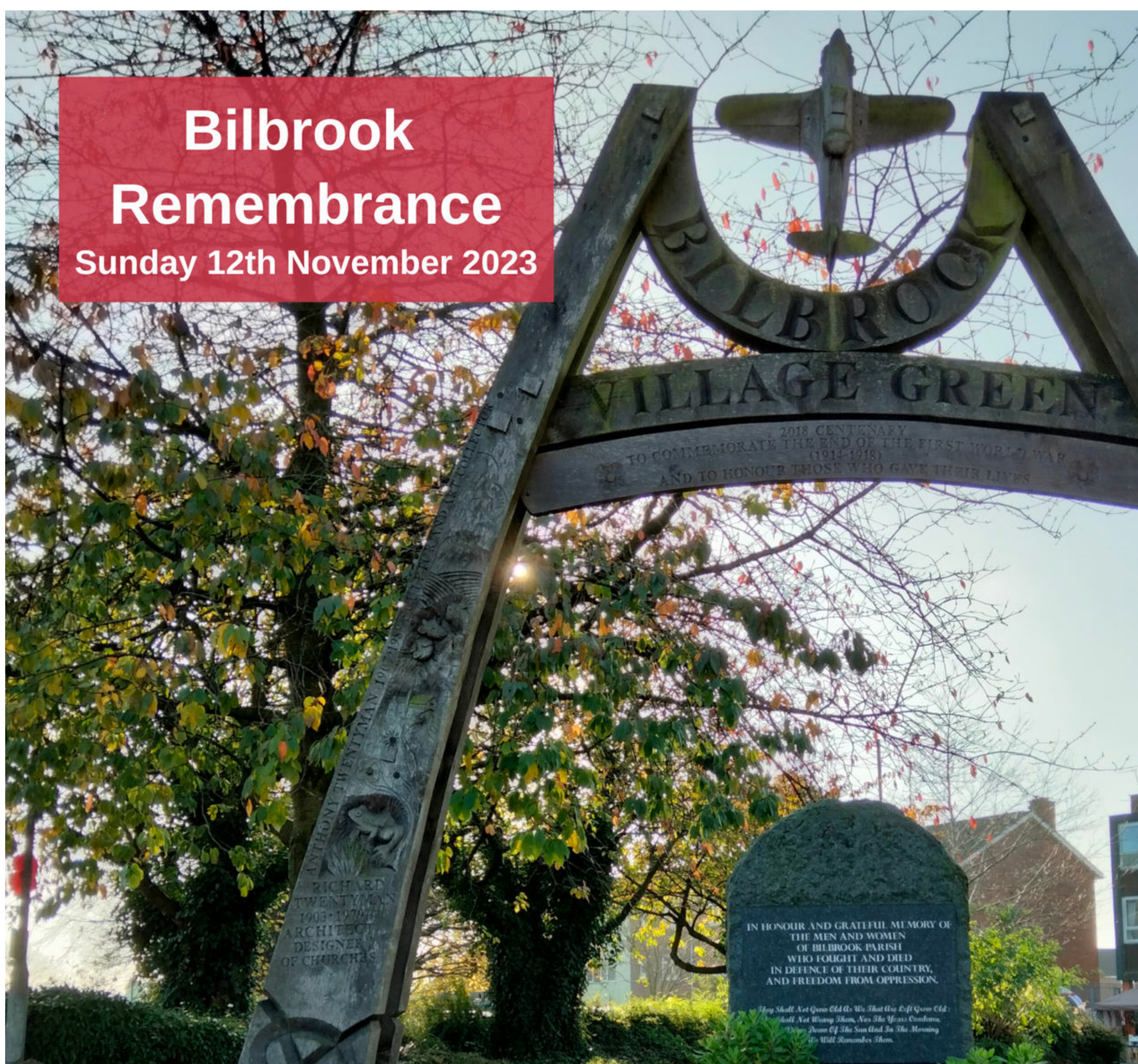


THE BILBROOK BUZZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF BILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL



Bilbrook Remembrance
Sunday 12th November 2023

9:50 am for 10:00 am - Service of Remembrance at Holy Cross Church, Bilbrook
10:45 am - Procession from Holy Cross Church to Bilbrook War Memorial
11:00 am - Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, Bilbrook Village Green
Anyone wishing to lay a wreath at the Act of Remembrance, please contact the Parish Clerk, tel: 01902 840007 or email: clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk
To purchase wreaths please email the Royal British Legion Codsall Poppy Appeal at codsallpoppyappeal@gmail.com



Bilbrook at Christmas

Bilbrook Village Green

Friday 24th November 2023

From 6:00pm

Lots of Stalls
Food and Drink
Special Guests
Carol Singing
Entertainment
Tombolas



Let's Switch on the Christmas Lights!

Don't forget to bring your letter to Father Christmas!



Coffee Pop-In

Just the place for a friendly face, a drink and a chat

HOLY CROSS CHURCH HALL EVERY THURSDAY FROM 10 o'clock

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2023
SILLY BILLY STAND UP PRESENTS
LAUGH & A HALF COMEDY NIGHT
LINE-UP
**LOVELL SMITH
JULES O'BRIAN
TOM DOWELLING
RACHEL SAMBROOKS**
HOSTED BY
RACHEL BAKER
AT BILBROOK VILLAGE HALL
JOEYS LANE, WV8 1JL
DOORS OPEN AT 7.30 PM SHOW STARTS AT 8 PM
£10 Ticket, includes entry in raffle
Book tickets at laugh-and-a-half-comedy.eventbrite.co.uk or get them from Rainbows Too



NO 5 BUS SERVICE SAVED!

Bilbrook Parish Council and residents alike have been very disappointed at the sudden changes to the No 5 bus service. We thank the Bilbrook residents who came to our October Parish meeting to voice their concerns. These were passed to County Councillor Bob Spencer, who has reacted quickly to address the situation. Cllr Spencer has provided the following statement.

"You will be aware, in a surprise move a few weeks ago, the operator of our number 5 bus, National Express, decided to withdraw the service. Our essential bus services are vital to many of our residents and following the announcement, I received numerous complaints. Listening to people's concerns about the loss of this service, whether simply going shopping, or getting to school, college, or health care appointments, helped reinforce my belief in the absolute need for effective, integrated public transport. However, although councils have responsibilities around public transport, they don't run buses, bus companies do. In addition, National Express made it clear the route was just not financially viable. A point echoed by residents who have told me they often see it almost empty, or that most passengers get off in Whitmore Reans and they are often the only passenger travelling to Bilbrook and Codsall. Since the announcement I have been in continual contact with various operators and transport organisations. Given the poor usage of the service, it quickly became clear that the only way to maintain any service would be with the provision of subsidies. Subsidies are hugely expensive and as you can imagine, fiercely contested as many local communities want them. After a great deal of negotiation, I am extremely pleased to say, I have been successful in securing sufficient subsidies to retain the service, almost in its entirety. For full details and route maps, the tenders are out and publicly available on the midlands transport website. In brief, the times are as advertised with additional subsidised services shown here." - Bob Spencer, County Councillor.

Service No	5	5	5	5
Wolverhampton, Bus Station	1910	2010	2110	2210
Whitmore Reans, Hordern Grove	1924	2024	2124	2224
Bilbrook, Rail Strv/Carler Av	1932	2032	2132	2232
Codsall, Bakers Way	1939	2039	2139	2239

Service No	5	5	5	5
Codsall, Bakers Way	1941	2041	2141	2241
Bilbrook, Rail Station	1948	2048	2148	2248
Whitmore Reans, Hordern Grove	1955	2055	2155	2255
Wolverhampton, Bus Station	2009	2109	2209	2309

Bilbrook Parish Council thanks Cllr Spencer for his work to resolve this issue for Bilbrook residents.

Banga buses take over the No 5 service on Monday 6th November. They will accept the same bus passes as National Express. The maximum adult fare will be the same as National Express (Currently capped at £2) All of their buses are DDA compliant; can be lowered and has wheel chair accessibility. The capacity is 32 seated, 24 standing. You can see the timetable by scanning the QR code (right) or following the link <https://bangabuses.co.uk/bus-timetables/>



CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND BILBROOK CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

BILBROOK CLIMATE ACTION GROUP
Meeting
Wed 22nd Nov 7:00 pm
Bilbrook Village Hall, Joeys Lane, Bilbrook, WV8 1JL
if you are interested in joining the group, please follow the link below or scan the QR code to sign up
<https://tinyurl.com/BilbrookCCAG>

At its September 2023 meeting Bilbrook Parish Council (BPC) agreed to declare a climate emergency. Our aim is to make BPC carbon neutral by 2030 and encourage residents, organisations and businesses to work with us to reduce pollution, their carbon footprint and protect and improve the environment.

Councillor Annette Lloyd said: Scientists tell us we are no longer in a state of Global warming but now we are in Global Boiling. We are at a tipping point regarding climate change. Each of us must ensure every time we decide on such things as travel, purchasing, heating our homes, that we consider our individual impact on climate change. As a Parish Council we want to be ambitious, challenging our systems, values, and work; looking for ways to become more adaptive and responsible.

We believe that the Parish Council has a unique part to play in affecting change by all. And, by coming together as a community we can have a greater impact. As a community we need to make the climate emergency a priority. Our declaration of a climate emergency is just the beginning in our determination to effect and inspire change. In doing this, we aim to provide a better future for our children and grandchildren. The Parish Council has already made some changes to reduce their carbon footprint including paperless meetings and tree planting.

BPC is setting up a Climate Action Group made up of residents and Parish Councillors to develop an action plan looking at future initiatives such as; installing EV chargers in the village, more wildflower meadows, and further habitat restoration on Banks Field working with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Any members of the community interested in getting involved, please scan the QR Code to and come along to our first meeting on Wednesday 22nd November at 7:00pm at Bilbrook Village Hall. Scan the QR code to the right to sign up or just come along.



Bilbrook Village Hall Joeys Lane, Bilbrook, WV8 1JL
Tel 01902 840007
Email: clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/BilbrookParishCouncil/



BLOOR CONSULTATION FOR NEW BUILDING PHASE

Bilbrook residents should have received a consultation leaflet from Bloor Development at the beginning of October which shows their plans for the next phase of housing at sites off of Pendeford Mill Lane and Lane Green Road. Residents have informed the council that not everyone received the leaflet in time to give feedback before the original deadline. The Parish Council contacted Bloor and they have agreed to extend the deadline to **Friday 4th November** (Apologies to any households that receive the Buzz after the deadline as the time scales were tight to get this out)

We encourage all residents to give their feedback. The Bilbrook Neighbourhood Plan committee is also reviewing the proposal and will give feedback based on the draft policies currently being written. Bloor is requesting the feedback online at www.bloorhomesbilbrook.com. If you don't have access to the internet, you can telephone them on 01225 667097, or write to them at Bloor Bilbrook Homes, c/o Sulis Public Affairs, 2nd/3rd Floors, Northgate House, Bath BA1 1RG.



THE OLD GRANGE PUB



You may have noticed that fencing has recently been put up around the former Grange pub.. It is the Parish Councils understanding that the pub is to be demolished and a care home built in its place. Sadly, the building is damaged beyond repair. Thanks goes to our local PCSO's, Parish and District Councillors who have been pushing for this for many years due to the anti-social behaviour around the property.

The planning application relating to the development of the site was updated in June. As the application was already approved and "live" the Parish Council is not consulted on any amendments to the plans in line with National Planning Policy. The application (11/00256/AMEND) can be viewed at: <https://planning.sstaffs.gov.uk/online-applications/>

BILBROOK VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

Bilbrook Village Hall has served the community, hosting events, gatherings, and celebrations. To ensure it continues to be a welcoming and vibrant hub it is having a much-needed refurbishment.

Work has already started, with new energy efficient lighting installed, the roof repaired, flooring replaced and repainting. In the next few months there will be new kitchen, doors and toilet facilities, and the parquet floor in the hall will be restored.

A big thank you to the Twentyman Playing Fields Committee who manage the Village Hall for all their work and fundraising efforts. - watch out for their upcoming fundraising events including a comedy night on Saturday 16th November and another "Pringo" night in 2024.

Thank you also to Enovert, the Platinum Jubilee Fund, and Cargill who between them have given funding, provided supplies and volunteers (As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility scheme) Their help means we have a Village Hall to be proud of for years to come

Regular events are continuing during the refurbishments and the latest timetable is right. Please contact the organiser(s) directly to confirm timings and prices.



Classes at Bilbrook Village Hall



DAY / CLASS	TIME	WHEN	CONTACT	PHONE NO
MONDAY				
Baby Sensory Class	10:00am to 11:00am 11:30am to 12:30pm	Weekly	Leanne	07882 168495
St John Ambulance	6:00pm	Weekly	Andrew or Angela	07887 822498 07776 466292
TUESDAY				
Invigorate Pilates	6:45pm	Weekly	Nina	07950 676446
WEDNESDAY				
Invigorate Pilates	9:30am	Weekly	Nina	07950 676446
THURSDAY				
Bollyfit with Pooja	9:30am	Weekly	Pooja	07376 417753
Zumba with Karina	7:00pm	Weekly	Karina	07540 055961
FRIDAY				
Messy Play	9:15am	Weekly	Philippa	07375 480238

Please note that timings may be different during school holidays. Contact the telephone numbers above to confirm schedules and pricing.

BILBROOK MENOPAUSE MEET-UP

Are you or someone you know navigating the menopause? Do you crave a safe and supportive space to share experiences and seek advice?

The Menopause meet-up is a monthly group to help provide comfort and community for women going through menopause. Partners and women approaching menopause are also welcome.

The plan is to host regular discussions on various menopause-related topics, including hormone therapy, nutrition and more. The aim is to empower you with knowledge and tools to manage the journey effectively. Connect with others who are going through similar experiences. Share stories, swap tips, and build friendships with women who understand what you're going through.

Menopause Meet-up



HOLY CROSS IS 125 YEARS OLD



In 1898 Mary Ann Smith left some land which was sold to Lichfield Diocesan Trust for £25. It was on this land that a small mission Church was built. Since that time the church has served the community of Bilbrook.

The Parish Council wishes Rev'd Simon Douglas all the best as he moves to Brewood & Bishops Wood Churches. We thank him for all he has done for Bilbrook.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE

St John Ambulance has started a new group to teach First Aid to young people at Bilbrook Village Hall on Monday nights from 6pm. Call Anthony 07887 822498 or Angela 07776 466292



CALLING BILBROOK YOUNG PEOPLE!

Are you 13-18? The Parish Council would like to hear your views on what you think the young people of Bilbrook want and need. We are also looking to start a Youth Council & get young people involved in projects!

Please follow the link below or scan the QR Code to complete our youth survey. <https://tinyurl.com/BPCYouthSurvey2> Some exciting projects are already in the pipeline for our young people working with our local schools.



CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Corporate social responsibility (CSR) involves companies helping their community and includes their staff volunteering in the community. CSR not only helps the community but is also good for the wellbeing of the staff.



Thank you to Lloyds Banking Group and Cargills for the CSR they have done around Bilbrook. Their staff have litter picked, tidied our grass verges, planted bulbs and painted the inside of Bilbrook Village Hall.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

- Cllr M Adams - West Ward
- Cllr S Adams - West Ward (Chairman)
- Cllr R Armitage - East Ward
- Cllr S Bailey - East Ward
- Cllr G Burnett - West Ward (Vice-Chair)
- Cllr B Coppola - East Ward
- Cllr F Hopkins - West Ward
- Cllr D Hutchinson - East Ward
- Cllr P Hutchinson - East Ward
- Cllr S Leedham - West Ward
- Cllr A Lloyd - East Ward
- Cllr G Price - Lane Green Ward
- Cllr D Williams - East Ward

All councillors can be contacted via the Parish Office. (see details on page 4)

PARISH MEETINGS

Full Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm (except in August) at Bilbrook Village Hall.

KEY CONTACTS

South Staffordshire District Council - 01902 696000 www.sstaffs.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council - 0300 111 8000 www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Staffordshire Highways - 0300 111 8000

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Staffordshire Police - 111 for a non-emergency or 999 for an emergency. www.staffordshire.police.uk

CrimeStoppers - report crime anonymously on 0800 555111

Staffordshire Smart Alert - Sign up for Police Alerts - www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk

Bilbrook Medical Centre - 01902 847313

Bilbrook Village Hall bookings: 07511 339598

Holy Cross Church Hall bookings: 01902 212405

QUICK LINKS

South Staffs Council Blue Bags - <https://bit.ly/37y6AdP>

Report a pothole - <https://bit.ly/SCCHighways>

Allotment waiting list - <https://bit.ly/AllotmentWaitingList>

News on Bin Collections - www.sstaffs.gov.uk/waste

What's on at Codsall Library - <https://tinyurl.com/CodsallLibrary>

BIN NOT EMPTIED?

Call **Biffa** on
01543 578832

