

ChaseMatters

Residents magazine

WINTER 2021

Christmas Events in the District

pg 25

What's inside

Plus more...

Cannock
Chase



needs you!

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way we collect
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for Cannock town centre



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ChaseMatters

The countdown to Christmas is well under away and I hope you have been able to support (and will be supporting) festive activities in our town centres which as well as being enjoyable to participate in, provide a welcome boost to our town centre traders and businesses after another challenging year.

You will have read about the fantastic and early Christmas present that Cannock Chase is to receive £20 million funding from the Government's Levelling Up Fund for Cannock Town Centre Regeneration. Our long-held ambitions to regenerate the town centre, where councillors past and present have been actively looking at ways to deal with the old multi-storey car park that has become an eyesore and make the most of assets such as Church Street and the Prince of Wales Theatre, can now be realised.

There is still time for you to help us shape a positive future for Cannock town centre now we have secured this funding. You can provide your feedback and find out more about our vision at www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk. Click on the story '£20m Govt. support for Cannock town centre' to read more and give feedback on a consultation website we have set up; and thank you, not least, to all those residents who have fed back so far.

As the Leader of the Council, I am well aware, along with the Cabinet, of the comments received about the need to 'level up' other parts of the District including in Rugeley and Hednesford. Unfortunately, the Government's prospectus for the Levelling Up Fund made it quite clear that any bids we made needed to be capable of delivery within specified timescales and budget set by the Government. The Cannock town centre scheme was the only major scheme developed sufficiently enough to stand any chance of attracting this particular funding. This administration had just eight weeks to submit this bid following the May elections. It is vital we seize opportunities when we can; with this one being a prime example.

However, I do want to assure residents that we are committed to improving the lives of all residents in the District and the places they use and enjoy, as our resources and those from the private sector and our partners allow. We are therefore creating a pipeline of investment opportunities across the whole of the District within a District Investment Plan. This will enable us to make further bids for Government and external funding and ensure that the Cannock town centre success can be followed with further funding success stories.

Away from this talk of funding and investment, I do very much hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of Chase Matters, where we include stories of Council work and activities affecting us all at a more personal level, from the latest on our work to encourage healthier lifestyles, to how we can do our bit for the planet by recycling our Christmas waste.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Olivia Lyons
Leader of Cannock Chase Council

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There's also a digital version of ChaseMatters

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/chasematters

Email communications@cannockchasedc.gov.uk if you'd like the next edition sent straight to your inbox.

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needs you!

Local community groups, organisations and businesses are being encouraged to get involved in the final development stages of the District's new health improvement mobile App.

Over the next few months, the community of Cannock Chase will have the opportunity of getting exclusive access to the new Cannock Chase Can App prior to its official release in the New Year.

The Council in partnership with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) has been working closely with local partner organisations and community groups to develop the Cannock Chase Can programme, which aims to help people live happier and healthier lives.

Get exclusive access to the new Cannock Chase Can App today!

We are keen for the community of Cannock Chase to get involved and take up this exclusive offer to help us ensure this new and unique App is fit for purpose, accessible and functions correctly.

If you would like to view the App, please complete the online form at www.cannockchasecan.co.uk.

On completion of the form, you will be given direct access to the demo version of the App where you will be asked to look at the design, content and accessibility of the user journey. This feedback will be used to develop and improve the App prior to its official release.

Did you know...

You can also follow us on **Facebook** - search for 'Cannock Chase Can'.



Share



Like

Shout out for content...

In addition to this exclusive 'first look' offer, we are calling on the community to submit challenges and rewards. These will feature within the App for users to complete and achieve while progressing up their wellness wheel.



Challenges can be submitted in various formats including video, audio, step-by-step instructions and a web link. An online submission form with guidance packs are available to download from www.cannockchasecan.co.uk

If you would like further information about this programme, please email cannockchasecan@cannockchasedc.gov.uk or visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/cannockchasecan

HM Government

BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY THIS WINTER

WITH THE FLU VACCINE + COVID-19 BOOSTER

Get vaccinated. Get boosted. Get protected.
nhs.uk/wintervaccinations

NHS

District celebrates as six parks and green spaces win the Green Flag Award

Castle Ring

As the Green Flag Awards marks its Silver Jubilee, six parks and green spaces in Cannock Chase are some of 2,127 celebrating success this year.

The Green Flag Award is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces and the Council has achieved a Green Flag Award at Cannock Park, Elmore Park, Hednesford Park, Ravenhill Park, Stile Cop Cemetery and Castle Ring. Castle Ring has also achieved the much-coveted Green Heritage Site Accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management of its historic features.



The last 18 months that have seen our parks and green spaces play a vital role for people through lockdowns as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely. The news that these sites have achieved the Green Flag Award is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that make our green spaces places that everyone can enjoy.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have worked alongside our parks, grounds maintenance and cemetery staff, who have continued to work throughout the pandemic and contributed to these fantastic awards being retained for our District.

How Activity Referral turned Helen's life around

At 24 stone, local resident Helen, struggled with her health for many years. Her weight left her breathless, and along with her COPD diagnosis, she could not carry out daily activities without portable oxygen.

Through her GP, Helen was asked to attend NHS Pulmonary Rehab sessions ran at Rugeley Leisure Centre. Slowly, Helen started to build her confidence and after completing these sessions, joined the Activity Referral programme ran by Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles.

From the lady who struggled with climbing stairs, Helen became a regular gym goer, attending every week. Through challenging herself, and the support of her new gym friends and Activity Referral staff, Helen improved her fitness levels and has now lost 9 stone.

Helen said

“ If I hadn't joined, things would have been a lot different. Going to the gym has turned my life around. I am breathing better and much healthier now. I want other people to know that even if you have COPD and use portable oxygen, you can still get out of the house, take regular exercise, improve your wellbeing, and make new friends. ”



If you, or anyone you know, could benefit from **Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles' Activity Referral Programme** for any physical or mental health conditions, please contact the Wellbeing Team on 01543 501525 or email wellbeingcannock@ihlmail.org

Getting closer - the Commonwealth Games

Preparations for the Commonwealth Games coming to the District on 3 August 2022, when the men's and women's mountain biking event takes place at Birches Valley on Cannock Chase, have certainly stepped up several gears with less than nine months to go.

The new Blue Trail that will form a large part of the route at the event is progressing well and will be officially unveiled next spring by Forestry England. Legacy projects including a Bike and Play Trail at Birches Valley aimed at children and families, and improvements to the Council's Heritage Trail taking in Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley (via Cannock Chase) are also scheduled for completion in 2022.

Other opportunities that hosting a Games event brings include tourism, raising the overall profile of the District, volunteering and skills opportunities, and allied activities such as the District hosting a Chase Community Games (as it did during the London Olympics in 2012), and Commonwealth Games Roadshows. These are all being developed.



The Council is working closely with its leisure and arts partner, IHL, on a diverse programme of activities, events, and volunteering opportunities for the Games and these will be published in the New Year. If your organisation (such as a school, parish, town council or community group or society), or yourself, would like to be involved in this local programme, please email communications@cannockchasedc.gov.uk to express your interest. Please provide your email address and state what channels of communication you use, which will help us promote the local programme to the wider community.



Admiring the Queen's Baton before its departure from Birmingham Airport.

The Queen's Baton Relay began in early October and is currently on a tour of 72 commonwealth countries, having started its journey from Buckingham Palace. We are looking forward to the Baton Relay coming to the UK next year as part of its 90,000 miles journey which will end at the opening ceremony in Birmingham on 28 July when a message from the Queen inserted in the baton is read out.

The main ticket ballot to watch the sporting and ceremonial events has now passed. More tickets will be available soon and in 2022. Watch out for details. There are plenty of other ways to get involved in the Games locally, as mentioned. The Games itself will be broadcast across the BBC next summer.

For full details on the Games and the latest news, including the events schedule, go to www.birmingham2022.com

To keep up to date with Commonwealth Games developments, you can follow us on **Facebook (Cannock Chase Life)**, **Twitter (@cannockchasedc)** or our website page www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/Games2022

Hawks Green Housing

Development on land at the Council's Hawks Green Depot at Old Hednesford Road in Cannock is progressing well. Twelve Council homes have been completed to date and allocated to those in need on the Council's housing waiting list.

A further 10 Council homes are due to be completed in the New Year, with the whole scheme of 22 Council homes for rent and 22 for open market sale to complete by March 2022. Of these, 14 houses on the site have solar panels and electric car charging points installed.

Did you know...

Residents will benefit from reduced energy bills and immediate access to car charging points.



The housing development scheme is the result of a successful partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Cannock based Jessup Brothers. The development is transforming part of the Council's Depot into a mixed tenure housing estate and creating a sustainable community. It's the first scheme to be built with money from the Council's £12.9m Housing Investment Fund and funding support received from the West Midlands Combined Authority's (WMCA) Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund to assist with land remediation works.



New Kitchen and Bathroom Programme

Housing Maintenance has been looking to expand its service delivery to its customer base and has now secured an internal delivery programme with its neighbouring department, Housing Property Services.

This includes the delivery of a kitchen and bathroom programme which will assist Housing Maintenance in developing its skillset and showcasing to our council customers that we are there for more than just repairs.



Our intention is to build on the skills we have by creating apprenticeships. We have recently taken in our first plumbing apprentices for a number of years, which will ensure our customers receive quality improvements in their homes.

The future looks bright for Housing Maintenance as we seek to further develop our relationship with Housing Property Services by providing skilled trade operatives to undertake other home improvement works efficiently and demonstrate real value for money to our customers.



Customer, Karen Whitehouse said:

“I'm extremely happy with my new bathroom, I was kept well informed throughout the whole process of all the work that was taking place. I wish to pass on my thanks to all the workmen involved - Chris McCarthy, Martin Tongue, Leigh Carter, Darren Podmore, and Project Supervisor Shaun Dolman.”

OUT OF IT

New alcohol and substance misuse campaign makes its debut in local schools...

A new campaign addressing alcohol and substance misuse launched in schools across the District in September as part of the Council's ongoing safeguarding work.

The Council's Community Safety Team commissioned Loudmouth Education and Training to create a new educational resource on drug and alcohol misuse for key stage 3 pupils.

'Out of It' is a new theatre in education programme designed to be run with year 7 and 8 pupils. The programme supports students to learn about the short- and long-term impacts and risks of drug and alcohol misuse and to understand that a lot less young people are using drugs or alcohol than many believe, by exploring the positive social norms around the topic.

The programme uses drama, a character Q&A session and discussion to raise pupils' awareness around drug and alcohol misuse. In the drama the main character, Amber, looks back on her past experiences with drugs and alcohol use. She talks about the negative impacts these have had on her life and how she accessed support from local organisations.



After the drama, students get the opportunity to ask Amber questions about her past and current situation and participate in discussion. The session ends with information of where the pupils could go for help if they were concerned about their own or others alcohol or drug misuse.

Resource packs have been distributed to secondary schools providing information about local support services, details about the drama, lessons plans and further campaign material.

Campaign messages have also been promoted using the Council's new Tik Tok channel - 'Cannock Chase Life' and wider promotion via the Council's website and existing social media platforms.

If you have concerns about a child, call **T3 Stars**,
Staffordshire's Treatment and Recovery Service
for free and friendly support about drugs
and alcohol on **01785 241393** or
email t3stars.stafford@humankindcharity.org.uk.

Rosie's story....

“I'm 14-years-old and have a small friendship group, who I enjoy being with inside and outside of school. I started to drink alcohol in the park at the age of 12, once a month after it was offered to me by friends. When I hit 13, I was drinking more often, I liked the feeling that I got, all my stresses from school went away and I could have fun with no worries. I started to drink spirits straight away, as this was what was available. I drank gin as it got me drunk quicker. The more I drank the more confident I became and started to go out more. Before I knew it my friendship group had expanded and I was now drinking with 20 people in the park instead of 4 or 5. It was fun meeting people the same age as me and some who were older. I didn't think about the consequences of drinking in the community as it seemed like everyone does it at my age. Just before I turned 14 my attendance in school dropped by 35%, mainly because I was hungover from the night before. My Mum tried grounding me, but I would sneak out to go and get drunk. After a while the school contacted my parents and put a mentor in place to support me. During these sessions I disclosed that I was drinking 3-4 times a week, around ½ bottle of gin in the week and a bottle or more at the weekend. It was at this point I was offered cannabis from an older person in the group, before I knew it, I was smoking 4 times a week. I was spending all my pocket money to buy alcohol and cannabis.

One time we were all drinking and smoking in a remote area, we were all having a good time. I drank a bottle of vodka and ½ bottle of gin mixed with lemonade and smoked 1.5 grams of cannabis. I completely passed out. When I came round I was left with 3 people. I only knew 1 of them. I was 45 minutes' walk from home, cold and scared, and couldn't put one foot in front of the other. Luckily a person that I didn't know got me home safely. The next day I had little memory of the night before. This gave me a wakeup call and knew that I had to change.

My school mentor referred me to T3 Stars. I'd never heard of them before. At first I was scared, as I didn't know what they would say and thought they would judge me. I was nervous at the first session, but when it had finished, I felt better and relieved I wasn't judged.

Life is totally different now. I don't go out drinking and have reduced my cannabis use a lot. I had 1 week not drinking and felt so much better, I wasn't waking up with hangovers, started to go back to school and my relationships at home improved. I realised that the 25 people who I thought were friends were just people I would get drunk with. I now have around 10 close friends, who I trust.

I've learnt through T3 Stars support, that you don't have to drink to fit in. There are lots of other ways to have fun. I realise now that the drunk me was not a happy me, but the sober me is. ”

Staying safe this Christmas

The Chase Community Safety Partnership is helping residents stay safe again this Christmas with the relaunch of its campaign '12 days to a safer Christmas'.

The festive season can be a very busy time during which it's easy to take your eye off the ball when it comes to crime prevention. The campaign will run from 13 December until 24 December and will remind people how to keep safe and within the law during the lead up to the festive period.

The Council's Partnerships Team will be delivering a series of crime prevention messages and useful tips through the use of social media and short online videos. A different theme will be promoted on each day which will highlight community safety priorities over the festive season. The messages will be short and informative and include advice on cyber crime, fire safety, counterfeit goods, safety of women, domestic abuse, drink and drug driving and many more.

Don't get bitten by a loan shark

- Loan sharks are using the pandemic to prey on people's financial worries - don't become a victim
- Loan sharks may seem friendly at first but they often resort to intimidation, threats or violence
- If you or someone you know is a victim, call the **Illegal Money Lending Team** on **0300 555 2222**

Is it love actually?

- There's no excuse for domestic abuse at Christmas time or anytime
- Seek support and advice today **#YouAreNotAlone**
- Call **New Era's 24-hr helpline** for victims **0300 303 3778**

How are you getting home?

- Don't walk alone and stick to open and well-lit areas
- Walk on the oncoming traffic side of the pavement so you're fully aware if a car stops near you
- Call and chat to a friend while you're walking home alone
- Carry a personal attack alarm for emergencies
- If you think you're being followed, cross the road and see if you're still followed. Try and stop at a busy area like a petrol station, pub or takeaway, and phone the police

Drink & drug driving

- Do not drink or drug drive - **IT COSTS LIVES**
- You will lose your licence, be banned and may face prison for your actions
- For support contact **Humankind** on **01785 270080**

Crime prevention

- Make sure all your Christmas shopping is secure in the boot or covered up in your car
- When at home do not leave your wrapped presents on display
- If ordering online try to ensure someone is home to receive deliveries and parcels are not left on your doorstep
- Don't carry large amounts of cash on you; make sure your purse is closed and hidden inside your bag

For more information about this campaign visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/12daysofchristmas

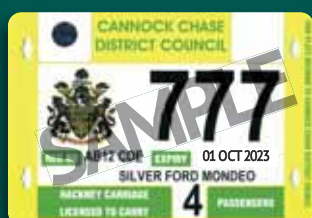
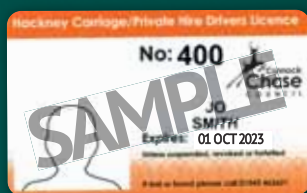
Taxi safety this Christmas

Cannock Chase Council is committed to ensuring that residents are safe over the festive period and has issued the following advice for anyone planning to use a taxi or a pre booked private hire vehicle.

Ensure that the driver is wearing a badge. S/he should be wearing it to be clearly visible. It should not be hidden under clothing such as a jacket, body warmer or jumper.

Where possible vehicles should be approached from the front so that the face of the driver and the fact that he s/he is wearing a badge can be clearly seen.

Licensed vehicles also have an internal licence plate/card which is either red or yellow and is normally positioned just above the Tax Disc Holder.



Over the festive period, Cannock Chase Council's licensing officers will be making sure that licensed drivers and vehicles comply with safety requirements.

Other tips to keep you safe:

- Lone passengers should sit in the rear of the vehicle wherever possible
- Never accept a lift from a stranger in a car
- Wherever possible, pre-book your outbound and return journey before travelling
- If there is a dispute over a fare or the price you are asked to pay then you should ask for a receipt and contact the Council's Licensing Unit

Any compliments, comments or complaints about any licensed drivers or vehicles may be made by contacting the **Licensing Unit** at **Cannock Chase Council 01543 462621**



Your waste and recycling collection calendar 2021/22



working in partnership

Last month you should have received your waste and recycling calendar through your letterbox.

You will notice a difference to your usual collection dates as they only run up to the end of March 2022. This is because the Council, as well as other neighbouring authorities, is changing the way it collects recycling - more information about the changes are given below.

The calendars form part of an information booklet, which we recommend you keep accessible. Not only does it give you information on the new blue bag, but it is also a handy guide of what can go in the other bins, to avoid your bin being tagged and not emptied.



All calendars were delivered by the end of November. If you didn't receive one or have lost it, you can download and print replacement calendars from our website www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/recyclingcalendars

A change to the way we collect your recycling is coming

Early next year we will be delivering a new **blue bag** to households with blue bins to collect paper and cardboard (mixed together), we will no longer collect cardboard and paper in the blue bin, it must be put in the bag provided separately. The new bag will be collected by the side of your **blue bin** on your normal collection day. Communal blocks will be provided with a bin for their paper and card.

The blue bag is being introduced as our contract for the processing of mixed dry recycling comes to an end in March 2022. The processing market has changed and companies in the UK and abroad that buy recycling now demand much higher quality materials.

Dual-stream recycling, which sees paper and card recycled separately to other dry recycling, increases the quality of the material collected and is more affordable to dispose of, ultimately by improving the quality we can recycle more, rather than sending it to landfill/incineration.



Our nearby authorities in Stafford and Newcastle-under-Lyme have already made these changes and the system is working well. Stafford Borough Council has seen recycling contamination rates reduce as a result, meaning fewer loads of recycling are rejected. Other local authorities in Staffordshire will also be making the changes at the same time as Cannock Chase.

When your new bag arrives, paper and card must be put in the **blue bag** we provide. If paper and card is put in the **blue bin**, we cannot empty it and your bin will be tagged.

We are planning to make the changes during April 2022, the **blue bags** will be delivered across the District during February through to April 2022, along with a new calendar and more information on the changes.

Your new bag will be accompanied by an information pack that will help you understand the process and give you a start date for your area.

The **blue bag** will have a positive impact on the amount we recycle and more importantly it will help ensure that the materials we are recycling stay in the UK for processing.

Christmas Recycling

The festive period usually brings with it, extra cardboard, food and drink, wrapping paper etc.

Food Waste

We all have a lot more food in the house at Christmas. All food waste should be disposed in the green bin. This includes any food items that you may have grown in the garden.



Food waste feeds climate change, we can all do our bit.
#smallchangeBIGdifference

There are ways to cut down on food waste:

Don't over buy, keep track of what you've bought and used. The waste and recycling organisation WRAP, suggests taking a 'shelfie' (a photo of your fridge and cupboards) to remind you of what you have left.

Check the use-by dates of fresh food when you buy it - These are the dates to take notice of, rather than the best-before dates. Try to only buy what you can use before it expires.

Use your freezer more - If you have something that coming to the end of its use-by date why not put it in freezer to extend its life. Remember to label it with the date it was frozen.

Plan ahead - Think about what you're going to cook and how you'll use any leftovers.



Wrapping Paper

Everyone has lots of wrapping paper waste at Christmas. Unfortunately, due to the dyes and other materials used to manufacture wrapping paper, it cannot be recycled at our facility, therefore it should be placed in your green bin or bagged up and taken to the tip, where it can be recycled.



Batteries

Old batteries should not be placed in any of your bins, as they can cause fires in our refuse vehicles. Batteries can be recycled at most supermarkets as part of the national take back scheme. Containers for used batteries are usually located at the front of the stores or near the checkouts.



Old Plastic Toys

If you are having a sort out of old toys to make room for some new ones, most toys are made of hard/rigid plastic and cannot be recycled at our facility. If the toys are in good condition, why not take them to your local charity shop? If they are no good you will need to dispose of these in your green general waste bin.



If you are unsure of which item goes in which bin, please use our online search facility www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/whichbin

Welcome Back Fund - How this funding has been spent

The Council received an allocation of European Regional Development Fund monies of £179,245 from the Government through the Re-opening the High Streets Safety Fund (RHSSF) and Welcome Back Fund (WBF). This funding is designed to support town centres and high streets to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council's Economic Development Team has worked in partnership with eligible Town and Parish Councils to identify ways in which the funding could be spent in their areas. The funding could be used to boost the look and feel of town centre/high streets by investing in additional planting and seating areas, to make them more welcoming, events to boost footfall and COVID-19 signage explaining how people can keep safe.

Town and parish Councils came up with funding ideas to help their areas. All the funding requests received by the Council were supported and it was ensured that there was a fair spread of funding allocated across the whole of the District.

Here are some examples of upcoming events, or those that have taken place, thanks to the Welcome Back Fund.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



HM Government



Electoral Review to take place in the District

The Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

There is to be a review of the electoral arrangements at Cannock Chase District which is expected to see a re-drawing of some of the ward boundaries and potentially a reduction in the number of district councillors on Cannock Chase Council.

The review is being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

Like all local authorities, Cannock Chase District is growing with new housebuilding, the movement of people and population growth and so it is important that our wards reflect these changes, and our councillors oversee areas with broadly similar numbers of electors.

Did you know...

District Council Elections to be held in May 2024 will be the first to feature the new ward structure and councillors' seats to be contested in those wards following the review.

The review will determine the total number of councillors (or Members) that should be elected to the Council in future; and the boundaries, names, and number of councillors to represent wards. Currently, there are 41 district councillors who are elected across 15 wards.

The review will involve at least two phases of public consultation where proposals and comments on ward boundaries will be invited. The first consultation is scheduled to begin on 24 May 2022.

For the May 2024 election only, all councillors will be up for election. However, after the 2024 election the voting system at Cannock Chase Council will revert to 'by thirds' meaning that a third of councillors will be up for election each year bar the fourth year in the sequence.

WE ARE WATCHING...

your actions could have expensive consequences

The Council has a zero-tolerance approach to all types of environmental crime and always takes enforcement action when there is sufficient evidence to do so.

Our Environmental Health Team has been busy implementing the Council's '**DETER, DISRUPT and DETECT**' approach to tackling environmental crime across the District.

Since the last edition of Chase Matters, the team has issued a number of fixed penalty notices and prosecuted several people for environmental offences, including:

On 31 August 2021, Marcus Eagles of Dorsett Road in Wednesbury pleaded guilty at Cannock Magistrates' Court to a fly tipping offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The court heard that a member of the public responded to an advert for waste removal on Facebook. The waste was collected and then fly tipped in a car park off Brindley Heath Road. Environmental Health Officers tracked him down and he was then prosecuted by the Council. He was fined £400, ordered to pay costs of £762 and a victim surcharge of £40.



On 13 September 2021, Adam Turner of Pool Way in Burntwood pleaded guilty to collecting scrap metal without a collector's licence contrary to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013. He was fined £513, ordered to pay costs of £1268 and a victim surcharge of £51.

On 28 September 2021, Melvyn Brown of Croxley Drive in Cannock pleaded guilty at Cannock Magistrates' Court to a fly tipping offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Having been seen putting roofing tiles into a household waste bin used by a group of local residents he was issued a fixed penalty by Environmental Health Officers. Having not paid the fixed penalty, he was summonsed to court and fined £400, ordered to pay costs of £400 and a victim surcharge of £40.

Did you know...

Officers continue to have access to mobile CCTV cameras to deploy to hotspot areas such as country lanes in order to deter and detect fly tipping.

On 12 October 2021, Laura Ross of Mulberry Road in Cannock pleaded guilty to failing to comply with the local dog control Public Spaces Protection Order. Environmental Health Officers had issued Ross with a fixed penalty notice after her dog attacked another dog when it should have been on a lead. The fixed penalty was not paid, and Ross was fined £60, ordered to pay costs of £378 and a victim surcharge of £34.

The Council has obtained arrest warrants for several people who are wanted in connection to fly tipping offences in Cannock Chase. All of them failed to appear at Cannock Magistrates' Court to answer to the charges. Environmental Health Officers are working with the Police to locate the individuals and bring them to justice.

Environmental Health Officers are regularly patrolling hotspot areas across Cannock Chase to deter litter and dog fouling offences. If you see them, say hello! They will always carry their warrant card and are usually wearing a yellow jacket or a black vest that both have 'Cannock Chase Council' and 'Environmental Health' on them. If you want to check their identity, call us on **01543 462621**. They are now regularly wearing body worn video cameras to improve the quality of evidence they obtain.

Report an environmental crime by calling
01543 462621 or emailing
environmentalhealth@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

£20m Levelling Up Fund money for Cannock town centre

It was reported in late October that Cannock Chase Council is to be allocated £20m from the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF).

This was announced as part of the Budget from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The money will make a huge difference to Council plans to rejuvenate Cannock town centre.

It was one of 107 successful bids from across the UK to share in £1.7bn of funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The Council submitted its bid earlier in the year within a 12-week period and is keen to continue to engage with residents and businesses to help shape its thinking on the proposed regeneration.

It is encouraging people to view its online consultation and virtual exhibition called 'A brighter future for Cannock town centre - welcome to our virtual exhibition' to share information, leave feedback and indicate their support for the visuals produced. This can be found at <https://vpc.tetrachteurope.com/engage/cannockchase/>

The consultation seeks feedback across four key themes: Leisure & Culture Offer, Connectivity (or getting around), Business & Skills Workspace and the Removal of Eyesores & Celebration of Assets. There is also a poll to participate in.

The successful bid was classed as category 2 (medium) by the Government which makes this achievement even more pleasing. Furthermore, it needed to be capable of delivery within the specified timescales and budget the Government set in its prospectus and meet its cost-benefit ratio in order to attract support.

The bid was built on previous work undertaken by the Council when it unsuccessfully bid for the Future High Streets Fund, when it also focussed on Cannock town centre. This was considered to be the only regeneration scheme developed sufficiently enough to stand any chance of attracting Government funding. We appreciate that work is needed in all our towns. The Council is now developing a pipeline of projects to ensure we are ready to respond to future opportunities.

Car parking discounts to continue into the New Year

In June, the Council's Cabinet agreed to pilot a car park initiative on Council owned car parks across the District, with the aim to boost footfall in town centres and help businesses recover following the pandemic.

The initiative ran from 21 June until 21 September and gave shoppers a £2 discount on their parking, when spending £10 in participating shops.

Several businesses signed up to the initiative in Cannock and Rugeley, which saw them receiving a £500 grant from the Additional Restrictions Grant monies received from the Government fund, to cover the cost of the refunds.

In October the Council's Cabinet reviewed the initiative and agreed to extend the car parking discount scheme with some changes, until the end of January 2022.

The changes include reducing the minimum spend in participating shops to £5 and to reduce the grant received by participating shops to £250.

Claim your car parking discount today!

Spend £5 or more and claim £2 for parking.

#ShopLocal

The scheme re-started on **Monday 1 November** and will end on **Sunday 30 January 2022.**

More information on the car park initiative and a list of participating shops can be found on our website: www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/carparkingdiscount

* T&Cs apply - visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/carparking
Discount applies to Cannock and Rugeley Town Centres only.



HM Government

Christmas Events in the District



LIFE SIZE Snowglobe
STEP INSIDE FOR A FREE PHOTO!

HEDNESFAB

Friday 10 - Saturday 11 December
HEDNESFORD TOWN CENTRE

Brought to you by:
VISIT Hednesford, HM Government, European Union European Regional Development Fund



HEDNESFORD CHRISTMAS NUTCRACKER TRAIL

Find all 10 Nutcrackers around Hednesford town centre for your chance to win prizes!

Brought to you by:
VISIT Hednesford, HM Government, European Union European Regional Development Fund



Cannock Chase Council Christmas & New Year

Civic Centre Reception opening times for appointments
We continue to encourage customers to make appointments before they visit

Reception Opening times, by appointment are:

Mon 20 Dec	2pm - 5pm
Tue 21 Dec	10am - 1pm
Wed 22 Dec	11am - 2pm
Thu 23 Dec	2pm - 5pm
Fri 24 Dec	10am - 1pm
Sat 25 Dec - Tue 28 Dec	Closed
Wed 29 Dec	11am - 2pm
Thu 30 Dec	2pm - 5pm
Fri 31 Dec - Mon 3 Jan	Closed
Tue 4 Jan	10am - 1pm

Council services continue to be delivered and our telephone lines are open. During Christmas and New Year our telephone lines will be open 9am to 5pm as follows:

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

* Telephone lines will be open from 9am to 3pm

Emergency calls will be answered outside of opening times by our Out of Hours service.



RUGELEY Market

Gifts, food and other essentials for a fabulous Christmas!

Hunt The Reindeer
Sat 11 & 18 Dec
from 10am until 3pm
(prize for every child)

Father Christmas is here
Sat 4 & 18 Dec
from 10am until 3pm

Plus more events throughout December

Support your local market
your local market

Rugeley Market, Bees Lane, Rugeley
tel 01889 503612 @rugeleyindoormarket
For Christmas opening times visit
www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/markets
or email market@cannockchasedc.gov.uk



Join us this Christmas at Cannock Christmas Market

Get into the Christmas spirit and join us at these fabulous markets

Mon 20 Dec	10am - 7pm
Tue 21 Dec	10am - 7pm
Wed 22 Dec	10am - 7pm
Thu 23 Dec	10am - 7pm
Fri 24 Dec	9am - 12.30pm

Christmas Stalls, Santa's Grotto funfair, delicious food and much more family fun...

Bescot
PROMOTIONS
BESCOT PROMOTIONS LTD

Email info@bescotpromotions.co.uk or contact 07875655875 to register your trading interest

FREE Town Centre Parking



In Cannock and Rugeley, Council owned car parks on the three Saturday's leading up to Christmas.

Sat 4 Dec

Sat 11 Dec

Sat 18 Dec

Creativity

takes centre stage for local children

Local cultural organisations and education settings have joined together to form 'Cannock Chase Cultural Education Partnership'. The group, which involves Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, Staffordshire Libraries, South Staffordshire College, local primary and secondary schools, as well as many others, aims to support children and young people aged 0-25, to access quality cultural opportunities and education across the District.



The partnership has recently been awarded funding to develop an artistic programme led by children and young people, that will look at the environment, sense of place and link to local activities including the Commonwealth Games.

In January, young people will be invited to events across the District, to begin working on the programme. Opportunities will involve taking part in a wide range of workshops working with creative professionals, as well as the chance to get involved in digital, filming and event planning. Participants will also have access to further skills and qualifications, by taking part in the Arts Award initiative.

Louise Rose, Chair of Cannock Chase CEP said: "As we all know, our children and young people have missed out on many things due to the pandemic, as well as having a negative impact on their mental health. This programme will provide new, exciting opportunities for them to get involved in, as well as helping to improve wellbeing."

Any local schools, organisations, children or young people, who would like to know more about this programme, please contact the Co-ordinator by email on: owenh@cannockchasecep.co.uk



The Cema Chapel Street Park

New play area in Norton Canes swings into action

The finishing touches are now being made to the new park and play area at The Cema - Chapel Street Park in Norton Canes, ready for its grand opening early next year.

Over the last few months, the Council has been working closely with Norton Canes Parish Council and residents to come up with the final design for the play area.

The Council appointed Kompan to undertake the works to the play area which has included the installation of new play equipment as well as a new green gym.

Youngsters within the local community were also asked to get creative and design ideas for the entrance way which are due to be installed before Christmas. A sculpture will depict local historical landscapes of significance and is being designed in consultation with the Parish Council, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, Planet Arts, and residents of all ages.

Landscaping works including the planting of new trees and shrubs will also be completed by mid-December. The Forest of Mercia has kindly donated £12,000 to contribute towards this element of the improvement works. These funds are from Government to tackle climate pollution by planting native trees and shrubs around the country.

These facilities will provide the opportunity to increase participation levels in sport and recreation and promote healthy and active lifestyles across the local and wider community of Norton Canes.



For more information about this development, contact the Parish Council on 01543 276812 or email nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Call for Sites - calling landowners and developers

Every year the Council offers landowners and developers the opportunity to submit details of their sites for consideration for development.



This helps the Planning Policy team to identify land that is suitable and available to meet future housing and employment requirements. If you have land within Cannock Chase District which you wish to be considered, please complete the Call for Sites form at www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/planningpolicymonitoring

Council Tax Electronic Billing

In March 2022 you will be receiving your Council Tax bill and information leaflet. If you usually receive your bill by post, why not consider receiving an electronic copy by email?

E-billing is a more efficient and a convenient way to check your bills and by reducing printing and paper, it is a good way to help the environment.

If you want to register for e-billing all you have to do is fill in the details on our website via the link below.

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/e-bill



Cannock Chase District Local Plan



Thank you to all of you who commented on the Preferred Options document in April. We want to stay in touch with you and want to encourage all residents, local advocates, resident groups, interest groups and businesses to read and comment on the Local Plan.

The new Local Plan will guide decisions on new developments and allocate land for new houses and employment sites.

Did you know...

The Local Plan will help us deliver the infrastructure to support new development and protect the areas which are most important to us such as our green spaces, precious wildlife and Cannock Chase AONB for the next 17 years.



We would like more comments from you on the proposals. All the relevant information and a non-technical summary is always put on our website: www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy

We are happy to email you (or send a letter if you don't have an email address) to let you know when we next publish a document for you to comment on.

If you want to be involved in commenting and guiding the future growth of the District and see how this impacts upon you or your resident group, local interest group or business please send a request to be added to the Local Plan consultation database to: planningpolicy@cannockchasedc.gov.uk or write to Planning Policy, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 1BG. For full details of how we store and use your personal data see our Privacy Notice. www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/privacynotice