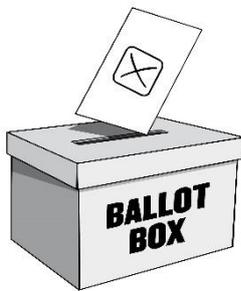


## News You Can Use on the Doorstep

### Leader's Monthly E-Newsletter for June

#### From the Leader of the Council

After the local elections and the county council by-election in Uttoxeter Town, with the election of our candidate David Brookes with an increased majority, it is now the time to look beyond the European Referendum towards the County Council elections in May 2017. It is also cause for celebration that Matthew Ellis was convincingly re-elected as our Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire.



We have everything to play for but it is quite obvious that we'll face a more sustained challenge from Labour next year than in 2013, now better organised under its new Group Leader and Deputy Leader. At the County Council annual meeting on May 19 Labour was much more co-ordinated than they had been at any time over the past four years with more of their members speaking instead of just the usual suspects. We cannot ignore fringe parties either—the Lichfield Greens may sound like a joke organisation but they caused a great deal of mischief by falsely representing in a “Save Our Library” petition signed by more than 5,000 people that the County Council planned to close the city centre library. The reality is that the library is being improved but is likely to move to another location.

Over the summer we also face the challenge of bringing on new prospective Conservative County Councillor candidates to stand in 2017 so they are well supported in their divisions. They will also need to gain knowledge about their strategic role as county councillors given the need to better integrate health and social care, improve safeguarding of children in the care of the authority, and ensure that our schools are well supported throughout the county.

And now to more immediate matters. May was a big month for the future of the county's economy with ground-breaking plans being put into action. With Cabinet colleagues we have agreed a commitment to deliver three more major business development projects that will potentially create thousands of jobs.

The go-ahead means we can begin designing for the delivery of construction work at Keele University Science and Innovation Park and infrastructure work at Chatterley Valley near Newcastle-under-Lyme and at the former Royal Ordnance factory site in Featherstone, South Staffordshire.

This is a thrilling step forward for Staffordshire's economy and more evidence of our wider commitment to increase the number of better paid jobs in an area with near full employment. We are taking the initiative now to invest in our business future and create the opportunities for skills and productivity to thrive. We have already been directly involved in £250 million worth of investment in the past five years and this is the kind of commitment that will put money in Staffordshire people's pockets in the long term. I cannot wait to see these projects get under way.



In Burton, two major proposals also moved a step forward as plans for the first new secondary school in the county for 25 years received backing from planning officials. At the same time a new primary school for the town has also been given the go ahead, meaning work can get underway within the next few months.

Burton is booming and the population is increasing, and with such growth comes extra pressure on school places. But by taking a long-term view and working with parents, pupils, schools and planning departments we can maximise the resources we have available to us to ensure all children growing up in Burton now and in the future can get the very best start in life. Although it still needs the final go-ahead, the new High School will lead to the construction of a £25 million 1,400 place school due to open in September 2018. The 420-place primary school, to be built at Henhurst Ridge in Burton, will open in September 2017 for reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils. It's an exciting time for families in Burton.

Philip Atkins

Leader of the Council

### **Cabinet Reshuffle as Cllr Mike Lawrence Stands Down**

The Leader of the Council has reshuffled his cabinet team as Mike Lawrence has decided to stand down from his role as he is not seeking re-election in 2017. He has been replaced as Cabinet Member for Children and Young People by Cllr Mark Sutton. The Leader of the Council praised Mike Lawrence for his hard work and commitment to his portfolio.



The other Cabinet members include Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Matters Ian Parry; Cabinet Member for Health Care and Wellbeing Alan White; Cabinet Support Member for Social Care and Wellbeing David Loades; Cabinet Member for Economic Growth Mark Winnington; Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport Mark Deaville; Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Gill Heath and Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills Ben Adams.

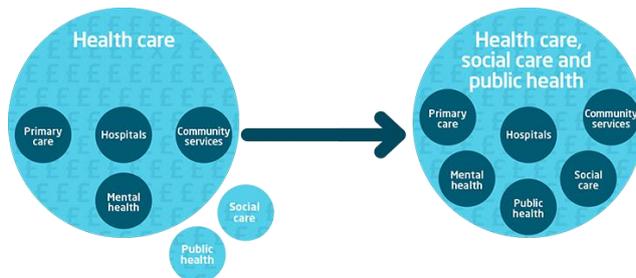
## County Council Works with Government on Cost of Social Care

Staffordshire County Council is in talks with government civil servants about managing the increased cost of social care and the loss of income last year from the Better Care Fund (BCF).

The Leader of the Council told the AGM: "In the fourth quarter budget monitoring report update in my statement, I detail pressures last year related to the loss of income from the BCF.



"We entered into a three-year agreement with Staffordshire's Clinical Commissioning Groups on how we would work together, and through the BCF, transfer money from the NHS to support adult social care to reduce demand on the wider health and care system. The pressures we faced continue into the new financial year (2016-17), and with our CCGs, we are in discussion with Government to find a suitable way forward.



"In recent years, the county council has put significantly more money into social care, and looked to find new and better ways of joining up health and social care services in Staffordshire to help people lead healthier and more independent lives for longer. This work will continue. However, while we continue to discuss

the BCF with our health partners and government, as part of our continuing good financial control, we have asked managers to look again at their own budgets, and ensure we are only spending where absolutely necessary.

"Some key questions are really around whether more money is the answer to the challenges of social care. And if it is, how much more is needed and for what exactly. Some analysts argue that NHS delayed discharges are the canary in the coal mine. So we have a system generally in retreat when it needs to be going fast forward to meet the demands of an ageing population."



However, the County Council is doing well on managing the cost of looked after children and expensive placements with recent savings of £2 million although Staffordshire does have 53 unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The council has also achieved £1.4 million on Education and Wellbeing savings.

## Realising the Value of Partnerships

The county council remains committed to working with all its partners here in Staffordshire, regionally and nationally to help grow the economy and deliver better jobs, help give children the best start in life, support more people to lead healthier, active, independent lives and, crucially, support those who need our help the most with the resources available.

Among the key partnerships are Midlands Engine which complements the 'Northern Powerhouse' concept first introduced by George Osborne two years ago; Midlands Connect—the transport partnership for the Midlands Engine; HS2 where the county needs to ensure that HS2 brings economic benefit to Staffordshire; Northern Gateway Partnership—the county council is engaged with Northern Gateway Partnership which covers a geographical area centred on the proposed HS2 station at Crewe; West Midlands Rail Franchise and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.



## Lichfield Will Benefit from Library Relocation Plans

Proposals to safeguard two historic buildings and open a new and improved library in the heart of Lichfield City have been debated by the County Council after a 5,562 signature petition led by the Burntwood Green Party was received. The council's plan which has been reviewed by Scrutiny Committee members is to move the city's library from its current home at the Friary to the ground floor of St Mary's in the Market Square.



Ben Adams, Staffordshire County Council cabinet member responsible for Libraries, said that the proposal for a 30-year lease at St Mary's is in everyone's interests. He said: "St Mary's is in the middle of the city, has good ground floor access and has space for a good stock of books and the many other services our libraries provide. No decision has yet been taken, but talks with the Guild of St Mary's, which operates the building, and the Lichfield Diocese, which owns the building, are progressing well."

He added: "If this move is approved it will allow the Friary, which needs more than £1 million of repairs, to be given a new lease of life; St Mary's will have a long term tenant with guaranteed income; and the cost to the county council of providing a first class library for the people of Lichfield will be halved."

Speaking earlier to the press Cllr Helen Fisher, Cabinet Member for Tourism at Lichfield District Council and member of the Lichfield City Centre Development Partnership, said: "It would be fantastic if this proposal to move the library into St Mary's could become reality. Both the council and City Centre Development Partnership would welcome such a project that would inject new life into the centre and increase the vibrancy of the heritage heart of the city, which is so important to local shops and businesses."

## Welcoming Community Management of Libraries

Two libraries at Barton and Werrington have already transferred to community management and another nine will follow in the coming weeks all of which have trained volunteers. Leader of the Council Philip Atkins told the council AGM: "It is important to emphasise that these community libraries are still very much part of Staffordshire's library community. They will have access to all the stock and IT network, while the authority remains responsible for agreed utility and maintenance costs, but each has the freedom to decide how much it wants to develop and remain relevant to the community it is based in.

"As we all know, the way people use libraries has changed considerably with the huge rise in ebooks, for example, and we have had to adapt to meet these modern day needs of library users. Rather than close libraries, we have opened up doors to communities."

## County Council Defends its Record on Filling Potholes

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport Mark Deaville has defended the county council's record on filling potholes after a scare campaign by Labour over recent weeks. He told the county council that the Department of Transport's annual report on road condition data confirms that Staffordshire's busiest roads have been in the top quartile for overall condition since 2012. "Our crews repair around 18,000 defects of all kinds every year," said Mark Deaville. "Each one whether in the carriageway, footway or verge is inspected and prioritised in accordance with its location, size and potential risk to public safety. Any that pose an immediate risk are dealt with as a priority, usually within 24 hours.



"Those defects not considered high risk to public safety are grouped together with similar works in the area. Currently over 50 per cent of these repairs take place within 60 days."

## Marking a Year to Remember in Staffordshire Sport

It looks like 2016 could be a year to remember for sport in Staffordshire. This year Stafford Rangers led the way by winning its league, followed by Burton Albion defying the odds to win promotion to the soccer Championship. Philip Atkins commented that this was "great for the team and great for the Staffordshire economy" and added that "we will be welcoming Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest, Derby County, Birmingham City, and Wolverhampton Wanderers and their supporters to Staffordshire in the coming season."



"Closer to home on 11 and 12 June Staffordshire will once again host both IRONKIDS and IRONMAN 70.3. The weekend is a fantastic opportunity to not only welcome athletes and supporters, but to showcase what a wonderful county Staffordshire is as a place to live, work and play."

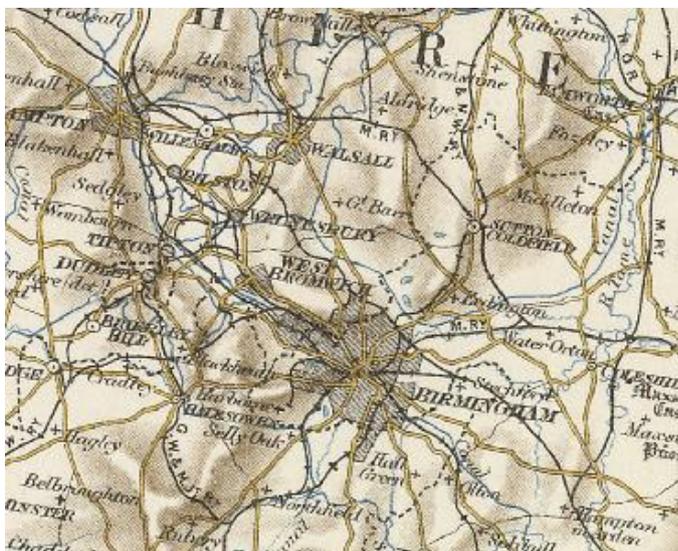
## Uncovering the Hidden History of Cannock Chase

Anyone who has visited Cannock Chase will appreciate the breath taking scenery and countryside but lesser known is that it also has one of the best preserved Great War training landscapes in the country. Now a new project to uncover the hidden history of the area is underway.



The ‘Chase through Time’ project will help archaeologists to find possible lost treasures beneath the vegetation, including prehistoric burial mounds, remnants of a medieval hunting forest and many missing Great War model and practice trenches, such as the Messines model trench that was excavated a few years ago to much international interest.

Philip Atkins says: “Now, using state-of-the-art technology, we hope we will find all of this without disturbing an inch of the Chase’s landscape. LIDAR – light-detection-and-ranging – technology attached to an aircraft has been used to survey the area, using a barrage of lasers to detect the layout of the land underneath the bracken and trees. The team will then examine the images to identify areas of interest. As the project continues, old photos of the Chase will become increasingly important to help us piece together the story, so please get in touch with the team if you think you can help.



“This isn’t the only project delving into Staffordshire’s history. Tithe maps of the 1840s are often the earliest detailed maps of parishes and provide a snapshot of life in the county at that time. They show houses, roads, footpaths, fields, woods, churches and the basis of the parishes and towns of Staffordshire as we know them today. The maps will also come with records showing the names of the owner and occupier in each plot, which can be valuable knowledge to someone researching their family history.

“The project to digitise the maps is being led by Friends of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archives whose volunteers have been working on the project for over seven years now. They hope to have the maps available digitally from Record Offices and libraries soon.”

## First Ever Staffordshire Day Gains Massive Public Support



Residents certainly showed their community spirit when they turned out to celebrate everything that is great about the county on our first ever Staffordshire Day on May 1 with dozens of events taking place across Staffordshire. The day was a huge success and saw thousands of people turn out to share their pride and show what great things the county has to offer.

Mark Winnington said: "It was great to see so many of our top tourism attractions along with local communities get involved, finding their own exciting way to mark the day. Stone-based Limestone Brewery even brewed a special Staffordshire Day ale for the celebrations.

"To capture a flavour amongst the many events was a death-defying tightrope walk across Rudyard Lake as part of the 'A day at the lake' arts event. The Alton Towers Resort gave half-price entry to everyone who showed a photo of them eating an oatcake. And, at World of Wedgwood in Barlaston people celebrated the best of local produce with their 'Staffordshire Day food festival'.



"It really was a wonderful day, with more events at Norbury Canal Festival, the National Brewery Centre, National Memorial Arboretum, Cannock Museum and Lichfield Cathedral. I would like to thank everyone who turned out to join in the celebrations including lots of smaller community groups who put on their own events. We'll now be looking ahead to next year's Staffordshire Day and how we can make it even more special."

**Her Majesty the Queen gave a One Nation Queen's Speech from a One Nation Government. Using the opportunity of a strengthening economy to deliver security for working people, increase life chances for the most disadvantaged and strengthen our national security.**



### **Deliver security for working people**

This is the next step in our long-term economic plan for our country. Whether it is continuing to bring the public finances under control so that Britain lives within its means; delivering the infrastructure that British business needs to carry on creating jobs; making our country a world leader in the digital economy; spreading prosperity across our country and building a Northern Powerhouse; or supporting aspiration by promoting home

ownership, this is a Queen's Speech that delivers on the Government's promise of providing security at every stage of people's lives.

- **Digital Economy Bill.** This Bill will modernise our climate for enterprise, making sure Britain remains at the forefront of the global 21<sup>st</sup> century economy so that our businesses continue to create jobs and our families remain financially secure. It will give every household a legal right to a fast broadband connection and new laws to help roll out faster broadband and better mobile networks.
- **Modern Transport Bill.** This Bill will put Britain at the forefront of the modern transport revolution, so that we create new jobs and fuel economic growth around the country. It will include legislation to enable the future development of the UK's first commercial spaceports and new laws to make the UK ready to pioneer driverless cars.
- **Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill.** This Bill will reform planning and give local communities more power and control to shape their own area. That means we can build more houses and give everyone who works hard the chance to buy their own home.
- **Local Growth and Jobs Bill.** This Bill will be the biggest change in local finance for decades, giving local authorities full control of the money they raise through business rates, so they can attract business and investment to their local areas. It will include a transfer of up to £13 billion to councils through allowing them to retain 100 per cent of the business rates they collect.

### **Increase life chances for the most disadvantaged**

At the heart of the Queen's Speech are bold reforms that tackle some of the deepest social problems in our country and remove all barriers to opportunity. Giving children in care the best possible start in life, reforming our prisons; transforming the education system, and helping people save – this is a Queen's Speech aimed at giving everyone in our country the chance to get on.

- **Children and Social Work Bill.** This Bill aims to tackle state failure and transform the outcomes of children in care, so that we give all of them the hope of a better life. It will include changes to the considerations that courts must take into account in adoption decisions, tipping the balance in favour of permanent adoption where that is the right thing for the child, and a new system of regulating social workers.
- **Education for All Bill.** This Bill is the next phase of our transformation of education, extending the principles of freedom and accountability across the country so that we encourage excellence everywhere and give every child the best start in life. It will include new laws to expand the academies programme in the poorest performing local authority areas and a new funding formula to deliver fair funding for every school and pupil in the country.
- **Higher Education and Research Bill.** This Bill introduces the biggest supply-side reforms to the higher education sector for a quarter of a century, so that we open

more universities and give more young people – from all backgrounds – the opportunity to go to university. It will include measures to make it easier for new high quality universities to open and new requirements on all universities to publish detailed information about applications, offers and progression rates to put a spotlight on social mobility.

- **Prisons and Courts Reform Bill.** This Bill represents the biggest reform of our prisons since Victorian times, ensuring they are not just a place of punishment but also rehabilitation, so everyone has the chance to get on the right track. It will include new powers for prison governors to allow them unprecedented levels of control over all aspects of prison management.
- **Lifetime Savings Bill.** This Bill helps people to save and make plans for the future, so we build the financial resilience and security of people across the country – especially the young and those on low incomes. It will include the new Help to Save scheme and a new Lifetime ISA for young people.
- **National Citizen Service Bill.** This Bill will see the expansion of the Government’s hugely successful National Citizen Service so more young people can mix with people of other backgrounds, and learn what it means to serve their community.

### **Strengthen our national security**

The first duty of Government is to keep our country safe. So this is a Queen’s Speech that invests in Britain’s armed forces, secures the long-term future of our nuclear deterrent and gives our security and intelligence agencies the powers they need to keep us safe.

- **Bill of Rights.** This Bill will support and reinforce Britain’s long-standing commitment to human rights and restore common sense to the way human rights law is applied. It will include measures to reform and modernise the UK human rights framework, and protections against abuse of the system and misuse of human rights laws.
- **Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill.** This Bill gives law enforcement agencies new powers to protect vulnerable people – including children – from those who seek to brainwash them with extremism propaganda, so we can build a stronger society around our shared liberal values of tolerance and respect.
- **Criminal Finances Bill.** This Bill will cement the UK’s leading role in the fight against international corruption, cracking down on money laundering and people profiting from crime, so that we root out corruption. It will include a new criminal offence for corporations that fail to stop staff facilitating tax evasion.
- **Policing and Crime Bill.** This Bill is the next phase in our reform of the police, reforming out-of-date complaints and disciplinary procedures, so we increase public confidence in the people who keep us safe. It will include a new duty to collaborate on all three emergency services, to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Investigatory Powers Bill.** This Bill will fill holes in our security apparatus so that we give law enforcement agencies the tools they need to protect the public in the digital age, while building confidence in the public that powers are operated sensibly.