

- **Interpretation Board and Archaeological Dig** at the John Emery land. I have traced the original artwork for the interpretation board, which gives historical background, photographs and context for the revealed artifacts and groundworks on site. Professional advice is to use warm soapy water initially to clean the mould from the existing board, but if a replacement board is required then the original document is available. The board needs to be located close to and within sight of the groundworks to allow for effective interpretation of the groundworks and railway branch line which used to swing over the canal to carry supplies to and from Stanley Mill. The information would make an interesting article for the council website and contribute positively to Staffordshire Moorlands Tourism strategy priorities. I have also received permission from the copyright holders for the published report of the dig to be uploaded onto the council's website.
- The **networking event** for parish and town councillors at SMDC was very interesting with many information stalls and a lot of help, training opportunities and advice available.
- **The Leader of SMDC, Councillor Mike Gledhill, has written to the government following its decision to 'pause and review' the process of Local Government Reform in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.** The pause creates financial challenges for the district council, depending on the outcome of the review and further complications because of the strategic alliance between SMDC and High Peak Borough Council. High Peak's arrangements have not been paused. SMDC have notified the government that, as part of the review, they would like them to assess SMDC's proposal, put forward for an Enhanced North Staffordshire. This closely matches all the criteria set by the government and gives greater weight to our rural situation, balancing the urban demands.
- 79 suspects have been arrested as part of **Staffordshire Police's efforts to tackle violence against women and girls.** Officers have been investigating those suspected of a number of crimes including assault, intentional strangulation, engaging in coercive and controlling behaviour, threats to kill and harassment and sexual offences. 13 people have been charged and 53 suspects have been given strict bail conditions to protect victims from further harm. Inspector Karen Cooke says: "Violence or abuse of any kind can have a lasting impact on victims and we are committed to robust action against those responsible. If you feel ready to talk about violence or abuse you have suffered, please know we are here and will listen to you and support you. Call 101 or in an emergency call 999."
- Staffordshire County Council, as the responsible authority, has prepared a **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent**, having consulted on this with SMDC and other local councils. It will be published on 18th November.
- SMDC are collating articles for the winter edition of the **In Touch Parish Newsletter**, asking for items to be emailed to Sally Hampton by Monday 19th October. /P.T.O.

- Staffs Moorlands District Council has achieved the **Silver Award under the Ministry of Defence's Defence Employer Recognition Scheme**. This recognises its commitment to support serving personnel, veterans, reservists and their families through the Armed Forces Covenant.
- The Covenant is a simple but important promise that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces and their families, should be treated fairly and should face no disadvantage because of their service. According to the 2021 Census around 3,300 veterans live across Staffordshire Moorlands, representing a significant part of our local community. Parish and Town councils are uniquely placed to help recognise the contribution and sacrifices made by service personnel, veterans, reservists and military families.
- **Signing the Armed Forces Covenant is free, straightforward and flexible**. It provides an opportunity for councils to publicly demonstrate their support, raise awareness of local veterans issues and help foster inclusive, communities. Further information is available from Linden Vernon at SMDC