

SANDWELL HERALD

SUMMER 2025



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Sandwell



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www.sandwell.gov.uk/emailupdates



www.sandwell.gov.uk



Making It Sandwell

Over the past year, businesses, community, voluntary and public sector organisations have come together to start an active partnership to celebrate and champion Sandwell to improve what it's like to live, learn, work and visit here.

The Sandwell Story is our project to promote what Sandwell has to offer, tackle our borough's challenges together and help people to think about what 'making it' means in their lives.

The story will be used to attract investment and the number of businesses and visitors in Sandwell. We hope that this will also strengthen existing networks, raise aspirations and create more opportunities across the area.

The Sandwell Story began its first chapter in June with a launch event at West Bromwich Albion FC. Our host was local comedian and broadcaster Darren Harriott who shared his story of growing up in Oldbury.

Darren said: "This area is very special to me having grown up here and I've recently moved back to the region. I hope that by sharing my story it can inspire others in making it in whatever they want to do in life."

With one of the youngest populations in the UK, the event heard from young people across Sandwell sharing what 'making it' means to them and what they feel they need to do well in life as well as key partners sharing what can be achieved together.

Sandwell College looked ahead to welcoming learners at both the Midland Met Learning Campus and the new Cradley Heath Skills Campus for adult learners in January next year, Sandwell Council announced a £1m investment in apprenticeships across Sandwell by 2026.

'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.

A place built on making things happen

Sandwell's six towns have a rich history of industry meeting innovation and where strong communities still shape the future.

Guy Perry, Managing Director of Perry Group, shared what's helped their family-run business in making a success in Sandwell over the last 100 years.

Guy said: "We've been making things for a very long time, but a key driver for us has been the importance of innovation in developing our business. Sandwell has always been the best place for us to do that – from the people we employ to the networks and the central location we benefit from here in the UK."

Sandwell Council Leader, **Councillor Kerrie Carmichael**, shared her experiences of growing up in Blackheath and what making it meant to her at the launch.

Councillor Carmichael said: "We've been making things throughout our industrial past and continue to do so today, including making the workforce of the future."

"Hearing from young people at the launch event was an important reminder to really champion our region and help to inspire children and young people growing up here, as well as bringing together partners so that we can tackle challenges together."



Photo courtesy of Tim Sturgess, Express and Star



From the streets of Oldbury to the catwalk

Jashaan Gill, a fashion designer from Oldbury, said: "Sandwell is full of talent. We must believe in our potential for success nationally and internationally and invest in the opportunities to get us there."

Jashaan features in the short film and was on a panel at the launch event, which was hosted by Midlands influencer **Emmanuel Omoregbee**. He was joined by singer/songwriter **Madi Saskia**, actor **Mya Kandola**, farm worker apprentice **Brandon Talbot** and youth leader **Ayyatulahi Adigun** who also chairs the SHAPE Youth Forum, an integral part of Sandwell's child's voice initiative.

What does this mean for me?

If you or your business/organisation are interested in becoming a Sandwell Ambassador, joining the network and sharing the campaign, visit www.sandwellstory.com where you can register for more information.

Visit the Sandwell College website www.sandwell.ac.uk to find out more about the new learning opportunities at the Midland Met Learning Campus and Cradley Heath Skills Campus.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/jobs if you, or someone you know, might be interested in taking on an apprentice. Or, if you're interested in applying for an apprenticeship, our Think Sandwell Employment and Skills Team www.sandwell.gov.uk/thinksandwell has plenty of help on offer.

You can see the campaign film at www.sandwellstory.com and hear from each young person featured about their stories so far.



Darren Harriott,
Comedian and broadcaster



Guy Perry,
Managing Director of Perry Group



Jashaan Gill,
Fashion designer

www.sandwellstory.com



A further £4.3million for your parks and green spaces!

With over 30 parks and gardens, Sandwell has some of the Black Country's greenest areas – and if you add that to our fields, sport pitches, nature reserves and allotments, that comes to an incredible 539 green spaces for you to enjoy.

And this year the council will be investing a further £4.3million to improve our spaces even more.

During 2024, we invested nearly £4million in:

- Significant improvements at Britannia Park in Rowley Regis and The Railer in Tipton
- Refurbs to six play areas
- New play zones and tennis court refurbishments

Coming up this year, we're investing in:

- Over 50 projects across the borough
- A new pavilion at Hydes Road, Wednesbury
- Further improvements to Britannia Park
- Upgrading play facilities at Haden Hill Park, Lightwoods Park and Sandwell Valley
- Allotment improvements

Investment in our parks comes from a number of sources, including council budgets and the government-supported Towns Fund programme, Levelling Up Partnership and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

We are proud that 15 of our local green spaces hold the nationally prestigious Green Flag Award. The link between access to green space and health and wellbeing has been clearly demonstrated – so we encourage everyone to explore and find out how we have made your parks even better.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/parks to find your nearest green space.



BARBECUES CAN BURN MORE THAN JUST SAUSAGES

NO stoves, BBQs or fires in our parks or green spaces. Don't risk a £100 FINE

No fires or barbecues in parks please

We're urging people not to light fires or barbecues in our parks and green spaces. Let's protect each other and our wildlife!

Fire can spread very quickly, risking lives and endangering natural habitats.

If you see a fire, please report it immediately to West Midlands Fire Service by calling **999**.

Council officers are carrying out patrols – and we'd remind everyone that people face a £100 fine if they light a barbecue or fire in Sandwell's parks and green spaces. Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/pspos for more information on fines.

Children and young people share ideas

Sandwell Council is currently in the Discovery phase of its journey to become recognised as a UNICEF Child Friendly Community. The aim is to ensure children and young people guide the decisions made in the borough.

In March, nine schools took part in the Discover Day which saw children and young people learning about their human rights – as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – and speaking directly to councillors and decision-makers about their ideas for making Sandwell more child-friendly.

We want Sandwell to be a place where children's rights are realised and where children's voices influence decisions that will impact them.

The council will now work with children and young people to understand which areas or 'badges' they think should be prioritised to make Sandwell more child-friendly – for example feeling safe or staying healthy.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/childfriendly to find out more.



Here to help 24/7 with MySandwell

You can request council services and report problems to the council 24/7 with MySandwell.

You can go online for all sorts of council services – to pay your rent or Council Tax, apply for benefits, report anti-social behaviour, apply to join the housing register, report a housing repair, book an appointment at the tip, ask about school places and much more. Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk

The MySandwell 'MyAccounts' section is available for anyone with a MySandwell account, where you can register to view your balances and manage payment accounts for a range of Sandwell Council services.

Going online can save you time and money on phone calls or travel costs. It's easy to create an account – go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/mysandwell

You can also pay bills online at www.sandwell.gov.uk/paybills or by phone, by credit or debit card on **0300 456 0514**.

Our phone numbers will be changing

We're making it easier for you to get in touch with us by phone when you need to, and soon we'll be launching a new, single telephone number for most enquiries.

You'll also be able to hold your place in the queue without staying on the line – and you'll get an automatic call back when it's your turn.

Look out for more information on our website, our social media channels and in the next edition of the Sandwell Herald.

For now, please keep using the numbers below.

- Adult social care or urgent help for someone vulnerable: **0121 569 2266**
- Births, marriages, deaths and Register Office: **0121 368 1188**
- Children's services or to report a child at risk: **0121 569 3100**
- Council Tax and benefits: **0121 368 1155**
- Education benefits: **0121 569 8186/8189**
- Housing enquiries (including homelessness/rough sleepers): **0121 368 1166**
- Housing repairs: **0121 569 6000**
- Highways, bins, recycling and other environmental services: **0121 368 1177**
- Pay bills (by debit or credit card): **0300 456 0514**
- Welfare Rights Team: **0121 569 3158**



Jensen leads the way on litter

Community spirit starts at a young age as Jensen, aged four, has voluntarily been picking up litter on his way home from school

Regardless of the weather, Jensen has consistently continued to do his part to maintain a beautiful and tidy environment.

Debra, his grandma, explained how this initiative started. She said: "Jensen asked if he could pick up litter on his way home from school, as he noticed rubbish left on the pavement. From that day forward, Jensen has been taking it upon himself to pick up litter with my supervision.

"Despite his age, Jensen understands the importance of looking after the community. He explained he likes to clean up because he knows everyone likes a clean area."

Jensen's commitment to keeping the community tidy is very inspirational and is a reminder that everyone has a part to play in making Sandwell a cleaner living space.



Positive change for Sandwell

|| This summer we have launched the Sandwell Story – a story that has been developed with residents, local businesses and voluntary organisations across Sandwell to help us tell a new story about our home borough.

I am from here. I grew up here, I was educated here and I work here in Sandwell. My family tree shows that my family have lived in Rowley Regis area since 1506 and I still live in Blackheath today.

Over the years I have watched our borough grow into an amazing place to live and work. Its people are genuine, caring, and proper Black Country grafters.

I was brought up in a typical Sandwell family. Everyone I knew had the same challenges, everyone's parents worked locally in engineering or were labourers and everyone relied on the council for housing. Things have moved on but, in my role as Leader of the Council, I make sure that the decisions we make today are always informed by our lived experiences in Sandwell – my Cabinet and I all want our council to be a caring council.

Our priorities reflect the things that you – the people of Sandwell – have told us are important:

- Build the best place for our children and young people to grow up
- Create and maintain a cleaner, greener, safer place to live
- Improve the health of our residents
- Foster a thriving economy, providing opportunities for growth, good jobs and prosperity.

Of course, we face challenges. The cost of living crisis continues to impact households and businesses in Sandwell. We want to support our community and have ambitious plans to create the good jobs and opportunities that will boost everyone's life chances.

Through the Sandwell Story we want to let the rest of the country know about the great things happening in Sandwell so we can create those opportunities, and to celebrate the stories of the people who live here and make it such a welcoming place. **||**



Kerrie

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael,
Leader of Sandwell Council

Sandwell's new Cabinet

Councillor Paul Moore

Statutory Deputy Leader, Finance and Resources

We will provide the very best services we can for residents and businesses by managing the council's money and resources responsibly.

We will consult with you when planning our spending and we will work with our partner organisations to co-ordinate spending wherever we can.

We will keep improving the customer experience – whether you're contacting the council by phone, in person or online – and help more people to access services digitally.



Councillor Suzanne Hartwell

Deputy Leader, Neighbourhoods and Community

We will invest in CCTV and continue working with partner agencies to tackle crime and support victims.

We will carry out more improvements at Sandwell Valley Country Park – as well as improving other parks and our allotments service.

We continue to invest in leisure centres and will host a programme of local, regional and national events at Sandwell Aquatics Centre.

Our new way of neighbourhood working will make our services more responsive to local issues



Councillor Keith Allcock Environment and Highways

We are working hard to keep all our public spaces clean and tackle litter and fly-tipping.

We will keep promoting recycling and support everyone through the changes to our waste collection service.

We will continue to be a national leader in tackling potholes and will invest more than £15million in maintaining our roads.

Our road safety plan aims to further reduce road accidents that cause injuries.



Councillor Harnoor Bhullar Education

We will ensure every child has access to a place in a good or outstanding school and help schools to improve attendance.

We will improve our excellent educational outcomes even further with our brand-new school at Causeway Green and by continuing to invest in our specialist Albright Education Centre.

We will invest more in our playgrounds, with new play zones in our parks and open spaces planned.



Councillor Syeda Khatun MBE Business and Skills

We will fund apprenticeships and spend more of the council's money with local businesses to support our economy and boost jobs, training and apprenticeships for Sandwell people.

We are committed to making sure children and young people have the right skills and support to take the next step into adulthood.

We are providing support and advice to businesses through our Sandwell Business Growth Plan, including our Start-Up Hub, focusing on innovation and expansion



This Cabinet portfolio is a job share between Councillor Bhullar and Councillor Khatun.

Councillor Peter Hughes Regeneration and Infrastructure

We are working with public and private sector partners to attract investment and deliver regeneration projects, to boost our towns and create jobs and skills opportunities.

We are designing major road improvement schemes, and we'll keep working with landowners, developers and others to make sites available for much-needed housing.

We will continue to work with the government and West Midlands Combined Authority on key regeneration projects and to seek new funding.



Councillor Vicki Smith Housing

We will improve the customer journey for residents who use our housing management services and will publish a set of standards for council tenants including a Repairs Charter.

We continue to build new council homes to offer more accessible affordable housing and we will invest in ongoing improvements to existing homes.

We will set up a new supported housing service to address complex housing needs and prevent homelessness and rough sleeping.



Councillor Jackie Taylor Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing

We will help people live safe and independent lives and support carers.

We will innovate in the way we provide adult social care and increase our numbers of skilled staff to provide high-quality services for our residents.

We will continue to invest in mental health and wellbeing, and we are a dementia-friendly borough.

We will promote public health initiatives across our six towns to help people live healthy lives and tackle health inequalities.



Councillor Jalal Uddin Children and Families

We are striving to achieve UNICEF UK Child Friendly status for Sandwell.

We will do all we can to support children, young people and families – including those in our care and care leavers.

We are continuing to fund youth services – when many other councils have cut funding or stopped providing any service.



Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/cabinet

Responding to people's priorities

Sandwell leads the way for road maintenance and tackling potholes

Sandwell continues to lead the way in maintaining roads and tackling potholes according to the latest public satisfaction surveys.

The percentage of residents satisfied with road maintenance in Sandwell (61%) is more than double the local government benchmark (27%).

A separate survey put Sandwell in the top three local authorities nationally for the way it deals with potholes.

More investment is planned – more than £15million this financial year – to keep on top of these priority issues for residents and other road users.

Prevention is better than cure. If water freezes within the road surface, it expands and damages the road. We work to stop potholes by preventing water penetration.

We intervene to stop small road defects becoming bigger ones. This extends the road's life, costs less over time – which saves taxpayers' money – and leads to less congestion.

We've also invested in innovative machinery, such as the Multihog. This is an example of how Sandwell is looking to prepare the road surface for repairs much more quickly, reducing the need for temporary repairs and ensuring more potholes are fixed 'right first time'.

We're responsible for maintaining nearly 550 miles of roads across our six towns. So, while we can't stop them all, we are winning the battle with potholes.



New digital road safety app to launch in Sandwell

Road safety remains a top priority for us here in Sandwell.

We are working with the Learn Play Foundation and 3D Native to develop a revolutionary education game app that will help more than 14,500 Sandwell children aged five to seven develop important safety skills.

The free digital road safety app will give children the skills to walk along and cross the road safely. It will encourage walking to school thereby improving health, reducing obesity, improving air quality and increasing children's attention at school. We will test the app in September and launch it in the spring.

Over the past 20 years, Sandwell has halved the number of casualties on its roads, including reducing child casualties by 67 per cent.

This big reduction follows a targeted programme of engineering and education measures, and supporting police enforcement action, work which will continue to keep improving safety.

We have a statutory duty to promote road safety. In Sandwell we invest £1.3million per year on road improvements and education as well as training and campaigns.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/roadsafety for details of our road safety schemes.

If you witness anyone committing driving offences and it's captured on a dashcam, CCTV or mobile phone by a non-driver, you can send it to the police via the Operation Snap webpage at www.westmidlands.police.uk and search 'Operation Snap'.

You can also report driving offences by calling **101** or **999** in an emergency.



CCTV upgrades for your safety

Sandwell Council is investing in CCTV to improve public safety and tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime such as fly-tipping.

In 2024, a £650,000 project saw CCTV control room infrastructure upgraded to improve network and systems. The council is now rolling out CCTV and concierge services for council tenants in 27 additional high-rise blocks thanks to a £900,000 investment.

Town centres are also benefitting, with £80,000 from the government's Safer Streets Fund in 2024 delivering 12 new cameras to Bearwood High Street.

A £250,000 grant through the government-supported Levelling Up Partnership has enabled CCTV networks in Wednesbury and Friar Park to be updated, and a further eight deployable Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) enabled cameras to be added.

The council is now planning to upgrade the CCTV system in West Bromwich town centre later this year. Additional investment is also being made to buy 18 new deployable cameras with ANPR functionality.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/cctv for more information.



Action on fly-tipping

We've stepped up our fly-tipping crackdown as we know dumped rubbish is a big concern for our residents and businesses.

We issue £1,000 fines to anyone identified as having committed a fly-tipping offence. This includes anyone placing waste on the footpath believing that a scrap collector will take it.

Our waste management partner Serco helps us get fly-tipping swiftly removed from council land, within four hours if it's hazardous and 24 hours otherwise.

In 2024/25, we issued 40 fines for incidents of fly-tipping, littering and where residents gave their waste to someone who failed to dispose of it properly.

We urge everyone to take responsibility for their waste. You can help in three easy ways:

- Use the tip in Shidas Lane, Oldbury, where you can dispose of unwanted items for free. Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/tip to book a slot. Same day, same hour slots are usually available and it's open every day (summer hours are 7am to 4pm, with van appointments available from 8am to 3.15pm).
- Use our bulky waste collection service for large household items – it's a great value for money service. Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/bulkywaste to book.
- If someone offers to take away rubbish, check they have a waste carrier's licence, get a receipt and note the details of any vehicle used. If fly-tipped waste is linked to a resident, they may be held liable for a fine of £600 under Householders' Duty of Care.

We're using CCTV more and more to tackle fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour, with new mobile cameras with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) helping us target hot spots.

We're all working closely together to gather evidence, so we can take more action against fly-tippers.

You can help us with this by reporting all incidents to us at www.sandwell.gov.uk/flytipping If you're not online, call us on **0121 368 1177**.



Championing animal welfare

Animal welfare is very important to us in Sandwell. In 2024, we launched our Animal Welfare Charter.

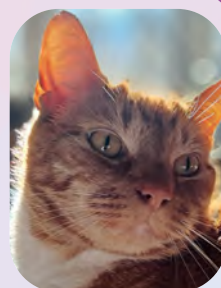
Inspired by the RSPCA Animal Welfare Charter, it was developed in partnership with the Leader of Sandwell Council, Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, other councillors and partner organisations.

An Animal Welfare Taskforce was established to promote responsible pet ownership, protect local wildlife and habitats, and support animal welfare.

Actions taken so far include a fireworks ban on council land to limit distress to vulnerable people, pets and wildlife, and a ban on helium balloons and sky lanterns which pose a risk to animals and ecosystems and cause littering.

These efforts show our determination that Sandwell remains a safe and caring place for all animals, and more is planned over the coming months. The council's dedication has already been recognised with the RSPCA Silver PawPrints Award.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/animalwelfare to read Sandwell's charter.



New mayoral team launches charity appeal

Councillor Steve Melia is the new Mayor of Sandwell and Councillor Elaine Giles is the new Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Melia, who has been a councillor for 30 years, having represented both Great Barr with Yew Tree and Wednesbury South wards, will be raising money for are The British Polio Fellowship and Acorns Children's Hospice.

His Mayoress is his sister, Valerie Thacker, while Councillor Giles' Deputy Mayoress is her granddaughter, Grace Giles.

On becoming Mayor, Councillor Melia said: "I hereby promise to fulfil my role as Mayor of Sandwell to the best of my ability, that is, to support all sections of the community in any way that I can, and to promote Sandwell Council and the borough."

The Mayor is the first citizen of Sandwell. The Mayor presides over meetings of the council, attends events across Sandwell and represents the borough at functions outside Sandwell.

Email mayors_parlour@sandwell.gov.uk for details on how to invite the Mayor to an event or how to make a donation to the Mayor's charities.





**41ST BIRMINGHAM
JAZZ & BLUES
FESTIVAL
JULY 18TH TO 27TH 2025**

**Jazz & Blues
events in
Sandwell**

**The Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival
returns to Sandwell from 18 to 27 July**

Sandwell's libraries, museums and parks will
be hosting some fabulous FREE concerts right
on your doorstep.

Check out our Jazz & Blues Festival events at
www.sandwell.gov.uk/jazzandblues
or pop into your local library for details.

 Follow @Vist Sandwell
  Like Vist Sandwell



VE Day 80th anniversary celebrations

Sandwell marked 80 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe in May, with a civic service, a Fabulous 40s event and street parties

Thanks to everyone who joined us at the service in Oldbury on 8 May, which included Royal British Legions and schoolchildren, and at the Fabulous 40s event at Haden Hill House.

We reflected on the many sacrifices made by the Second World War generation, to honour them for what they achieved and to celebrate their legacy.

We paid tribute to all those who gave so much to liberate Europe as well as Japan later in 1945. This includes everyone who fought overseas, including people from around the Commonwealth, everyone who served their country on the home front and all those who sadly never came home.



Peace Cards for schoolchildren

Tipton Town Libraries Local History Group came up with a wonderful idea to celebrate VE Day 80 by delivering Peace Cards to pupils at local schools.

This came about when one of the history group's members, Betty Johnson, now aged 93, unearthed a 'borough card' she received when she was seven in 1938 from the old Urban District Council of Tipton.

So, the history group – with sponsorship from local firm A&A Walters Funeral Directors – created a similar card to the one Betty and lots of children in Tipton would have received, this time with a poem for peace by local poet Barbara Fletcher.

More than 4,000 Peace Cards were delivered to schools and groups in Tipton in May, and copies were also sent to the King and Prime Minister.



St Paul's C of E Academy was one of the schools where Peace Cards were delivered

The story of Sergeant Harold White – an SAS pioneer

Sergeant Harold White, a Wednesbury man and former West Bromwich Albion player, became one of the first members of the SAS during the Second World War.



He started his football career on the works team at the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, before playing for Darlaston and then The Baggies, playing 36 games for WBA in the 1938-39 season.

Harold enlisted in January 1940 and, in 1941, became one of the first members of L Detachment, Special Air Service Brigade – a commando unit in North Africa – which later became the first SAS regiment.

He was awarded the Military Medal for his gallantry during a raid on an airfield in Libya in December 1941. He was wounded but recovered to see further action in Sicily, occupied France, including the Normandy landings, and at the Rhine.

He was 29 by the time the war ended in 1945. Despite his injuries, Harold continued playing football after the war, finishing his career back at Darlaston in 1951. He died in 1981 aged 65.

What an incredible story! Thanks to Mark Whitehouse for sharing this story and photo with us, and to Harold's daughter Carol, who still lives locally.

We're Recruiting

Special Constables (Volunteer)

- ▶ Free uniform
- ▶ Training and support
- ▶ Flexible hours to suit you
- ▶ Keep your community safe
- ▶ Full police powers and equipment



Scan the QR code to find out more

Interested in policing? Volunteer as a Special alongside your job or studies.

Padel comes to Sandwell!

The world's fastest-growing sport has officially landed in Sandwell!

Three brand-new indoor Padel courts have opened at Tipton Sports Academy, making them the first of their kind in the Black Country.

The exciting launch event drew a crowd of over 150 people, including curious locals, sports fans and special guests.

Councillor Syeda Khatun MBE, the then Mayor of Sandwell, kicked things off in style by cutting the ribbon and hitting the first ball.

This investment brings a brilliant new way to stay active and social. Padel is a racquet sport which is super easy to pick up, fun for all ages and fitness levels, and perfect for playing with friends or family. Plus, with indoor courts, you can enjoy it all year round! Whether you're competitive or just fancy trying something new, Padel is ready and waiting for you in Tipton.

Go to Sandwell Leisure Trust's website www.slt-leisure.co.uk/padel to find out more and book online or call **0300 012 0121**.



Enrol now with SAFL for September 2025

Sandwell Adult and Family Learning (SAFL) provides learning opportunities for people aged 19 and over.

Our aim is to enable all adults in Sandwell, from all walks and stages of life, to learn something new and shape their own futures.

We offer a range of subjects, with over 200 courses delivered across the borough.

We have initial assessment dates at various locations from July to September. Visit www.learnsafl.ac.uk for latest course information or call **0121 557 0837**.

Fun & Safe

Swimming Lessons!



Sandwell
Leisure
Trust

Building Confidence in Every Stroke and Learning Skills for Life

WITH SANDWELL LEISURE TRUST

- ✔ Fully Trained & Friendly Instructors
- ✔ Fun & Safe Environment
- ✔ Boost Water Safety Skills
- ✔ Swim England Framework
- ✔ Progression and Awards
- ✔ Swim England Framework

Find out more
and sign up

SCAN
ME!

slt-leisure.co.uk



Adult Social Care – here to help you

Sandwell Council's Adult Social Care service works across the borough to support residents to live healthy and fulfilled lives.

Our vision is to provide the right support, at the right time and the right place, to maximise independence and empower people to remain safe and healthy.

Last year we completed 13,900 assessments with Sandwell residents, provided home care to 2,431 people and delivered 41,000 pieces of equipment to support people to live independently at home.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/adultsocialcare for more information or call **0121 569 2266** to speak to Sandwell Enquiry, our Adult Social Care phone service.



Building a Dementia Friendly Sandwell

Work continues to support our residents who are living with dementia, and those who care for a family member or someone living with dementia.

To find out about local support about our community dementia service, visit www.murrayhall.co.uk/scds or call **01902 826 655**.

The Virtual Dementia Tour Bus is back in the borough this July. Virtual reality provides staff working with people with dementia a unique, immersive way to better understand what living with the condition might feel like.

In Sandwell, we have higher numbers of people with early onset dementia than the national average, and more people with a dementia diagnosis who live on their own.

As we begin work to refresh our Dementia Strategy, we want to increase the number of Dementia Champions across the borough as part of our efforts to make Sandwell a more Dementia Friendly community.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/dementia for more information about these initiatives and support available.

Or call **0121 569 2266** to speak to Sandwell Enquiry, our Adult Social Care phone service.



TV spotlight for Harvest View

We were delighted to welcome a film crew from ITV to Harvest View, our care and health centre based in Rowley Regis.

The facility enables people to get back home after a hospital visit and those who need some structured support to avoid a hospital stay altogether.

The news story showcases the amazing journey two Sandwell residents have been on since staying at the centre.

"Harvest View has given me my confidence back, provided me with the tools to cope independently and I'm ready to go back home" – Jasbir

"I can't thank the staff enough" – Margaret



Spotlight on support for hoarding

A Black Country-wide conference to support people with hoarding behaviours saw professionals from a range of organisations hearing people's experiences, sharing best practice and pledging to work to improve support.

The Behind Closed Doors conference coincided with National Hoarding Awareness Week in May.

Sandwell Hoarding Improvement Programme (SHIP) gave an overview of its work. The conference included workshops focussed on mental health, stigma and trauma followed by a Q&A session with people with lived experience.

Working in partnership, Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Boards held the event at Walsall FC's Bescot Stadium.

Mind has information and advice to help people recognise hoarding behaviours and how to get support – visit www.mind.org.uk/hoarding

People can also talk to their GP.

If you're worried about an adult in Sandwell, call **0121 569 2266 (0121 569 2355 out-of-hours emergencies)**.



SEE DO
SOMETHING SOMETHING



SEE SOMETHING

If you are concerned that an adult with care and support needs is at risk of abuse or neglect and is unable to protect themselves

DO SOMETHING

- In an emergency dial **999**
- Call Sandwell on **0121 569 2266**
- Out of hours **0121 569 2355**

Supporting carers

We're working with local carers to shape a new carer support service that's set to launch in Sandwell this year.

The service will be a central contact point to refer to and for unpaid carers to access information and advice.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportforcarers or call **0121 569 2266** to find out more about the services and support for carers that's available in Sandwell and ways you can have your say about them.

Community support

There's lots of support for people here in Sandwell.

There's the Community Offer Plus service – a network of organisations – which provides support to adults over the age of 18. This includes information, advice and guidance to help people manage their needs.

Visit www.murrayhall.co.uk/community-offer to find out more about the services available to Sandwell residents. Call **0121 612 2934** or email bcicb.communityoffer@nhs.net

Meanwhile, a warm welcome awaits at Crossroads Day Club if you want to get out more but worry that care needs are holding you back.

The day club, which takes place on the first Wednesday of every month, 10am to 3pm at the Oak Tree Centre, Tame Road, Oldbury, B68 0JP, is open to all adults living with any condition, including dementia. Here you can enjoy a change of scenery, social activities, and a hot meal in a safe and secure environment.

Call Crossroads on **0121 553 6483** or visit www.crossroads-caringforcarers.org for information on price and activities.

You can also check out the range of activities, support and advice for older people and their loved ones offered by Age UK and Agewell. For Age UK, call **0121 437 0033** and for Agewell, call **0121 796 9333**.



We know many of our residents are struggling to make ends meet.

We have a range of support and advice available to support you at www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell

Welcoming Spaces near you



Our network of Welcoming Spaces is there to provide a place to sit, chat and join in the free activities.

Staff are on hand to help if you have any money worries – they will be able to put you in touch with services that can provide advice and support.

Look out for the logo on a library or other community building in your area or visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/welcomingspaces to find your nearest.

Supporting Sandwell – there's help here if you need it



Our Supporting Sandwell information hub has lots of advice and resources if you're struggling with the cost of living.

Find out more about the help and support we can offer, including:

- Where to find Welcoming Spaces, where you can sit, chat and join in free activities
- How to get help if you're struggling to pay your bills
- How to save money on your water bill
- What to do if you're worried about debt
- Not letting your rent get out of control
- Checking what financial support you may be entitled to with our Benefits Calculator
- Where to donate a winter coat for someone who needs one.

Get help and advice by visiting our online information hub at www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell



Shopmobility – here to help you

Our Shopmobility team have got you covered if a wheelchair or mobility scooter would help you get around West Bromwich town centre – or if you're looking to hire a wheelchair for a while.

Call **0121 553 1931** in advance to book equipment and for prices, terms and conditions.

Sandwell Shopmobility is based in Unit 1A (by Next) at New Square, West Bromwich, B70 7PP. Open Wednesday to Saturday, 8.30am to 3pm.

Homeless or worried about losing your home?

If you are homeless, at risk of losing your home or struggling to pay your rent, please seek our help as soon as possible.

The earlier you get in touch, the more we can do to help and prevent you losing your home.

It is more important than ever to contact us as soon as possible. The demand for homelessness support has increased from 3,981 households in 2021, with us helping just over 7,200 households that are either homeless or at risk of homelessness in the past year.

Demand for council housing has also increased significantly with over 21,300 households now looking for council housing. In most cases, the council will look to find suitable private rented housing to meet your needs.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/homeless for a host of information and support.

If you are concerned about a rough sleeper in Sandwell, fill in a form at www.sandwell.gov.uk/roughsleepers and our team will contact the person to offer support.

Call **0121 368 1166 / 01323 690 856** (out-of-hours) if you are homeless or concerned about a rough sleeper.

Holiday meal vouchers and more household support

Sandwell Council will continue supporting families of 46,000 children with vouchers during school holidays. The vouchers – worth £130 per child over the year – are for pupils who get benefits-related Free School Meals.

Eligible families will receive two vouchers per child directly from schools – one for £90 this July to cover Easter and Whitsun holidays (backdated) and the six-week summer holiday. A second £40 voucher will be issued in December to cover October half-term (backdated) and the Christmas and February half-term holidays.

The vouchers are part of a £6million package of help funded through the Household Support Fund this financial year.

This funding will also support Local Welfare Provision to help people in crisis – more low-income working households will be eligible to apply, including residents who need help with disability equipment including wheelchairs.

The money will also support local food banks and food pantries, carers and young people leaving care, budgeting and benefit advice through the council's Welfare Rights team, and help for residents with rent arrears and Council Tax bills.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/hsf for more details.

Struggling with your rent?



Let us help you afford an extra scoop this summer



The council wants to help you this summer with:

- Extra help paying your rent
- Extra help with school uniforms
- Extra help with holiday activities



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you're struggling with your rent then we're here to help. Call us on 0121 737 5148 for advice

SANDWELL COLLEGE

A CAREERS COLLEGE

SCHOOL LEAVERS

Enrol

From
21 AUGUST

THERE'S STILL TIME TO APPLY



ENJOY FREE TRAVEL TO COLLEGE!

SANDWELL.AC.UK

Bins and recycling



FROM 15 SEPTEMBER 2025 YOUR BIN COLLECTIONS ARE CHANGING



You will still have a weekly collection, but we will be collecting non-recycling (grey) bin one week, and recycling the following week or vice versa.

You will be getting a new recycling (blue) bag for paper, cartons and cardboard. Your recycling (blue lid) bin will still be used for glass bottles and jars, cans, tins and plastic bottles, tubs and food trays.

In August every household will receive a leaflet and calendar explaining what will be changing and when.

These changes do not affect flats and high-rise buildings at this stage.

Why are we making these changes?

We are making these changes to comply with Government legislation, called Simpler Recycling, which needs to be in place by April 2026.

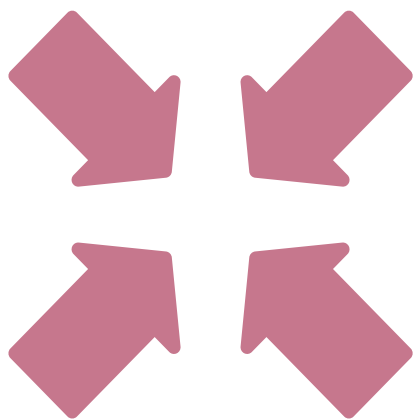
In Sandwell this means from 15 September 2025 we must start separating paper, cartons and card and put them in a new recycling (blue) bag. You will still use your recycling (blue lid) bin for glass bottles and jars, cans, tins and plastic bottles, tubs and food trays.



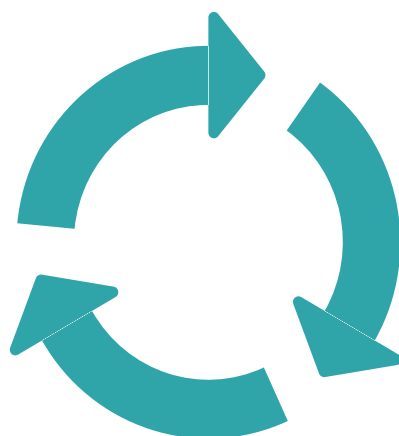
Find out more at
www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins
 call 0121 368 1177
 or scan the QR code

GET READY FOR 15 SEPT >>>

REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE



Reduce your waste with simple swaps like:

using a reusable water bottle • buying loose fruit and veg
cancelling any junk mail • changing to reusable cleaning cloths

Right stuff Right bin



Check out our handy guide on the back page to see what you can recycle in Sandwell.

Find out more at
www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins
call 0121 368 1177 or scan the QR code on the next page



FROM 15 SEPT

Save space...

SQUASH



CRUSH



FOLD



Sign up for waste and recycling email updates:
www.sandwell.gov.uk/emailupdates



Find out more!



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

serco

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2021 – 2022 across the UK households threw away on average 6.4 million tonnes of food of which 3.4 million tonnes was edible!

Follow our top tips to reduce your food waste and sign up to our weekly food waste collections to recycle what's left.

Reduce your food waste with these simple steps:

- 1 PLAN WISELY
- 2 SHOP SMART
- 3 STORE RIGHT
- 4 EAT LEFTOVERS



Sign up to our weekly food waste collection service and turn your tea bags, peel and plate scrapings into fertiliser and energy.



Request a caddy www.sandwell.gov.uk/foodwaste

Everything you need to know about your NEW recycling (blue) bag

I have a hoop and loop fastening system for easy closing

Place me next to your recycling (blue lid) bin

You can write your house number anywhere using a permanent marker

Put large cardboard pieces between me and your recycling (blue lid) bin – remove anything that isn't paper or card, like tape

If they can, collectors will place me under your bin lid after emptying



My base weighs 800g to help stop me blowing away when it's windy

I'm water-resistant and safe to store outdoors

If you can close my lid it will help keep your card and paper as dry as possible

If your paper and card becomes a little damp – do not worry, we will still be able to recycle it

Lost or damaged? I can be replaced at no cost to you

I have a handle underneath for easy emptying by collectors

I will be delivered between 26 August and 14 September

Sandwell Police update

Chief Superintendent Kim Madill, Sandwell Police Commander, gives an update on policing and partnership work.

“As the borough’s policing commander and chair of the Safer Sandwell Partnership, I’d like to say a big thank you everyone who’s got involved in this year’s Sandwell Safer 6 campaign.

These six weeks of activities have helped us to showcase the work organisations are doing to keep you safe. They have also provided a great opportunity for you to meet your new named neighbourhood officer.

Every ward in Sandwell now has a named officer who will solely work in that area. They will focus on problem solving, working with local people and delivering targeted activity.

They will work alongside partner organisations and are supported by a location action team as well as other departments such as the Roads Policing Unit.

Scan the QR code to find out who your dedicated neighbourhood police officer is or search your postcode at www.westmidlands.police.uk

Your dedicated neighbourhood officer will continue to act on your concerns throughout the summer. We know that the dangerous and illegal use of off-road bikes will feature heavily in those concerns.

If we are to stop this nuisance and keep people safe, it is essential that you tell us where these bikes are being stored and who is riding them. Your call to report someone could stop nuisance and save a life. We can seize and destroy the bikes, so make sure to call us on **101** so we can crush it.”



Choose life, not knife!

These amazing T-shirt designs by Sandwell young people are helping us to spread the message about tackling knife crime.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who entered our competition which was sponsored by Eurox. The T-shirts are now on tour around Sandwell in a roving exhibition.

We’re building on the legacy of the Knife Angel’s visit to Sandwell last year and continuing our work with partners to tackle the issue of knife crime.

We are all working together with the police, schools, colleges, youth clubs and other organisations, through our Safer Sandwell Partnership and the Violence Reduction Partnership.

Did you know? There are three weapon surrender bins in Sandwell where people can safely dispose of a knife, blade or other weapon. The secure bins are located at Sainsbury’s Oldbury, Tipton Sports Academy and Windmill Shopping Centre, Cape Hill.



Stay vigilant this summer

We are supporting Counter Terrorism Policing West Midlands this summer by encouraging our communities to stay alert and report anything that doesn’t feel right while they’re out and about.

While this advice is not based on an increased threat to the region, we know that busy or crowded events can unfortunately be a target for criminal or terrorist activity.

Let’s look out for each other and have a safe summer. If you see or hear something that doesn’t feel right, report it to security staff where you are or police straight away.

Report suspicious activity online anonymously at gov.uk/ACT – and in an emergency, always call **999**.



You can sign up for free WMnow email messages at www.WMnow.co.uk

Safer 6 campaign in your town

Sandwell’s Safer 6 community safety campaign has brought six weeks of focused action and activities to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and other community concerns.

The campaign launched on 9 June and runs until 20 July, providing information and promoting services to help Sandwell people stay safe and healthy.

Through the Safer Sandwell Partnership, there has been a wide mixture of activity including enforcement, joint operations, education around the dangers of carrying weapons and highlighting services available to support our communities.

Each week has focused on a specific town, with activities run by council services, police, fire service and other partner organisations.

Following busy weeks of action in Oldbury, Tipton, Wednesbury, Rowley Regis and West Bromwich, the campaign is now in its final week in Smethwick.

Safer 6 builds on the work taking place day in, day out across Sandwell to address people’s concerns and help raise awareness of the support they can access from different agencies.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/safer6 for full details of the campaign’s aims and the activities and events across Sandwell.

Thanks to everyone who has supported this year’s campaign.

For domestic abuse support, visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/domesticabuse or call Black Country Women’s Aid on **0121 552 6448** (24/7), Ask Marc (for men) on **0121 289 6402** or Birmingham LGBT Centre on **0121 643 0821**.

Please report all incidents

Your voice is vital in making Sandwell a safer place. By reporting incidents, you’re helping us to identify trends, pinpoint hotspots and shape the way services respond.

Police: In an emergency, call **999** immediately. To log an incident, call **101**. Report concerns online at www.westmidlands.police.uk

Crimestoppers: Report anonymously on **0800 555 111** or go to www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Sandwell Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team: Call **0121 368 1166** (option 4) or go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/asb



Summer of fun

FOR SANDWELL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Your guide to activities across Sandwell this summer

Join us for a bostin summer of fun activities

Sandwell Council's Youth Service will be running free holiday activity and food programmes in Sandwell parks and open spaces across the six towns.

A range of activities aimed at 11 to 19-year-olds (up to 25 for those with SEND), supported by the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, will be offering some bostin fun and excitement for young people. Check out details for our activity days on page 18.

Young people will be able to access our NEW Youth Bus – kitted out with the latest technology and gadgets. Scale the heights on our mobile climbing wall and take part in multi sports, graffiti art and laser fun. Back by popular demand is our skate park coaching and competitions which will be returning to Brunswick Park, Britannia Park and Victoria Park, Tipton.

And don't miss our summer holiday adventure days at Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre in Tipton. For children aged eight and over to try out canoeing, climbing, abseiling and archery.

Email youngpeople_services@sandwell.gov.uk to find out more and book places.



Visit www.justyouth.org.uk for more information on activities and programmes or follow us on Facebook (search 'JustYouthSandwell').



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TO REMEMBER!

free activities for children and young people



COME AND FIND OUT MORE AT:



<https://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk/>

Little moments make big memories

#MAKINGMEMORIES

Exciting summer activities for children

As the summer holidays draw near, brace yourself for a spectacular line-up of Sandwell Holiday Activities to keep your youngsters entertained and active.

Funded by the Department for Education, Holiday Activities provide fantastic opportunities for children and young people to explore new interests, create friendships and have fun. Whether it's sports, music, dance, art, drama, cooking or day trips, there's something for everyone.

If your child receives free school meals based on benefits, you'll receive a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) e-voucher. This voucher will come with a unique code and booking instructions via email or text.

Head over to holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk to find activities offering FREE universal or subsidised spaces. Stay updated by following 'Sandwell Holiday Activities' on Facebook.

Go Play Sandwell!

Become part of the fantastic Go Play Sandwell family with Sandwell Council's play service.

Dive into a summer packed with indoor and outdoor fun including arts and crafts, archery, mud painting, family games and much more! All you need to do is check what's on in your area, show up and play – all at no cost!

Amazing FREE play sessions are available for all school aged children and families across the borough all year round.

Check out our play sessions calendar at www.goplaysandwell.co.uk for a full calendar of events and contact details. Follow 'Go Play Sandwell' on Facebook.



Let's make this summer unforgettable with a great range of exciting activities for children and young people of all ages in Sandwell!



Summer of fun

FOR SANDWELL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sandwell celebrates National Play Day

Join us as we celebrate the National Play Day – which is back for its 16th year, having already delighted over 10,000 children and families.

Enjoy free food workshops, Doh! drumming workshops and theatre productions. Engage in play across the entire site with sporting activities and crafts.

Pack a picnic and enjoy the summer fun! Don't miss out on this fun-filled day of play and entertainment!

Check out our National Play Days summer dates for more FREE events happening near you across the summer holidays.

Go to www.goplaysandwell.co.uk for more information.



JOIN OUR GO PLAY SUMMER ROAD TRIP ALL EVENTS ARE FREE TO ATTEND AND WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 12MIDDAY - 4PM

30 JULY
LIGHTWOODS HOUSE
ADKINS LANE
B67 5DP

6 AUGUST
SANDWELL VALLEY
VISITORS CENTRE
B71 4BJ

13 AUGUST
HADEN HILL HOUSE
HALESOWEN ROAD
B64 7JU

20 AUGUST
BROMWICH HALL
HALL GREEN ROAD
B71 2EA

Sandwell

WWW.GOPLAYSANDWELL.CO.UK



Go play

Join the Summer Reading Challenge and library activities

Sandwell Libraries celebrate in style this summer with the Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages repeated visits to libraries across the summer holidays, with fun incentives and stickers for taking part and certificates and medals for all children who complete the challenge. Aimed at children aged four and over, the Story Garden will explore the magic of nature and stories.

For younger audiences, all libraries will be holding interactive Play, Talk, Read sessions and, if you are lucky, you may see our very own Sandy Bear as he tours around the libraries. We will also be running a special Summer Reading Challenge for under-fours.

Every library will have a packed programme of storytelling, games and crafts – fun for all the family.

Contact your local library for their full programme – find out more at www.sandwell.gov.uk/librariesonline

and www.visitsandwell.com or search 'Sandwell Libraries' on Facebook.

Visit www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk for the Summer Reading Challenge.



A sensational summer at Sandwell Museums

Discover and explore Sandwell Museums this summer and enjoy a world of creativity, adventure and entertainment for families to enjoy.

Get crafty and decorate bags, create phone charms with beads, make kites, turn nature into art and loads more!

Get messy with clay and make pots and tiles, enjoy seaside-themed fun with our sandpits and Punch and Judy shows, and be amazed with our science activities.

Travel back in time and join in the fun for Archaeology Week or be adventurous and active while solving problems with the army. Play games with Go Play Sandwell and bring a picnic to enjoy our grounds and beautiful buildings while you solve our trails.

We've also got our new exhibition – The Extraordinary, Ordinary – at Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery celebrating creative and colourful things you might not expect to have been made in Sandwell during the Industrial Revolution.



Find out full details of what's on at www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums, find out more about Sandwell Museums at www.visitsandwell.com/sandwell-museums and follow us on social media @sandwellmuseums



Discover nature close to home

Visit Forge Mill Farm and Sandwell Valley Country Park this summer.

Enjoy local outdoor fun and make lasting memories at Sandwell Valley Country Park, which spans over 1,800 acres. Follow us on Facebook @SandwellValleyCountryPark for the latest updates on both Sandwell Valley and Forge Mill Farm.

Explore attractions such as Forge Mill Farm, the Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, high ropes courses, an adventure playground, cycling trails and scenic walks.

Forge Mill Farm is home to rare animals like sheep, alpacas and Highland cows. It's a fantastic educational destination

for families and school groups, offering farm trails, interactive activities and a farm shop.

Go to www.visitsandwell.com to check out all the activities and events on offer at Sandwell Valley Country Park and across Sandwell.

Community events

Join in all the fun at exciting, family-friendly community events taking place this summer in Sandwell.

These include the Sandwell & Birmingham Mela, Europe's largest South Asian music festival, which takes place at Victoria Park in Smethwick on 19 to 20 July. Visit www.birminghammela.com for more information and tickets.

In August, enjoy ONE Fest, a free celebration of African, Caribbean and South American arts and culture at Sandwell Valley Country Park from 23 to 25 August.

Register your free attendance for ONE Fest at www.eventbrite.com – search for 'ONE Fest'. The Mela and ONE Fest are community events organised by external organisations



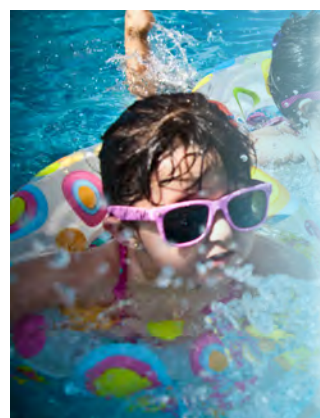
Summer fun at leisure centres

Looking for ways to keep the kids active, engaged and having fun?

Sandwell Leisure Trust offers a fantastic range of children's activities – from exciting holiday camps and sports clubs to free swimming sessions and more.

Whether it's making new friends, learning new skills, or just burning off energy in a safe and fun environment, we've got something for every child.

Spaces fill up fast, so don't miss out! Explore all our activities at www.slt-leisure.co.uk/childrens-activities and book now!



Free swimming sessions available

Free swimming is available for Sandwell children aged 18 and under during designated sessions over the school summer holidays.

For Sandwell Leisure Trust centres – Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Tipton Leisure Centre and Wednesbury Leisure Centre – go to www.slt-leisure.co.uk/free-swimming-in-sandwell or call 0300 012 0121.

For West Bromwich Leisure Centre, register for free swimming by visiting reception at the centre or call 0121 580 6430, or go to www.placesleisure.org and search 'West Bromwich Leisure Centre'

Stay safe, stay out!

Stay safe this summer and please only swim in purpose-built, supervised swimming pools.

Lakes, pools, ponds, canals and rivers may seem inviting on a warm summer's day, but please don't be tempted to swim in them. People can often misjudge their swimming ability. Even in hot weather, water can be icy cold a few feet beneath the surface and very quickly cause severe cramp and hypothermia.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/watersafety for more advice.



Summer of fun

In your town

Our Youth Service will be running a number of activity days in key parks in each of our six towns this summer.

Our regular youth clubs will still be open during the evenings, as well as our youth workers being out and about throughout the summer on estates, parks and open spaces. They will be helping young people to find somewhere safe to go, something positive to do and someone to talk to.

Activity days are free and open to all young people (just turn up on the day). They will be running in a park in each town, offering a range of activities, thanks to funding from the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, including our climbing wall, graffiti art, laser fun and multi sports. Our amazing Youth Bus will be at some of these days too.

www.justyouth.org.uk

JUST YOUTH
Say NO to boredom in Sandwell

Tipton
Tibbington Youth Workers
Victoria Park Youth Workers
Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre
Coneygre Arts Centre
Open Access Holiday Activities Victoria Park

Wednesbury
Brunswick Park Youth Workers
Bilston Road Youth Workers
Wednesbury Youth Club
Open Access Holiday Activities Brunswick Park
National Play Day Bromwich Hall
Stone Cross Youth Workers
Open Access Holiday Activities Red House Park
Tanhouse Youth Club

West Bromwich
Lodge Road Youth Club

Rowley Regis
Rowley Youth Club
Open Access Holiday Activities Britannia Park
Blackheath Youth Workers
National Play Day Haden Hill House

Oldbury
Lion Farm Youth Workers
Open Access Holiday Activities Lion Farm Playing Fields
Bleakhouse Youth Club

Smethwick
Open Access Holiday Activities Victoria Park
Unett St/Cape Hill Youth Workers
Smethwick Youth Club
National Play Day Lightwoods House
Lightwoods Park Youth Workers

Go Play Sandwell

SANDWELL
Holiday Activities

SCAN ME

Activity days in parks

- Wed 23 Jul – Thu 24 Jul, 4pm-8pm**
Brunswick Park, Wednesbury WS10 9HH
- Wed 30 Jul – Thu 31 Jul, 4pm-8pm**
Britannia Park, Rowley Regis B65 9HH
- Wed 6 Aug – Thu 7 Aug, 4pm-8pm**
Lion Farm Playing Fields, Oldbury B69 1EA
- Wed 13 Aug – Thu 14 Aug, 4pm-8pm**
Red House Park, Great Barr B43 6NA
- Wed 20 Aug – Thu 21 Aug, 4pm-8pm**
Victoria Park, Smethwick B66 3QB
- Wed 27 Aug – Thu 28 Aug, 4pm-8pm**
Victoria Park, Tipton DY4 8SW

Full details at www.justyouth.org.uk

Go Play Sandwell will also be running a number of free activities for children aged 5-12 at various locations in each of our six towns this summer, no need to book just turn up and play!

www.goplaysandwell.co.uk

Go play Sandwell

Oldbury | Rowley Regis | Smethwick | Tipton | Wednesbury | West Bromwich

This map is a guide to the offer in each town rather than showing exact geographical locations

WHATEVER THE RESULT, WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Have you had your exam results and you're not sure what to do next?

Get specialised information, advice and guidance on weekdays
Thursday 14 August to
Friday 29 August, 10am – 4pm
Not including Bank Holiday Monday 25 August

GET IN TOUCH

www.connexionssandwell.co.uk

sandwell_connexions@sandwell.gov.uk
0121 569 2955



30 hours of childcare for eligible working families

From September 2025, eligible working parents can now apply for 30 hours of childcare from the term after their child turns 9 months until they start school.

If you currently receive 15 hours as a working family, just reconfirm as usual and the code will work for the 30 hours offer in September, providing you remain eligible and your provider has confirmed your new attendance pattern for your increased hours.

Remember to reconfirm your code every three months.

Visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for information.

Information for families

Sandwell Family Information Service (FIS) offers free, impartial information to families with children from birth to 19 years (or up to 25 years with a special educational need or disability), young people and professionals.

FIS can support you to help find the right childcare provider, help with childcare applications and answer any other childcare-related queries.

Visit the FIS Hub fis.sandwell.gov.uk for national and local services, activities and advice pages.

The hub includes the **Sandwell All Age Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Directory** which provides a wide range of local, regional and national support services for children, young people and their families.



HEALTHY SANDWELL

www.healthysandwell.co.uk

Whether you want to quit smoking, manage your weight, get more active, improve your mental health or reduce alcohol, our friendly advisers are ready to support you.

Getting in touch is easy. Call **0800 011 4656** or **0121 569 5100**, email LS@nhs.net or text **GETHEALTHY** to **87007**. Follow us on Facebook @**HealthySandwell** and visit www.healthysandwell.co.uk for more advice.

Pregnant or a new parent?

Are you pregnant or a parent or carer with a child aged 0 to 4?

We are delighted to be able to offer FREE activity sessions for you and your child.

Go to www.sandwellchanges.co.uk to find out more about our Changes programme and to book your space.

Family Hubs are here for you

Our Family Hubs offer the right help, in the right place, at the right time.

They offer free activities, services and support for all families in Sandwell with children aged 0 to 19 (or 25 with SEND) and extra support is available for families during pregnancy and in your baby's first years.

Visit www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com to see what we have on offer this summer at our seven Family Hubs across Sandwell.

Courses to help parents and carers

Bringing up children is one of the hardest jobs out there! Children don't come with an instruction manual, and we all need a bit of help and guidance from time to time.

In Sandwell, we offer a range of support to help you on your parenting journey – from one-off sessions and online programmes to longer courses.

Search for 'programmes for parents' at www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com to find out more about what we have on offer this summer at our seven Family Hubs across Sandwell.

Have fun and make happy memories together

Our Choices Team helps families with children aged 5 to 12 to join in free activities that support healthy eating, feeling good and staying active.

There's lots to try – like arts and crafts, gardening, games, horse riding, rock climbing and more.

All activities are free and take place throughout the year. There's something for everyone to enjoy!

Visit www.bookwhen.com/choices or email the team at choices_sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk

Sandwell School Nursing Service

Do you have a question about your child's behaviour, toileting, diet or health? Does your child need some support regarding bullying or a healthier lifestyle?

School nurses can provide support and advice for a wide variety of health needs for children and young people to enable them to reach their full potential.

If you are a parent or carer of a child aged 5 to 19 in a Sandwell school and would like confidential advice and support, visit www.healthforkids.co.uk for information or access Chat Health by texting **07312 263 756** to contact a nurse directly.

All primary schools are offered the opportunity to host a parent drop-in facilitated by the School Nursing Service, so speak to your school to find out more.

Visit www.healthysandwell.co.uk/school-nurse to find out more.

WorkWell in Sandwell

Across Sandwell, WorkWell is helping residents take meaningful steps towards employment, personal growth and improved wellbeing.

Led by Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, WorkWell offers tailored support for residents facing barriers to work due to health conditions or disabilities.

Through one-to-one support and access to local resources, the service helps people build confidence, manage their health and explore routes into employment or training.

Visit www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/workwell to find out more.

Your first step towards a new smoke-free you...

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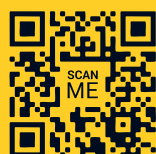
FREE 1-2-1 support for people who live, work or have a registered GP in Sandwell



StopForLifeSandwell.org

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Walking for men's mental health

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our 52-kilometre Walk in the Park Challenge and stood shoulder to shoulder for men's mental health.

Councillor Jackie Taylor, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health and Wellbeing, and Councillor Luke Cotterill led a six-park, three-day walking challenge in June, which finished at West Smethwick Park.

Whether you walked with us, cheered everyone on or provided activities, games or advice along the way, thank you.

Visit www.healthysandwell.co.uk or call Healthy Sandwell on **0800 011 4656** for advice and support around mental health and wellbeing.



Learning Campus is halfway there!

Construction of the £18million Midland Met Learning Campus in Smethwick has passed the halfway mark.

The pioneering health and education hub will bring life-changing opportunities to Smethwick and the wider region.

The landmark project is led by Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, in partnership with Sandwell Council, Sandwell College, Aston University and the University of Wolverhampton.

It is funded by the government's Towns Fund programme, overseen by the Smethwick Partnership Board, with additional co-funding from the NHS Trust and the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Construction is being led by Kier.

Once operational in early 2026 and co-located with the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital in Smethwick, the Learning Campus will become a trailblazing centre of excellence for health and social care education.

It will support over 1,200 learners annually, helping them into high demand careers across the NHS and the broader care sector.



Blackheath open as usual during improvement works

Businesses are open as usual while works continue on the new Blackheath Bus Interchange.

The town centre and Blackheath Market are open and accessible throughout the works. Temporary traffic plans are in place to minimise disruption.

The £2.9million regeneration project, funded by the government's Towns Fund programme, is creating a new bus interchange around Market Place.

There will also be a new, inviting, landscaped public space, which will replace the existing

traffic island and create a safer pedestrian environment. Upgrades include five new zebra crossings and new loading spaces closer to businesses.

This project aims to encourage more people to visit Blackheath town centre and will support shoppers, businesses and traders. It will make it easier to access public transport links as well as improving safety and reducing congestion.

Traffic will still be able to travel through the town centre in the future, in line with people's feedback from previous consultation.

More improvements for Britannia Park

More improvements are on the way at Britannia Park in Rowley Regis, including a dedicated toddler play area set to benefit local children and families.

The new toddler area will be perfect for young children, complementing existing play facilities unveiled in August 2024.

Upgrades to the park entrances at Ross and Mackmillan Road are also planned to provide better access. Tree planting will include the creation of a new beech tree maze, and ecological signage will be installed. More sports pitches will receive drainage upgrades.

This is all part of a £3.2million project to improve Rowley Regis parks supported by the government's Towns Fund programme and other partner organisations.

The new Football Association-approved changing rooms (pictured) are now complete, ready for teams and referees to use from the start of the new football season.

Other recent improvements include the addition of 15 new allotment plots, two refurbished tennis courts, an upgraded multi-games area (MUGA), an avenue of trees and a newly laid out, larger car park. A new skate park is coming soon, and the nearby Britannia Park Sons of Rest community building will undergo refurbishment.



Significant milestones reached in £20.4m Wednesbury project

Wednesbury town centre is benefiting from improvements made under the Levelling Up Partnership, funded by the government.

Following community safety improvements launched earlier this year, the main phase of public realm work was completed in June and was marked by a planting event at Ethelfleda Square, next to the bus station, with school children from St John's Church of England Primary Academy.

The design of the square celebrates Wednesbury's history and its connection with the places surrounding.

The square is named after Queen Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great who fortified Wednesbury in Anglo-Saxon times. It honours her as a strong leader. Students from Wood Green Academy helped choose the name.

The council wants to thank residents, visitors and businesses for their patience during the main works.

Further work continues in the town centre, at Hydes Road Playing Fields, the Friar Park Millennium Centre, and at Friar Park Urban Village.



Update on Tipton regeneration project

Planning permission was secured in May for the third and final phase of new housing in Tipton town centre.

This will secure the conversion and refurbishment of the former Conservative Club on Union Street, with new build units at the rear, in total creating 15 new homes.

This will bring the total new affordable council apartments across the three sites to 70.

The project, which is supported by £20million of government funding,

also includes improvements to public spaces in the town.

The construction contract for the first two sites, either side of Union Street, has now been let and building work is expected to begin on site later in the summer.

In the meantime, wooden security hoardings that surround these sites now feature decorative murals.

The images, which depict aspects of Tipton past and present, have been designed by artist Mark Murphy in conjunction with Multistory and local community groups. They also include imaginative images created by pupils from Q3 Academy Tipton.

Smethwick Plan for Neighbourhoods

Smethwick is set to benefit from up to £20million under a government-funded project.

Residents are invited to have their say on how funding should be spent.

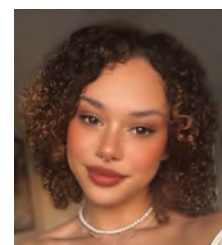
An online survey and community workshops are planned to gather feedback.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/smethwickpfn to find out more and have your say.

Congratulations to Naomi, (pictured right) whose vibrant design won the competition to create a logo for the Smethwick Partnership Board.

The colourful mosaic globe perfectly captures Smethwick's spirit, representing diversity and unity, with iconic industrial symbols honouring our rich heritage and bright future.

A huge thanks to everyone who entered the competition.



New and improved council homes

We're busy building much-needed new council homes across Sandwell as well as improving our existing properties for tenants.

This is part of our ongoing commitment to providing safe, comfortable, high-quality affordable homes for our residents.

The developments pictured here are just some of the latest council homes to be completed, working with a range of construction partners and supported by grant funding from Homes England.

As of April 2025, Sandwell Council had built 547 new council homes since 2016 and is currently building 89 new council homes, of these 74 are anticipated to complete this financial year.

We plan to build a further estimated 133 new council homes by 2027. This makes a potential total of around 769 new council homes. Alongside this, we are developing a future pipeline aimed at bolstering these numbers both up to 2027 and beyond.

Meanwhile, we continue to improve existing council homes. For example, the project at Thorn Close, Wednesbury, saw a major refurbishment of apartments, facilities upgraded and the addition of two brand-new apartments within the original under-used underpasses.



Beever Road, Tipton



Crosswells Road, Oldbury



St Vincent Crescent, West Bromwich



Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich



West End Avenue, Smethwick



Thorn Close, Wednesbury



Stronger businesses, thriving communities



Sandwell Council is passionate about supporting your business to grow in a way that ensures people and communities benefit too. That's what Sandwell Business Growth is all about.

When Sandwell businesses thrive, they create jobs, raise aspirations, boost skills and generate wealth for our local economy. You're Sandwell's lifeblood – and so our Sandwell Business Growth Team is here to champion your business at every stage.

The Sandwell Business Growth website is packed with resources to help you achieve your ambitions. When your business wins, everyone wins.

Thanks to a pro-business council, a skilled workforce and excellent transport links, Sandwell is an ideal place to do business.

Go to www.sandwellbusinessgrowth.com to find out more about how the team can support you and your business.



Sandwell Business Growth

Free family event in West Brom town centre



Multistory invites you all to Green Roots on the Meadow, a free, family-friendly celebration event on Saturday 16 August, 12 noon to 2pm, behind Primark in New Square, West Bromwich.

Enjoy creative workshops, live music, complimentary snacks and the unveiling of a new commission on the meadow by Juneau Projects.

Part of the Sandwell Council's wider Towns Fund Urban Greening project, the event brings together art, nature and community to celebrate one of Sandwell's green spaces.

Work starts on setting a new bar for design in Sandwell

We've started developing a Design Code for Sandwell to help guide future developments – and everyone will soon have the chance to get involved and have their say.

A Design Code is a planning document, required by the government, that includes design standards for the way a site or area is developed. Our existing guidance will be reviewed and replaced by the new code.

It will establish a set of rules which all new developments in Sandwell must follow during the planning process. This will help raise the quality of developments and ensure the design of them is directly influenced by the character of different areas of Sandwell.

We've started chatting to community groups to understand their priorities and soon there will be opportunities for everyone to find out more and get involved – please keep an eye on the council's planning webpages www.sandwell.gov.uk/designcode



YOUR SANDWELL COUNCILLORS

YOUR OLDBURY COUNCILLORS

Bristnall			Langley			Old Warley			Oldbury		
Amolak Singh Dhariwal 07811 583 956	Thomas Johnston 07974 883 588	Ellen Fenton 07450 963 628	Bill Gavan MBE 07813 364 277	Jill Tromans 07974 883 521	Caroline Owen 07929 729 943	Harnoor Bhullar 07968 576 563	Chipiliro Kalebe-Nyamongo 07977 710 948	Luke Cotterill 07442 878 825	Nagi Daya Singh 07811 583 817	Suzanne Hartwell 07814 862 104	Rizwan Jalil Rizwan_Jalil@sandwell.gov.uk

YOUR ROWLEY REGIS COUNCILLORS

Blackheath			Cradley Heath and Old Hill			Rowley			Tividale		
Danny Millard 07825 706 133	Jag Singh 07812 682 584	Kerrie Carmichael 07852 699 513	Julie Webb 0121 559 9263	John Tipper 07501 066 202	Vicki Smith 07970 497 742	Claire Mayo 07480 744 438	Khayam Khan Khayam_Khan@sandwell.gov.uk	Sohail Iqbal 07442 878 404	Amrita Dunn 07555 127 349	Wakas Younis 07424 377 892	Maria Crompton 07810 850 960

YOUR SMETHWICK COUNCILLORS

Abbey			Smethwick			Soho and Victoria			St Paul's		
Bob Piper 07817 617 595	Jennifer Hemingway 07890 952 567	Nicky Hinchliff 07929 658 986	Ashley Lewis 07855 985 146	Luke Davies 07974 879 379	Parbinder Kaur 07956 149 668	Mohammed Jalal Uddin 07811 583 860	Ragih Muflihi 07974 883 550	Farut Shaeen 07967 591 228	Aqeela Choudhry 07855 985 100	Muhammad Loan 07424 965 084	Sukhbir Singh Gill 07929 729 532

YOUR TIPTON COUNCILLORS

Great Bridge			Princes End			Tipton Green		
Soyfur Rahman 07855 985 156	Sahdaish Kaur Pall BEM 07930 492 467	William Gill 07929 729 485	David Wilkes 07855 985 153	Justyna Kordala 07549 817 139	Archer Williams 07929 729 950	Abid Hussain 07811 583 951	Syeda Khatun MBE 07766 421 436	Richard Jeffcoat 07442 879 919

YOUR WEDNESBURY COUNCILLORS

Friar Park			Wednesbury North			Wednesbury South		
Simon Hackett 07813 989 422	Terry Fitzgerald 07977 532 070	Elizabeth Giles 07443 707 790	Luke Giles 07549 657 831	Nicola Maycock 07974 876 939	Peter Hughes 07896 914 849	Ian Chambers 07929 659 646	Kulwant Singh Uppal 07974 883 554	Jenny Chidley 07974 883 522

YOUR WEST BROMWICH COUNCILLORS

Charlemont with Grove Vale			Great Barr with Yew Tree			Greets Green and Lyng		
Les Trumpeter 07429 517 031	Natalie Weston 07827 444 769	Dalel Singh Bhamra 07443 551 022	Steve Melia 0121 502 5751	Michaela Allcock 07977 729 107	Connor Horton 07380 334 497	John Giles 07816 353 752	Jackie Taylor 07813 364 299	Pam Randhawa 07951 861 263
Hateley Heath			Newton			West Bromwich Central		
Paul Moore 07969 138 038	Kay Millar 07971 524 694	Amardeep Singh 07925 174 940	Keith Allcock 07970 202 313	Saj Ashraf 07465 724 276	Elaine Giles 07785 405 486	Liam Preece 07515 354 967	Tirath Singh Dhatt 07874 660 324	Farzana Haq 07769 300 455

Key to councillors' political parties

- Labour Party
- Conservative Party
- Green
- Independent

Your councillors ARE HERE TO HELP

Your local ward councillors are here to support you.

If you need to check which ward you live in, and search for your local councillors, go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/councillors

For more information on councillors, email members_services@sandwell.gov.uk



GET READY FOR 15 SEPT >>>

Keep recycling your plastic bottles, tubs and food trays, cans, glass bottles and jars as well as your cardboard, cartons and paper in your recycling (blue lid) bin until September.



Get ready for the start of your **NEW** collection service and start putting your cardboard, cartons and paper in your **NEW** recycling (blue) bag in September.



COLLECTIONS START FROM 15 SEPT

Find out more at www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins
call 0121 368 1177 or scan the QR code



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

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