

SMETHWICK TOWN NEWS



Abbey Smethwick Soho and Victoria St Pauls Summer 2025

Welcome to your first edition of the Smethwick neighbourhoods e-newsletter. Bringing you the latest local news, updates, and information from all of the wards in Smethwick.

Safer 6 Launches in Smethwick

The Safer 6 campaign ran in Smethwick from 14 July to 20 July 2025.

The week held activities focused on addressing concerns, providing information, and promoting services that are available year-round to help people in Sandwell stay safe and healthy.

Activities included a Serco waste collection initiative, community litter picks, speedwatch operations, information stalls, and a joint Police and Trading Standards programs targeting illegal vapes and cigarettes.



Victoria Park: New Outdoor Gym Equipment Installed



Over time, gym equipment in Victoria Park was removed due to wear and tear, with no immediate plans for replacement. This absence had been strongly felt by the local community. Many residents contacted their Ward Councillors to highlight the valuable physical and mental health benefits the previous equipment had provided and to call for its return.

In response, Ward Councillors and Council Officers explored potential improvements and are now pleased to share that, following these conversations and with support from the local area budget, three new pieces of exercise equipment have now been installed.



'[Making It Sandwell](#)' is a short campaign film featuring young people from across Sandwell, with a spoken word poem from Casey Bailey who, as well as living and teaching in the region for several years, used stories from young people to write about what making it in Sandwell is all about. [You can watch the campaign film and hear from each young person featured about their stories so far.](#)



Black Patch Park Improvements

Local residents have long referred to Black Patch Park as the "forgotten park," raising concerns about anti-social behaviour, overgrown pathways, fly-tipping, litter, and drug-related activity.

Ward Councillors brought these issues to the attention of the Neighbourhoods Services Team, who have since taken a collaborative approach with council departments and local partners to address them.

As a result, a regular maintenance schedule is now in place to clear and manage the park's walkways. Bollards have been installed to prevent unauthorised vehicle access, and lighting within the park has been repaired to improve safety.

These efforts mark the beginning of restoring Black Patch Park and creating a safer, more welcoming space for the community.

IMPORTANT changes to bin collections

Sandwell Council is proposing changes to waste and recycling services following guidance issued by the Government on how waste and recycling should be collected.

From summer 2025, your refuse and recycling will change to alternate weekly collections (AWC).

Other household bin collections are unaffected. Food collections remain weekly and garden waste fortnightly on a subscription basis.

Find out more at www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins



CIL Funding Helps Sandwell Churches Link Reach More People, More Effectively



Sandwell Churches Link, a well-established charity based in Smethwick, makes a meaningful impact to the community by distributing brand-new clothing, that would otherwise have gone to landfill, to local organisations supporting people in need.

To meet growing demand, the charity successfully secured Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to purchase essential items such as clothing racks, shoe racks, storage crates, screen dividers, and heaters.

These additions have helped transform the space, making it safer, more organised, and accessible.

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