

- **Lawn Cemetery** Ben Hurst contacted Howard and myself on 7th August to apologise for the delay and confirm a decision could be issued later that day. He asked if we were willing to agree that date as an extension of time for SMDC records. Howard was happy with this and Ben replied that he would get the decision signed off. We let the Clerk know. Howard will share details of the conditions we must adhere to.
- **German War Graves Commission** As a Staffordshire Alderman I am invited to lay wreaths and meet the German War Graves Commission and young people from Germany and Staffordshire who help maintain the German Military Cemetery on Cannock Chase. The young people learn about peace and reconciliation since the World Wars. They told me how honoured they feel to be able to take part and how much they had learned by working together. It was especially heartening to meet one enthusiastic young lady from a neighbouring parish.
- **UK Drought** Almost 3/4 of England is experiencing a flash drought with similar problems across Wales and the rest of the UK. The situation facing farmers and growers is particularly concerning and in Staffordshire we have seen an increase in grass fires and wildfires endangering residents, homes, the environment and wildlife. Many are caused by carelessness disposing of BBQs and cigarettes and all of them put firefighters' lives at risk. Water supplies are depleted and at risk. Please take extra care to avoid dangers for yourself and our community.
- **Local Improvement Framework Grants** are now available offering up to £1,500 to support community led projects that make a positive difference to health and wellbeing in Staffordshire Moorlands. The deadline is 9am Tuesday 1st September.
- **My Active preview event for members** on 15th August to thank them for their patience during the renovations and to give them an opportunity to try out some of the facilities, ahead of the public opening on the 18th. The aim of this part of the day is to reward loyal members for their patience and enable the team to test the operation of the centre. The centre has undergone a £17 million redevelopment project to modernise and expand the building and install an outdoor Active Zone to create a health and wellbeing centre, that will support the physical and mental health of residents across the Staffordshire Moorlands for many years to come.
- **Protecting Public Spaces** from dog fouling With dog fouling in public spaces continuing to be an issue across the Moorlands, the District Council is considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and is now inviting residents, businesses and stakeholders to share their views. This would help promote responsible dog ownership and provide enforcement powers where dog owners fail to remove dog mess from public areas. Most dog owners do behave responsibly. There are full details of the consultation, including how to respond, on the SMDC website. The closing date is 23rd August. Anyone unable to complete the online response form can request a paper copy from Customer Services staff on Council receptions.
- **SMDC Licensing Policy** Staffs Moorlands District Council are also consulting upon their Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. This happens every 5 years and anyone can respond if they feel it is relevant. The consultation ends on 30th September 2026. Comments should be emailed to:- licensing-1@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk