September 2026
Issue **#34**

Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation

Your Monthly Update from Central Staffordshire Conservatives

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Welcome to Issue #34 of your newsletter from Central Staffordshire Conservatives.

Following last month's major news on local government reorganisation, this month brings more news: a proposal for a brand new Stafford Town Council, with its own councillors and its own precept. Turn to page 3 to find out what's being proposed, why we're sceptical, and how you can put yourself forward as a candidate.

If you live in South Staffordshire, please also take a few minutes to have your say on new housing development in the district. The survey closes on 13 September, takes just a few minutes, and everyone who takes part is entered into a prize draw for £1,000. Turn to page 4 to find out more.

Duncan Sandbrook
Chairman

MP News

The Rt Hon Sir Gavin Williamson CBE MP

Member of Parliament for Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge

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25 August 2026

Gavin campaigns against Featherstone Development

Sir Gavin Williamson is fighting against the development of up to 50 dwellings on East Road in Featherstone.
Read the full story at gavinwilliamson.org →

17 August 2026

Gavin applauds Nationwide defibrillator rollout

Sir Gavin Williamson celebrated the rollout of life-saving defibrillators across Nationwide by visiting the Penkridge branch.
Read the full story at gavinwilliamson.org →

11 August 2026

Gavin highlights PSA Testing

Sir Gavin Williamson undertook a PSA test at Cornwell's Chemist in Great Wyrley to highlight the importance of PSA testing.
Read the full story at gavinwilliamson.org →

Have your say - Sir Gavin's active surveys and petitions

Sir Gavin regularly runs surveys to gather the views of local residents on issues that matter to our community. Your responses help shape his work in Parliament and in the constituency. Please take a few minutes to share your views.

Stone Free Parking Petition

Add your name to Sir Gavin's petition

gavinwilliamson.org/gavins-stone-free-parking-petition →

Sandon Road Closure Survey

Add your name to Sir Gavin's survey

https://www.gavinwilliamson.org/sandon-road-closure-survey

Stay connected with Sir Gavin

Sir Gavin publishes a regular newsletter with updates from Westminster and across the constituency - covering local campaigns, community news, and his work in Parliament. His latest edition covers the withdrawal of the Hixon incinerator appeal, the new Featherstone Post Office, and his campaign against potholes across Staffordshire.

Subscribe free at gavinwilliamson.substack.com →

Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation covers four local government areas - 11 Staffordshire County Council divisions, 20 Stafford Borough Council wards, 10 South Staffordshire District Council wards, and 2 Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council wards.

We work to elect and support Conservative councillors across our council areas and throughout Staffordshire.

A NEW TOWN COUNCIL FOR STAFFORD - WE NEED GOOD CONSERVATIVES TO STAND

At the Borough Council meeting on 8 September, councillors will be asked to approve plans to create a brand new Stafford Town Council - a fresh tier of local government, with its own councillors, its own precept, and its own bill for residents to pay.

Stafford is currently the only part of the Borough without a parish or town council. Following a Community Governance Review, a cross-party Member Working Group is recommending that Council change that on 8 September, creating a new "Stafford" parish covering the town, with the right to call itself a Town Council and elect its own Town Mayor.

Why this matters - and why we're sceptical

This is being proposed at exactly the moment Stafford Borough Council itself is being abolished. Government has confirmed that Staffordshire County Council and Stafford Borough Council will both be swept away on 1 April 2028, replaced by a new South and Mid Staffordshire Unitary Authority covering Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Stafford and Tamworth. The whole point of that reform is to remove organisational barriers and cut running costs.

Against that backdrop, creating an entirely new town council - with its own clerk, offices, insurance and administration - looks like exactly the kind of extra bureaucracy residents can do without. The recommended initial precept is £664,599.69, adding an estimated £38.44 a year to a Band D council tax bill, before the new council has even set its own budget. We think residents deserve efficient, accountable local government - not another committee layer and another line on the council tax bill.

Likely to be approved - so we need to get it right

The proposal hasn't been decided yet, and Council will only vote on it on 8 September. But the signs point to it passing: 63.6% of the 876 valid consultation responses backed a town council, and the Working Group's recommendation has support from Labour and Independent councillors, who between them control the Council. If it is approved, and subject to the Establishment Order, the new Stafford Town Council would become a legal body on 1 April 2027, with its first elections in May 2027 - the same month as the first elections to the new Unitary Authority.

If this Town Council does go ahead, then it will be essential that Stafford residents get sound, sensible, low-tax Conservative representation on it from day one - not left to the Labour and Independent councillors who pushed for its creation. A well-run Town Council, held to account by Conservative councillors focused on value for money, is a very different prospect to one left unchecked. So while we'll continue to make the case against unnecessary bureaucracy, we also need to be ready.

How many candidates do we need?
Under the recommendation before Council, the new Town Council would have 19 seats across 11 wards, based on the existing Borough Council ward boundaries (with Castletown merging into Rowley ward, and Doxey remaining a separate parish):

- Baswich - 2 seats
- Common - 1 seat
- Coton - 2 seats
- Forebridge - 1 seat
- Highfields and Western Downs - 2 seats
- Holmcroft - 2 seats
- Littleworth - 2 seats
- Manor - 2 seats
- Penkside - 1 seat
- Rowley and Castletown - 2 seats
- Weeping Cross and Wildwood - 2 seats

To contest every seat, we would need at least 19 candidates - and ideally more, so we have a strong bench even where a ward can't be won first time round. If approved, these elections would fall in the same month as the first elections to the new Unitary Authority, so we would be selecting and fielding candidates for both at once. We won't know for certain until 8 September, but we don't want to be caught short if it's approved - so if you know your ward, or simply want to represent Stafford, now is the time to come forward.

A training ground for the future
Not ready to put yourself forward for the Unitary Authority just yet? Standing for the new Town Council is an excellent way to get your first taste of public life - canvassing, casework, committee work and campaigning - in a smaller, more local setting, before considering a run for the Unitary Authority in future. Many of our best councillors started exactly this way.

Interested in standing?
You don't need to be a career politician - just someone who cares about Stafford and is willing to learn. Training and support will be provided, and there's no commitment required to find out more.

Email: political@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk Or speak to Jonathan Price, Deputy Chairman Political

HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW HOMES IN SOUTH STAFFS AND BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING £1,000

South Staffordshire District Council is asking residents for their views on the principles that should guide new housing development across the district, as part of its "Shaping South Staffordshire" project - work that will feed into the Council's long-term vision and its new Local Plan.

The survey covers what matters most when new homes are built locally: making sure schools and healthcare keep pace with growth, delivering genuinely affordable housing, protecting green spaces and nature, building to a high environmental standard, and ensuring developments reflect local character.

Respond by **13 September** The survey opened on 20 August and closes on Sunday 13 September, so please don't leave it too late - it only takes a few minutes online. Everyone who takes part is entered into a prize draw for £1,000.

Why it matters These are exactly the kind of decisions that will shape South Staffordshire for a generation. CSCF covers 10 South Staffordshire District wards, so if you live in the district, please take a few minutes to have your say - and encourage friends and neighbours to do the same. Complete the survey **here**.

Updates from across the Federation, including events, membership, fundraising and organisational news.

COULD YOU CHAMPION YOUR COMMUNITY?

Applications are now open for those interested in standing as Conservative candidates in the forthcoming Unitary Authority elections.

The Government has now confirmed its plans for local government reorganisation in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Two new unitary councils will replace the current county, borough and district structure - and Central Staffordshire falls within the southern authority, covering Stafford, East Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Tamworth and South Staffordshire. Elections to the shadow council are expected in May 2027, with the new authority taking over fully in April 2028.

With the timetable now confirmed, our selection process is already underway, and interviews with prospective candidates are taking place. If you care about your local area, want to champion the issues that matter to residents, and are willing to put yourself forward, now is the time to come forward.

You don't need previous political experience - just commitment, Conservative values, and a willingness to learn. Full support and guidance will be provided throughout.

Find out more and apply online:

staffordshireconservatives.org.uk/could-you-champion-your-community

or contact Jonathan Price, Deputy Chairman Political: political@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

CAN YOU HELP?

We are always looking for volunteers to support our campaigns. Whether delivering leaflets, helping at events, or assisting behind the scenes, your support makes a real difference.

If you can spare a few hours to help our campaign, please contact Jonathan Price, Deputy Chairman Political: campaigns@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK LOCALLY

Every campaign we run locally depends on the support of members like you.

Every member already supports the Conservative Party through their subscription, and we are genuinely grateful for that.

However, membership income alone cannot fund the full cost of our work across Stafford and Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge - from leaflets and digital campaigning to volunteer support and the day-to-day running of our headquarters.

If we are to campaign effectively, win elections, and maintain a strong local organisation, we rely on the additional support of members and friends.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

There are several ways to give, and you choose where your support goes:

General Campaign Fund - for example, contributing towards leaflets, voter contact, and digital communications across Central Staffordshire.

Constituency Funds - prefer to support a specific area? You can direct your donation to Stafford, Stone Great Wyrley & Penkridge, or both. Just let the Chairman know.

Federation & Headquarters - helping keep our office running and our headquarters maintained as the operational base for everything we do.

FLEXIBLE WAYS TO GIVE

Whatever suits you - a one-off donation, a regular monthly contribution, or a larger annual gift. Even modest monthly support makes a real difference to our ability to plan ahead between elections.

All support is entirely voluntary, and genuinely appreciated.

SUPPORT OUR WORK TODAY

www.centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk/donations

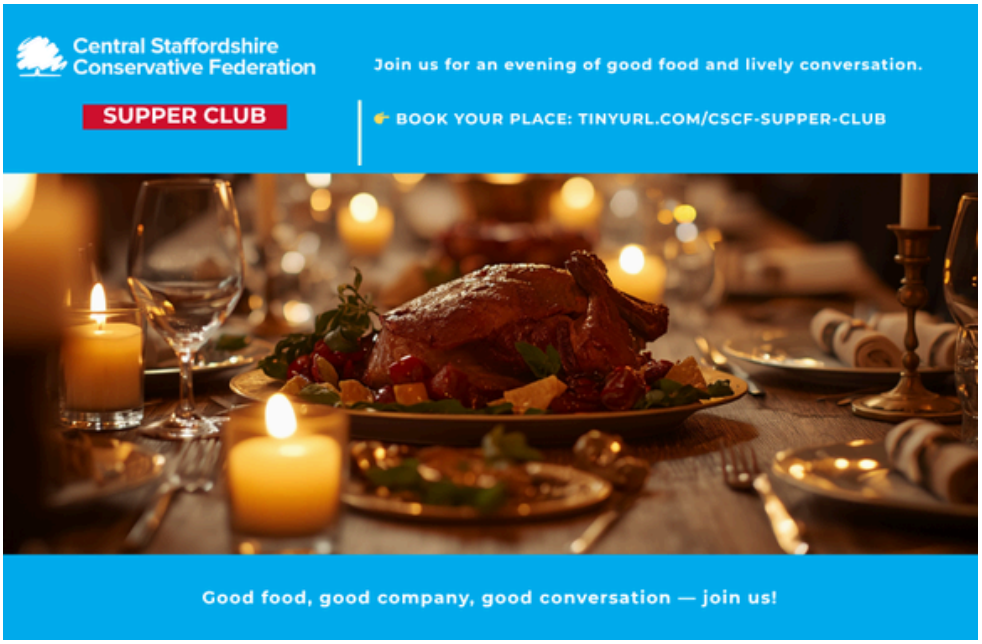
Secure online donations in just a few minutes.

CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM

Want a say in national Conservative policy? The Conservative Policy Forum (CPF) gives members the chance to do just that - through consultations and discussion groups that feed directly into the Party's thinking.

Our local CPF group meets at Castle Street for informal discussion over refreshments, exploring the current consultation topic. It's relaxed, friendly, and all members are welcome.

To find out more or join us, get in touch: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk or Tel: 01785 252 273



SUPPER CLUB - WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

Join us at The Moat House, Acton Trussell for a relaxed evening of good food, great company and lively conversation.

📍 The Moat House, Acton Trussell
💷 £23 per person

BOOK TODAY: tinyurl.com/CSCF-Supper-Club

📱 Stay connected

Join our CSCF Events WhatsApp group for updates on future events, speakers and menus:

shorturl.at/QvQYF

CHRISTMAS AT CASTLE STREET - SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2026 - CASTLE STREET, STAFFORD

Always a highlight of the year, Christmas at Castle Street returns this December with a traditional Christmas lunch for members and friends. There'll be plenty of roast turkey and all the usual festive fare (with a vegetarian alternative), and everything is home cooked - including the Christmas pudding!

Bookings open in early **October**, but we wanted to give you plenty of notice - so pop the date in your diary now.

Stay connected
Want to be first to know when booking opens?

Join our Events WhatsApp group and we'll let you know the moment tickets go live: **shorturl.at/QvQYF**

BUILDING OUR CAMPAIGN SKILLS TOGETHER

We're continuing to expand our programme of training and support for members and activists across the Federation.

Whether you're experienced or just getting started, we want to make sure we're offering sessions that are practical, relevant and genuinely useful.

What would you find helpful?
We're keen to hear your ideas for future training, which could include:

- campaigning and canvassing skills
- Connect Calling and voter engagement
- data and campaign organisation
- digital campaigning and communications
- public speaking or media skills

If there's something you'd like to learn - or improve - we'd love to hear from you.

Share your ideas: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

TELL US HOW YOU'D LIKE TO HELP

We're strongest when our members play an active part - and we want to know how you'd like to get involved.

Not everyone wants to knock on doors, and that's absolutely fine. There are plenty of ways to take part across **Stafford** and **Stone, Great Wyrley & Penkridge** - from campaigning and Connect Calling, to helping with events and fundraising, assisting with digital content, or simply joining us socially. Whatever suits you, we want to match you to it.

That starts with two minutes of your time. Our short survey is now live, and it's the best way to tell us what you're interested in and how much time you can offer.

Take the survey now: tinyurl.com/CSCF-SURVEY

The more members who respond, the better we can put people, time and talent in the right place. Please don't leave it to someone else - take the survey today.

THE 100 CLUB - AUGUST DRAW RESULTS

Congratulations to our August winners - thank you to everyone who's part of the 100 Club, and to everyone considering joining.

While most months pay out 35% of the pot in prizes, June and December pay out DOUBLE.
Bigger prizes, better odds, and an excellent reason to join before the next one.

A reminder of how it works:

- £5 per month = one number in our monthly draw
- Hold up to 4 numbers to boost your chances
- Each month, 35% of the pot is paid out in prizes: 1st Prize 20%, 2nd Prize 10%, 3rd Prize 5%
- **June & December bumper draws: DOUBLE BUBBLE! 1st Prize 40%, 2nd Prize 20%, 3rd Prize 10%**

The more members who join, the bigger the prizes get for everyone - and every pound also goes straight towards our campaigning across Central Staffordshire, from leaflets and canvassing to supporting our candidates and local organisation.

Not a member yet? It takes two minutes to join, and you could be in with a chance next month.

JOIN TODAY - IT TAKES TWO MINUTES

tinyurl.com/CSCF-100-CLUB

Or find out more: centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk/100-club

JOIN TODAY

It takes just a couple of minutes to sign up online and start your monthly subscription.

JOIN OUR 100 CLUB

🏆 THIS MONTH'S PRIZE WINNERS

🥇 1st Prize:
GEOFF COLLIER
🥈 2nd Prize:
CATHY COLLIER
🥉 3rd Prize:
ENID POULSON

Get in Touch

If you'd like to get involved, attend events, support our campaigning work, or simply find out more, we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

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✉️ Email: contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk
🌐 Website: www.centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Events & Bookings

✉️ events@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

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Campaign & Political Enquiries

✉️ campaigns@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Membership Enquiries

✉️ membership@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Office Information

The Federation is run by volunteers and the office is not permanently staffed.

Our telephone line is diverted and will be answered when someone is available.

If we're unable to take your call, please leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible.

Email is often the quickest way to reach us.

Stay Connected

Follow our updates, events and campaigns online:

Website: **www.centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk**

LARGE PRINT

If you would find a large-print version of this newsletter helpful, please let us know:
contact@centralstaffsconservatives.org.uk

Printed and promoted by Duncan Sandbrook on behalf of Central Staffordshire Conservative Federation, both at Castle Street, Stafford ST16 2ED.