

Chase Matters



SUMMER 2024

Residents Magazine



Gateway to the centre

Inside...

Grant's for SME's
in Cannock Chase
pg 4 - 6

Economic Performance in
Cannock Chase
pg 8 - 9

Your District
Councillors
pg 12 - 13

What's on this
Summer
pg 14 - 15

On the cover



This is an artist's impression of the proposed Nothern Gateway for Cannock Town Centre. Plans to deliver major regeneration in the town centre are developing and further information on these exciting plans will be coming soon.

In this issue...

page	
4 - 5	Help supporting local business, people and skills
6	New life skills support for Cannock Chase residents
6	Grants for small to medium sized businesses in Cannock Chase
7	The Kids Can Club
7	Get budgeting with the Cannock Chase Can App!
8 - 9	Economy Performance in Cannock Chase
10	Damp and mould in private homes
11	Addressing the mental health of tenants in rented Multi-Occupied Houses
12 - 13	Your District Councillors
14 - 15	What's on in the District
16	Cannock Chase Heritage Trail
17	Sheltered Accommodation in Cannock Chase

Welcome



“A general election has come and gone, and we have a new Member of Parliament - Councillor Josh Newbury. I'm delighted for Josh, who has been exceptional as the deputy leader for the last two years, and I am sure he will make an excellent MP for the Cannock Chase constituency.”

With all eyes on the general election, it is easy to forget that we also had our local elections in May - and we welcomed a host of new councillors who I am sure, like me, will be doing their very best for the residents of our district.

You can find out who those councillors are, the wards they represent, and how to contact them on page 12-13.

We have some exciting, and challenging, times ahead. We will be driving forward with the £20m Cannock Town Centre development using the money we secured from the Government - with preliminary work starting on the project this autumn. I've been speaking to many investors and developers and there is plenty of interest for this scheme and proposed development of the former Rugeley Power Station site.

Talking of investments, we officially opened the new skate park and learn to ride area at Cannock Stadium in July. We hope the learn to ride park will encourage more young people and their families to get on their bikes - which has the twin benefits of making residents healthier while helping reduce carbon emissions.

Anyway, in this edition you will find out how we are supporting businesses, how we are helping residents improve their job prospects, how we have brought the district's history to life with a new 'Heritage Trail,' and much more.

Enjoy reading

Tony Johnson
Leader of Cannock Chase Council

For more information about our services and what's happening in the area visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Help supporting local business, people and skills

Cannock Chase District was allocated £3,021,807 from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to fund local projects for 3 years from 2022/2023 onwards.

The Fund aims to promote pride in our area and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities, supporting local business, and people and skills.



Poverty Benefits Advisor

Citizens Advice are working with Cannock Chase Council to provide 1-2-1 support and advice, to help claimants understand their benefit entitlements, provide advice to make eligible claims alongside supporting with appeal tribunals if needed. Residents may be unaware of the additional support available and this makes people more vulnerable to cost-of-living challenges.

The service is looking to help residents that aren't in work and those who are in low paid work. It will support residents who suffer with health conditions, younger people aged 18 and over, or in some cases aged 16-17 and pensioners.

For more information contact **Citizens Advice Staffordshire South West** visit citizensadvice.org.uk

Cannock Construction Excellence Initiative

The UKSPF has contributed towards a community asset which will be delivered by South Staffordshire College in three phases.

- Phase 1 > Building Community Capacity
- Phase 2 > Supporting Local Business
- Phase 3 > Providing people and skill courses

Phase 1

Boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress in work, by targeting those with no or low-level qualifications and skills in maths. Upskill the working population, reduce adult learning barriers and levels of inactivity.

Phase 2

This phase is focussed on supporting businesses in the Construction sector. It promotes local networking and collaboration that enables businesses and partners to share knowledge, expertise, and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.

Phase 3

Collaborating with a range of local partners, such as HS2, Jobcentre Plus network and Cannock Chase Council, South Staffordshire College use specific local market intelligence data to ensure we meet the needs of both current and future employment needs while also considering the provision already available locally.

Thinking of working for yourself but not sure where to start?

A programme led by Staffordshire County Council has been created to work closely with job centres, libraries, local community groups and organisations to help you with this journey.

You will get a dedicated Enterprise coach to support you at the beginning of starting a business and give you the confidence and support you need to succeed.

To apply email info@enterprisesupport.org

Did you know...
All programmes for local investment run until
31 March 2025

Step up loans

Businesses across Cannock Chase are being encouraged to take advantage of an interest-free loan, designed to help them take the next step on their growth journey.

Did you know...

If you have a business which has been trading for 2-5 years and based in Cannock Chase you could be eligible for an interest-free loan of more than £3,000.



- No set-up fee
- No requirement for match-funding
- Repaid in full after 12 months with no repayments prior to this
- If the loan is not repaid in full after 12 months interest will be added
- Loans can be used for capital funding only

To apply email startuploans@staffordshire.gov.uk

Get Started and Grow

Offers all business in Cannock Chase (up to five years old) the help they need to start-up or stay up.

Choose from the fully funded support package:

- Accountancy, financial planning and cash flow support
- Free HR advice and support
- Free legal advice
- Website development
- Branding and logo design
- Free social media and digital marketing consultancy and support - depending on your business' needs

To apply email getstarted@staffordshire.gov.uk

For more information please contact our **Economic Development Team** by emailing econdev@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

 **Funded by
UK Government**



New life skills support for Cannock Chase residents

A new programme called Cannock Chase Discovery has been launched to help residents access tailored support to improve their general and life skills leading to better employment opportunities.

The programme offers a range of interventions across four broad categories: work, skills, health, and life. It is being delivered by Jobs 22 on behalf of Cannock Chase Council and funded by the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Cannock Chase Discovery will help residents who are unemployed or employed and meet one of several criteria, including being from a low-income household, low skill levels, digital exclusion, and poor health.

The services will be delivered locally at the Jobs 22 office in Cannock and across several accessible community locations.

The programme runs until

31 March 2025



For more information and to register interest call **0333 242 1230** or email discoveryukspf@jobs-22.co.uk

Grants for small to medium sized businesses in Cannock Chase

The West Midland Grant Programme is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

It is offering start up small-to-medium (SMEs) sized business grants from £1,000 to £7,500. Existing SMEs can get grants from £1,000 to £100,000 to support growth projects.

Applicants must demonstrate their projects will create new jobs. Grant awards will be limited to a maximum of 50% of the total project costs, with businesses expected to 'match-fund' whatever grant amount they receive.

Did you know...

For every £10,000 grant awarded, one new full-time job needs to be created within 6 months of grant award.



Projects must be completed within a 3-month period.

What can grants be used for?

- expand and grow a business
- capital equipment
- inward investment
- developing new market opportunities
- innovation
- new product development
- increasing the productive capacity of new and existing premises through new property builds, refurbishment, extensions
- digital projects

For further information visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmgrp

The Kids CAN Club is a new initiative that links to the Cannock Chase Can health and wellbeing programme which is led by Cannock Chase Council and Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles.

The booklet provides you with a variety of local offers and activities to keep children active. Some of these activities can be found on the Cannock Chase Can mobile App.

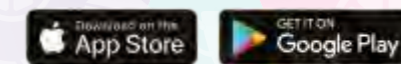
Get budgeting with the Cannock Chase Can App!

The Cannock Chase Can App can help you manage your money better by providing useful tips and links to local services.

The Budget Well section encourages you to spend less, get help with debt, be a savvy saver and to manage your money better.

There are free challenges to undertake to help you along your way as well as information from local organisations and online tools.


Download the new Cannock Chase Can App for FREE




Visit www.cannockchasecan.co.uk



Economy Performance in Cannock Chase


 **19.5%** people working from home in 2021

The national average was **31.5%**. This indicates that many people in the district are employed in jobs in which home working is not feasible.



 **61%** of people aged 16+ in employment worked full-time for 31-48 hours per week in 2021 - above the England average of **59.1%**

Full-time employment is more popular than part-time working in the district.

59.3% of people aged 16+ were economically active in employment in 2021 - above the national average of **57.4%**




Alongside Tamworth, Cannock Chase had the highest proportion of residents across Staffordshire reporting that they had no qualifications in Census 2021

22% compared to an England average of **18.1%**

The proportion of people qualified to Apprenticeship level was higher than the national average

6% of people 16+ living in Cannock Chase qualified to Apprenticeship level compared to a national average of **5.3%**

 **34.3%** of people living in Cannock Chase aged 16+ in employment travelled less than 10km to work in 2021.

However, **23.8%** travelled between 10km to less than 30km - nearly double the national average of **14.4%**

The largest number of people travelling into Cannock Chase for employment in 2021 travelled from

 **Walsall, South Staffordshire and Lichfield**

The most popular employment destinations for people living in Cannock Chase in 2021 were



 **Lichfield, Walsall and Stafford**

24.4% of employee jobs in 2022 were in Wholesale and Retail; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles



More than **10%** higher than the England average **14.1%**

In Census 2021 Cannock Chase recorded:

  **64%** of people travelled to work by driving a car or van

Compared to a national average of **44.5%**

The most popular occupation groups in Cannock Chase at the time of Census 2021 were

  **skilled trades, professional and technical occupations**

14.2% of people aged 16+ in employment in the district worked in Skilled Trades Occupations.

 There were approximately **3,565** VAT and/or PAYE based **business enterprises** in 2023. 

Census 2021 data was collected during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. National lockdowns, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected responses. Please see Office for National Statistics Census 2021 webpages for more information here: www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/methodologies/traveltoworkqualityinformationforcensus2021

Sources: Office for National Statistics Census 2021: Build a Custom Area Profile www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/; Office for National Statistics, Census 2021 Origin Destination Data www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusorigindestination; Office for National Statistics, Business Demography UK (November 2023); Office for National Statistics, UK Business: Activity, Size and Location (September 2023); Staffordshire County Council: Staffordshire Observatory, Census 2021 - Labour Market & Travel to Work Briefing and Education Briefing www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Observatory/Data/Census-2021.aspx

Damp and mould in private homes

Everyone has the right to a warm, secure, and decent home, yet many people in England are living in a home with damp and mould which may put their physical and mental health at risk.

Certain individuals may be at increased risk of the health impacts of damp and mould exposure. This could be due to health-related or age-related vulnerabilities, or because they are less able to report and act on guidance related to damp and mould, or simply because they are more likely to live in a home with damp and mould.

This project will be focused on four wards, which have been identified as having a high level of need, these are Cannock North, Cannock East, Rawsley and Western Springs which combined have a population of 25,900 residents, or 26% of the District.

The Council's Private Sector Housing team currently respond to complaints about damp and mould in the private sector. This funding will enable them to address these issues, focussing on vulnerable households, particularly those with children under the age of 5 years old and occupants over the age of 75 years, though other homes will also be considered.



The project will identify those living with damp, mould and excess cold within the private rented sector and work with Landlords to address these hazards. We will encourage private tenants and homeowners to come forward with any concerns they may have. We will strengthen our links and work with partner agencies to increase awareness of the issues they may come across to enable signposting and referrals to the Private Sector Housing Team and agencies that can assist with energy efficiency measures whilst at the same time working with Landlords to address the hazards.

Did you know...

Cannock Chase Council have been awarded £110,000 from Staffordshire County Council to reduce health inequalities across the District.

Details of this project will be promoted at local engagement days and on our social media channels. Further information can be found on our website

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/dampandmould

For more advice, please contact the **Private Sector Housing Team** at privatesectorhousing@cannockchasedc.gov.uk or call **01543 462621**.

Addressing the MENTAL HEALTH of tenants in rented Multi-Occupied Houses



The number of houses in multiple occupation within the UK has increased significantly in recent years.

Research demonstrates a link between housing and mental health, substance/drug/alcohol abuse and that tenants of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) are at greater risk of suffering from these complex conditions.

The Council's Environmental Health Service inspects HMO accommodation and responds to complaints and this new funding will allow the Team to proactively explore the links between mental health and the occupants of local housing, focusing in particular on those in HMO accommodation. This will enable us to promote awareness amongst landlords of the links between poor housing and mental health, substance / drug and alcohol abuse and to provide information, advice and assistance to both tenants and landlords to improve awareness and early help for those affected.

In addition, the funding will enable proactive working with partners to identify occupiers living in HMOs to assist in early identification and referral / support for any tenants who may consider themselves in need of assistance to improve their mental health.

Did you know...

Cannock Chase Council has been awarded £110,000 from Staffordshire County Council to reduce health inequalities across the District.

Owners of licensed HMO accommodation have been contacted and a request made for any practical recommendations / good practice to share amongst others. They have also been invited to attend free training to provide the tools they need to support tenants.

Did you know...

Further details will be promoted on the Council's website and on social media channels.

For more information or if you know anyone that may be affected and would like further advice, please contact the Council's **Private Sector Housing Team** call **01543 462621** or email privatesectorhousing@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Your District Councillors

2024/25



You can contact your local Councillor with any issues you have in your area via the numbers below.



Brereton and Ravenhill

David Williams 07396 959 000	Paul Fisher 07968 620503	Carl Boulton 07740 168759
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Cannock Longford and Bridgtown

Richard Craddock 07496 503721	Jeff Hill 07468 200355	Maureen Freeman 01543 579138
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Cannock Park and Old Fallow

Steve Thornley 07881 648491	Josh Bancroft 07375 558271	Val Jones 01543 571056
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Chadsmoor

Sue Thornley 07920 400431	Jacquie Prestwood 07816 104442	Tony Johnson 07582 633640
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Etching Hill and The Heath

Justin Johnson 07812 436348	Mike Sutherland 07595 654360	Nick Lyons 07973 483205
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Hawks Green with Rumer Hill

Les Bullock 07754 878762	Adrienne Fitzgerald 07919 161 336	Philippa Haden 07484 770082
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Heath Hayes and Wimblebury

Diane Todd 01543 278778	Julie Aston 07852 385527	Lisa Wilson 07850 927354
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Hednesford Green Heath

Garry Samuels 07799 358700	Fred Prestwood 07507 359429	Mandy Dunnett 07547 627940
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Hednesford Hills and Rawnsley

Hayley Page 07477 880921	Jo Elson 07946 765374	Andrea Muckley 07882 243217
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Hednesford Pye Green

Sheila Cartwright 01543 424950	Darrell Mawle 07939 828 411	Liz Bishop 07429 657258
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Norton Canes

Jean Hill 07412 191439	John Preece 07929 558885	Josh Newbury 07884 111382
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Western Springs

George Hughes 07368 968595	David Gaye 01889 577657	Olivia Lyons 07969 525216
Re-election: 2026	Re-election: 2027	Re-election: 2028

Cabinet

Tony Johnson
Leader of the Council

John Preece
Deputy Leader of the Council and Parks, Culture, and Heritage Portfolio Leader

David Williams
Community Wellbeing Portfolio Leader

Lisa Wilson
Environment and Climate Change Portfolio Leader

Sue Thornley
Housing and Corporate Assets Portfolio Leader

Maureen Freeman
Regeneration and High Streets Portfolio Leader

Jacquie Prestwood
Resources and Transformation Portfolio Leader

Shadow Cabinet

Olivia Lyons
Leader of the Opposition

Philippa Haden
Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Regeneration and High Streets Shadow Portfolio Leader

Val Jones
Community Wellbeing Shadow Portfolio Leader

Justin Johnson
Environment and Climate Change Shadow Portfolio Leader

Josh Bancroft
Housing and Corporate Assets Shadow Portfolio Leader

Adrienne Fitzgerald
Parks, Culture, and Heritage Shadow Portfolio Leader

Mike Sutherland
Resources and Transformation Shadow Portfolio Leader



What's on in the District





Staffordshire SPACE Programme

-  Venues across Staffordshire
-  Until 30 August  Free and subsidised activities
-  www.staffordshirespace.uk  [StaffsSpace](https://www.facebook.com/StaffsSpace)

Space 2024 offers kids aged 8-17 the chance to explore, engage and excel in a wide range of free and subsidised activities throughout Staffordshire. Sign-up to our newsletter at www.staffordshirespace.uk



Summer Reading Challenge

-  Libraries across the district
-  Until 9 September  Free
-  [Cannock Chase Libraries](https://www.facebook.com/CannockChaseLibraries)

Get ready for the Summer Reading Challenge, 'Marvellous Makers', arriving at your local library this summer for children aged 4-11. Libraries will be offering a huge range of free or inexpensive events over the summer - ask your Library what's going on!



Achieving Goalz and Dreams

-  Cannock Park, Hednesford Park, Pye Green Stadium and Norton Canes Park.
-  Until 31 August, 9am - 3pm  Free
-  07525 169440  www.achieving-goalz.co.uk

Come and get fit and have fun. All ages welcome! Take part in free football, boxing, circuit training, tennis, tug-of-war, dodgeball, climbing wall and more!



The Hub @ Pye Green

-  Pye Green Community Centre
-  Every Monday from 1pm-3pm






Offers a warm and welcoming space where you can access a wide range of free support, social and wellbeing activities. Includes a free drink and light refreshments.

For more information email

 Matthew.Johnson@hednesford-tc.gov.uk or  01543 424872






West Chadsmoor Family Centre

-  Princess St, Cannock, WS11 5JT
-  Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.  Please enquire
-  01543 571698  [West Chadsmoor Family Centre](https://www.facebook.com/WestChadsmoorFamilyCentre)

Activities for children aged 0-10 years, taking place over the first five weeks of the holidays. Some sessions are bookable and others are drop in.







Parks across Cannock Chase

-  Parks across the District  Free
-  www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/parks

Your local parks are full of activity this summer with story walks, arts and crafts, sports and more. Every Thursday in August, Friends of Heath Hayes Park, will be providing activities at the park, from 11am - 1pm. Don't forget to check out the new skatepark and learn to ride area at Cannock Stadium Park too! Keep your eye out for our Love Parks week, where we'll have lots more activities planned!



Hednesford Summer Festival

-  Hednesford Park
-  Saturday 10 August, 11am - 4pm  Free Admission
-  [HednesfordinPartnershipHiP](https://www.facebook.com/HednesfordinPartnershipHiP)

A fun, family festival with lots of free activities. There's Scruffs Dog Show in the main arena, dance shows and music acts. Browse the artisan market stalls and take a look at the transport show and birds of prey. A magical day for everyone!



Please contact the provider before attending to confirm details. We are not responsible for the content provided by third parties in connection with or referenced in this magazine.

Cannock Chase Heritage Trail

has been brought to life through the power of creativity!

The Cannock Chase Heritage Trail has been brought to life using animation and audio with the launch of two new digital trails - Chase Tales and Hear Our Heritage.



The Cannock Chase Heritage Trail is a 10-mile route linking the towns of Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley. It passes through, or close to sites of historic or environmental interest, with interpretation panels along the way that tell the story of each location.

The new digital offer was unveiled recently at an official launch event which showcased the creation of the two digital trails along with a new trail leaflet and map.

The Chase Tales Trail is suitable for families and brings to life the interpretation panels with the use of musical animations.



Content has been created by local schoolchildren alongside professional artists and the Birmingham Rep Theatre.

The Hear Our Heritage Trail is suitable for families and history enthusiasts who would prefer to listen to the interpretation panels rather than read them. An audio piece has been created for each and allows people to listen to the history whilst they walk along the trail.



The audios have been created by members of Tower Players.

Visitors can take on the new trails via the Cannock Chase Can App where they will need to collect all the QR codes for each themed trail to complete a challenge and gain points and rewards for their efforts.

The Cannock Chase Can app is FREE to download from [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#).



For more information or to download a copy of the new map, visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/chaseheritagetrail



These improvements have been funded by



Do you know anyone that would benefit from Sheltered Accommodation in Cannock Chase?

We have accommodation available at our schemes in Rugeley and Cannock.

These schemes are available to people aged 55 years and over, who do not need residential care, but are looking to move out of their current accommodation due to poor health or disability and want something easier to manage with support and security but not lose their independence.



Caxton Court

Caxton Street,
Cannock,
Staffs WS11 3EA

Grace Moore Court

Cecil Street,
Chadsmoor, Cannock,
Staffs WS11 1HS

Longford Court

Bideford Way,
Cannock,
Staffs WS11 1QB

St. Barbara House

John Till Close,
Rugeley,
Staffs WS15 2AG

For more information about our Sheltered Housing Schemes and the accommodation on offer please visit www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/residents/housing/independent-living or email lettingofficers@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Garden Waste Collection Service

The annual fee is
£38.50
per bin




You can sign up and pay online
via the Council's website at
your convenience.

Other payment methods
are available.

Scan here
for more
information >



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

 Search for 'Cannock Chase Life'  @CannockChaseDC  @CannockChaseDC

Thanks for reading!

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

Contact us...

Cannock Chase Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock,
Staffordshire WS11 1BG

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

Email communications@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

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of **Chase Matters** (pdf version):

[www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/
chasematters](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/chasematters)

Keep in touch via social media

 Search for 'Cannock Chase Life'

 [@CannockChaseDC](https://twitter.com/CannockChaseDC)

 [@CannockChaseDC](https://www.instagram.com/CannockChaseDC)