

Chase Matters



WINTER 2024

Residents Magazine



Merry Christmas

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Contact us

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Visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk or call **01543 462621**

Email communications@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Drop us a line at communications@cannockchasedc.gov.uk if you'd like the next edition sent straight to your inbox.

Keep in touch via social media

 [Search for 'Cannock Chase Life'](#)

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 [@CannockChaseDC](#)

CANNOCK

REGENERATION WORKS

In November, preliminary works began for the regeneration of Cannock Town Centre, focusing on road and access improvements.

Amey carried out investigation work, for plans to fill the subway and alter the road layout to relocate the pedestrian crossing.

Contractors have now commenced work on-site to prepare for demolition scheduled for 2025. This phase includes the removal of the red glass canopy, as well as demolishing the former sweet shop, Salvation Army building, bed shop, and the multi-storey car park.



Tony Johnson, Leader of the Council, said:

“During a national investment and property conference in May, we received significant interest in the area from developers. Cannock is strategically located in the heart of England, making it an attractive prospect for future growth. We are confident by kickstarting the regeneration project and completing the long awaited demolition of the multi-storey car park, we will be able to create a re-development opportunity that will appeal to the development market and bring in much needed investment to our town centre.”

The demolition will create space for a new retaining wall, steps, ramps, and a café, all part of the town’s transformation.

Our aim for Cannock Town Centre will be to clear sites that will attract development opportunities and investment.

Cannock Chase Council Civic Centre Opening Hours

Civic Centre Reception:
10am-4pm

Telephone Lines:
9am-5pm

As follows:

Tue 24 Dec	Open*
Wed 25 Dec	Closed
Thu 26 Dec	Closed
Fri 27 Dec	Closed
Sat 28 Dec	Closed
Sun 29 Dec	Closed
Mon 30 Dec	Open
Tue 31 Dec	Open*
Wed 1 Jan	Closed
Thu 2 Jan	Open

* Reception and telephone lines open until 3pm on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve



FREE PARKING



The Council will be offering **FREE** parking in all Council owned car parks in **Cannock and Rugeley** on the following dates:

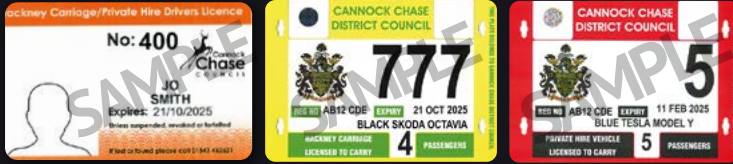
Saturday 14 December

Saturday 21 December

Taxi safety this Christmas and New Year

If you are using taxis or pre-booked private hire vehicles during the festive period here are some tips to help keep you safe.

- ✔ Ask the driver to show you their badge (if possible approach the vehicle from the front so that the drivers face and badge can be clearly seen)



- ✔ If travelling alone, sit in the rear of the vehicle
- ✔ Never accept a ride from an unlicensed driver or get into an unmarked vehicle
- ✔ Book your return journey in advance, if possible
- ✔ Text or WhatsApp a friend or family member with an expected arrival time.



As part of the Safer Streets 5 initiative, taxi marshals will be used at Cannock taxi rank, to help ensure the safety of residents returning home after a night out.

The initiative will see taxi marshals present between the hours of 10pm and 4am on selected dates over the festive period.

The taxi marshals have been funded as part of the Government's Safer Streets 5 initiative to address anti-social behaviour and associated crime. This was following a successful bid by the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office.

To report any compliments or concerns, contact the **Licensing Unit** at **01543 462621**.

CANNOCK MARKET at Christmas

Mon 23 Dec 2024 ★ 9am - 4pm

Tues 24 Dec 2024 ★ From 9am

★ Santa's Grotto Monday ★ Market stalls ★ Hot food

Cannock Town Centre, WS11 1WS

visit www.bescotpromotions.co.uk
email info@bescotpromotions.co.uk





Culture and Heritage Services in Cannock Chase



A consultation on the future of culture and heritage services in Cannock Chase is running until 2 January.

This includes proposals to close the Prince of Wales Theatre and the Museum of Cannock Chase - with the council needing to find £1.3m of savings in their budget.

We want to know how people use the facilities, what they value, and whether this provision can be accommodated in the district in a different way.

A final decision will only be made after the results of the consultation have been considered with a recommendation expected to go before the council in February 2025.

**CONSULTATION
CLOSES ON**



You can complete the survey online by visiting www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/shapingculture

Could you or someone you know be missing out on

Pension Credit?

It is a benefit that 2.58 million older people are entitled to, but only around 4 in every 10 of those who qualify make a claim.

The amount of Pension Credit you could get will depend on your circumstances, but it's worth checking if you qualify. Pension Credit can also be a gateway to other benefits, so even if you are only entitled to a small amount, it's worth claiming, because other benefits could be unlocked.

Making a claim is easy.

You can call for **FREE** on **0800 99 1234** or visit: www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim.

If you would like to apply by post, you can download the application from the website or ask a local voluntary organisation like Citizens Advice to call and ask the Pension Service to request a paper form for you.

With energy bills increasing it makes sense to try and make a claim before the winter.



Safer Food, Safer Christmas

During the festive period we store and consume a lot more food than usual. Food safety is essential to keep celebrations happy and healthy. If you're cooking for your family or friends this Christmas, our food safety guidelines will help to prevent foodborne illnesses.

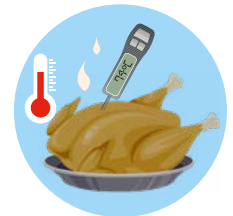


Tips to ensure a safe Christmas

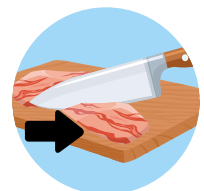
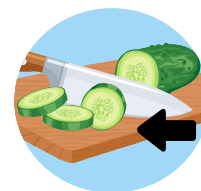
- 1 Store ingredients safely:** Keep perishable foods refrigerated at or below 4°C (40°F). Separate raw meats from other items to avoid cross-contamination, with raw meats at the bottom of the fridge where possible.



- 2 Cook to the right temperatures:** Ensure that poultry, especially turkey, reaches an internal temperature of at least 74°C (165°F) to kill harmful bacteria. Use a food thermometer to check temperatures or make sure meat juices from the thigh joint are clear.



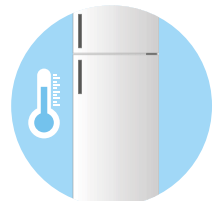
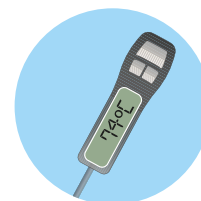
- 3 Practice good hygiene:** Wash your hands, utensils, and surfaces frequently, especially after handling raw meat. Don't prepare ready to eat and raw foods on the same cutting board or worktop.



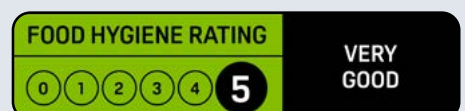
- 4 Thaw frozen foods properly:** Thaw frozen meats in the fridge or in cold water, never on the countertop, to prevent bacterial growth.



- 5 Leftover storage:** Refrigerate leftovers within two hours of serving, and consume them within 3-4 days. When reheating, bring foods to at least 74°C (165°F).



If you're eating out, food hygiene ratings show how clean and safe a business is. Ratings range from 0 to 5, with 5 being "very good." You can find these ratings online here: <https://ratings.food.gov.uk/>



Reducing Christmas Waste



The Christmas season is a time for celebration, but it also brings a surge in waste, with an estimated 30% increase in waste production. From excess packaging to discarded food, the environmental impact can be significant. By making small changes, we can minimise our waste.



Tips to Reduce Waste

How to cut down on waste this Christmas:

- Instead of buying a single use calendar, why not invest in a reusable one? It can be enjoyed for many years to come.
- Plan your meals carefully to reduce food waste. Freeze leftovers for later use or donate unopened, non-perishable items to food banks.
- Make sure to recycle cardboard boxes, glass bottles, and aluminium cans.
- Instead of traditional wrapping paper, consider reusable gift bags, fabric wraps, or brown paper that can be recycled. Avoid metallic or glittery paper, which can't be recycled.

It's estimated that **227,000 miles** of wrapping paper are thrown away annually in the UK alone-enough to wrap around the world nine times!



Garden Waste Subscriptions 2025

To continue to have your **brown bin** collected you will need to renew your subscription.

If you didn't subscribe to our garden waste service last year and want to subscribe you can sign up and pay online via our website.

2025 brown bin collections will start week commencing **20 January 2025**.

When you receive your new green permit, please ensure it is displayed on your bin underneath the handle.

The annual fee is **£38.50** per bin

PRICE FREEZE



For more information about this service and to make your payment, visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/brownbin

Free Christmas Tree Recycling

Recycle your **REAL** Christmas trees at **Hednesford Park** from **Boxing Day** through to **Friday 17 January 2025**.

Leave your **REAL** tree (without decorations) in the designated bays at **Hednesford Park, Rugeley Road, Hednesford WS12 1TB**.

The collected trees will be chipped and used throughout the park.

Waste and Recycling Calendars 2024/25

Our digital waste and recycling calendars are now available to download from our website.

You will see that the calendars only run until March 2025. Biffa are reviewing the collection routes and there may be changes for some residents. More information about this will be issued in the new year. New calendars detailing any changes will be issued from March 2025 and will run up to December 2025.



[Download your calendar](#)



Christmas and New Year Recycling Collections

Christmas Collection Changes

Properties that would normally have their blue bins/bags collected on:

Will have their collection on:

Monday 23 December 2024	➔	No change
Tuesday 24 December 2024	➔	No change
Wednesday 25 December 2024	➔	Friday 27 December 2024
Thursday 26 December 2024	➔	Friday 27 December 2024
Friday 27 December 2024	➔	Saturday 28 December 2024

Blue bin and blue bag collection only.
No brown bin or green bin collections

No brown bin collection from 1 December 2024. Service re-starts from Monday 20 January 2025.

New Year Collection Changes

Properties that would normally have their blue bins/bags collected on:

Will have their collection on:

Monday 30 December 2024	➔	No change
Tuesday 31 December 2024	➔	No change
Wednesday 1 January 2025	➔	Thursday 2 January 2025
Thursday 2 January 2025	➔	Friday 3 January 2025
Friday 3 January 2025	➔	Saturday 4 January 2025

All properties will have green bin collections this week

All collections carried out a day later

Stay Safe this Christmas:

STOP THE SCAMS

Cannock Chase Council is re-launching its 'STOP the Scams' campaign, aimed at helping residents stay safe from fraud.

Scammers can be very convincing, whether they're online, on the phone, through text messages, or even face-to-face.

Fraud happens when someone tricks you to gain something for themselves, like your money or personal details.

So, how can you protect yourself?

Be cautious and trust your instincts. If something feels off, it probably is.

Let's work together to keep our community safe. This Christmas don't let fraudsters take advantage - join us in stopping the scams!

Say **NO** to anything suspicious and, importantly, report any concerns. You can contact **Action Fraud** at **0300 123 2040**.

Tackling Loneliness and Isolation

The Treasured Times Project

In Cannock Chase, 28.9% of households are made up of single person residents, with many people over 66 living alone and facing health challenges.

To help tackle this issue, the 'Treasured Times' project, funded by the National Lottery's 'Know Your Neighbourhood' initiative, is working to reduce loneliness and isolation.



[Here's a quick look at the Churches video, which highlights how community connections can lift spirits and improve well-being >](#)

Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles has created a series of short films showcasing local activities and groups that make a difference in the community.

'Treasured Times' has also put together folders with information on local arts, physical activities, and groups, available at key spots such as libraries and community centres.

The project team is on tour, visiting groups to share resources to combat isolation. To view all the films, visit the Cannock Chase Can YouTube page, and to invite the Treasured Times tour to your group, contact sara.green@cannockchasedc.gov.uk.

To find out more visit www.cannockchasecan.co.uk

Cost of living

The rising cost of living is affecting us all. Many householders are spending a high proportion of their household income just to keep their home at a reasonable temperature.

The Price Cap is set to rise by 1% on 1 January, leaving many struggling to pay their bills, so cutting energy use is a key way to save.

If you are struggling with heating bills this winter or need advice on debt or money management then visit our website to find free resources and tips on ways of saving energy in your home and signposting for a number of agencies that can offer help.

Visit: www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/costofliving

Energy saving tips for your home

Keep the heat in

Close the curtains when it's getting dark and tuck them behind the radiator. Shut the doors to rooms you use most.

Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.

This could save up to six litres of water a minute.

Move your furniture away from radiators

It will be absorbing the heat.

Heating

Turn your heating down by one degree. Don't go below 18°C if you are elderly, or have small children.

Cooking

Only fill kettles with as much water as you need.

Lighting

Fit lower wattage or energy efficient bulbs.

Laundry

Washing clothes at 30°C saves energy.

Appliances

TV's and electrical appliances use up to 90% energy in standby mode so make sure they are turned off at the socket.

Watch a short video to see what you can do to keep warm, save energy and help tackle climate change.

