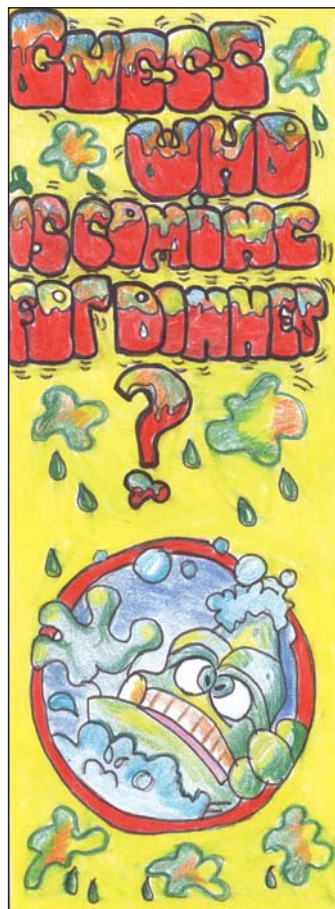


Councillor Marshall presenting prizes to the winning entrants.

Cllr Marshall said: "The focus for Food Safety Week 2004 is avoiding the spread of germs. To raise awareness of how important it is to practise good kitchen and personal hygiene, the Council sponsored a Food Safety Bookmark design competition.

"As well as encouraging the students to think about food safety, their colourful and eye catching designs will draw everyone's attention to the steps that can be taken to avoid cross contamination and prevent food poisoning".

If you would like any information regarding food safety, contact the Council's Food Safety Team on (01902) 696665.



Summer **SUSSED** (again)!

We've got loadsa Summer Fun

This year's Summer Sussed programme will be the biggest and best yet with a wide range of activities for children aged 5-13 taking place across South Staffordshire.

That's no idle boast - this year's programme is based on the theme of the Athens Olympics.



To celebrate the Games in Greece this summer, many Olympic sports have been included in the SUSSED programme for children to try out.

In addition, a variety of art workshops based on the theme of Athens have been organised.

But that's not all - along with the themed activities, there are over 100 other activities to keep children entertained right through the Summer:

Sussed @ Leisure Centres

Penkridge, Codsall, Cheslyn Hay, Wombourne and Kinver Leisure Centres have an action packed schedule of events including:

- Dance workshops
- Athletics Coaching
- Fun Swims
- Cricket Coaching
- Trampolining
- Archery
- Karate
- Cycle Safety
- Crazy Crafts
- Synchronised Swimming
- Wolves Football Coaching
- Jewellery Making
- Snorkelling & Scuba Diving
- Cake Craft

Sussed @ Baggeridge Country Park

Join the rangers to discover the wealth of wildlife at Baggeridge Country Park in our Bug Life and Nature Ramble sessions or take part in one of our art workshops.

Sussed 'Out & About'

This Summer SUSSED is going 'out & about' travelling around the district of South Staffordshire bringing activities to community halls, playing fields, libraries and sports venues.

For more information or a copy of the programme please contact Richard Heighway on 01902 696532 or visit www.sstaffs.gov.uk/sussed to view a full listing of activities.

Bodywatch: Coming to a village near YOU!

Fitness experts from South Staffordshire Council Leisure Services will be touring local villages again shortly in a drive to promote healthy lifestyles.

They will be offering residents of Cheslyn Hay, Penkridge, Wombourne and Codsall a chance to check their current health and lifestyle habits.

The check-up lasts approximately 30 minutes, but it could add years to your lifespan.

The check includes over 10 different tests, including blood pressure, lung function, body fat percentage, and aerobic capacity. That's followed by an evaluation

of results along with support and guidance to get and remain healthy and active.

The tour will also offer information on some of Britain's biggest health concerns.

Cllr Robert Marshall, Deputy Leader for Community Services said "This tour is a great opportunity for people to assess their current state of health and be able to take action through the support and guidance of our fitness professionals".

The 'Bodywatch' tour dates and venues are yet to be confirmed.

To register your interest and receive the information hot off the press, please contact Richard Heighway on (01902) 696532.



The District's hockey players awarded the Fair Play Trophy. Front: Natalie Lewis (Team Manager/ Coach) and Ellie Harris. Also pictured are Danielle Holmes, Lauren Taylor, Rachel Sharratt, Hannah Burrows, Isobel Wright, and Philippa Davenport.

Music in the Park:

The beat goes on at Baggeridge

Baggeridge Country Park is set to come alive with the sound of music this summer with the ever-popular Folk Festival and Summer Concert Series.

The schedule is designed to present a wide range of musical styles to suit all tastes - there is bound to be something for everyone.

Folk Festival

The biggest event on the calendar will be the Folk Festival, held over three days from Friday 3rd September to Sunday 5th September 2004.

It will be a super event for all the family featuring traditional folk acts, including the Pobargs, Gojo Music, Crag Band, Brackenrigg, Bisiker and Ward, Dave Tighe, Nigel Bullock, The Ben Drummond Project, Gary O' Dea, Isambarde, Will Morgan and The Bushburys.

Also keeping visitors entertained over the course of the weekend will be morris dancers, a real ale bar, refreshments, children's entertainers and craft stalls.

Why not come for the weekend or pitch a tent and stay the night! Tickets cost £3.50 per car per day and £3.50 per tent/caravan or motorised caravan per night.



Summer Concert Series

The concerts provide an ideal opportunity to visit the park on a Sunday afternoon for a picnic or walk and spend your time enjoying the variety of quality music in ideal surroundings.

All the concerts are FREE to attend and take place on the purpose built performance area.

Here's the line up:

For more information please contact Richard Heighway on 01902 696532, r.heighway@sstaffs.gov.uk or view www.sstaffs.gov.uk/baggeridge

Barn owls flying high in South Staffordshire

One of our best-loved, but also much-threatened birds is making a dramatic comeback in South Staffordshire.

Numbers of barn owls in the district are increasing again, thanks to positive action to help them breed and thrive.

Further measures, fully supported by the Council, include restoring habitats and placing nestboxes in strategic positions, which should help the owls still further.

The population of barn owls, though, has declined alarmingly during the last 60 years, but YOU can help to restore this beautiful - and useful - night predator to its former glory.

Recording

One important aspect, according to birdlife experts is to record sightings of Barn Owls in the area. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has a special recording card for the purpose.

Do you have suitable land or a building where a nest box could be

placed? Or can you help the Trust to construct Barn Owl nest boxes? If so the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust would like to hear from you.

In September, the Trust's local Group is organising a nest box workshop. Participants will be

guided through the construction of the nest boxes supported by a qualified instructor and using full workshop facilities. All materials will be provided.

If you can help by recording sightings, have suitable land or a building to offer or would like to attend the workshop please telephone Keith Elder on (07785) 732139.



Council's financial lifeline for Citizens' Advice Bureau

South Staffordshire's Citizen's Advice service has been secured for the next four years - thanks to a £170,000 funding package from the Council.

The cash will help the Citizen's Advice Bureau continue to provide its excellent service to local residents.

Further support is being provided by the County Council and Parish Councils, in whose areas the outlets are located.

Cllr Brian Edwards, South Staffordshire Council's Deputy Leader (Support Services) said: "I am very pleased that we have been able to continue to invest in the CAB as we have done since its inception in April, 2000, when the Bureau was set up as a wholly independent bureau dedicated to providing a first class

advice service for the people of South Staffordshire.

"The CAB continues to provide a valuable service which is much appreciated by our residents and this latest commitment will increase the Council's total investment in the Bureau since April, 2000, to just over £314,000 by the end of the new funding arrangement".

The Council's backing has been welcomed by Ena Ray, Chairman of South Staffordshire Citizens Advice Bureau: "The Citizens Advice Bureau is delighted that the Council has felt able not only to continue but to increase its investment in the Bureau which will enable it to continue to provide an excellent advice service to the residents of South Staffordshire through its outlets at Cheslyn Hay, Kinver, Penkridge, Perton, and Wombourne".

Advice can be sought at any of the following outlets :

Monday	- The Civic Centre, Wombourne	9.30am - 12.30pm	Tel: 01902 897757
Tuesday	- The Health Centre, Kinver	9.30am - 12.30pm	Tel: 01384 872999
Wednesday	- The Village Hall, Cheslyn Hay	10.00am - 4.00pm	Tel: 01922 413338
	- The Community Centre, Perton	9.30am - 12.30pm 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Tel: 01902 745667
Thursday	- The Haling Dene Centre, Penkridge	9.30am - 12.30pm	Tel: 01785 716767
Friday	- The Civic Centre, Wombourne	9.30am - 12.30pm	Tel: 01902 897757

Clock ticking on Budget Countdown

South Staffordshire Council's finance experts are already beaver away to work out the authority's budget for NEXT year - 2005/2006.

Although the final budget proposals will not be adopted until March next year, the countdown has begun.

The Council will shortly set a budget timetable which will give all interested parties, especially local residents, the chance to have their say.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy will look ahead over the next five years, so the Council wants to know what matters to you when it prepares its budgets.

The timetable and an update on the latest background information to the Council's budget proposals will be included in the Autumn edition of the REVIEW. The information will also be posted on the Council's website: www.sstaffs.gov.uk

If you wish to be consulted/receive further information on the budget process you can register your interest by :-

- Contacting the Head of Accountancy and Financial Services, Phil Cooper, on (01902) 696607 or by email to p.cooper@sstaffs.gov.uk

- Writing to:

Budget Consultation,
South Staffordshire Council,
FREEPOST MID21881
Codsall,
NR WOLVERHAMPTON
South Staffordshire.
WV8 1BR

- Email to:

budgetconsultation@sstaffs.gov.uk

- Fax to:

(01902) 696136

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN

2004/2005

South Staffordshire Council has produced another first rate performance on services that is sure to keep its customers happy.

The Council's fifth annual Best Value Performance Plan - to be published this Summer - will show that many of the targets have been met and in some cases exceeded by a good margin!

The Plan, a key part of the Council's performance management programme, outlines how well the wide range of services are being provided and measures this performance against other local authorities across the whole of England. It also sets out the Council's targets for the next two years.

Once again, South Staffordshire Council has done very well, as the following examples will show:

Baggeridge Country Park has retained its Green Flag status for the fifth year in succession,

The target for land and highway cleanliness has been exceeded by 36.7%,

The amount of rubbish sent to landfill has been reduced by 4.9%, (compare that with the national trend of an increase in 3% of rubbish being sent to landfill sites!)

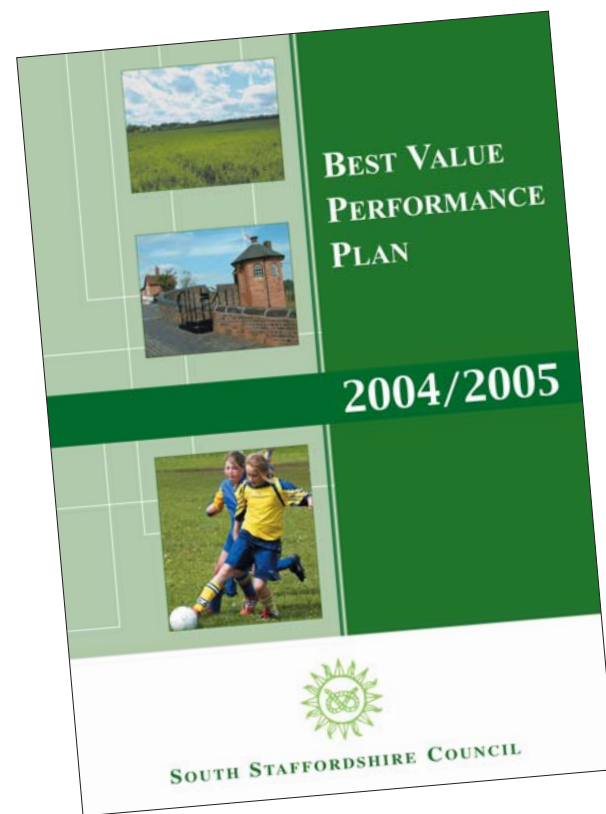
100% of complaints about unauthorised tree felling and hedgerow removal have been investigated within 5 days,

96% of residents surveyed are satisfied with the refuse collection service,

The amount of new buildings being built on previously developed land has risen from 23% (2002/2003) to 81% (2003/2004),

100% of all council buildings are accessible to all members of the community,

Vehicle crime has dropped by 13.4%.



If you want to know more about this year's Best Value performance Plan, contact Kieran Smith, Corporate Policy Officer on (01902) 696537 or email k.smith@sstaffs.gov.uk

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL WEBSITE QUESTIONNAIRE

Can you help us to improve South Staffordshire Council's Website so that we can make it easier for you to use?



www.sstaffs.gov.uk

Name

Address

 Postcode

Telephone

1. How often do you visit the South Staffordshire Council website?

- Every day
- Several times a week
- Once a week
- Once a month
- Less than once a month

2. What is your main reason for using this website?

Please state.

3. How easy do you think the website is to use?

- Very easy Quite easy
- Not easy Difficult

4. If you answered difficult for the question above, please give reasons below:

5. What part of the website do you use the most?

- Council Services
- Council Forms
- What's On!
- Councillor Details
- Other - please specify

6. How did you first hear about the South Staffordshire Council website?

- Search Engine
- Recommendation from friend/colleague
- Advertisement
- Council literature

7. How likely are you to:

Definitely Maybe Never

- Return to this website
- Recommend this website

8. What would you most like to see improved on this website?

9. What changes or added features would you like to see on this website?

10. Is there any information you have tried to find on the website but couldn't?

Please give details.

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey. Please post your form to:

Chris Phillips
 Information Technology Services
 South Staffordshire Council
 FREEPOST MID21881
 CODSALL
 NR WOLVERHAMPTON
 South Staffordshire
 WV8 1BR

or email: c.phillips@sstaffs.gov.uk

No stamp is required.

LOCAL BUILDINGS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE



Unlisted cottages



Village well



Old Post Office name



House name in wall



Electricity cable marker

South Staffordshire Council has set out to draw up a list of the District's own architectural 'treasures' - and residents are being asked to put forward nominations.

The buildings to be listed may not meet national criteria for preservation, but they are important to the people of South Staffordshire as well as being attractive and interesting in their own right.

They may add to the local street scene, be built in a distinctive local style, or have a particular connection with a well-known local person or event.

Although buildings or structures on the local list will not be protected in the same way as nationally listed ones are, by being locally listed, there will be some recognition of their importance so that informed decisions can be taken about what happens to them.

Three grades of local listing will be used:

Grade I

Buildings close to the national criteria, to be put forward for statutory listing when an opportunity presents itself, or when their future is imminently threatened.

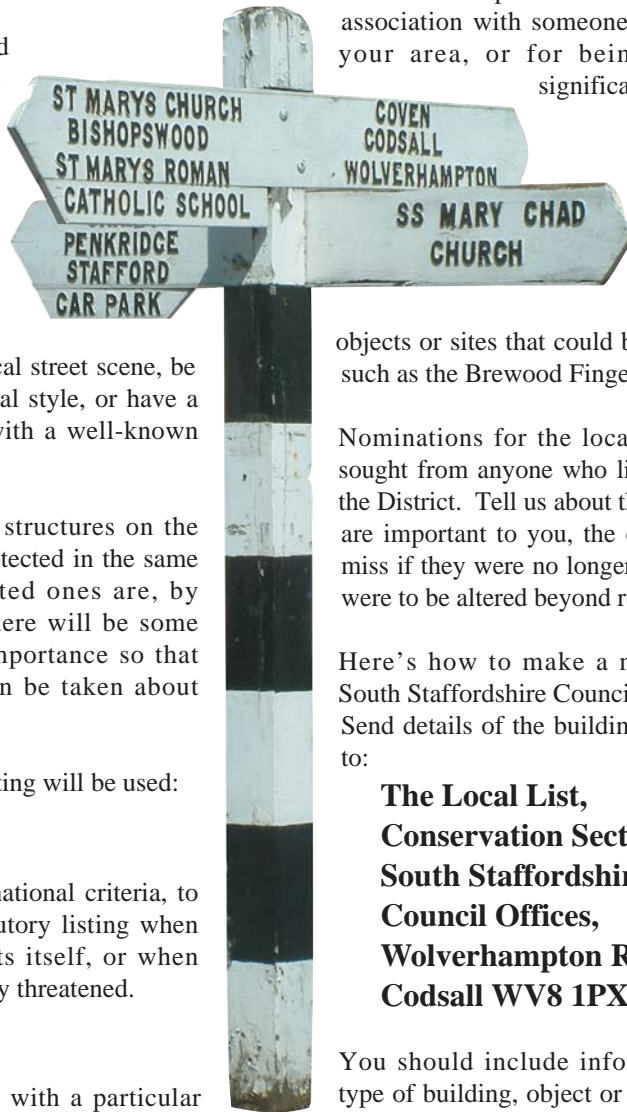
Grade II

Buildings or structures with a particular local character or style that have a special significance to people through their contribution to their locality, or to the street or rural scene, and which warrant steps to be taken to ensure their retention.

Grade III

Buildings or structures with a special local importance through their association with events or people that are important to the history and development of a village or area, and which are thus worthy of retention.

The Council is asking for nominations for buildings, objects or sites which survive as a reminder of times past in your village or area. Most will need to be in either their original 'as built' condition, or as close as possible, but they could also be important through a strong association with someone well-known in your area, or for being the site of significant local events.



Featured on this page are some examples of the kinds of buildings,

objects or sites that could be locally listed, such as the Brewod Finger Post (left).

Nominations for the local list are being sought from anyone who lives or works in the District. Tell us about the buildings that are important to you, the ones you would miss if they were no longer there or if they were to be altered beyond recognition.

Here's how to make a nomination for South Staffordshire Council's local list: Send details of the building, object or site to:

The Local List, Conservation Section, South Staffordshire Council, Council Offices, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall WV8 1PX.

You should include information on the type of building, object or site (e.g. house, shop, pillar box, etc.), its address or location, plus as much information as you have on its age, function, and its significance to you and your locality. Photographs would also be useful.

There is no deadline for nominations, but there is also no reason to delay!



Drinking trough



Electricity switch house



Old lamp-post



Victorian Postbox



Cyclists Tourist Club sign



Unlisted house



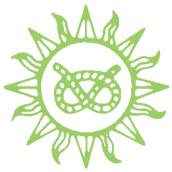
Hitching post



Boot scraper



Unlisted almshouse



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REVIEW



Souvenir book celebrates Council's 30th anniversary

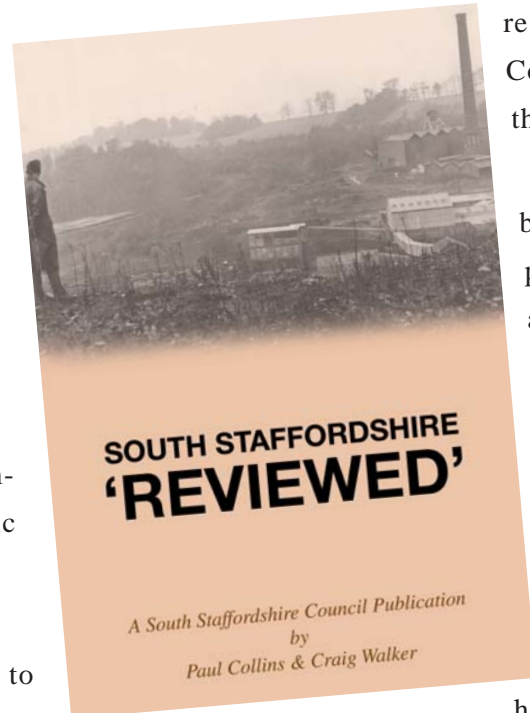
A souvenir book commemorating South Staffordshire Council's 30th Anniversary will be published this Autumn.

With more than 250 never before published photographs, over 144 pages, the book, *South Staffordshire Reviewed*, will provide the first-ever wholly comprehensive historical photographic survey of South Staffordshire.

The last issue of the Council's newspaper Review was dedicated to the authority's 30 years service to the community but for those who want a lasting souvenir of the occasion, the book is a must!

Drawn from the Council's extensive photographic archive, some of which was inherited from its predecessor authorities, South Staffordshire Reviewed will cover the entire district parish-by-parish from north to south.

The Council's photographs will be augmented by images from both Wolverhampton Archives and Staffordshire Past Track, an amazing online

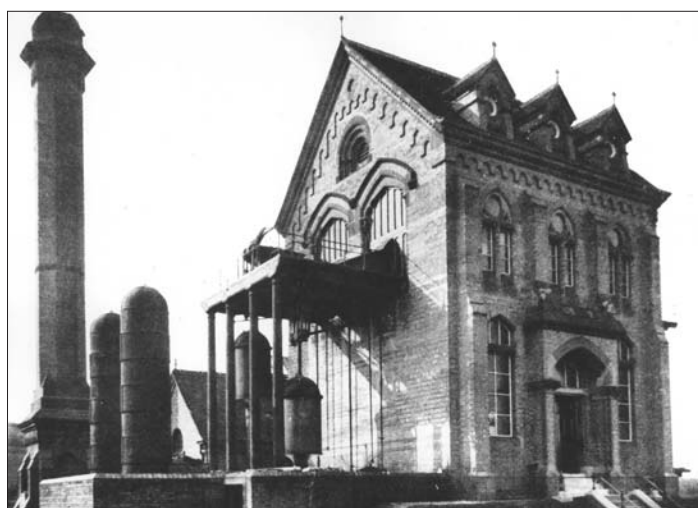


resource set up by Staffordshire County Council with support from the New Opportunities Fund.

South Staffordshire Reviewed will be the Council's first book to be published. It is being compiled and written by Dr Paul Collins, a historian and archaeologist who works for the Council part-time as a Conservation & Tourism Officer, and by Craig Walker, the Council's Graphics Technician, who has designed the book.

Dr Collins has 13 books to his credit and is the winner of a prestigious literary award. Craig Walker has extensive design and graphics experience, including time spent in magazine publishing.

Priced at just £4.99, *South Staffordshire Reviewed* will be published this autumn.



Above: Huntingdon Waterworks as originally built

If you have any photographs showing any aspect of life or history in South Staffordshire, Paul and Craig would like to hear from you.

They can be contacted on (01902) 696425; by e-mail:

p.collins@sstaffs.gov.uk

or

c.walker@sstaffs.gov.uk;

or by post:

Paul Collins/Craig Walker,
'South Staffordshire Reviewed',
Council Offices,
Wolverhampton Road,
Codsall,
South Staffordshire.
WV8 1PX.

Left:
The Stewpony Hotel with
Kinver tram



EXAM SUCCESS!



Lynn Hall and Cllr Roy Wright congratulate Emma Smith on her success.

A South Staffordshire Employee has won two national awards for her performance in professional examinations.

Emma Smith, a Team Leader in Benefits Services, received the National Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) examination prize for "outstanding performances" in Human Resource Management and Welfare Benefits.

She was presented with her awards at a national conference dinner in Bournemouth.

After completing a total of four years of study at Dudley College of Technology, Emma is now a Corporate Member of the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation.

She has previously received an award for outstanding performance in The Law of Property.

"The training helps me in carrying out my current work with the Council and in my career progression", said Emma.

"I was thrilled at receiving these awards".

Councillor Roy Wright, Deputy Leader (Direct Services) at South Staffordshire Council, said "On behalf of all her colleagues, I offer my congratulations to Emma. Emma is a key member of our Benefits Services team, and I wish her every success in the future".

For further information about careers in Housing Benefit work, contact Lynn Hall on (01902) 696640 or email her on l.hall@sstaffs.gov.uk



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

NOW OPEN

Saturday morning and Tuesday night

South Staffordshire's Solutions is South Staffordshire's contact centre based at the Council Offices, Codsall, and is open for help and advice regarding Council services including planning, benefits, council tax and concessionary travel.

Opening times are:

8.45am to 5.00pm - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
8.45am to 8.00pm - Tuesday
9.30am to 1.00pm - Saturday