



Newsletter



*The officers of
Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation
would like to wish
all our members and supporters a
very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

Stafford Station Gateway Project receives £20 million of Government Funding



Stafford MP Theo Clarke has told of her delight that the Stafford Station Gateway project has received £20 million from the government's Levelling Up Fund.

The Levelling up secretary of state Michael Gove was invited to Stafford by Theo to announce the money this morning (20th November). The scheme failed in the last round of bids but Theo has worked hard with ministers to ensure it was awarded the cash from the round 3 pot. The scheme will bring back into use underutilised land around the station and it includes 900 homes, 30,000sq ft of commercial space and a hotel.

The work will complement other government investment in the Shire Hall and through the Future High Street Fund that is already transforming the town centre.

"I am absolutely delighted this money has been awarded to the borough council to ensure this project will have spades in the ground backed by this substantial funding to ensure it is high-quality and successful," said Theo.

"It has been a long road to get to this point following the disappointment of last year but I have never given up. I worked to understand the reasons why the last bid fell at the last hurdle and I met with two levelling up ministers to make the case that government money levelling up money could be put to good use here in Stafford. I would like to thank the secretary of state, the levelling up minister Jacob Young and his predecessor Dehenna Davison for working with me on this scheme. It will make a huge difference to our town."

Michael Gove said: "I am delighted to be in Stafford with Theo Clarke MP to announce this major investment from round 3 of the Levelling Up Fund. Theo has campaigned tirelessly to help secure nearly £20 million to transform the station area of Stafford, and today her hard work has paid off. She is a brilliant advocate for her constituents and I look forward to working with her and the local council to deliver this project for the people of Stafford."

More information can be found at <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/stafford-station-gateway>

Theo Clarke MP welcomes Farming Minister to Winter Fair

MP Theo Clarke was joined by the farming minister this weekend during the English Winter Fair at the Staffordshire County Showground.

Mark Spencer and Mrs Clarke met with the chief executive of County Showground Richard Williams and saw some livestock judging. Later the pair met Staffordshire NFU local members for a private roundtable chaired by Mrs Clarke. They then walked around the fair to meet exhibitors from all over the country who come to the nationally important agricultural show.



The minister was invited by Mrs Clarke to see the event and meet with local farmers to discuss a range of issues.

“I would like to thank the minister for taking the time to come to our wonderful show, to meet with local people who organised it and with our local farmers,” said Mrs Clarke.

“It is important ministers speak to and listen to Stafford’s farmers about agricultural and farming issues. I was pleased so many came to speak with the minister about their views and experiences.”

Mark Spencer said: “Great to see some prize-winning livestock at the English Winter Fair and to speak directly to local farmers about the challenges and opportunities in the industry and how government can help. Thanks to Theo for inviting me.”

Theo Clarke MP visits Newly Refurbished Market Square

On Saturday 28th October, I attended the official opening of the newly refurbished Market Square, following the government awarding £14.3 million to make it happen. I was delighted to support the borough council’s bid for the money from Future High Street Fund that will transform town centre.

The redevelopment complements the newly reopened and historic Shire Hall that I raised £1.6 million to fund the refurbishment work. The new Market Square is a vote of confidence in Stafford and I am delighted the work is finished and residents can now benefit.



It is a moment of celebration and I believe it will help with a renaissance of Stafford’s town centre and High Street as businesses and visitors are attracted by these redevelopments.

But this is only the first phase and there is more to come as town centre is further improved in years to come using this Future High Street Fund.

Thanks must go to previous Conservative administration of the council for winning this government money.

Ms Clarke is pictured with Stafford Borough Mayor, Cllr Andy Cooper and Mrs Judy Cooper.

Gavin Combats Anti-Social Behaviour in Local Parks

Sir Gavin Williamson has recently met with South Staffordshire District Council to address anti-social behaviour in and around Cavans Wood and Shoal Hill Common.

Sir Gavin has engaged in discussions with the Council, Forestry England and the local police relating to the recent spate of disruptive behaviour, in particular the influx of off-road bikes into the restricted area, as well as the disposal of waste and non-recyclables into the park. Locals have been rightfully frustrated about the lack of care and respect given to their communal parks and the wildlife which lives within them.



All were unanimous in the decision to escalate the use of Section 54 ASB notices in order to clamp down on the issue. This should enable the local authorities the use of appropriate powers to seize equipment which is operating in restricted areas.

Sir Gavin said: “I’m really relieved by the results of today’s discussions, and hope to see the implementation of the Section 54 notices to positive effect. The unacceptable treatment of our communal areas and green spaces is something that I’m keen to get under control. By collaborating with the local authorities and local council, I’m pleased to say this issue should be resolved as soon as possible, and the people of South Staffordshire will be able to enjoy the value of Shoal Hill Common and Cavans Wood as untouched natural spaces.”

Gavin Takes Action Against Speed Racing

Sir Gavin Williamson has demanded action on concerns regarding road racing on the A449 near Coven, and has called on Staffordshire Police to get this under control.

Sir Gavin has been working with Staffordshire police to campaign for further legal restrictions on road racing. Local residents have been troubled by the street racing gatherings for some years, and a recent spate of crashes and speeding incidents in the area have expedited demands for something to be done. Sir Gavin has called for regular patrols and car cruising injunctions as a way to tackle the issue. A funding settlement for the police for the year 2023/2024 will total £17.2 billion, so it is hoped that the extra funding can be directed towards the issue.



Sir Gavin said: “I’ve been meeting with Staffordshire Police to prioritise the issue of street racing and to call for further legal measures that will deter those from joining street racing gatherings. Not only are they a source of anxiety for the nearby public, but they demonstrate dangerous and irresponsible driving that could cause real damage. I’ve listened to the concerns my constituents have voiced on stunt driving and will push for something to be done.”

Gavin Supports RSPCA Campaign

Sir Gavin Williamson has voiced his support for the work of the RSPCA in the face of puppy smuggling, live exports of animals, pet theft and livestock worrying.

Sir Gavin recently attended a parliamentary event to discuss possible improvements to animal welfare. The charity is pushing for changes in the laws regarding puppy smuggling, a cause which Sir Gavin has frequently lent his voice to. Where UK breeders are unable to meet demands for puppies, around 10 to 50% of dogs are imported illegally. Within these routes it is difficult to regulate health and welfare standards, and as such something must be done.



Sir Gavin said: "It was great to meet with the team from the RSPCA and discuss how to impose further regulations on the keep and trade of animals. I've always had a deep passion for animals and own dogs myself. I'm therefore keen to support the RSPCA's work and am in full support of their petition for a Bill which would regulate puppy imports and prevent the abuse inherent in the illegal dog trade."

Gavin Celebrates Re-opening of Local Rugby Club

Sir Gavin Williamson recently visited the Essington Rugby Club to attend the opening ceremony for their new facilities.

Sir Gavin met with the team to congratulate them on recently raising funds to improve the club house and grounds. Essington Rugby Club meets weekly for training sessions, as well as several social events throughout the month, providing a great sense of community for all those involved. The team greeted Sir Gavin with a plate to thank his attendance at the opening. Sir Gavin intended to attend a game between Essington Rugby Club and St Leonards RUFC, however, the game was cancelled due to the tragic loss of a St Leonard's player on the morning of the game.



Sir Gavin said: "It has been a real pleasure to meet with those at Essington Rugby, who have been dedicated to improving the facilities at the club, and have done a fabulous job. I'm always keen to support community sport endeavours, as it is so important to stay physically active at the same time as it is wonderful to have such a sociable team. The match due to occur between Essington Rugby and St Leonard's was cancelled due to the tragic loss of a St Leonard's player that morning. I'd like to offer his family and friends my deepest condolences at such a difficult time."

Essington Rugby said: "We at Essington Rugby Club were so pleased to be able to host Sir Gavin Williamson to our rugby club to open our refurbished toilets facilities. Essington Rugby Club President, David Brawn, said that more than 8,000 people visit the Rugby Club every year for Weddings, Birthdays and other celebrations as well as all the sporting activities that take place at the club."

LOCAL NEWS SNAPSHOT

Thousands join the party as Christmas Lights go on in Stafford

Live music, Father Christmas and a spectacular firework display made it the perfect countdown to Christmas as the lights were switched on in Stafford.

An estimated 12,000 people were in the town centre as the Mayor of Stafford Borough, Councillor Andy Cooper, flicked the switch to light up the skies and spark a firework display from the roof of the Guildhall in the Market Square.

The music and stars of this year's Stafford Gatehouse Theatre panto, 'Beauty and the Beast', kept families and shoppers entertained before the stage was set for the traditional countdown to the turning on of the lights.

The event took place in the recently refurbished Market Square and is seen as the perfect platform to showcase the county town as a great place for people to have their festive parties and do the Christmas shopping in the run up to the big day.

Throughout the day there were stalls, street theatre, and traditional fairground rides. The festive extravaganza is run by Freedom Leisure on behalf of the council.

After the lights and firework display, local band the Cartoon Kings returned for more live music to bring the curtain down on another successful switch on day.

The Mayor said, "It was amazing to see so many people in the county town - and what a great atmosphere. I hope everyone had a wonderful time. There is so much hard work that goes on behind the scenes and I want to thank all those involved for making this such a fantastic event.

There is a packed programme of other Christmas festivities taking place over the next few weeks in Stafford including the Christmas Market next Saturday (25th), the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church from Wednesday 6 December, the Festive Farmers' Market on Saturday 9 December and the Stafford Walking Street in the town centre on Thursday 14 December.


Stafford having a beauty of a treasure trail for Christmas

A host of prizes, including tickets to the panto, can be won in a special Christmas treasure trail in Stafford.

Around 30 town centre shops and businesses are taking part in the competition for people to hunt for roses - to coincide with this year's Stafford Gatehouse Theatre panto, Beauty and the Beast.

Children and families will be asked to find the numbered roses in and around the town centre - and, if they locate them all, will be in with a chance of winning some great prizes.

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LOCAL NEWS SNAPSHOT

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The fun initiative gets underway this week to coincide with the Christmas Lights being switched on in town on Saturday (18th) and will run until Sunday 10 December. It is a collaboration between Stafford Borough Council, the Gatehouse Theatre, Indoor Market and Town Centre Partnership and is one of several Christmas themed events taking place.

People can pick up entry forms from the Gatehouse Theatre, Indoor Market, and Albert's Café in Victoria Park as well as some local shops and eating out places.

Prizes will be drawn from Monday 11 December and includes tickets for the panto as well as restaurant and shop vouchers.

Along with the traditional lights switch on in the Market Square on Saturday (18 November), other town events include a Festive Farmers Market, Christmas in Victoria Park with Santa's Grotto, Christmas Through the Ages at the Ancient High House, the famous Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church and Stafford Walking Street.

Council say it with flowers for life saving charity in Stafford Borough

A floral tribute to mark the work of the Samaritans will take centre stage at award-winning parks in Stafford and Stone.

The flowers in the carpet beds at Victoria Park in Stafford and Stonefield Park in Stone will be designed to honour the charity which has been running for 70 years. The Samaritans were founded in November 1953 and have had a branch in Stafford for 60 years.

The beds in the park have previously commemorated major events - such as the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 and a tribute to the coronation of King Charles III this summer - as well as honouring the NHS, armed forces and several charities and organisations that do great work to benefit the borough.

The Samaritans has around 22,000 volunteers with more than 200 branches and locations across the UK and Ireland. They provide confidential and emotional support, in a range of ways, to those in need of a safe space to talk - and every 10 seconds the charity responds to a call for help.

At a meeting in September Stafford Borough Council unanimously agreed to plant a tree in Victoria Park to show appreciation for the work of the Samaritans.

LOCAL NEWS SNAPSHOT

Warm welcome rolled out across Stafford Borough

A network of venues will be made available this winter to keep residents in Stafford Borough warm as temperatures drop.

The scheme proved successful when it was rolled out last year with around 20 premises including village halls and community centres taking part.

Any organisation or group interested in joining in the warmer spaces initiative should contact WarmSpaces@staffordbc.gov.uk

Stafford Borough Council joined forces with Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust to create a series of 'Warm Spaces' that saw village halls, churches, and community centres open up as friendly, inviting places to help local people facing the cost-of-living crisis.

Potential venues will be given financial support towards some of their costs - which is being funded by Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT). The target is for the 'Warm Spaces' to be open at least twice a week for visitors until the end of March.

For more information on this scheme, and other support available for residents to help heat their homes, go to www.staffordbc.gov.uk/warm-spaces

Call for Stafford Borough Businesses to grab share of cash

Businesses in Stafford Borough are being urged to grab a share of a £240,000 pot. The money has come from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and is part of the government's Levelling Up agenda.

It has been earmarked to support small and medium rural businesses whose income is predominantly from sales to other businesses.

The money can be used in a variety of ways, such as improving a website, marketing campaign, or advertising new products - and already 20 local businesses have benefited from the fund.

The 'Rural Business to Business' fund is aimed at companies in rural areas looking to branch out to new markets or create new products and services - and where the sales to other businesses make up a minimum of 75 percent of their income.

One of the successful recipients was award winning film and media marketing company, Lilac Howell Films, who used a £5,000 grant to help purchase new equipment and expand their business. Lilac Howell Managing Director, Steve Cranston, said: "We are grateful for this funding from the borough council which has helped us purchase camera equipment as well as other technological equipment to develop our service."

LOCAL NEWS SNAPSHOT

Warning signs to put brakes on car cruisers in South Staffordshire

Signs warning against the anti-social use of vehicles have been installed along the A449 Stafford Road in South Staffordshire, as South Staffordshire Police continue to crackdown on street cruising.

The signs warn motorists that a Section 59 notice is in force. This gives our officers authority to seize vehicles being driven in an anti-social manner in the area.

They are located from the A449/M54 junction to the island junction with Brewood Road, on the north and southbound carriageways.

It comes after reports from residents of motorists gathering in groups late at night, driving at excess speeds, sounding horns, playing loud music and revving engines.

Leader of South Staffordshire Council, Councillor Roger Lees, said: “We are painfully aware of the nuisance and danger car cruising can pose for local residents.

“With this in mind, we are working hard alongside Staffordshire Police on the campaign work to deter car cruisers along the A449, the A460, and further afield. This includes the pursuit of a High Court Injunction in the area.

“We are also engaging with neighbouring authorities with a view to achieving a cross-border solution to car cruising.”


Pc Wayne Green, from the South Staffordshire LPT, said: “The Section 59 warning notices count as a first warning to motorists who drive in an anti-social manner.

“We are currently in the process of working on securing a High Court injunction, which if granted will forbid anyone from taking part in street cruising in the area, or from promoting it.

“Officers are gathering evidence by engaging with local residents whose lives are blighted by this illegal activity. The signs will serve as a deterrent and offer much-needed reassurance to the local community while we do this.

“Please be in no doubt; any motorist caught driving in an anti-social manner, or without due care and attention, will have their vehicle seized under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002.”

Section 59 signs will also be installed at the start of the M54, heading along the A460 Cannock Road towards Shareshill.



LOCAL NEWS SNAPSHOT

New scheme to champion business success in South Staffs

A new Government-backed programme, championing business success and prosperity in South Staffordshire, is set to officially launch later this month.

Enterprise in South Staffs will be launched at a showcase event at Codsall Community Hub on Tuesday, October 24th.

The programme, created by South Staffordshire Council, in partnership with Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Growth Hub, brings together inspiration and insight to give businesses in the district the opportunity to grow and thrive.

Enterprise in South Staffs has received £3.82 million from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with an additional £489,391 allocated to support the area's rural community and business infrastructure.

Cllr Victoria Wilson, South Staffordshire Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Business Enterprise and Community Infrastructure, said: "Through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Enterprise in South Staffs will offer a comprehensive programme of support for businesses in the district.

"It will encourage job creation, signpost businesses to funding opportunities and help strengthen local entrepreneurial ecosystems to drive forward networking and collaborative opportunities.

"The programme will also encourage innovation and help broaden the introduction of energy-efficient, low carbon technologies and techniques.


"Local businesses of all ages, sizes and from across all sectors are invited to the launch event, Access Enterprise in South Staffs, to hear more about this exciting new programme."

Access Enterprise in South Staffs will include a business marketplace with a variety of partner stalls exhibiting and refreshments available.

Guests will be welcomed to Codsall Community Hub from 9.30am on Tuesday, October 24th, with the business marketplace open from 10am to 1pm.

Joanne Kemp, Business Engagement Officer at Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Growth Hub, said: "The Access Enterprise in South Staffs event is a great opportunity for local businesses to come together for advice, support and networking opportunities.

"We are delighted to partner with South Staffordshire Council to deliver the programme and look forward to welcoming businesses to the launch event at Codsall Community Hub."



LOCAL NEWS SNAPSHOT

Support for businesses and working people welcomed by county council leader

Support for small businesses, working people and measures to help people with day-to-day cost of living challenges set out in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement have been welcomed by the leader of Staffordshire County Council Alan White.

Alan White said: We welcome measures outlined by the Chancellor which can help to put more money in people's pockets to meet daily living cost challenges, with the working population standing to benefit from changes

to both National Insurance contributions and an elevated living wage. This will make a difference to Staffordshire residents – where we have had long-term low unemployment and continue to generate numerous job vacancies. We'd again remind people to check our recently launched Staffordshire Jobs and Careers Service – matching their skills and experience to new employment or training.



Measures to enable businesses to increase productivity, with incentives to invest in their operations, leads to national and local economic growth and more employment opportunities. This is good news for Staffordshire where we're set to see more activity on our key development sites such as i54 in the coming months. We want to take advantage of further investment in clean energy industries – particularly the hydrogen technology sector which will be the focus of development along the A50/A500 corridor in future years.

And ongoing measures to support small businesses and the self-employed are particularly welcome here in Staffordshire where survival rate for start-ups is higher than the national average, and where we as a county council have established a hugely successful support programme for new and growing companies.”

Plans submitted for first all-through school in Staffordshire

A planning application has been submitted for the first all-through school to be built in Staffordshire.



If agreed, the school will be built on the former Rugeley Power Station site in Rugeley, owned by ENGIE, which is to be transformed into a sustainable and innovative neighbourhood.

The school will accommodate up to 420 primary and 750 secondary school pupils, as well as a 52 place nursery and 200 place sixth form.

As well as the all-through school, plans include a multi-use games area, sports pitches, sports hall and car parking.

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LOCAL NEWS SNAPSHOT

It will be run by the John Taylor Multi Academy Trust, which already runs a number of successful primary and secondary schools in Staffordshire.

Plans have been submitted by BAM Construct UK Ltd, who have been appointed by the Department for Education to construct the all-through school.

The Department for Education are funding the school as part of the government's Free Schools programme, along with a substantial contribution from ENGIE and contributions from Staffordshire County Council.

The school is scheduled to open its doors to both primary and secondary school pupils in September 2025 and will address the growing need for school places in Rugeley.

Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Education Jonathan Price said:

"After months of planning and negotiations, we have reached a crucial step in the development of this school. The next step will be gaining planning permission, before construction can start in earnest. I look forward to seeing the school take shape over the next couple of years.

"Building this school is incredibly important, as it means we can address pressures on school places locally and add much needed capacity in the area."

Mike Donoghue, Chief Executive Office of the John Taylor Multi Academy Trust said:

"John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust is delighted to be advised that significant progress toward the opening of Staffordshire's first all-through provision has been made. We are incredibly enthusiastic about the proposals, ambitious for the school as a centre of learning and engagement, and committed to delivering provision of which the community will be proud."

A spokesperson for ENGIE UK said:

"We are delighted that another important milestone has been reached in the next chapter of Rugeley Power Station's long history. The school is an integral part of the plans to transform the site into a sustainable and innovative community, and will be an important addition to the local educational provision.

"ENGIE, is pleased to have reached an agreement to provide the 7HA of land for the development of the school, along with its contribution to the school construction, road access and infrastructure to service the school."

LOCAL NEWS SNAPSHOT

More than 16,000 potholes repaired across Staffordshire so far this year

Staffordshire County Council is making good on its promise to fix more roads across the county with 16,308 pothole repair jobs completed so far.

A 'job' is, on average, two or three potholes at a time – meaning the number of potholes filled across the county is likely to be double or even triple that figure. In 2022, Staffordshire Highways filled 16,039 carriage-way potholes, significantly exceeding the national Local Authority average of 11,229. This year has already seen crews surpass their 2022 total.



Earlier this year, SCC announced an investment of £30 million into maintaining and improving the county's highways over the next two years. This is on top of the £5 million funding for road repairs and £4.8 million received from the Department for Transport's pothole fund.

Some of this money has been invested in groundbreaking AI technology that identifies and categorises potholes as well as innovative machinery, like the JCB Pothole Pro, to repair defects.

Two million pounds from the pothole fund has enabled county councillors to prioritise non-urgent nuisance potholes reported locally.

Staffordshire will additionally be receiving over £186 million of the £8.3 billion government investment into England's roads for the next 11 years. This funding became available following the cancellation of HS2 north of Birmingham.

Residents can report potholes on the county council's website, using the 'Report It' function. Repairs are then prioritised depending on the severity and dangerousness of the defect.

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at Staffordshire County Council, David Williams (pictured with a thermal road repairs machine), said:

"We inspect over 1,200 miles of roads and footways each month to check for safety defects because we know how important it is to keep our highways well maintained.

"These figures show that Staffordshire County Council is well above the national average when it comes to pothole repairs and it is something we are very proud of. On average, our crews fill a pothole every eight minutes.

"To deliver on our promise to fix more of our county's roads, we have invested £30 million on cutting edge technology, including use of artificial intelligence and the innovative JCB Pothole Pro, to detect and repair defects."

LOCAL NEWS SNAPSHOT

Staff and pupils celebrate official opening of their new school building

Staff and pupils at St Leonard's Primary school in Stafford have celebrated the 'official' opening of their new school building.

After outgrowing their previous Victorian building, St Leonard's has moved to the former Kingston Centre on Fairway, a five minute walk away.

The Centre—previously a school from 1939 to 1988—underwent a £4 million remodel and refurbishment over 36 weeks and was completed ready for the start of the Autumn Term.



Careful design meant the expanded school could be accommodated in the space without the need for extensions. The external space has also been remodelled and developed, with hard and soft play surfaces and a forest school.

Inside, the school now boasts modern teaching and non-teaching facilities, with the option to expand in the future to meet increased demand for pupil places from new housing developments in the area.

Added to this, the school is one of the most sustainable in the County with air source heat pumps, photovoltaic panels, hybrid heating / cooling air units, and insulated thermal ceiling tiles to reduce the carbon footprint of the building.

80 trees donated by the Woodland Trust were planted by pupils in the new grounds at the start of works. Bird and bat boxes have also been installed across the site, as well as bug hotels.

Midlands-based contractor G F Tomlinson and Entrust's architect and project manager worked with Staffordshire County Council to deliver the project.

Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Education Jonathan Price said: "With St Leonard's outgrowing its old premises and needing to ensure there are sufficient school places in the local area to cope with housing developments, it made sense to bring the former Kingston Centre back into its original use, albeit with complete refurbishment.

"The school is now a vibrant, modern school with state-of-the-art facilities, and is one of the most sustainable in the County. The pupils and staff are incredibly happy with their new premises and I look forward to seeing the school grow over the next few years."

Headteacher Karen Roberts said: "We're incredibly lucky to have a fantastic building with wonderful outdoor space which the children absolutely love. It's been great to see them enjoying and using their brand new surroundings. The move to the new building marks the beginning of an exciting journey for all our pupils, and the St Leonard's school family. I'm really looking forward to seeing how our school can evolve and grow further over the next few years."

OTHER NEWS

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Sir Gavin Williamson is currently looking to recruit a **Constituency Assistant** for his constituency office. The successful applicant will gain first-hand experience in a busy constituency office and undertake a variety of tasks to support the team, including the production of campaign materials, the function and organisation of election campaigns, the management and organisation of volunteers and activists and much more. This position will provide an excellent opportunity for candidates to gain first-hand insight into Gavin's work and to assist in securing a Conservative victory for the new seat of Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge. If you are interested in applying, please send your CV and a cover letter to gavin.williamson.mp@parliament.uk and we will be in touch.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Nearly everyone has a treasure tucked away at home that might be worth something.

Haywood & Hixon, Milford and Milwich Branch are hosting a fun evening at Castle Street on 29th February 2024 with celebrity antiques show expert **Richard Winterton**, well known for his regular appearances as auctioneer on programmes such as BBC's **Bargain Hunt** and **Dickinson's Real Deal** on ITV. The Winterton family name has been synonymous with auctioneering in Staffordshire for seven generations since 1864.

So dust off your hidden treasures and join us at Castle Street for 'The Valuation Game'

THE VALUATION GAME

29th February 2024
Castle Street, Stafford, ST16 2ED

6:30pm for 7pm start
Tickets £15 per person
including buffet

(Bar service available)

To book, contact 01785 252 273 or email
contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

BRANCHES

New branches for our new Federation

Following our reorganisation after the boundary changes, the Federation's Executive Council has approved the creation of new branches for our members.

The branches will cover the following areas:

Branch 1: Haywood & Hixon, Milford and Milwich

Branch 2: Brewood, Coven & Blymhill, Cheslyn Hay Village, Essington, Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon, Great Wyrley Landywood, Great Wyrley Town, Huntington & Hatherton, Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston, Penkridge North & Acton Trussell, Penkridge South & Gailey

Branch 3: Baswich, Penside, Weeping Cross & Wildwood

Branch 4: Eccleshall, Gnosall & Woodseaves, Seighford & Church Eaton

Branch 5: St Michael's & Stonefield, Walton, Loggerheads, Maer & Whitmore

It was decided not to have a dedicated branch for Coton, Doxey & Castletown, Forebridge, Highfields & Western Downs, Holmcroft, Littleworth, Manor and Rowley.

Further details to follow in due course.

Could you be a Councillor?

The Federation's Executive Council also put in place the Approvals Committee in advance of the work that needs to take place to select our candidates for any forthcoming elections, whether Borough, District or County (and it's the County elections that we're starting to prepare for now).

Staffordshire has 62 electoral divisions which cover the eight districts within the county, and most have one county councillor representing them.

County Council elections are held every four years (normally in the month of May). The next elections are due to take place on 1 May 2025.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please see the information in the next couple of pages in our newsletter.

For further information please get in touch with Jonathan Price, Deputy Chairman Political on 01785 252 273 or contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Application forms are now available.

COULD YOU CHAMPION YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

Do you want to stand up for your local community and the interests of local residents?



Central Staffordshire Conservatives are looking for Councillor candidates who want to serve a local community. We welcome all candidates who care about representing local people's views and looking after the interests of their local area.

You could be part of our strong, supportive and friendly team of Councillors and campaigners. If you are interested in finding out more about what might be involved, we want to hear from you. **The next COUNTY COUNCIL elections are on 1 May 2025.**

To find out more please email Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation or contact Jonathan Price, Deputy Chairman Political at contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk or call 01785 252 273

More information about being a councillor can be found at local.gov.uk/be-councillor

Who may be a candidate?

To stand for your local council you must be **over 18 years of age AND a British citizen; a Commonwealth citizen; a qualifying EU citizen; or an EU citizen with retained rights, AND resident in the UK.**

In addition, one of the following criteria must apply to you:

You must be and continue to be a local government elector for the area of the local authority.

OR

You must have, during the whole of the twelve months preceding both nomination day and the day of the election, occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the area of the local authority.

OR

Your principal or only place of work in the twelve months preceding your nomination day and the day of the election must have been in the area of the local authority.

OR

You must have, during the whole of the twelve months preceding both your nomination day and the day of the election resided in the area of the local authority.

To find out more please email **Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation** or contact **Jonathan Price, Deputy Chairman Political** at contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk or call **01785 252 273**

Do I know enough to stand for election?

Don't underestimate your own abilities. Each councillor will have something different to offer the council and you will not be expected to take direct responsibility for running the council on the first day that you are elected.

Your main qualifications are a genuine concern for the community and a willingness to learn. Knowledge and experience will soon follow.



Have I the time to be a councillor?

The time commitment involved in being a councillor will vary depending on the responsibilities you decide to take on.

Many councillors have work and family commitments as well as other interests which they successfully balance with their role as a councillor.

More information about being a councillor can be found at local.gov.uk/be-councillor

Conservative Policy Forum



Everything in politics starts with an idea.

Sometimes it's a burning injustice that has to be fixed. Sometimes it's an inspirational vision of how to make the world a better place.

A single idea can build new societies, new ways of living that are better than before. An inspiring idea will outlast elections, Parliaments and Prime Ministers, leap national borders and change entire countries.

The Conservative Policy Forum is here to find the world-changing, era-defining ideas and shape the policies of tomorrow.

Join us as, together, we seek to develop and advance Conservative ideas and policies within the Party and in Government for the benefit of the whole nation.

Each year we run a series of national policy consultations to understand what people across the country think about the big issues and their perspective on what policies and priorities the nation needs to prosper.

The next meeting of the Central Staffordshire CPF Discussion Group will be on **14th December at 7PM** at our Castle Street HQ. All members are welcome but we'd ask that you please confirm your attendance by telephone (01785 252 273) or email contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

The subject for discussion will be: ***The Future of the Welfare State***

"There remain over 2.5 million people who are inactive because of long-term sickness and disability. ... the proportion of people going through a work capability assessment who are being given the highest level of award and deemed to have no work-related requirements at all has risen from 21% in 2011 to 65% last year." (Mel Stride, Work and Pensions Secretary, 5 September 2023)

100 Club

OCTOBER WINNERS ANNOUNCED

1st Prize: **JEAN TABERNOR**

2nd Prize: **ANN EDGELLER**

3rd Prize: **XINGANG WANG**
CONGRATULATIONS!

Would you like to join?

Help support the Federation and have a bit of a flutter at the same time!
Subscriptions are just £4.34 a month or £52 a year for each number entered.

Join our 100 Club today and you could be our next winner.

Full details (application forms and other information including the terms and conditions) can be found on our website:

<https://www.centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk/100-club>

Our 100 Club helps raise funds to keep the Federation running.

If you can spare £4.34 a month or £52 a year, you could help us with keeping our Federation going...and you might win one of our prizes!

PLEASE JOIN TODAY

If you'd like to join, request an application form by calling 01785 252 273 or via email to contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

CHRISTMAS AT CASTLE STREET

Please join us to eat, drink and be merry at Castle Street on **Sunday 10th December** at 12:30pm

It'll be a delicious, festive, home-made feast

Menu

Traditional Roast Turkey Dinner
with accompaniments

followed by

Home-made Christmas Pudding
Tea, coffee and chocolates

We will have a delicious vegetarian alternative available. If you want the vegetarian option, please order when booking your ticket, by calling or emailing the Association Office.

Tickets: £25

To reserve your place, please call the Association office on 01785 252 273 or reserve by email:

contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

BOOKINGS OPEN NOW!

Please note: Doors will open at 12:30pm



You are invited to...
Central Staffordshire YC

Christmas PARTY

£10

£10

With Food, and a DJ!

WITH A SPECIAL GUEST CONFIRMED SOON!

DECEMBER	16	19.00-23.00
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Hot/Cold Buffet Food

Paid Bar Available



  @StaffordshireYC

CASTLE STREET, STAFFORD

5 MIN WALK FROM TRAIN STATION

RSVP TO JOSEPH HILL ON 07518142852

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

30 MIN - BIRMINGHAM | 13 MIN - WOLVERHAMPTON | 15 MIN - STOKE-ON-TRENT | 1HR - COVENTRY



Contacting the Federation

Your Federation is staffed by volunteers, the office is not permanently staffed. The telephone line is diverted to a mobile number and calls are answered if someone is available to take your call. But please remember that the volunteers who manage your Federation work full-time, so sometimes it's not possible to answer your calls and in these circumstances you are able to leave a voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please note that members can also contact the Federation by email (which is often a quicker way of getting a response) at contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Car Parking at our Castle Street HQ

The Federation generates important revenue towards the upkeep of our Castle Street HQ by renting car parking spaces to both members and non-members.

Occasional parking at our HQ remains free for members, but we would ask that members inform the office if you will be parking at HQ at least 24-hours in advance, with details of the car registration number so that you do not receive penalty notices. You can get in touch with the office to notify your intention to use our car park, by telephone to **01785 252 273** or by email to contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

We would also ask that members please park with consideration for other car park users.

Parking is at the owner's risk. The Federation does not accept any responsibility for theft or any damage, intentional or otherwise, to vehicles or vehicle contents.

Upcoming events

1st DECEMBER - Penkrudge Supper Club, Peace Memorial Hall, Penkrudge - 6:30PM
10th DECEMBER - Christmas at Castle Street - Doors open 12:30PM
14th DECEMBER - Conservative Policy Forum meeting - Castle Street - 7PM
16th DECEMBER - Young Conservatives Christmas Party - Castle Street - 7.30PM
29th FEBRUARY - The Valuation Game with Richard Winterton - Castle Street - 6:30PM

Key Contacts

Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation
Castle Street
Stafford ST16 2ED

Telephone: **01785 252 273**

Email: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Promoted by Duncan Sandbrook on behalf of Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation,
both at Castle Street, Stafford ST16 2ED