



STREET SCENE

Issue 23

March 2023

If you have any queries,
please contact the team on
01902 696000 or email
info@sstaffs.gov.uk



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1. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Please see annual schedule of works below for Street Scene operations for 2023.

SCHEDULE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Grass cutting HV			2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Grass cutting open spaces			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
Weed spraying / including Knotweed sites												
Sightline pruning												
Annual prune												
Meadow grass												
Hedge cutting flail												
Tree works												
Leaf collecting												
Balsam prevention												
Street cleansing	Continuous											
Highway Sweeping	Continuous											

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting will recommence this month with the first cut on Highway verges commencing Monday 6th.

Weed Spraying

Weed spraying has commenced and will be completed over the next few weeks weather permitting.

Shrub Pruning

The annual shrub prune has now been completed.

2. STREET CLEANSING

Sweeping Update

Sweeping continues in the district and it is anticipated that this will take place in Pattingham, Perton, Codsall and Bilbrook areas over the coming weeks.

Please note that only arterial routes are swept as part of the sweeping schedule.

Bin Emptying and Litter Picking

Our teams have been bin emptying and litter picking all over the district to schedule.

For further information regarding Street Scene services, please visit our website: [Street Scene South](#)



3. ENVIROCRIME

Please find the February fly tipping figures below.

As you can see, we have seen a slight increase in numbers over February last year which is disappointing.

We issued 1 fixed penalty notice for littering, which was as a result of a witness providing a statement and dashcam evidence and we have 2 fly tipping offences which are due to be in court this month.

We also took part in a stop check with the police and VOSA this month. I spoke to a few trades people about waste carriage licences and also took some details from a fully compliant waste removal business. DVSA dealt with a van for vehicle defects and loading offences, I'll get this on social media.

Locality	Flytips	New investigations	FPN	February 2022 Total	February 2021 Total
1	33	1	1 litter		
2	4	1			
3	21	2			
4	14	0	1 Duty of Care		
5	40	1			
Totals	112	5	2	95	151

4. TREE WORKS

Our tree crew are completing tree works for both homeowners and businesses, which is bringing additional revenue into the council; we have received extremely positive comments from consumers regarding the work we have done.

As of end of Feb 23, the Tree gang have finished working on 48 private jobs throughout this fiscal year, with 7 more jobs scheduled to start within the next month.

In addition to this, we are seeing repeat business, which is a testament to the team's dedication and the hard work that they put in.

We have made it a priority to guarantee that any routine or emergency works will be completed by the in-house staff rather than outsourcing to Contractors wherever it is practicable; this will result in cost savings for the council.

At the present, we are completing a survey on all of trees which are owned by the Council, this is an ongoing process.



5. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

Spring is on its way

Some of the bulbs that volunteers helped us to plant are now flowering at our cemeteries and looking beautiful. Thank you again to our volunteers who helped to plant lots of snowdrop, crocus, daffodil and tulip bulbs. Look out for more volunteering opportunities later in the year.



Strawberry Lane Cemetery Drainage Works

Essential drainage works are going to be carried out at the cemetery starting from Wednesday, 1st March, 2023 which will take around two weeks to complete.

During the work disruption will be kept to a minimum but there will be an element of the work that has to take place in the vicinity of existing graves. Once the work is finished all lawn areas will be returned to their previous condition. The cemetery will remain open seven days a week from 9am until 4.30pm.

Cemetery Opening & Burial Times

The cemeteries are open to the public seven days a week from 9.00 to 4.30 (including public holidays) and are open for burials, including the interment and scattering of ashes, Monday to Friday 9.00 to 3.00. Our seasonal opening times are 1st October to 31st March - 9.00 until 4.30 and 1st April to 30th September - 9.00 until 8.00.

Pre-Purchasing of Plots

Although considered by many to be a taboo subject that most of us want to avoid, funerals are an inevitable part of life and being organised and planning ahead can relieve some of the emotional stress and financial pressures on your loved ones.

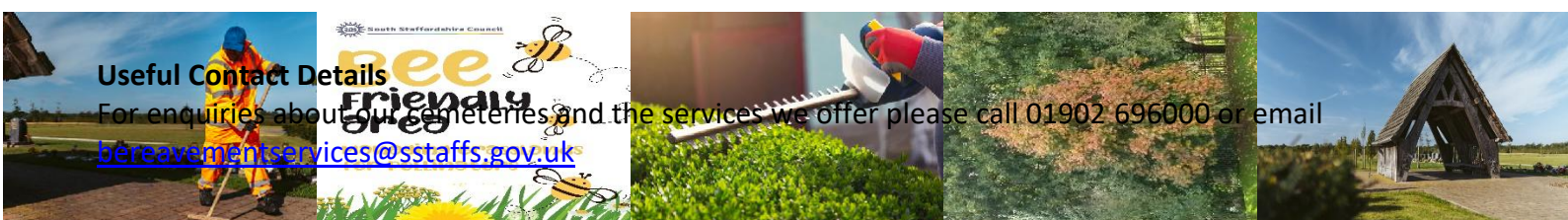
It isn't uncommon for people to make arrangements for when they die, in fact 15% of people in the UK have already done just that *, but did you know that whilst many pre-paid funeral plans offered by funeral directors include everything from a coffin to flowers, they may not include your final place of rest or burial plot.

At each of our two cemeteries we have plots available to purchase in advance whether your preference is burial or cremation. Choosing your exact plot and purchasing it at today's prices can give invaluable peace of mind to both you and your loved ones.

* Competition & Markets Authority (CMA) Funerals Market Study – March 2019

Useful Contact Details

For enquiries about our cemeteries and the services we offer please call 01902 696000 or email bereavementservices@sstaffs.gov.uk



You can also visit our website for further information including useful links to plenty of organisations that can offer advice and support. [Arranging a Funeral South Staffordshire Council \(sstaffs.gov.uk\)](https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk)

Bereavement Services Video

Visit the Council's You Tube page to see our Bereavement Services video. On the video you can hear about the different options available and see stunning views of our cemeteries and surrounding South Staffordshire countryside.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9HG4UmIBIM&t=4s&fbclid=IwAR2hEeOnAdDFac5i1tqx811i-ynWzY9aPi6TqB1t-2nBKVIOGRK1vDSJNtI>

6. AD-HOC AND OTHER WORK

Bin Replacement

We are auditing and replacing various bins across the district which are damaged, this is a rolling program throughout the year, please let us know if you have a damaged bin in your area.

Sign Replacement

We are replacing damaged signs across the district, please let us know if you have damaged ones in your area

Street Sweeping

We do offer an ad-hoc service which we try to undertake areas which are not on normal sweeping route. Please email Bob.Taylor@sstaffs.gov.uk regarding queries.

7. OTHER NEWS

We understand that it can be quite difficult to find the correct person for your queries, so I have put the below together to try and help.

Street Scene Contact Details:

Routine Scheduled Street Scene Operations – Bob Taylor or John Davies info@sstaffs.gov.uk

Tree Operations/Ad-hoc work/Quotes – Andy Aston Treeworks@sstaffs.gov.uk

Bereavement Services – Bec Morgan r.morgan@sstaffs.gov.uk or bereavementservices@sstaffs.gov.uk

Envirocrime – Andy Aston, Rachel Porter or Louize Butler envirocrime@sstaffs.gov.uk

Opportunities with Residents, Parishes, Businesses and Schools

We are looking at potential new customers to use our in-house service and if you know anyone who may need a quote, please get in touch with myself on a.aston@sstaffs.gov.uk or call me on 01902 696000 for a **free quotation**.

