

# SANDWELL HERALD

AUTUMN 2025



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Sandwell



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## SANDWELL

New West Bromwich Indoor Market is now open!



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Supporting Sandwell  
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Bins and recycling update, plus details of  
Christmas and New Year collections –  
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Sign up to Sandwell Council  
email updates

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/emailupdates](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/emailupdates)

 Sandwell  
Metropolitan Borough Council

[www.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk)



# The strength of our community

**We have seen a summer of national tensions, and sadly an attack in Oldbury which has rightly concerned our community. I want to be very clear. At Sandwell we take a zero-tolerance approach to any form of abuse, discrimination or hate, and any violence against women and girls.**



This incident does not represent the Sandwell I know and love, where people from different backgrounds come together. We asked you in our recent residents' survey what makes you proud to live here. The top answer – the strength of our community.

We want a borough where all women and girls can live safely, move freely, and thrive without fear. But we recognise that such violence is deep rooted and that tackling it is a shared responsibility.

Our approach focuses on supporting and empowering survivors, holding perpetrators to account, and making sure we address the root causes to help prevent violence before it happens. Together, we can all take action to prevent violence and stop hate.

As far as the council's priorities are concerned, as you'll see throughout this edition, I remain deeply committed to achieving things for Sandwell which matter to you.

This includes preventing anti-social behaviour by increasing the number of CCTV cameras in our towns. I want us to continue to have some of the best roads in the country, free of potholes. I want us to keep focusing on creating the best green spaces which improve everyone's quality of life.

We are a caring council that gets things done.

As we approach Bonfire Night, please sign up for our Fire Garden event. I received a positive response to holding this event last year as we continue to work to improve animal welfare.

Finally, this will be the last Herald before Christmas and New Year so, although it's a bit early, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Leader of Sandwell Council**



## Nuisance bikes seized and crushed!

**As part of #SaferStreetsSummer, a nationwide initiative in towns and high streets across the UK, West Midlands Police and Sandwell Council have been clamping down on anti-social behaviour in Sandwell.**

One of our priorities was targeting illegal motorbikes and other off-road vehicles, as we received increased reports of this activity during the summer months.

Thanks to your information, we identified hotspots and held various operations where bikes were seized.

These bikes were then crushed as they had been driven in a dangerous manner. If you are caught riding an off-road bike illegally, we will seize and destroy it.

Report off-road motorbike nuisance anonymously to Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or at **[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)**

Or use the police's Live Chat at **[www.westmidlands.police.uk](http://www.westmidlands.police.uk)** or report to the council at **[www.sandwell.gov.uk/motorbikenuisance](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/motorbikenuisance)**

We have also focused on retail crime, which led to a number of prolific thieves being charged and jailed for their persistent shop theft.

Some offenders have also been given criminal behaviour orders which can ban them from specific locations in town centres.



## The King officially opens Midland Met Hospital

**His Majesty King Charles has officially opened the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital in Smethwick.**

The King unveiled a plaque at the new hospital in September, interacting with flag-waving crowds who were delighted to see him visiting.

He was greeted by Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust's Chair Sir David Nicholson and Chief Executive Diane Wake. The Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Steve Melia and Sandwell Council Chief Executive Shokat Lal also attended the visit.



The King was then taken to meet patients and staff on an older person's care ward.

Eighty-five-year-old Jackie, from Great Barr, said: "He was brought into my room and shook hands with my husband first and then he shook hands with me. He held my hand most of the time I was talking to him, so it was a lovely experience."

During his tour, King Charles also met with frontline doctors and nurses, as well as support staff, volunteers and the parents of the first baby born at the hospital.

**Visit [www.swbh.nhs.uk/our-new-hospital](http://www.swbh.nhs.uk/our-new-hospital) for more information on the Midland Met.**

## Fly-tippers face £1,000 fine

**Since January 2024, we have issued 54 fines for incidents of fly-tipping, littering and where residents gave their waste to someone who failed to dispose of it properly.**

And, if people choose not to pay the fine, we are taking them to court – where they will be prosecuted and may receive an even higher fine or potentially imprisonment.

Our waste management partner Serco helps us get fly-tipping swiftly removed from council land. We're using CCTV more and more to tackle fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour.

We urge everyone to take responsibility for their waste. You can help us too:

Use the tip in Shidas Lane, Oldbury, where you can dispose of unwanted items for free. **Go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/tip](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/tip) to book a slot.**

Use our bulky waste collection service for large household items. Go to **[www.sandwell.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://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.

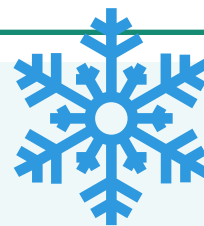
Please report all incidents to us at **[www.sandwell.gov.uk/flytipping](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/flytipping)** or, if you're not online, call us on **0121 368 1177**.



## Keeping our roads safe this winter

**We're ready for any cold weather that comes our way. Our gritting crew will be on 24-hour standby from mid-November, ready to keep Sandwell moving in snow or icy conditions, night and day.**

- Every time the gritters go out, they cover around 260 miles of Sandwell's roads, each time putting down around 55 tonnes of salt.
- Not only are we ready for winter gritting, we're also leading the way in maintaining roads and tackling potholes.
- The percentage of residents satisfied with road maintenance in Sandwell (72%) is more than double the local government benchmark (27%).
- And another survey recently put Sandwell in the top three local authorities nationally for the way we deal with potholes.
- We're spending £15million this financial year to keep on top of these priority highways issues for residents and other road users.
- 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.



### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES AND PARADES

Sunday 9 November 2025  
10.30am to 11.30am

*Sandwell Remembers*

**Great Barr:** St Margaret's Church  
**Oldbury:** Civic Square Oldbury  
**Rowley:** Powke Lane Cemetery  
**Smethwick:** Smethwick Council House  
**Tipton:** Victoria Park  
**Wednesbury:** Memorial Gardens  
**West Bromwich:** Dartmouth Park



### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE 2026

Sunday 25 January 2026

**At Memorial Gardens**

Highfields House, High Street, West Bromwich, B70 8RJ  
[www.sandwell.gov.uk/hmd](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/hmd)



## VJ Day 80 in Sandwell

**We honoured the 80th anniversary of VJ Day in August with a ceremony at the war memorial in Oldbury.**

Proud veterans, councillors, council staff and members of the public attended the service outside Sandwell Council House to mark the anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Thank you to the hundreds of people who attended, and a big thank you to the Oldbury and Blackheath Royal British Legion branches for organising the VJ Day parade.

The Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Steve Melia said: "While many celebrated VE Day (Victory in Europe Day), fewer people are aware of the hardships faced in Asia and the Pacific. This 80th anniversary of VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day, which followed the dropping of the first atomic bombs), provided a moment to remember, reflect and recognise those who served far from home."

During the service, Councillor Keith Allcock and council employee Ghulam Ditta shared stories of family members who fought for Britain in the jungles of Burma, where many people from different faiths and backgrounds served together to help secure a better world.



## 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](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk) to find out more.**



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](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/mysandwell)



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

### Important information if you use the MySandwell app

If you use the MySandwell app, we want to make you aware that it will no longer be available from 14 November 2025. After this date, it won't be available to download and will no longer be supported.



But don't panic, you can do everything that you do on the app (and more!) on the MySandwell website.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/mysandwellapp](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/mysandwellapp) for more details.

### A new main phone number is coming for most council services

We're making it easier for you to get in touch with us by phone when you need to. 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 and 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**





# Investing in Sandwell's parks

You have told us how much you value parks and green spaces in Sandwell and, because we're a council that cares and gets things done, we're investing in making our open spaces places that everyone can enjoy.

Our borough is full of wonderful green places, like our much-loved Sandwell Valley Country Park, and we're proud of our Green Flag parks and open spaces.

Our green spaces mean different things to different people. But whether you enjoy them because they feel like an open-air community centre or gym, a garden where you can chill out or somewhere to meet your friends, we want to make sure they're safe, welcoming and pleasant places for everyone.

Last year we invested £3.8million in parks, play areas, outdoor sports facilities, nature reserves and other green spaces, including £1.2m improving Britannia Park. This year we're spending a further £4.3m on 50 projects across 40 of our parks.

We're a sporty borough with 48 outdoor sports sites, including 15 playing pitches, 27 multi-use games areas, 33 outdoor gyms, four bowling greens and 12 BMX and skate facilities.

We've got 40 allotment sites, with 1,336 plots lovingly tended by residents who benefit from the many

health benefits of being in the open air, being part of a community and growing their own produce.

We're building our first new park for 50 years at Brandhall, we've put extra money in this year's budget for tree maintenance and we're helping biodiversity through tree planting and rewilding schemes.

Our hard work has been recognised through the Green Flag Awards, an international scheme recognising well-managed parks and open spaces. We've got 16 in Sandwell – a park in each of our six towns, two cemeteries and a crematorium, as well as Sandwell Valley Country Park and community-run spaces.

We can't do this on our own – friends' groups and community volunteers have helped make our green spaces among the best in the country. Together with our investment and hard-working parks staff, we've created places that are special for everyone who lives here.



An artist impression of the new skate park planned for Britannia Park

## Peace Gardens plan for six Sandwell parks

**Sandwell is set to mark 80 years since the end of the Second World War by planting 80 native trees across six local parks – one in each town – creating new Peace Gardens and Woodlands that will stand as living memorials for generations to come.**

Each space will offer quiet places for reflection and togetherness. The project celebrates the resilience of Sandwell's communities while honouring the sacrifices of those who served in the Second World War and the peace and freedom won 80 years ago.

The Peace Gardens and Woodlands will pay tribute to servicemen with strong ties to Sandwell and ensure their stories, and those of countless others, continue to inspire future generations.

Schools, community organisations and heritage partners are supporting the project, with further tree planting events planned across our six towns throughout the year.



## Love Parks Week

**We had a great time celebrating Love Parks Week this summer.**

From guided walks and family-friendly activities to volunteer clean-up events and outdoor yoga sessions, the week was filled with energy, enthusiasm and a shared enjoyment of our great spaces.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part. Check out our pictures to see what we got up to.

West Smethwick Park marked its first prestigious Green Flag Award with a celebratory event recognising the dedication of its ground staff and the wider parks team. Sandwell Council Leader Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, other cabinet members and the Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Steve Melia attended the event.

Everyone agreed on the importance of high-quality green spaces in our communities and celebrated the team's continued commitment to excellence in maintaining a safe, clean and welcoming park for all.

West Smethwick Park has recently benefited from a £5.1million restoration and improvement project supported by the National Lottery Fund's Parks for People programme and Sandwell Council.



## Sandwell's Green Flag Award success

**Have you visited all of our 16 Green Flag Award parks and green spaces in Sandwell? Do you know where they are?**

We are very proud that the following sites have all achieved the prestigious Green Flag, which sets the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the UK and around the world.

### Green Flag council parks:

- Brunswick Park, Wednesbury
- Barnford Park, Oldbury
- Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich
- Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath
- Lightwoods Park, Bearwood
- Red House Park, Great Barr
- Sandwell Valley Country Park, West Bromwich
- Victoria Park, Smethwick
- Victoria Park, Tipton
- West Smethwick Park, Smethwick

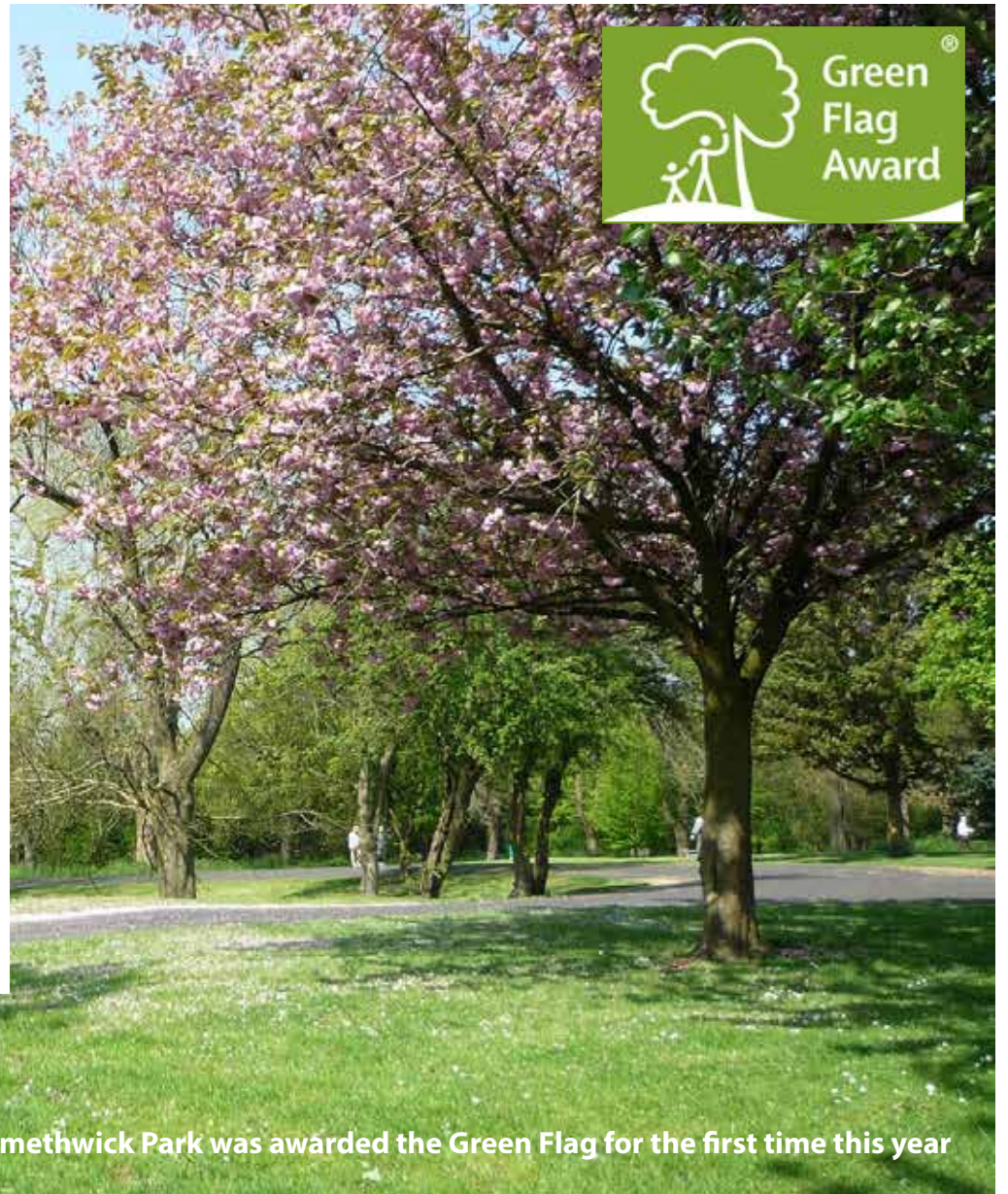
### Other council sites with Green Flag Awards:

- Sandwell Valley Crematorium, West Bromwich
- Fallings Heath Cemetery, Wednesbury
- Tipton Cemetery

### Partner sites with Green Flag Awards:

- Revolution Walk (Main Line Canal), Smethwick/Birmingham (managed by Canal & River Trust)
- Lions of the Great War, Smethwick – a Green Flag Award Community Winner (managed by Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick)
- Warley Woods, Bearwood (managed by Warley Woods Community Trust)

The Green Flag Award scheme is managed by Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



West Smethwick Park was awarded the Green Flag for the first time this year

## Lightwoods in the spotlight

**Our Lightwoods Park gardener Claire, who has recently completed an apprenticeship with Sandwell Council, is proud of what we're doing to help make our green spaces lovely places to visit.**

Here Claire shares five facts about Lightwoods Park and House:

1. Did you know that Lightwoods Park is one of Sandwell's 16 parks and green spaces which has been awarded a prestigious Green Flag?
2. The park and house have been transformed by investment from The National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Sandwell Council.
3. As well as being a great place for children and families to explore – with a skate park, play area and more – Lightwoods House is also a fantastic wedding venue and meeting space.
4. The Grade II-listed house has been lovingly restored to its 18th century glory, with a tearoom, community rooms and space for public and private events including wedding and civil partnership ceremonies.
5. Many of the park's historical elements have been brought back to life, including the drinking fountains, the 19th century bandstand and the Shakespeare Garden – plus new paths and a play area.

Visit [lightwoodsparkandhouse.co.uk](http://lightwoodsparkandhouse.co.uk) or call **0121 569 4141** to find out more about Lightwoods Park and House.



## Sandwell Council is hiring...

**We are recruiting seasonal Grounds Maintenance Operatives to support our grass cutting operations**



- Do you have a full UK driving licence?
- Do you have 12 months' driving experience?
- Do you have experience using grounds maintenance equipment?



## Grounds Maintenance Operative

**Seasonal/Fixed Term:**  
(16 March to 23 October 2026)  
£13.26 per hour (pay award pending)



Apply form 10 November 2025 visit:  
[www.sandwell.gov.uk/groundsmaintenancejobs](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/groundsmaintenancejobs)

Closing date: **Friday 2 January 2026** (however we reserve the right to close earlier if sufficient applications are received)

Contact: [hr\\_resourcing@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:hr_resourcing@sandwell.gov.uk)





## Sandwell Police update

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



“It's been a busy few months since my last update.

Aside from the operations we've been running to reduce crime in the area, including Operation Advance as it returned to the borough in September, we have been working hard to find and prosecute the men who raped a young woman in Oldbury on Tuesday 9 September.

That investigation continues and we have made progress. You can stay updated by following our 'Sandwell Police' Facebook page or by signing up at [www.wmow.co.uk](http://www.wmow.co.uk) to receive free email updates from us.

The Crimestoppers charity is offering a huge reward of up to £20,000 for information which leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. If you can help, please call Crimestoppers now on **0800 555 111** – they will not trace your call or ask for your name.

I recently hosted a meeting to talk about women's safety with community and faith groups, charities, councillors and MPs, as well as our independent advisory groups.

This work will continue to ensure concerns are addressed through police and partnership activity. There will be an intense focus during the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence that starts on 25 November. I hope you feel able to get involved on this important issue.

Hate crime remains a priority for us at Sandwell Police. Please keep reporting so we can end this crime.

If you do not want to report hate crimes directly to the police, you can contact a third-party reporting centre. These are venues such as libraries, community organisations and places of worship where staff have been trained to take formal reports of your concerns. You can find details on the council's website. ”

## No place for hate in Sandwell

**Hate crimes can have devastating effects and harms not just victims but loved ones and entire communities too.**

It's so important that we all do what we can to help tackle hate crimes whether they directly affect you or not. You can report hate crimes online, by phone or at a network of third-party reporting centres across Sandwell which are places within the community where you can report a hate crime.

We all have a part to play. Learn what a hate crime is and what you can do if you witness one.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/hatecrime](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/hatecrime) for advice on different ways to report a hate crime, including a map of third-party reporting centres in the community. You can also call police on 101 or, in an emergency, dial 999.

Report anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) or at the True Vision website – [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)

**Together we can show that there is no place for hate in Sandwell**



## A named police officer for every area

**Every council area in Sandwell – known as a ward – now has a named police officer to help fix long-term problems.**

The dedicated neighbourhood officers focus on three key areas:

- **Problem-solving** – tackling persistent local issues through long-term solutions
- **Targeted activity** – proactive interventions to address crime and disorder
- **Community engagement** – building relationships and ensuring residents have a say in policing

The officers are not working alone, they are supported by a wider team of neighbourhood officers, emergency response officers, investigators and other specialists.

Your named officer

acts as the local expert, with in-depth knowledge of your area's challenges and the partnerships working in the area.

Sandwell Police's goal is to give officers more time, support and resources to focus on being neighbourhood officers, delivering proactive and visible policing in the areas that need it most.

For details of your named officer and police surgeries in your neighbourhood, go to [www.westmidlands.police.uk](http://www.westmidlands.police.uk)

and search your postcode. Report non-emergency incidents via the police website or by calling **101**.



## Help if you are being stalked or harassed

*Day 1 - Flowers sent with no note.*

*Day 20 - He's waiting outside, I'm scared ...*



**No one should live in fear of being followed, watched or harassed. Stalking destroys lives – but support is here in Sandwell and across the West Midlands.**

**What stalking can look like:**

Stalking is persistent, unwanted attention that makes you feel harassed or threatened. It may include:

- Repeated calls, texts or messages
- Sending unwanted gifts or notes
- Turning up uninvited at your home, work or other places
- Damaging property
- Using social media, fake profiles or tracking apps to monitor you

The West Midlands Stalking Support Service offers free, confidential support for anyone aged 16+.

Specialist advisers provide safety planning, evidence-gathering tips and guidance on reporting to police.

Victims are urged to trust their instincts, keep records and call **999** if in danger.

A new national service stops unwanted letters, calls or messages from prisoners. Search 'Unwanted Prisoner Contact' online or call **0300 060 6699**.

**Help and support:**

West Midlands Stalking Support Service: **0121 553 0090**

National Stalking Helpline: **0808 802 0300**.

Black Country Women's Aid: [www.blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk](http://www.blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk)

Ask Marc (support for men): [www.askmarc.org.uk/stalking](http://www.askmarc.org.uk/stalking)

Hollie Guard: A discreet safety app that lets you instantly alert loved ones or emergency services if you feel threatened – visit [www.hollieguard.com](http://www.hollieguard.com)

Bright Sky: A free app that helps recognise signs of abuse, offers guidance on how to respond and connects you to support services safely – visit [www.hestia.org/brightsky](http://www.hestia.org/brightsky)



# Community safety progress in Wednesbury

A community safety project in Wednesbury is already delivering strong results, with significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour across the town centre.



Funded by the government's Levelling Up Partnership, upgrades have included:

- 26 new or upgraded CCTV cameras
- 8 deployable cameras for crime hotspots
- 11 locations fitted with equipment to deter nuisance off-road bikes
- a new business partnership and radio scheme in the town centre to support ongoing safety efforts

The impact goes beyond just new equipment – the project and partnership work between the council, police, businesses and partner organisations has delivered real change on the ground:

- reduction in shoplifting
- drop in drug-related offences
- reduction in public order offences
- fewer nuisance off-road bike reports

The project has also:

- improved detection and responses to crime and anti-social behaviour
- helped strengthen intelligence sharing between businesses and enforcement teams
- encouraged people to report incidents in the town centre, helping us to target local issues more effectively

Deputy Council Leader Councillor Suzanne Hartwell said: "We listened to people's concerns and acted. These results show what can be achieved when the council, police, businesses and residents work together. We want Wednesbury to be a place where people feel safe and proud."

Please report incidents via 999 in emergencies or, for non-urgent concerns, use the West Midlands Police website Live Chat at [www.westmidlands.police.uk](http://www.westmidlands.police.uk) or call 101.



## Operation Advance success

More than 20 people were arrested, vehicles were seized and drugs were recovered as part of Operation Advance last month.

Policing teams in Sandwell were supported by extra force resources and worked closely with partner organisations, including Sandwell Council, to carry out targeted activity.

The day saw an early morning drugs raid, a multi-agency road safety operation, an off-road bike operation, arrests, proactive vehicle patrols and a knife arch.

An estimated £20,000 to £30,000 of illegal vapes and tobacco products were seized during a partnership operation with the council's Trading Standards team at three shops in Cradley Heath. Around 10,000 cigarettes and 4,000 vapes were found.

Illegal vapes and cigarettes can pose a health risk, and their sale can seed criminality in our communities.

As part of a multi-agency road safety operation held in Oldbury, around 28 traffic offences were identified, seven vehicles were seized, and arrests were made.

It was not just about enforcement, as the operation also saw school talks, engagement with communities and gathering intelligence.

**Operation Advance allows police and partners to carry out intensive activity and build on work which is going on every day of the year to make Sandwell a great place to live and work.**



## Darker nights advice

**Lockup**  
Protect your home

West Midlands Police is stepping up efforts to keep your community safe this season.

We often see a seasonal rise in burglary and car crime through the autumn and winter months. So, as the nights grow darker, police are increasing patrols in key areas, acting on information from the public, and working closely with partner organisations to prevent crime and protect residents.

- Heading out? Make sure your home and vehicle are secure by locking all windows, doors and side gates.
- Check you have removed valuables from your vehicle, locked it and securely stored your keys.
- Planning a gathering? Keep side entrances, garden doors and porches locked to deter opportunistic thieves who may target unattended valuables or car keys.

Visit [www.westmidlands.police.uk](http://www.westmidlands.police.uk) for advice on fireworks safety, reporting anti-social behaviour and protecting your property.



You can report anti-social behaviour by calling 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

You can also report anti-social behaviour to Sandwell Council at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/asb](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/asb) or by calling 0121 368 1166.







## 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](http://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.

Welcoming Spaces logos are libraries or other

Welcoming Spaces community buildings in your area.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/welcomingspaces](http://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](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell)



## Free School Meal holiday food vouchers coming in December

**Sandwell Council is continuing to support families of more than 23,000 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 a £40 voucher in December to cover October half-term (backdated) and the Christmas and February half-term holidays.

This is in addition to £90 vouchers which were issued earlier this year in July.

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

This funding is also being used to support Local Welfare Provision to help people in crisis – more low-income families are now eligible to apply, including residents who need help with disability equipment including wheelchairs.

The money is also being used to 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](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/hsf) for more details.

## Don't misuse a Blue Badge! We're cracking down on Blue Badge fraud.

**Misuse of Blue Badges makes it more difficult for people with disabilities and mobility issues to find a parking space.**

That's why we've prosecuted 25 people for Blue Badge fraud over the past year – which has also seen us and our parking partner APCOA shortlisted for a British Parking Award.

If you know, or suspect, someone may be misusing a Blue Badge, please let us know and we'll take action.

**Please call our hotline on 0121 569 2650 or email [fraud\\_investigation@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:fraud_investigation@sandwell.gov.uk) with any information.**

**Anyone who thinks they may be eligible for a Blue Badge can find out how to apply on page 11.**



**Sandwell Council has been recognised as one of the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2025 – one of only four local authorities nationally to achieve this ranking.**

The council has launched a bold new 100 Apprentices by 2027 programme following the launch of the Making It Sandwell campaign, which features young people across Sandwell sharing their stories of what making it in Sandwell is all about.

Apprenticeships are a vital way of developing the skills and talents of our workforce, as well as supporting the local economy.

The council received over 1,300 applications in the first two weeks of the 100 Apprentices programme.

## Apprenticeships Make

# SANDWELL

1,300 applications received!



### MEET BRANDON

**Making It as an apprentice Farmer**  
"I always wanted something that's different every day."

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/apprenticeships) to find out more about our apprenticeships.  
Go to [www.sandwellstory.com](http://www.sandwellstory.com) to find out more about the Making It Sandwell campaign.



# Have your say — take part in our budget consultation



Every year, the council is legally required to set a balanced budget. We're now looking at what money we have available to spend next year.

As a council, this year we set a total budget of around **£1.3billion**. Some services, such as schools, council housing, planning and car parking, receive specific income from grants or from charging fees direct to service users. That income adds up to **£906million**. This gives us a budget of **£366million** to deliver our day-to-day services for the 342,000 people who live in Sandwell. This is called our "net budget".

## Here's how our net budget of £366million for council services is funded:

<b>Council Tax:</b>	40%
<b>Business Rates:</b>	56%
<b>Non-specific Government grants:</b>	4%

For every £100 of our net budget of £366million we spend:

Children's Services & Education £30

Adult Social Care £27

Bins & Recycling £9.50

Highways & Environmental Maintenance £6.50

Culture & Leisure £4

Public Transport £4

Planning & Economic Growth £4

Housing Support £2

Public Health & Community Safety £1.50

Running council services £11.50



**Sandwell Council's Deputy Leader Councillor Paul Moore said:** "It has been important to us to protect your services and to make sure that we look after your money. We had to make some hard decisions last year on things like bin collections. "This has enabled us to focus this year on things that will make our borough cleaner and safer. "Our proposals will deliver some of the best roads in the country with our approach to removing potholes. "We will tackle anti-social behaviour with more CCTV and enforcement. Residents will see even more investment in our parks and green spaces. "Our capital programme will see investment in our town centres, more affordable housing and delivering on our masterplans to bring new life to our six towns. "We also want to keep your Council Tax as one of the lowest in the region. The decisions we make when setting our budget will show that we are a caring council that gets things done."

## Here are some of the major projects we're proposing:

- Additional investment in our roads and footpaths
- Investment in our Community Concern Road Safety programme
- The new Causeway Green Primary School
- Regeneration of our town centres
- Continuing to support households with the cost of living
- Improvements to Forge Mill Farm Shop
- Investment in our allotments
- A new cemetery for West Bromwich and improvements to other cemeteries and our crematoriums
- A new archive centre
- Fitting out Blackheath Library
- A new Wednesbury Health Centre in King Street
- The Central Sixth Form building works
- Investment in Lightwoods Park
- New Haden Hill Leisure Centre
- Five new Playzones
- Bromwich Hall Manor House Conservation Plan
- A new ecopark in Brandhall
- Support for vulnerable homeowners
- A new self-service customer portal to make it easier to access our services
- Our Warm Homes Healthy People Programme

## Get involved

You can get involved in how we set our budget for 2026/27 by taking part in our consultation. We want to hear what your priorities are - and what your views are on our proposals.

This will help us make decisions on how we spend our budget next year. If you're not online, pop into any Sandwell library and ask for help to fill in the survey using one of our computers.



Have your say by searching for "Sandwell Council budget consultation" online, scan the QR code or go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/budgetconsultation](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/budgetconsultation). The deadline for completing the survey is 28 November 2025.







# Caring for a family member or friend?

**Ensure you're recognised and supported as an unpaid carer in Sandwell.**

Scan the QR Code to go to the Sandwell Carers website and register today.

**Find out more:**



**Register with Sandwell Carers Service to access FREE:**

- Information and advice
- Local events and peer support
- Carer wellbeing check
- bridgit online carer support
- Emergency and future planning
- Get a carer ID card

info@sandwellcarers.org.uk 0121 798 2372

Sandwell Carers Service sandwellcarers.org.uk

This service is funded by Sandwell delivered by: 

Register for FREE:



## A creative welcome following a hospital stay

People staying at 'home from home' accommodation following a hospital stay are being welcomed by inspiring pieces of art created by Sandwell artists with learning disabilities.

Our Adult Social Care's Creative Arts team jumped at the chance to help create bright, calm and inviting spaces at our specialist flats for people who come to stay for a short time on their journey to regaining their independence. We wanted to create an environment that immediately felt welcoming and supportive.

So, the Creative Arts team worked with artists with learning disabilities to pick out pieces they had created that would bring wonderful, interesting and even amusing artwork into the properties. Their creativity has brought colour, warmth and personality to these spaces.

Councillor Jackie Taylor, Sandwell Council's Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health & Wellbeing, said: "When people arrive here after hospital, it's important they feel at ease. The artwork makes it friendly, warm and truly homely."

"This project shows the very best of Sandwell – creativity, community and care coming together. It's not just about recovery. It's also about dignity and giving people a true sense of home. We hope people who come to stay here will wake up with a smile on their face!"



Councillor Jackie Taylor

The Creative Arts on-site shop is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm, at Units 37 to 39, Cyprus Street, Oldbury B69 4XD. Call **0121 552 8095** for more information.

## Launch of new Sandwell Carers Service

**We've launched a new service for carers, working with local organisations to make sure everyone across Sandwell's six towns can access support.**

Led by Forward Carers, the new service was launched at an event in September at St Albans Community Centre in Smethwick attended by local carers and Sandwell Council's Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health, Rashpal Bishop.

The Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Steve Melia officially opened the new service, which is funded by Sandwell Council.

Members of the partnership include:

- Age Concern Birmingham, leading on the Carers Hub support and information service
- Age UK Birmingham and Sandwell, providing inclusive community-based activities and support
- Midland Mencap, providing specialist support to parent carers
- St Albans Community Association, providing a welcoming weekly drop-in for carers to access guidance and peer support

Chantell Marler, Programme Director at Forward Carers, said: "We are thrilled to bring our experience and passion for carer support to Sandwell. Our priority is making sure every carer feels seen, supported and connected – no matter where they live or what their caring role looks like."

"Working with such well-regarded local partners means carers can access trusted support in their own community."

Councillor Jackie Taylor, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health & Wellbeing, said: "This is a really positive development that will improve access to information, advice and support for unpaid carers right across Sandwell."

"Forward Carers are committed to building strong relationships with organisations who are at the heart of our diverse communities that already support carers and other partners, to ensure the new service reflects the lived experiences of carers from all backgrounds."



Visit [www.sandwellcarers.org.uk](http://www.sandwellcarers.org.uk) or call 0121 798 2372 to find out more.

bridgit

## Online support for carers

- ✓ Personalised advice & toolkits
- ✓ Local events & support
- ✓ Information on financial support



MORE INFO



Find out about our new online platform to support unpaid carers with their caring responsibilities and wellbeing.





Sandwell  
**Shared Lives**

Sharing your home,  
sharing your life...



Find out more:



## Could you be a Shared Lives carer?

**Are you willing to share your home to support an adult with a learning disability within the local Sandwell community?**

Our Shared Lives Scheme is looking for new carers, especially for short term placements.

As a Shared Lives Carer, you will be self-employed and be paid while someone is placed with you. You must be able to give an adult the support and care they need, and to include them in your everyday life.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/shared-lives](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/shared-lives) for more information or call 0121 569 4467.



**Sandwell**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

## Have your say on Dementia Care

**We are seeking your views about your experience of dementia care in Sandwell. Your feedback will help improve services for people living with dementia and their carers.**

Find out what we are doing to make Sandwell a dementia-friendly place, including helping people live well with dementia and supporting people who need help to stay in their own homes rather than go into hospital or a care home.

Visit our 'Living well with dementia' webpage  
[www.sandwell.gov.uk/dementia](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/dementia)  
or call 0121 569 2266.

**The survey closes on Sunday 30 November 2025 so please have your say before then.**

Visit our Consultation Hub at  
[consultationhub.sandwell.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.sandwell.gov.uk)  
or scan the QR code.



## Apply for your new Blue Badge online

**From November 2025, all Blue Badge applications and renewals in Sandwell must be made through the online MySandwell portal.**

The process is quick and can be done on your home laptop or smart device.

Blue Badges help people with disabilities or health conditions park closer to their destination. You can apply for a badge for yourself, on behalf of somebody else or an organisation that transports people who need a Blue Badge.

Information can be found online  
[www.sandwell.gov.uk/bluebadge](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/bluebadge)



**Support is available for anyone who may struggle to apply or renew their Blue Badge online:**

### Community Offer Plus



The Community Offer Plus service provides free support to adults over the age of 18 across Sandwell. The service includes support to help you manage your needs including applying for a Blue Badge.

0121 612 2934  
[bcicb.communityoffer@nhs.net](mailto:bcicb.communityoffer@nhs.net)  
Living Well Core Services:  
Monday to Friday: 9am to 6pm





## OUR ALTERNATE WEEKLY COLLECTION JOURNEY



### MEET PARKER AND HIS RECYCLING CENTRE

Parker is a six-year-old from Oldbury. Recycling has been a special interest of his from a very young age. He has made changes to bin collections enjoyable and fun.

His family have bought new bins and stickers and Parker has been taking an interest in where every bit of rubbish now goes.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to all residents of Sandwell for sorting and recycling your waste.

The new service change is going well and we are working hard to help residents recycle better and reduce missed bins.

## THE LAUNCH OF THE BIN CHANGES

A **BIG thank you** to everyone for supporting us and the waste crews through Sandwell's bin collection changes.

In the first week alone we emptied up to **170,000 bins** and collected **approximately 70 tonnes of paper and card for recycling**.

Please remember, to make sure your bins are collected, **put the right items in the right bin** by checking the recycling guide online or your leaflet. Please do not put plastic carrier bags in your recycling (blue lid) bin. Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/recyclingguide](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/recyclingguide)



## MEET THE RECYCLING SUPPORT OFFICERS

Our fabulous team of Recycling Support Officers is working across the borough to raise awareness and to support residents with the new waste and recycling service.

They have attended lots of community groups and tenant engagement sessions and trained lots of volunteers as Waste and Recycling Ambassadors.

You might have seen them in supermarkets promoting the new service or when they visited some residents to provide support with any additional waste and recycling needs.

## WASTE AND RECYCLING AMBASSADORS

Do you want to play a part to help Sandwell become a better and more sustainable place to live and work?

If so, join our ever-growing team of Waste and Recycling Ambassadors. Anyone can become Waste and Recycling Ambassador.

So, what do you need to do? Register online and we will give you all the information you need to help you support Sandwell residents and become a trusted voice in your community for all things recycling and waste related.

Sign up at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/wasteambassador](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/wasteambassador)



Find out more at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins)  
Call **0121 368 1177**  
or scan the QR code



Watch our videos  
online or scan the QR code  
[www.sandwell.gov.uk/awcvideos](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/awcvideos)





# What items go in each bin

**NEW**  
**Recycling**  
**(blue) bag**  
for paper and card



**Recycling**  
**(blue lid) bin**  
for glass, plastics,  
tins, cans and trays



**Food waste**  
**(brown) bin**  
for all food waste  
recycling



**Garden waste**  
**(green) bin**  
for grass, leaves  
and small branches



**Non-recycling**  
**(grey) bin**  
for nappies and  
non-recycling waste



**REDUCE**

Avoid  
overbuying

Cut down on  
single use  
plastics

Opt for digital  
receipts

Borrow instead of  
buying

Buy pre-loved and  
reduce fast fashion  
purchases

Using leftovers is a  
great way to save  
time and money on  
lunches

**REUSE**

Use reusable bags

Reuse takeaway  
containers

Consider buying  
refillable water  
bottles

Old clothes can be  
donated or  
re-purposed into  
cleaning cloths

Reuse wrapping  
paper and gift bags

Upcycle your  
furniture

**RECYCLE**

Flatten cardboard  
before disposing in  
your recycling (blue)  
bag

Batteries must be  
recycled separately in  
a plastic bag on top of  
your recycling (blue lid)  
bin

Thin plastics such as  
crisp packets, bread  
bags and cling film  
can be recycled at  
most supermarkets

Separate items  
properly

Garden and food  
waste can be  
composted at home

Recycle plastic  
plant pots at garden  
centres



## Bereavement Services – here to help

**We all know the grief that comes with loss. Our Bereavement Services team is here to support you.**

Our dedicated and experienced staff offer a kind and professional service including an affordable funeral service, memorials and at Sandwell Valley Crematorium an on-site wake facility, coffee shop and pet cemetery.

As well as running Sandwell Valley and Rowley Regis crematoriums, we also maintain nine cemeteries and 11 churchyards.

In total, this equates to nearly one million square metres of green space across Sandwell, where you will find attractive and quiet spaces to visit and remember your loved ones.

These spaces also support nature and local wildlife. In fact, three of our sites have national Green Flag Award status.



Visit our webpage at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/burials](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/burials) or call 0121 569 6700 for more information and support.

## Councillors' allowances

We are open and transparent in publishing the amount paid to elected councillors in allowances.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/allowances](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/allowances) to view them.



## Transformation begins at Haden Hill Leisure Centre

**Cradley Heath is set to welcome a state-of-the-art leisure facility as work begins on the £24million redevelopment of Haden Hill Leisure Centre.**

Bulldozers will roll onto the Barrs Road site this October marking the start of demolition of the existing centre.

Construction of the new facility is scheduled to begin in January 2026, with doors expected to open to the public by spring 2027.

The new centre promises to be a major boost for health and wellbeing in the region, offering:

- A main swimming pool and learner pool
- A 27-station indoor cycling studio
- Two multi-purpose studios
- A four-court sports hall
- A 100-station gym
- A dedicated community room

The ambitious project is being funded through a partnership between the UK Government, Sport England and Sandwell Council. Alliance Leisure is managing delivery of the project.

Construction firm Speller Metcalfe has been appointed to carry out the build, bringing their expertise to a development that aims to serve residents for generations to come.

Sandwell Council says the new centre will not only modernise the local leisure offer but also create a vibrant hub for community activities and fitness.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/leisurecentres](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/leisurecentres) to check out our full range of leisure centres in Sandwell.



## Forty years of friendship

Sandwell and our twin town of Le Blanc Mesnil, a suburb of Paris, celebrated 40 years of friendship in June this year.



The Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Steve Melia and the Mayoress Mrs Valerie Thacker welcomed a delegation from France to the Mayor's Parlour in the Council House at Oldbury.

Councillor Melia said: "It gave me great pleasure to welcome friends from Le Blanc Mesnil because I served on the committee of Sandwell Town Twinning Association when it was first formed and I'm very happy that the association is still active.

"There have been many exchanges between Sandwell and Le Blanc Mesnil over the years involving individuals as well as sports clubs, schools and other groups. Long may it continue!"

One of the French delegates responded on behalf of the President of the Twinning Association in Blanc Mesnil, which referred to the "unbreakable bond of friendship between our two towns" which has been created over the years.

The delegation was delighted with the visit. This included trips to a Black Country pub, where they were impressed with the food, and the local canal network, plus further afield to Hartlebury Castle.

The Town Twinning Association welcomes new members. For more information, please email [blancmesnil2012@live.co.uk](mailto:blancmesnil2012@live.co.uk) or make contact via Facebook at 'Sandwell Town Twinning Association'. Exchange visits are at people's own expense.



## BACK TO FEELING GREAT



### It's your time to reset.

Whether you want more energy, a healthier routine, or a friendly place to work out, Sandwell Leisure Trust is here to help you move your way. From gyms and swimming pools to group exercise classes and sports, we've got something for every goal — and every body.

Sandwell Aquatics Centre . Portway Lifestyle Centre . Tipton Sports Academy  
Tipton Leisure Centre . Wednesbury Leisure Centre

- Local leisure centres
- Swimming pools and sports facilities
- Brand new gyms with high-spec equipment
- Friendly, qualified instructors
- Group classes for all levels
- Flexible memberships

Join today at Sandwell Leisure Trust

[slt-leisure.co.uk/back-to-it](http://slt-leisure.co.uk/back-to-it)





The flames return with new fire and magic!

# FIRE GARDEN

at Sandwell Valley

**Friday 7 and Saturday 8 November 2025**

The Fire Garden is back - bigger, brighter and full of surprises. Discover dazzling new fire sculptures, enchanting performances, creative activities and extra time slots. A magical night of flames and fun at Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre.



[www.visitsandwell.com/fire-garden](http://www.visitsandwell.com/fire-garden)



# SANDWELL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENTS

Crankhall Lane, Friar Park: Friday 14 November  
 Blackheath: Saturday 15 November  
 Smethwick: Thursday 20 November  
 Bearwood: Friday 21 November  
 Wednesbury: Saturday 22 November  
 West Bromwich: Saturday 22 November  
 Tipton: Friday 28 November  
 Langley: Saturday 29 November  
 Oldbury: Friday 5 December

Check the website for more details about these events  
[www.visitsandwell.com/christmaslights](http://www.visitsandwell.com/christmaslights)

## FREE ENTRY!




## Fun for all the family this autumn

We've got lots of autumnal antics and spooky fun coming up at Sandwell Museums.

There's something for everyone to enjoy, whether you want to revel in the season or enjoy some creepy fun!

Young explorers can dive into storytelling, messy science fun and autumn crafts, then get ready for pumpkin carving, a thrilling Halloween disco and plenty more.

Grown-ups won't miss out either – experience gothic chills with Don't Go into the Cellar! theatre company, settle in for a horror movie night, or take part in fascinating local history talks, tours and even a medieval painting workshop.

We have nature activities too to celebrate the season including a fungal foray at Oak House on 2 November.

And don't forget to look out for our exciting Christmas activities and events coming up soon.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums) and [www.visitsandwell.com/sandwell-museums](http://www.visitsandwell.com/sandwell-museums) for the full programme or follow us @sandwellmuseums on socials.

## More activities and events

For more activities and events across Sandwell, go to [www.visitsandwell.com](http://www.visitsandwell.com) to check out our Visit Sandwell website.

You can also go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/librariesonline](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/librariesonline) for our Sandwell Libraries webpage and follow 'Sandwell Libraries' on Facebook, plus Go Play Sandwell at [www.goplaysandwell.co.uk](http://www.goplaysandwell.co.uk) and 'Go Play Sandwell' on Facebook.

Visit [www.justyouth.org.uk](http://www.justyouth.org.uk) for information and programmes aimed at 11 to 19-year-olds (up to 25 for those with SEND). Look out for Christmas holiday fun with Sandwell Holiday Activities – go to [holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk](http://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk) and follow 'Sandwell Holiday Activities' on Facebook.

A CHRISTMAS PANTO BY TOURING PANTOS

# SLEEPING BEAUTY



SCAN ME



AT WEST BROMWICH TOWN HALL  
 FRIDAY 19 TO TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER 2025



# SANTA'S VILLAGE

at Sandwell Valley

SCAN ME



Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 December 2025  
 Saturday 13 December 2025

## SANTA PAWS

Sunday 14 December 2025






# Stay well this winter

**As winter approaches, now is the time to think about protecting yourself from the misery of flu. Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust A&E matron Michael Brennan has some advice to help you through this winter.**

He explained: "Flu spreads more easily in winter when we spend more time together indoors and it can cause serious illness. It is important to get protected, even if you have had a vaccine or been ill with flu before, as immunity fades over time and these viruses change each year. If you are vaccinated and catch flu this winter, you are likely to have milder symptoms and recover faster, cutting your risk of being hospitalised. Flu often peaks over the festive and New Year period, and nobody wants to miss out on the festive celebrations with their friends and family, so my advice is winter vaccines provide the best possible protection."

If you are offered a vaccine for flu or COVID-19 please come forward. You can book an appointment via the National Booking System. Appointments are also available on the NHS App or by calling 119. Calls to 119 are free from

mobiles and landlines and the booking service provides support in 200 different languages. BSL users can use textphone 18001 or the NHS 119 British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter service.

Michael continued: "Please do not come to A&E with flu unless you have underlying conditions and are severely affected. Flu is easily passed from person to person, so you may pass it on to vulnerable people by attending a health care setting. Flu symptoms hit you suddenly and sometimes severely. They usually include fever, chills, headaches and aching muscles, and you can often get a cough and sore throat at the same time. Flu is caused by viruses and not bacteria, so antibiotics won't treat it. People sometimes think a bad cold is flu, but having flu can be much worse than a cold and you may need to stay in bed for a few days if you have flu. Paracetamol and ibuprofen will help manage the symptoms until you recover, but please check the dosage and do not combine different medicines.

"To help protect the NHS this winter. Please choose healthcare services wisely. We often see a rise in the number of people needing medical care in winter, and we want to provide the best

service we can for every patient. If you need urgent help but it's not an emergency, visit NHS 111 online or call 111 for clinical advice, assessment and signposting to the right service. The NHS App can help with this. If you haven't already got it please download and start using it. Please see details below."



## Do more with the NHS App!

-  Order repeat prescriptions
  -  Book appointments
  -  View your records
- And much more...







### The Healthy Sandwell team offers free, friendly, non-judgemental support.

We'll help you understand your options and help you find the right services to live a healthier, happier life.

Visit: [www.healthysandwell.co.uk](http://www.healthysandwell.co.uk)

Call: 0800 011 4656 / 0121 569 5100

Text: GETHEALTHY to 87007

Email: [LS@nhs.net](mailto:LS@nhs.net)



### Looking to...

- ✓ Stop smoking?
- ✓ Move more & get active?
- ✓ Meet new people?
- ✓ Break unhealthy habits?
- ✓ Manage your weight?

**We can help!**



## Let's get men talking in Sandwell.

For urgent mental health support, call NHS111 and select option 2.  
Free, confidential and available 24/7.

**For help and support for yourself or a mate, visit:**  
[www.healthysandwell.co.uk/youokmate](http://www.healthysandwell.co.uk/youokmate)

## Sandwell Family Hubs

### Helping families thrive

Family Hubs offer the right help, in the right place, at the right time by offering free activities, services and support for all families in Sandwell with children aged 0 to 19 (or 25 with SEND).

Extra support is available for families during pregnancy and in your baby's first years.

Visit [www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com](http://www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com) to see what we have on offer for you and your family.

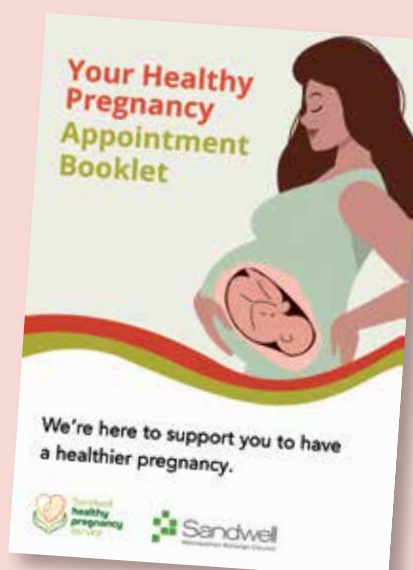


## Meet the Sandwell Healthy Pregnancy Team

### We can support you with:

- Face-to-face stop smoking advice, personalised to you behavioural support and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT).
- Free advice on nutrition, healthy eating and maintaining a healthy weight during pregnancy.
- Information on free pregnancy activities in Sandwell, including pregnancy yoga and aqua natal classes.

**Ask your midwife to refer you.  
Or refer yourself via Healthy Sandwell.**



## Think before you burn

Wood-burning stoves may be cozy, but they release harmful pollutants that lower your home's air quality.

Since we spend about 90% of our time indoors, what you breathe matters. Poor indoor air can trigger asthma, worsen lung and heart disease, and even increase the risk of cancer and strokes.

Heat smarter, live healthier!

Please use other forms of heating where possible.

If you do use a log burner:

- Use only dry wood with the orange and red "Ready to Burn" logo.
- Never burn waste wood, garden clippings or household rubbish.
- Service your stove and sweep your chimney regularly.

**A few simple choices can keep your home warm without harming your family's health.**



## Lung cancer screening

Sandwell's Lung Cancer Screening Programme offers checks for people aged 55 to 74 who are registered with a Sandwell GP and are current or former smokers.

If you have been invited but couldn't take up the offer, have recently registered with a Sandwell GP or haven't received your invitation, please call 0121 817 5449.





## Skills Campus coming soon!

**Launching at the start of 2026, the Cradley Heath Skills Campus – part of The Sandwell Colleges – is a brand-new destination for learners.**

This dedicated training centre is designed to prepare students for skilled trades and technical careers.

With a focus on practical, hands-on learning, this campus provides a real-world working environment tailored to industry needs.

This £9million innovative campus is funded by the government's Towns Fund and developed in partnership with Sandwell Council. It will offer specialist workshops, industry-standard equipment and dedicated spaces for apprenticeships.

**Be one of the first to join us at the Cradley Heath Skills Campus. Search under 'Facilities' at [www.sandwell.ac.uk](http://www.sandwell.ac.uk) for more information.**

Whether you're starting out, retraining or looking to enhance your career prospects, the technical and vocational courses available are designed to help you take that next step in construction, digital, health and social care, and much more.

CEO and Principal of The Sandwell Colleges, Lisa Capper MBE, said: "With these transformational facilities we can offer even more local and relevant programmes to prepare our learners for the world of work."



## Blackheath businesses open as usual

**Businesses are open as usual as work nears completion on the new Blackheath Bus Interchange, public space and safety improvements.**

The town centre and Blackheath Market are open and accessible and temporary traffic plans are in place to minimise disruption.

Work is due to finish in the coming weeks. We thank businesses, residents and shoppers for their patience and understanding during this £2.9million regeneration project, which is funded through the government's Towns Fund programme.



## New homes for Friar Park

**A combination of sites is set to deliver more than 700 much-needed new homes in the Friar Park area of Wednesbury.**

Sandwell Council and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) recently appointed Keepmoat as the developer to drive forward 600 new homes at the Friar Park Urban Village site.

The scheme, a joint project between the council and WMCA, is part-funded by the government's Levelling Up Partnership. The project will see around 600 homes built on the huge site, approximately the size of 32 football pitches. At least 25% of the homes will be classed affordable.

Keepmoat said: "At Keepmoat, we're committed to transforming lives and creating a thriving new community in Wednesbury. This is an exciting project to deliver much-needed, high-quality housing for local people."

The first phase of work on Friar Park Urban Village will be to treat the land to address historic contamination issues, so that it can be made ready for housebuilding. The council and WMCA will shortly submit a planning application for this remediation work, and people will be able to have their say on the proposals.

**This development adds to work already under way on separate housebuilding projects in Friar Park by Persimmon Homes and Keon.**

## Help shape the Sandwell Design Code

**The Design Code is a planning document, required by government, that guides design standards for the way sites or areas are developed.**

The Sandwell Design Code team has undertaken a successful round of engagement with people across the borough over the summer and early autumn.

This has included pop-up activities at West Bromwich outdoor market, the SHAPE Youth Festival, Blackheath Library and a series of community fun days.

The Design Code website is now live and includes snapshots of some of the mapping analysis, local character appreciation and headlines from people's feedback so far.

Everyone is invited to take a look, have your say on local issues and help identify the priorities for the design of new development in Sandwell.

**The next online survey will be opening shortly.**

**Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/TheDesignCode](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/TheDesignCode) to find out more.**

## Update on Tipton regeneration

**Sandwell Council has appointed Torsion Construction Ltd to build 55 new affordable council homes in Union Street, Tipton. Following a period of detailed design work, construction has started on site.**

Torsion has a strong national reputation for delivering high-quality private sector housing, and this scheme marks their first-ever public sector housing project – a real success for Sandwell and for people in Tipton.

Work starting on site represents a major milestone for the project, which will set a new benchmark for the quality and sustainability of affordable apartments in Sandwell.

Alongside this, and following planning approval in May, the council is now working to appoint a construction partner to refurbish and extend the former Conservative Club, also on Union Street. This scheme will provide a further 15 new homes while giving a much-loved locally listed heritage building a new lease of life.

**This regeneration project, which is supported by £20million of government funding, also includes improvements along Owen Street and to public spaces in the town.**



An artist impression of how the new homes could look

## Next steps for Brandhall Village

**As part of the Brandhall Village project in Oldbury, the old clubhouse in Heron Road will be demolished in the coming months.**

At the same time, plans for a new public ecopark have taken a major step forward – Sandwell's first new public park in 50 years.

Following community consultation, we have created a final masterplan for the ecopark, focusing on preserving natural habitats, increasing biodiversity and offering green space for the whole community to enjoy.

This ecopark will include upgraded walking trails, native planting and areas for relaxation and education.

The council has also started the process to bring forward proposals for a new, replacement school for Causeway Green Primary and new housing on other parts of the site – visit the Brandhall webpage [www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall) for more information on this and the ecopark masterplan.

Site survey work and ground investigations will also be taking place in the coming months.



Check out our new-look regeneration website at:  
**[www.regeneratingsandwell.co.uk](http://www.regeneratingsandwell.co.uk)**

Many of our regeneration projects are supported by UK Government funding.



Funded by  
UK Government



# New West Brom indoor market is now open for business!

**Sandwell Council Leader Councillor Kerrie Carmichael and Blind Dave Heeley OBE launched the new West Bromwich indoor market with a plaque dedicated to the occasion.**

The new market is located on High Street and replaces the old indoor market in Kings Square.

This is one of the centrepieces of Sandwell Council's West Bromwich Masterplan, created to deliver a modern and vibrant destination for both traders and shoppers. Combining traditional market stalls with contemporary facilities, the market also features specialist street food in the new food court.

**During the opening two weeks, 77,627 people visited the new market!**

The market includes the return of Firkins Bakery, plus a butcher, fishmonger, Caribbean food supplies, beauty services, cosmetics and perfume, curtains, mobile phone repairs, as well as clothes, haberdashery and pet food supplies.

A new food court offers diverse cuisines including East Asian, Sri Lankan, Caribbean, hot pork sandwiches, an instore bakery and freshly made doughnuts.

The project is a great example of collaboration thanks to £2.61million funding from the government's Towns Fund programme, which is supporting regeneration and investment in towns across the country, and £2.03m funding from Sandwell Council.

**The new indoor market is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday, while the food court is open 11am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 11am to 7pm on Fridays and Saturdays.**



# SANDWELL

## New West Bromwich Indoor Market is now open!

103-108 Kings Square, West Bromwich B70 7NN



### 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 – 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 our website at [sandwellbusinessgrowth.com](http://sandwellbusinessgrowth.com) to find out more about how the team can support you and your business.**

## Parking for Christmas shopping

**Shoppers will be able to park for free at Sandwell Council's town centre car parks on all Saturdays in December.**

Time limits on short stay car parks still apply. Sunday parking is already free in the council's town centre car parks. Go to [www.sandwell.gov.uk/parking](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/parking) for details of council car parks in Sandwell. Free parking does not include Sandwell Valley car parks, privately-run car parks and on-street parking bays.

Councillor Keith Allcock, Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways, said: "This will support town centre shopping during December, which is the most important trading month of the year. We encourage everyone to support our local shops and businesses."

## Centenary celebrations for Chapmans

**Celebrating 100 years in business, Chapmans in Cradley Heath was established in 1925, when electricity was a new technology. Practically no houses had electricity, most used coal and gas for lighting.**

The main area of business was wiring and, as the company continued to grow, Ewart Chapman opened a retail shop selling mainly lamps, fuses and plugs.



After the war there was a boom of product availability and demand. The shop started to sell TVs, vacuums, washing machines, cookers, fridges and so on. These were all completely new to the public, so product demonstrators were employed.

In the 1960s and 70s commercial contracts became a substantial part of the business. Chapmans also joined one of the first and largest buying groups to secure better prices, this is now Euronics.

The mid-1980s saw the emergence of satellite TV and a partnership with Sky meant this part of the business expanded rapidly, particularly with the digital switchover.

In more recent years, Chapmans has maintained its strong service side as well as developing into new areas of Solar PV and EV charger installations together with smart home technology and CCTV.

As long-serving managing director Robert Chapman always said: "Our products may have changed but our customer service has not."

**For more business stories, visit our Sandwell Business Growth 'Made in Sandwell' webpage, which celebrates of the talent and diversity of organisations in Sandwell.**



# Safety checks – your safety is our priority

The safety of our council tenants is one of our top priorities. It is our duty as your landlord to ensure that you can live safely in your home.

We complete a rolling programme of risk assessments to ensure that your property is safe to live in. We’ve been visiting properties to perform safety checks and inspections and can report that, as of 31 July this year:

- 99.6% of all gas safety checks have been completed.
- 98.3% of electrical safety checks have been completed.
- 100% of buildings with communal areas have had a fire risk assessment.
- 100% of buildings with a communal water supply have had a legionella risk assessment.
- 100% of buildings with communal lifts have had a lift safety check.
- 100% of asbestos reports have been completed to communal areas of blocks that require a survey.

We are also carrying out inspections and tests on the installed smoke detectors in our properties. This may be part of the normal gas and electrical servicing and testing programmes or be part of a bespoke programme for all electric properties.



Council apprentice Danielle is carrying out repairs with our housing team

# 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 around 4,000 households in 2021, with us helping almost 7,000 households



that are either homeless or at risk of homelessness in the past year. Demand for council housing has also increased significantly with over 23,000 households now looking for council housing. More than a third of people who needed assistance in the past year to prevent or relieve their homelessness were supported with an offer of a private rented property, as the demand for accommodation means an offer of a private rented property is much more likely than an offer of council accommodation. The council aims to increase this to two thirds of all cases by the end of 2026.



Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/homeless](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/homeless) for a host of information and support. If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough in Sandwell, fill in a form at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/roughsleepers](http://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.

# 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 wanting 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.



# Through the keyhole! Couple open door to new bungalow in Tipton

A couple have settled into their new build bungalow, funded by Sandwell Council and Homes England.

Council tenants Lyn and Tom Hunt were among the residents moving into new homes this summer.

Their home is part of the a new, approximately £4.5million development in Tipton featuring 10 bungalows and eight flats. Four of the homes are wheelchair accessible and are designed to meet the housing needs for the area.

The couple, who both have mobility issues, said the bungalow had improved their quality of life.

Tom said: “It was getting really difficult in our old house for us to get up and down the stairs.

“ This bungalow’s lovely. As soon as we moved in, we just started to plan what we were going to do with it including the garden.”



# Do You Have a Property to Rent in Sandwell?



We’re especially looking for 2, 3 and 4-bedroom homes. With a minimum 12-month tenancy, you’ll benefit from:

Free Management of your property with NO Letting Fees for 12 months



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First Month’s Rent Paid



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Ring our Accommodation Team on 0121 368 1177 (Option 2) Email us at [Property\\_Offer@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:Property_Offer@sandwell.gov.uk) Visit our website [www.sandwell.gov.uk/secureandsustain](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/secureandsustain)





# Plas Gwynant team raise money for Sandwell Young Carers



In September, Dan Jackson and the team from our Plas Gwynant Outdoor Education Centre in Snowdonia, Wales, completed an epic challenge to raise funds for Sandwell Young Carers.

Their Stand-Up Paddleboarding (SUP) to Sandwell challenge, covering 240km by bike and water, raised hundreds of pounds for the charity which supports children and young people who look after a loved one.

The challenge not only raised money for young carers – it was also about raising awareness of the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor activities and residential centres and publicising the benefits of bringing new activities like stand-up paddleboarding and surfing

to Sandwell.

Sandwell Young Carers is a registered charity which supports more than 500 children and young people in the borough each year whose health, education and social lives are affected as a result of caring for a dependent family member.

Visit [www.sandwellyc.com](http://www.sandwellyc.com) or call 0121 525 7667 to find out more about support offered by Sandwell Young Carers.



# High Point Academy named Secondary School of the Year

High Point Academy in Wednesbury has proudly won Secondary School of the Year at the regional Education Awards 2025.

This specialist school, part of the Forward Education Trust, supports pupils aged 11 to 16 with autistic spectrum conditions and associated learning difficulties.

Since opening in 2021, High Point has built a strong reputation for its personalised curriculum, therapeutic support and holistic approach to

education. With 90 pupils, the school's nurturing environment and dedicated staff have made a lasting impact.

This award recognises their outstanding commitment to inclusive education and student wellbeing.

Congratulations to everyone at High Point Academy – a truly well-deserved honour!



# Stay informed: Sandwell SEND e-bulletin launches this autumn

Sandwell Council is launching a brand-new SEND e-bulletin this autumn, designed to keep everyone up to date on the borough's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme.

Whether you're a parent carer, young person, professional or part of an education setting, the e-bulletin will deliver the latest news, events and opportunities straight to your inbox.

It's the easiest way to stay informed about important developments and

SEND news in Sandwell. Don't miss out – sign up today to receive regular updates and be part of the SEND community.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/SENDbulletin](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/SENDbulletin) to subscribe to the Sandwell SEND Bulletin.



# WORDSEARCH

Win a cream tea for two at Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre Tea Rooms, plus a family ticket for Forge Mill Farm (2 adults and 3 children) and a free bag of food for each person to give to the animals.

One of the words in the list below cannot be found in the wordsearch.

- CAREERS
- REMEMBRANCE
- SAFETY
- CHRISTMAS
- SNOW
- LIGHTS
- MARKET
- HALLOWEEN
- PUMPKIN
- KING
- PARKS

Send us this word along with your name, contact number and address including postcode to: The Editor, Sandwell Herald, Communications Unit, Sandwell Council, Oldbury, B69 3DE, or you can email the word along with your details to: [herald\\_competition@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:herald_competition@sandwell.gov.uk) by Friday 28 November 2025.

N	A	N	M	E	C	Y	Y	S	A	F	E	T	Y
A	L	C	M	I	H	K	W	R	M	E	N	E	K
L	N	H	A	H	R	P	M	N	M	E	M	G	A
A	K	A	H	T	I	Y	A	P	T	E	N	L	P
F	M	L	M	E	S	M	R	T	I	C	L	T	C
G	S	L	N	L	T	A	K	E	C	N	I	U	S
Y	R	O	I	R	M	M	E	I	E	A	G	A	S
K	C	W	K	N	A	T	T	S	N	R	H	S	B
A	A	E	P	O	S	K	L	F	E	B	T	R	E
C	R	E	M	T	P	A	R	K	S	M	S	E	A
E	E	N	U	K	I	N	G	E	C	E	C	E	I
W	E	M	P	E	R	A	A	A	T	M	C	O	A
P	R	H	L	P	B	C	F	E	E	E	L	E	R
F	S	E	P	N	A	G	L	A	T	R	M	R	M

MISSING WORD . . . . .

NAME . . . . .

ADDRESS . . . . .

POSTCODE . . . . .

PHONE NUMBER . . . . .

First correct entry out of the hat wins the prize. One entry per person. Entrants must live or work in Sandwell. Congratulations to our Sandwell Herald Summer 2025 Wordsearch winner: Kristina Kelly from Rowley Regis

All information will be processed in accordance with UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 and held only for the purposes of this competition. [www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotice](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotice)

# Are you registered to vote?

The next local elections are happening in Sandwell on Thursday 7 May 2026.

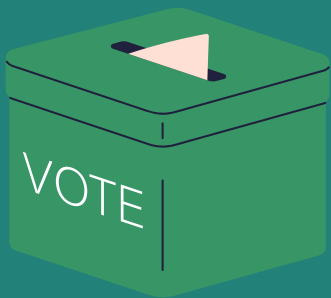
Your name must be on the electoral register if you want to vote – and if you've moved house since you last voted, you must register to vote at your new address.

You will need your National Insurance number and your date of birth – it only takes five minutes. Go to [www.GOV.UK/register tovot](http://www.GOV.UK/register tovot) or, if you're not online, call the elections team on 0121 569 3244.

And don't forget, if you're voting at a polling station you must take photographic ID. Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/VoterID](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/VoterID) to find out more about this.

If you want to vote by post, you need to apply for a postal vote. If you've voted by post in previous elections, make sure you've renewed your application as a postal vote only lasts for three years.

Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/postalvote](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/postalvote) to find out more.





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**Saturday 15 November 11am - 3pm**

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**centralstmichaels.ac.uk**

talk. 0121 667 5100 write. enquiries@centralstmichaels.ac.uk

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STUDENTS



# YOUR SANDWELL COUNCILLORS





## YOUR OLDBURY COUNCILLORS

Bristnall			Langley			Old Warley			Oldbury		
											
Amolak Singh Dharwal 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 Wakas_Younis@sandwell.gov.uk	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	Raghi 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](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/councillors)

For more information on councillors, email [members\\_services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:members_services@sandwell.gov.uk)





# Christmas Update

Usual collection date	Christmas collection date
Monday 22 December	No change
Tuesday 23 December	No change
Wednesday 24 December	No change
Thursday 25 December	Saturday 27 December
Friday 26 December	Sunday 28 December
Monday 29 December	No change
Tuesday 30 December	No change
Wednesday 31 December	No change
Thursday 1 January	Friday 2 January
Friday 2 January	Saturday 3 January

You can check your bin calendar or online bin day finder to find out which day we are collecting your recycling bin/bag and which day we are collecting your non-recycling bin.

## Bin reminders

Bins and bags out by 5:30am

All rubbish inside bins/bags unless folded cardboard

Polystyrene, foil wrapping paper and sweet wrappers in non-recycling (grey) bin

## Household Recycling Centre

The tip in Oldbury is open as normal over Christmas (except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day).

Visits must be booked online in advance at

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/tip](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/tip)

## Don't forget your garden waste collections end in December

The last garden waste collections for this year are in the first two weeks of December. Don't forget to sign up from 19 January for your 2026 garden waste collections.

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

## Have you got a large item to get rid of?

We provide a bulky waste collection service for residents who have large household items such as furniture, fridges and freezers.

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/bulkywaste)

Sandy the Naughty Elf says, "Don't forget to recycle your Christmas cards and wrapping paper in your recycling (blue) bag, otherwise you'll be on the naughty list" (no foil or glitter please!)



Scan the QR code for further information



[www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins) 0121 368 1177

 Sandwell  
Metropolitan Borough Council

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