

SANDWELL HERALD

SPRING 2026



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Sandwell



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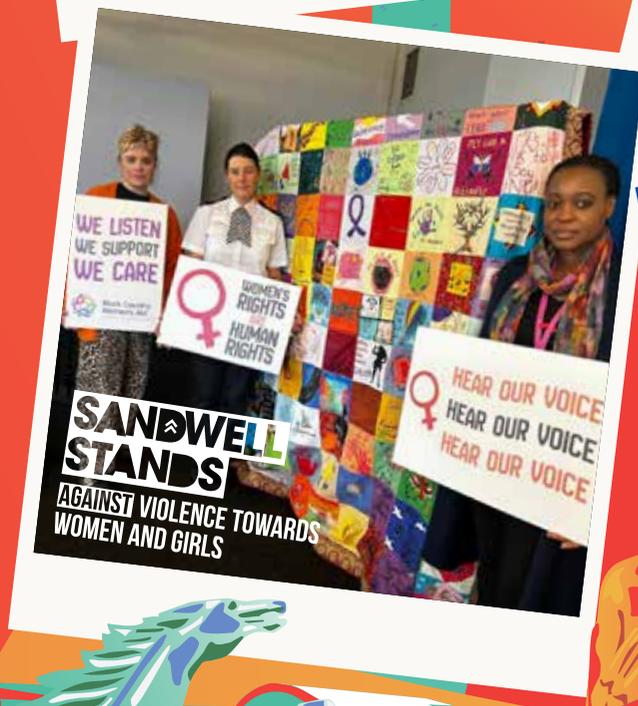
100 new apprentices welcomed



Major investment in parks and green spaces



Green 'hit squads' deliver big clean-ups



SANDWELL STANDS
AGAINST VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN AND GIRLS



Top national rating for road maintenance



Sandwell children's services rated 'Good'



A caring council that gets things done



Working for a cleaner, greener Sandwell – Page 3



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www.sandwell.gov.uk/emailupdates



www.sandwell.gov.uk

Spring is here – and lots to be proud of in Sandwell

« This year we will be celebrating the 60th birthday of Rounds Green Library, Lion Farm, with the local community.

Libraries are vital community spaces, from events and activities that bring people together to giving children the best start in life, which is why we're proud of our libraries across the whole of Sandwell. Rounds Green was the first library I ever used – and I still live nearby to this day.

The 60th birthday happily coincides with another big milestone for our borough. Our children's services recently received their first 'Good' rating from inspectors – a remarkable turnaround in the way we support our most vulnerable children.

These milestones are a great opportunity to remind ourselves of why we need to invest in our public services and to take care of them.

As we make decisions about the council's budget this year, we've listened to understand the most important things to you. Please have a look at pages 2, 3, 6 and 11 to see some of the things we will invest which will make Sandwell cleaner, greener and safer.

We want everyone in Sandwell to feel proud of your local area, so the decisions we're making – like increased CCTV coverage to stop crime, investment in green spaces and building a new school – are all intended to help make a real difference in people's lives. »



Councillor Carmichael helped to open the new self-service Dog Wash facility at Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre

Kerrie Carmichael

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

Green rating for Sandwell's roads

Sandwell residents have told us how important well-maintained roads are to them.

So, we are pleased to have received a Green rating under the government's new national traffic light system for how we are making highway maintenance a priority.

This top assessment recognises strong performance, long-term investment and best practice in upkeep of our roads.

Sandwell ranks fourth out of 154 Local Highway Authorities (LHAs) nationally, of which only 16 were rated Green, and is the top-rated LHA in the West Midlands.

We were picked out of all councils for a ministerial visit on National Pothole Day in January. Simon Lightwood MP, the Roads Minister from the Department of Transport, joined us to see Sandwell's innovative Multihog road repair machine in action.

The ratings – the first of their kind – grade authorities as Red, Amber or Green, based on current road conditions and how effectively they are spending government funding to fix potholes and invest in long-term maintenance.

Sandwell's performance is in line with the annual National Highways and Transport (NHT) survey, where Sandwell ranks among the top four councils nationally for highway condition and pothole prevention.

The council prioritises prevention over cure, sealing cracks early, applying protective surface treatments and using a proactive maintenance programme.

Our investment in specialist machinery like the Multihog means we can make faster, higher-quality repairs, ensuring we fix potholes right first time and reduce disruption for road users.



Sandwell College students made positive road safety pledges at the Tree of Life installation, created by Transport for West Midlands in partnership with RoadPeace alongside police and councils

New road safety projects

Road safety is a top priority for our residents and businesses – and we've started work on a series of new priority projects across Sandwell.

Over the past 25 years, Sandwell has halved the number of casualties on its roads, including reducing child casualties by 60 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.

Under our Community Road Safety Concern Programme, we're putting in 38 schemes this year alone across our six towns, with six already completed and more on the way.

This is thanks to additional funding for areas where residents, councillors and MPs have raised repeated safety concerns – even in places where accident records have not previously met the thresholds set out in the council's road safety plan.

Since the programme was first announced, we've secured additional funding through developer contributions and the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, meaning we can deliver more schemes than originally anticipated.

Councillor Keith Allcock, Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways, said: "By investing in these schemes, we are improving safety in places that matter most to residents – especially for children, pedestrians and cyclists.

"This investment of £3.5million highlights how Sandwell is a caring council, that listens to our residents and gets things done."

A powerful road safety installation, the Tree of Life, visited Sandwell College and Sandwell Council House in February, offering students and members of the public a chance to read personal letters from families whose loved ones were killed in road collisions, reflect on the devastating impact, and write a personal pledge to be a safer road user.



Maintaining the roads is an ongoing job and we know that wintry weather can create more potholes.

So, if you see a pothole in Sandwell, please report it to us at www.sandwell.gov.uk/potholes or call 0121 368 1177 and we'll get it inspected and fixed as soon as possible.

Big improvements for Sandwell's parks and green spaces

We're proud to be investing this year to improve parks and green spaces across Sandwell.

You've told us how much these spaces mean to you, and this investment is helping to make them greener, safer and more enjoyable for residents of all ages.

We've already delivered a huge amount of work across Sandwell. This includes landscaping projects, as well as widespread tree and bulb planting to brighten our parks and support local wildlife. We also met our target of planting 1,013 new trees by the end of 2025, creating greener spaces for future generations to enjoy.

There are lots of improvements residents can already see and use. These include the brand-new Britannia Skate Park and a full refurbishment of the much-loved Sons of Rest building at Britannia Park, Blackheath, and refreshed toddler play areas at Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath.

We've installed new bins at Harry Mitchell Park in Smethwick, added a new cycleway at Black Patch Park in Soho and Victoria, and completed drainage works and put in new benches at Hill Top Park.

We've also improved tennis courts at Victoria Park in Tipton, Britannia Park in Blackheath, Red House Park in Great Barr, Victoria Park in Smethwick, and Brunswick Park in Wednesbury. We've installed new footpaths and carried out a clean-up at Kenrick Park Allotments in West Bromwich.

This is just a snapshot of what's been achieved so far, with even more exciting improvements planned to keep Sandwell's parks and green spaces thriving.



'Green hit squads' in your town

Sandwell Council has carried out a major clean-up programme to improve public spaces across all six towns in Sandwell.

Seven dedicated 'green hit squads' have worked ward-by-ward in each town to deliver deep cleans.

Key activities included cutting back overgrowth, litter picking, grass edging, moss removal, strimming, leaf litter clearance and general tidying.

The project has also enabled the council to retain its seasonal workforce throughout the winter, providing continued employment for many local residents.

Councillor Keith Allcock, Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways, said: "We know that the local environment really matters to our residents, and want to make Sandwell a cleaner, greener and safer place to live."

The 'green hit squads' have tackled locations identified directly by residents or through their local councillors.



Cypress Gardens, Yew Tree Estate, before and after a visit from a 'green hit squad'

Looking after animals across Sandwell

Sandwell Council is taking more steps to protect animals and support responsible pet ownership across the borough.



Our Animal Welfare Taskforce, led by Council Leader Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, meets regularly to look at ways to improve animal welfare and make sure concerns are dealt with properly.

We have also agreed a new partnership with the RSPCA. This means the council and RSPCA can share information more easily, respond faster to animal welfare concerns and step in earlier to help animals that may be at risk.

We are currently reviewing our Animal Welfare Charter to make sure it reflects the highest standards of care.

As part of this work, we have taken a stronger stance on the use of fireworks, helium balloons and sky lanterns. These can cause harm and distress to pets, wildlife and the environment. As a result, their use is now banned on all council-owned land.

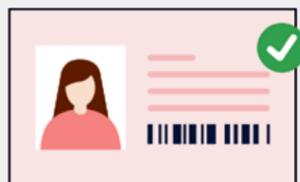
Sandwell Council's housing team has

also received national recognition for the way it supports animal welfare in council homes. The team has been awarded the RSPCA Gold PawPrints Award, which recognises organisations that go above and beyond to protect animals.

This award highlights the hard work of staff who help tenants keep pets responsibly, make sure homes are safe for animals and promote good welfare standards across council housing.

Please help keep Sandwell free of litter and rubbish so it's safe for us and the pets and wildlife we share our surroundings with.

If you see a pollution incident on the canal network, report it to the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60. Report other incidents along the canal to the Canal & River Trust on 0303 040 4040.



VOTING WITH PHOTO ID

Here's what you need to know:



Don't forget - at the next elections on Thursday 7 May 2026, you'll need to show photographic ID if you vote at a polling station.



ACCEPTED ID



- A passport
- A driving licence
- A Blue Badge
- A biometric immigration document
- A national identity card
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- An Older Person's Bus Pass
- A Freedom Pass
- A Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- HM Forces Veteran's Card
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- And some other forms of photographic ID. Please check on our website.

Please be aware that Debit and Credit Cards cannot be used as photographic ID.

ID OUT OF DATE?

Don't worry if your photographic identification document has expired.

It will still be accepted as long as the photograph is still a good likeness of you.



NO ID? DON'T WORRY!

If you don't have any photographic ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

You must apply for one by 5pm on Tuesday 28 April and take it with you to prove your identity when you vote at a polling station.

If you already have a Voter Authority Certificate, you can use that. You don't need to apply for a new one as long as the photo still looks like you.

DON'T FORGET! If you apply to get free photo ID to vote in a polling station, you must also be registered to vote.

If the name on your polling card is different to the name on your photo ID (for example, because you have changed your name through marriage or divorce) you may need to provide evidence of this at the polling station.



For more details about the types of photo ID you can use, and to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate if you don't have photo ID, go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/voterID
For help in person, please visit Sandwell Council House in Oldbury.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

IF NOT, YOU CAN'T VOTE

X

Being registered to vote will help your credit rating and helps with things like getting a mobile phone contract.

Being registered for Council Tax doesn't automatically register you to vote. You only have to re-register to vote if you change your name or address.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

It's quick and easy to do online.

Go to: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Fill in your nationality, name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number.

The deadline for registering to vote in May's local elections is Monday 20 April.

Register by

20 APRIL

!

HANDING IN POSTAL VOTES IN PERSON?

Changes to the law mean that if you hand in postal votes at a polling station or at Sandwell Council House, you have to fill in a form.

You cannot hand in more than five postal voting packs from other people (handing in five plus your own postal vote is permitted).

It's important you are aware of this if you are unable to return your postal vote in the post.
You must not place postal votes in the postbox at the Council House, as these can no longer be accepted.



If you have a question or you need help, go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/elections or call the elections team on 0121 569 3244

VOTING IN 2026

In May, you will be voting to elect your local councillors. Each ward has three councillors, meaning you can vote for three candidates.

Don't waste your vote – select the three candidates you want to vote for on your ballot paper. You must vote for no more than three candidates.

The name of your ward may have changed - this is due to changes in our ward boundaries. **And make sure you check your poll card if you are voting in person to see if your polling station has changed.**

If you're voting at a polling station, they are open from 7am until 10pm on polling day (7 May).

Votes will be counted on Friday 8 May and results of the election will be published on the council website as they are declared.

CHANGES TO VOTING BY POST AND PROXY

You can apply online to vote by post and for some types of proxy vote.

If you applied for a postal vote before 30 January 2024, your postal vote has now expired and you must reapply to renew it.

The deadline to apply for a postal vote to vote in the local elections is 5pm on Tuesday 21 April. The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on Tuesday 28 April.

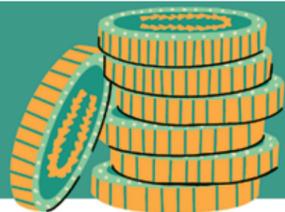
You also need to prove your identity when applying, by providing your National Insurance number.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/postalvote or www.sandwell.gov.uk/proxyvote to apply.

You can only act as a proxy for two people living in the UK and two overseas - four in total. Two must be in the UK. These changes apply to all UK elections.

Do you know how we spend Council Tax?

We've set a balanced budget for 2026/27. Find out more about how your Council Tax is spent and how around two thirds of our net budget funds Adult Social Care and Children's Services & Education.



As a council, this year we set a total budget of around **£1.566billion**. 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 **£1.102billion**. This gives us a budget of **£464million** 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 for council services is funded:



The amount the average Sandwell household pays towards Council Tax continues to be the lowest in the West Midlands and among the lowest in the country.

Here's some of the investment we've committed to for the next financial year and future years:

- We will install **62 new CCTV cameras** to keep our neighbourhoods cleaner and safer – helping us to **tackle fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour**.
- We're launching **34 new pop-up recycling centres** to help us all reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill. **New litter bins** on our streets will also help keep our neighbourhoods clean.
- We are **doubling the funding for our anti-social behaviour team** and investing in our wonderful parks and green spaces.
- We're spending **£500,000 on our play areas**, building a new **archives centre** and making improvements to our **cemeteries and crematoria**.
- We will build a **new Causeway Green Primary School** and a **new Haden Hill Leisure Centre**.
- We will invest an **extra £1.5million** over the next financial year on maintaining our **roads and pavements** – building on Government recognition of our roads being among the best in the country.
- We'll also invest a further **£1million+ on road safety** – prioritising the places where residents have raised community concerns about speeding, lighting and other issues.

This is a budget that protects our vital services while delivering on the things that matter to people.

We're making Sandwell a **cleaner, greener and safer** place to live – a great place for our **children and young people** to grow up with a **thriving economy, providing opportunities for growth, good jobs and prosperity** for everyone.

And we want to **improve the health** of our residents, so **everyone lives healthier lives for longer**.

We are a caring council that gets things done.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael
Leader of Sandwell Council

Councillor Paul Moore
Deputy Leader of Sandwell Council

Find out more about our budget and spending by searching for "Sandwell Council budget" online, scan the QR code or go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/budget



Adult Social Care supports Sandwell residents

Sandwell Council's adult social care service plays a vital role in supporting people to live independently, safely and with dignity. Over the past year, we have delivered 45,000 pieces of equipment, provided home care to 2,600 people and helped 3,040 people regain independence. We focus on helping people to live fulfilling lives in their communities, guided by our vision: The right support, at the right time and the right place, to maximise independence and empower people to remain safe and healthy.

Community Offer Plus

This service provides information, advice and support to Sandwell adults aged over 18.

It brings together a network of organisations to support residents through a variety of FREE, essential services to help manage a range of needs within the community.

In 2025, 3,570 people were referred into the Community Offer. Here are just two compliments we received.

"So thankful and appreciative of all the support given. It has helped with getting her back into the community and feeling better in herself."

"Thank you so much for all your support, I don't know how I would have got here without your constant kindness and support. I'm looking forward to living a happy life."

Visit www.murrayhall.co.uk/community-offer or call 0121 612 2934 to find out how the service can help you.



Support for carers

Are you caring for a family member or friend? If so, make sure you're recognised and supported as an unpaid carer in Sandwell.

Register with Sandwell Carers Service to access FREE information and advice, local events and peer support, a carer wellbeing check, Bridgit online carer support, emergency and future planning, and a carer ID card.

Visit: www.sandwellcarers.org.uk
Email: info@sandwellcarers.org.uk
Call: 0121 798 2372



Apply for your new Blue Badge online

All Blue Badge applications and renewals in Sandwell must now 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.

If you already use MySandwell to make payments to the council, book appointments at the tip, or report a missed bin, you can just log in with your usual details. If not, registering for an account is quick and simple all you need is an email account. Someone can apply for a Blue Badge on your behalf too.



Information can be found online www.sandwell.gov.uk/bluebadge



Free support is available for anyone who may struggle to apply or renew their Blue Badge online from the Community Offer service



Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm
Free support and advice for people living in Sandwell
0121 612 2934



"After a call to the Community Offer service, they arranged to come and meet me and help me complete the online form. In an hour I'd completed the form, and had my application approved. Great service, thank you"
June, from Oldbury



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.



Welcoming Spaces logos are libraries or other Welcoming Spaces community buildings in your area.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/welcomingspaces to find your nearest.



Shopmobility – here to help you

Do you or does a loved one need extra assistance when visiting West Bromwich town centre?

Look no further than our Shopmobility service, which offers an easy and accessible way to navigate the town centre. This helps people regain independence and boost their confidence.

Take Karen Kelly for example. After being put on oxygen, Karen needed some extra help to get around. Her sister recommended the service and our helpful Shopmobility team provided her with a mobility scooter.

Karen was able to visit the town centre for the first time in over a year, and she now uses the service weekly.

She said: "I gave it a go, I went up and down the High Street, it was a lovely few hours."

"I didn't realise how many scooters and wheelchairs from Shopmobility were used, and how many lives they've changed by having this service. Keep up the good work, a lot of people would be lost without you."

If you want to hire a wheelchair or mobility scooter, our Shopmobility team have you covered.

Sandwell Shopmobility is based in Unit 1A (by Next) at New Square, West Bromwich, B70 7PP. Open Wednesday to Saturday, 8.30am to 3pm. Call on 0121 553 1931 in advance to book equipment, check prices, and to find out terms and conditions.



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



Find out what your library has to offer

Our libraries across Sandwell are centres of exciting community activities and opportunities to connect with others – as well as being Welcoming Spaces.

Pop in and discover our free all year-round services – including craft sessions for children and adults, chatty cafes, school holiday activities, open mic poetry evenings and more.

2026 is the National Year of Reading! We've launched Cub Tales as a new early years' initiative in libraries and look out for the Summer Reading Challenge – Read to the Beat.

We were delighted to welcome best-selling author Lee Child to West Bromwich Town Hall for a talk to more than 300 people as part of Sandwell Libraries Literature Festival. Lee, who grew up in Birmingham, talked about his writing career and

Jack Reacher's journey to the big screen. In a very generous gesture, Lee waived his fee, with all proceeds going towards new children's books for local libraries.

Join your library for free. Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries for more information on opening hours and for events go to www.visitsandwell.com/whats-on



Join us at Celebrate Sandwell 2026

Flourishing Communities invite you to a free one-day community event on Friday 26 June, 10.30am to 3.30pm, at West Bromwich Town Hall.

Celebrate Sandwell 2026 will showcase the wide range of services, activities and organisations available across the borough.

Entry is free and no booking is needed.

Attendees can enjoy a welcoming atmosphere with music, workshops, information stalls and refreshments, while learning more about support and opportunities available.

Making it in Sandwell: Council welcomes 100 apprentices

We have already achieved our ambition of 100 new apprenticeships, marking a significant milestone in turning the Sandwell Story into reality.

Following the successful launch of the Making It Sandwell campaign last year, this achievement shows the council's promises are creating real opportunities for local people to help build their careers in public service.

As the largest employer in Sandwell and a recognised Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer, the council is demonstrating its commitment to raising aspirations and delivering excellent public service.

To mark this achievement, we hosted a special apprenticeship event to welcome new apprentices.

The initiative forms part of the Sandwell Story, a project to celebrate, champion and bring people together in making Sandwell a great place to live, learn, work and visit. The apprenticeship programme spans a range of sectors including administration, engineering, social care and digital services, reflecting our commitment to meeting the needs of a diverse and evolving local economy.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Leader of Sandwell Council, said: "When we launched the Sandwell Story, we committed to funding an additional 100 apprenticeships as an important way to champion our residents and raise aspirations."

"Achieving 100 apprenticeships within six months, and well ahead of our target, shows that we are turning that promise into action."

Councillor Paul Moore, Deputy Council Leader, added: "Our apprentices are the future of our workforce in Sandwell. Not only will they build their own careers, they will also strengthen the delivery of services for residents in the borough."

Amara Martinez, Level 3 HR Apprentice, said: "Before starting my apprenticeship in HR, I was definitely nervous."

"But my confidence has 100% grown, with going to meetings, speaking up for myself and knowing what I want out of the apprenticeship. I can only see myself going further in my career at Sandwell Council"

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/apprenticeships to find out about apprenticeship opportunities at Sandwell Council and visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/employmentevents for details of careers events.

Visit www.sandwellstory.com to find out more about the Making It Sandwell campaign.



New careers website launched

Connexions Sandwell have been rebranded as Sandwell Careers Service and a new website has been launched.

This is designed to make it easier for young people to explore their career ideas, the wealth of opportunities available to them and take the next step in their careers journey.

Sandwell Careers Service provides pathways into education, employment (including apprenticeships) or training.

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



NEW CRADLEY HEATH SKILLS CAMPUS

NOW OPEN!

THE FUTURE OF SKILLS STARTS HERE

ADULT COURSES

UPSKILL RESKILL RETRAIN

FOUR WEEK TASTER COURSES AVAILABLE



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

CRADLEY HEATH SKILLS CAMPUS, LOWER HIGH STREET, CRADLEY HEATH B64 5AB

Sandwell Police update

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

Spring is a new season, but the commitment from Sandwell Police to keep the public safe remains our focus.

Thank you to everyone who has reported crimes to us, shared their suspicions about people responsible for crime in their area, or taken steps to improve the security of their home or business.

The number of burglaries and robberies across Sandwell continues to fall, and we continue to strive for justice for victims by arresting and charging those responsible for crime.

Over the past few months, Sandwell Police have been working with the council and other organisations to focus on women's safety. Together with members of local teams, I have visited lots of women's groups to talk about safety following some really horrific crimes locally. I know this has caused serious concerns.

We have talked to lots of community and faith groups including women at the Abrahamic Foundation, Smethwick's Guru Nanak Gurdwara women's

support group, the Confederation of Bangladeshi Organisations and the Females About Music group, as well as supporting initiatives including Sandwell Stands – Reclaim the Night Walk in Oldbury.

We continue our work to end domestic abuse which can affect anyone, but statistics show that most victims are women and most perpetrators are men. We encourage anyone who thinks they're an abusive partner, to get help to change their behaviour. The first step is to call the Respect Phonenumber on **0808 802 4040**.

Domestic abuse is never acceptable and there are lots of organisations across Sandwell, including the police, who are ready to help you stay safe this spring and beyond. I hope you feel able to reach out for support.

Keep up to date by following the 'Sandwell Police' Facebook page or by signing up at www.wmnow.co.uk to receive free email updates. Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/domesticabuse for support for anyone experiencing domestic abuse.



New police horses on Sandwell's streets

West Midlands Police's new police horses have been busy patrolling in Sandwell.

In their first few days of patrols, mounted police officers stopped and searched three men in Victoria Park, Smethwick, after seeing suspicious behaviour. The officers also provided advice to several drivers in Smethwick about their behaviour on roads around the town.

The following week, they patrolled West Bromwich town centre and met Sandwell College students who are studying public services and animal care. They also met ambassadors from West Bromwich Business Improvement District (BID).

Deputy Council Leader Councillor Suzanne Hartwell joined the patrol at Victoria Park to officially welcome them.

She said: "It's great to see the police horses out on the streets of Sandwell, bringing an extra resource to help the police and partner organisations keep people safe and tackle issues that matter most to our residents and businesses.

"They're great for engagement too, helping to spark conversations between people and police officers while out and about in our communities."

Visit www.westmidlands.police.uk to find out more about the new police horses.

A named police officer for every neighbourhood

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

These dedicated officers work with a wider team of officers, investigators, other specialists and partner organisations.

Meet your dedicated officers:

Oldbury: Sergeant Greg Meredith

Bristnall: PC Mo Hassan

Langley: PC Mohammed Latif

Oldbury: PC Zac Messer

Old Warley: PC Mia Kesterton

Rowley Regis: Sergeant Warren Hickinbottom

Blackheath: PC Tomasz Maciejowski

Cradley Heath & Old Hill: PC Dean Wilkes

Rowley: PC Patrick Blackford

Tividale: PC Kate Howard



Smethwick: Sergeants Amrit Jhitta and David Eeles

Abbey (plus parts of Old Warley): PC Minhas Qadeer

St Paul's: PC Adam Blackford

Smethwick: PC Sab Kaur

Soho & Victoria: PC David Harnett

Soho & Victoria (Cape Hill): PC Peter Lusiak

Tipton: Sergeant Jason Phillips

Great Bridge: PC Josh Ray

Princes End: PC Rafia Khan

Tipton Green: PC Cory Millard

Wednesbury: Sergeant John Tranter

Friar Park: PC Joseph Thompson

Wednesbury North: PC Amy Taylor

Wednesbury South: PC Ben Sharp

West Bromwich: Sergeants Charlene Lowry, Matt Mills and James Minton

Charlemont with Grove Vale: PC Sukhmandeep Rai

Great Barr with Yew Tree: PC James Watson

Greets Green & Lyng: PC Ranbir Lally

Hateley Heath: PC Kieron Roverts-Woodall

Newton: PC Matthew Wooton

West Bromwich Central: PCs Adam Bradley, Benjamin Greenwood and Flynn Neal

For more information and details of police surgeries in your neighbourhood, go to www.westmidlands.police.uk and search your postcode. Report non-emergency incidents via the police website or by calling 101.



Sandwell Stands against violence and abuse

Sandwell Stands represents our commitment to raising awareness about violence against women and girls, as well as all other forms of abuse.

This includes domestic violence, sexual exploitation, stalking and online abuse.

It is about acknowledging the reality of abuse, challenging harmful attitudes and making sure survivors feel supported and heard.

Sandwell Stands encourages everyone to understand the signs of abuse, recognise its impact on people and their families, and know where to find help. It highlights the importance of speaking out, supporting survivors and taking practical steps to make the borough safer for everyone.

Support is available for anyone affected by abuse. Black Country Women's Aid provides confidential guidance at 0121 552 6448 or at www.blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk

Visit the council's advice webpage www.sandwell.gov.uk/vawg or call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline 24/7 on 0808 2000 247. In emergencies, always dial 999.

Sandwell Council, West Midlands Police, Black Country Women's Aid and other partner organisations are all working together to focus on women's safety.

This has included the Reclaim the Night Walk in Oldbury, talks with community and faith groups, and information events across our six towns to raise awareness of support and stand together against violence.

Sandwell Stands empowers everyone to take action against abuse.



Sandwell Council expands CCTV to improve community safety

In our latest budget proposals, Sandwell will see 62 new CCTV cameras installed and a new borough-wide Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force to stop crime in its tracks.

This builds on the council delivering major improvements, including a full CCTV Control Room upgrade with enhanced networks, transmission and recording systems. These upgrades have improved service quality and future-proofed the control room for expansion.

A significant new project is boosting security at 27 high-rise blocks. This includes concierge services as well as new CCTV installations and upgraded door-entry systems, due for completion later this year.

The council has also strengthened safety across key areas. Twelve new cameras were installed on Bearwood High Street to support police in tackling retail crime.

Levelling Up funding has delivered upgraded CCTV systems in Wednesbury town centre and Friar Park, including new deployable cameras used to address crime and anti-social behaviour including nuisance motorbikes.

And West Bromwich town centre now benefits from a recently-installed wireless CCTV system improving reliability and support for law enforcement.



Action on hate crime

Work to end hate crimes across Sandwell continues.

Sandwell is a place where people from all backgrounds live, work and socialise together, demonstrating shared British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs. That's why we'll never tolerate hate.

If you do not want to talk to the police, you can go to any of 47 hate crime reporting centres across Sandwell. These include community centres, Family Hubs and all Sandwell libraries.

Search for your nearest centre at www.sandwell.gov.uk/hatecrime.

You can report hate crimes – as either a victim or a witness – to police by calling 101 or at www.westmidlands.police.uk Phone 999 only if a crime is in progress, offenders are nearby or a life is in danger.

Trained staff will listen to you without judgement and share information with police for them to investigate and to record official crime statistics.

By sharing your experience, you may stop others from becoming a victim.

Tackling problems in your neighbourhood

Tackling anti-social behaviour is one of our top priorities. Residents have told us they want to feel safe and respected in their community.

Sandwell Council is investing over £1million in a strengthened, borough-wide Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) service to make it easier for residents to report concerns, access support, and see problems resolved more effectively.

At the heart of the new service is a single point of contact for ASB, giving residents one clear and consistent 'front door'. Reports will be triaged in a structured way and managed end to end by a dedicated borough-wide team, ensuring clearer ownership, quicker responses and more consistent outcomes.

We're working closely with police, other partners and community organisations to identify issues early and deal with them as quickly as possible.

Just one example of how we're responding to concerns raised by residents and businesses is our recent multi-agency operation around Grice Street and Bullock Street in an industrial estate in West Bromwich.

The high-visibility operation brought together officers from across the

council alongside West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service.

Waste was cleared by the council's Environmental Enforcement Rapid Response Team, while the Environmental Protection Team and DVLA contractor partners Penham Excel Ltd removed abandoned cars.

We've also held a joint operation tackling untaxed and abandoned vehicles in Alma Street, Smethwick.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/asb and www.westmidlands.police.uk for further advice. Or call police on 101 or the council on 0121 368 1166.



Recycle Right at Home



THINK before you bin!

Bathroom

- Shampoo and shower gel bottles in recycling (blue lid) bin
- Toothpaste tubes in recycling (blue lid) bin
- Bleach and cleaning spray bottles in recycling (blue lid) bin
- Toilet roll tubes in recycling (blue) bag

Bedroom

- Suncream bottles in recycling (blue lid) bin
- Perfume bottles in recycling (blue lid) bin
Remove metal spray mechanism
- Lotion and cream glass jars in recycling (blue lid) bin
- Aerosols and deodorants in recycling (blue lid) bin

Kitchen

- Plastic cleaning products in recycling (blue lid) bin
- Leftover food waste in recycling food waste (brown) bin or reuse leftovers to make new meals
- Yoghurt tubs in recycling (blue lid) bin
- Juice and drink cartons in recycling (blue) bag
- Glass bottles and jars in recycling (blue lid) bin

Right stuff Right bin

Living room

- Candle jars in recycling (blue lid) bin
(reuse jars for crafts and remove any wax before recycling)
- Put batteries in a clear bag and put on top of recycling (blue lid) bin
- Tissue boxes only in recycling (blue) bag
- Magazines and newspapers in recycling (blue) bag
- Tissues in non-recycling (grey) bin



Contact us on 0121 368 1177

www.sandwell.gov.uk/recycleguide



Bereavement Services – here to help

Losing a loved one is difficult enough without the additional worry of funeral costs. To help, we offer a range of affordable funeral options which can be booked directly with us.

The Sandwell Funeral Service is £1,999. This service includes:

- Your loved one being taken into the care of our funeral director partner, Trinity Funeral Services
- Provision of a coffin
- Funeral Service at either Sandwell Valley or Rowley Regis Crematorium – chosen by family
- Cremation fees paid
- Minister to conduct the service

• Music choices for entry, exit and during the service provided by Obitus Media.

The Sandwell Funeral Service Direct Cremation is £1,168. Your loved one will be collected by our funeral director partners Trinty Funeral Services who, with our bereavement service team, arrange for an unattended cremation to take place at one of our crematoria.

To enquire or arrange either option please contact us directly on 0121 569 6700 or by email at bereavement_services@sandwell.gov.uk www.sandwell.gov.uk/burials




Update on Haden Hill Leisure Centre redevelopment

Work to demolish the old Haden Hill Leisure Centre in Cradley Heath began in September and is making good progress.

As the work moved forward, contractors discovered further areas of asbestos in sections of the building. This was not identified in earlier surveys due to the way the building was constructed in the 1970s. This has all been dealt with safely and poses no threat to workers or public.

Around 80% of the building has now been demolished, which is a major milestone. The remaining work will continue at a steady and controlled pace to ensure everything is done safely.

As a result, the demolition phase is now expected to be completed by 26 March. The main rebuild of the new leisure centre is scheduled to begin shortly after, on 31 March. Planning is already under way to make sure the site is ready for the next phase once demolition is finished. Keep an eye on our council channels for further updates.

The new £24million centre promises to be a major boost for health and wellbeing in the region. It will offer a main swimming pool and learner pool, two multi-purpose studios, a 100-station gym, a 27-station indoor cycling studio, a four-court sports hall and a dedicated community room.

The government, Sport England and Sandwell Council are funding the redevelopment.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/leisurecentres to check out our full range of leisure centres across Sandwell.

To lead by example, an accessible society without barriers



SANDWELL DEAF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Our Services A non-profit organisation specialising in:

- Advocacy
- BSL interpreting
- Support
- Training (BSL & more)
- Wellbeing
- Consultancy and collaboration
- Young people
- Volunteer opportunities

www.sdca.co.uk
 info@sdca.co.uk
 07885 913225




Registered charity number 1124084



WELLBEING STARTS AT THE CENTRE

SANDWELL AQUATICS CENTRE - PORTWAY LIFESTYLE CENTRE - WEDNESBURY LEISURE CENTRE
 TIPTON SPORTS ACADEMY - TIPTON LEISURE CENTRE

GYMS RACQUETS SWIMMING GROUP FITNESS REFORMER PILATES + MORE

Gym memberships, joint memberships, swim only, wellness-focused memberships and more. We have a membership to suit your needs, because wellness starts at the centre.

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE




WWW.KOREWELLNESS.CO.UK

Sandwell children's services rated 'Good'

Our recent budget consultation showed us how important Sandwell people feel it is for us to look after vulnerable children.

We want Sandwell to be a great place to grow up. We continue to invest in improvements to services that support children and families.

For the first time, our children's services have been rated 'Good' by Ofsted – a transformation that reflects years of determination and improvement.

Sandwell Children's Trust was established in 2018 to run children's social care services on behalf of the council. The 'Good' judgement follows years of dedicated work, with the Trust and council working in partnership to drive improvement and bring about real change in the lives of children and young people.

Inspectors praised the significant progress made since 2022, when services were rated 'requires improvement to be good'.

The 'Good' rating reflects the hard work of staff, strong leadership and close working with partner organisations. It reflects Sandwell's commitment to its Child Friendly principles – ensuring children are safe, healthy, heard, included and empowered.

We know there is more to do, particularly for our care experienced young people. We remain focused on building on these improvements to ensure every child and young person has the support they need to thrive.



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.

They are Sandwell's lifeblood – and so our Sandwell Business Growth Team is here to champion Sandwell's businesses at every stage.

The Sandwell Business Growth website is packed with resources to help businesses achieve your ambitions.

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

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



Chance Glassworks stories celebrated

An exciting 12-month project is under way to catalogue the archives of Chance Brothers Glassworks in Smethwick.

This is part of a National Archives' part-funded initiative called 'Illuminating the Chance Glassworks Collection'.

If you worked at Chance Brothers, or know someone who did, and would like to share a story for it to be considered for the collection, please contact our Sandwell Archives team based at Smethwick Library. **Email archives_service@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 4985.**

Robert Lucas Chance, later joined by William Chance, began manufacturing glass in Spon Lane in 1822. The company specialised in crown, sheet and plate glass before eventually expanding into such items as glass tubes and lenses, the famous 'handkerchief' vases and other decorative homeware.

Chance Brothers made the glass panels for the Crystal Palace, which hosted the Great Exhibition of 1851, and glass for the four faces on the clock tower of Big Ben. They are perhaps best remembered for producing optical glass for lighthouses. Some of these can still be seen in lighthouses around the world today.

Henry Chance, a descendant of both Robert Lucas and William, said: "This story isn't only about what they made, it's about how they treated people. The Chance family believed that a successful business had a duty to its workforce and its town."



"They built housing for workers and established schools. In 1895, they donated the land for West Smethwick Park, creating a green space that still belongs to the community today."

"When the Spon Lane site closed in 1981, it could have been the end of the story. But thankfully it wasn't – thanks to Sandwell Archives' staff and volunteers."

"Today, the Chance Brothers collection is a real gem for researchers and remains Sandwell Archives' most popular resource, attracting over 100 enquiries every year, both from here in Sandwell and all over the world."

Every child deserves warmth

Become the reason a child feels safe



Foster with Sandwell

fostersandwell.co.uk
0800 358 0899

Choosing the right service



Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust

If you need medical help or support, it is important to choose the right service, so that you can get the right help at the right time. Dr Navdeep Singh Sekhon, Medical Lead at Sandwell Health Campus's Urgent Treatment Centre, explains what an urgent treatment centre is and when you should go.

Dr Sekhon said: "Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs) provide care for health problems that need prompt attention but are not life-threatening.

"They are staffed by experienced healthcare professionals who can assess, diagnose and treat a wide range of urgent conditions."

A UTC is suitable for urgent but non-life-threatening problems such as minor fractures or suspected broken bones, sprains and strains, cuts and minor burns, minor head injuries, infections such as chest or throat infections, fever, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea, rashes or ear problems.

Dr Sekhon added: "The UTC is also able to assess and treat children with non-life-threatening illnesses or injuries, including fever, minor injuries, vomiting and diarrhoea, infections and rashes."

When you visit the UTC, your care follows a structured and safe clinical process. On arrival, you will be asked to register your details so that you can be booked onto the clinical system.

You will then be assessed by a trained triage nurse who will record basic observations such as heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, breathing rate and oxygen levels, assess the nature and severity of your illness or injury and then determine which clinician is most appropriate to see you.

The clinician will assess your condition and will either provide treatment and clinical advice, issue a prescription if necessary, or advise you to follow-up with your own GP for longer-term or non-urgent problems.

If your condition requires urgent hospital assessment or specialist review, you will be referred directly to the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital.

Dr Sekhon says it's important to choose the right service to get the care you need, adding: "The Urgent Treatment Centre is for urgent conditions that do not require emergency care.

"For serious or life-threatening conditions such as chest pain, signs of stroke, difficulty breathing, heavy bleeding that will not stop or loss of consciousness, call 999.

"If you are unsure where to seek care, you can always visit NHS 111 online or call 111 for advice."

The Urgent Treatment Centre for residents of Sandwell is located at Sandwell Health Campus, West Bromwich (formerly Sandwell Hospital). It is open 8am to 11pm, seven days a week.



New learning campus for healthcare education

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust will proudly host the Midland Met Learning Campus in Smethwick, which is now nearing completion and set to become a landmark centre for healthcare education in the region.

Located next to the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, the campus is a key part of the government-supported Smethwick Towns Fund programme and represents a major investment in skills, training and future employment.

The campus brings together Sandwell College, Aston University and the University of Wolverhampton to deliver high quality further and higher education, from Entry Level through to Level 7.

The Midland Met Learning Campus will play a central role in developing the next

generation of healthcare professionals. Its unique hospital side location will enable rich clinical learning and seamless pathways into NHS careers.

The centre will create new opportunities for local people to build their futures in healthcare – whether in nursing, midwifery or the wide range of Allied Health Professional roles such as physiotherapy, radiography and more. It will help people to gain the skills, confidence and ambition to strive towards rewarding and meaningful healthcare careers.



Vaccines – why they are important to protect your child

Meet Clare, a Health Visiting Team Leader at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust. Clare tells us why vaccines are so important, especially in a child's early years.

Are vaccines safe for my child and what are the risks?

Clare: Yes, vaccines are recommended because they are a safe and effective way to protect children from infections that can cause serious illness.

The greatest risk to children comes from the diseases that vaccines prevent, some of which can lead to hospital stays, long-term health problems, or, in rare cases, be life-threatening. Vaccination helps reduce these risks during the years when children are most vulnerable.

Vaccines used in the UK go through several stages of testing before being offered and are continually monitored once in use.

What are the side effects?

Clare: Most children have no side effects or only mild ones, such as a sore arm or a slight temperature, which usually settle within a day or two.

Serious reactions are rare and health professionals are trained to recognise and treat them.

How do I arrange vaccinations?

Clare: If you have recently had a baby, your GP surgery will help organise routine vaccinations and appointments at the right times. This will be at your surgery or at one of our new local clinics. Your midwife or health visitor can support this process.

If you're unsure which vaccinations your child has had, or think they might have missed any, please contact your GP.

"It's never too late to catch up on vaccinations"



The NHS website www.nhs.uk/vaccinations has advice and information on a wide range of vaccines.



HEALTHY SANDWELL

www.healthysandwell.co.uk
@HealthySandwell



Say hello to Healthy Sandwell!

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.

Looking to...

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

Visit: www.healthysandwell.co.uk
Call: 0800 011 4656 / 0121 569 5100
Text: GETHEALTHY to 87007
Email: LS@nhs.net



Do you or does someone you know need support with mental wellbeing?



There are local organisations that can help. Go to www.healthysandwell.co.uk/mental-health-services-directory for details of support available.

For urgent mental health support, call NHS 111 and select option 2.



FREE Family Activities In Sandwell



Our fab Choices Team helps families make memories together.

There are so many fantastic, FREE activities to get involved in and they're for the whole family, so adults can join in too! Make new memories and discover healthier habits and hobbies together.

Go to www.bookwhen.com/choices to take a look what's on.



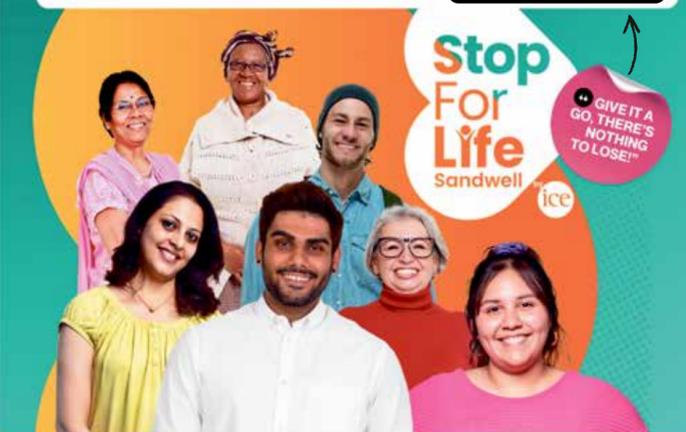
THINKING ABOUT QUITTING?

WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE!

- Free, personalised support
- Expert advice
- FREE NRT & vape kits
- Tailored quit plans to you
- By Sandwell, for Sandwell

You are 3x more likely to quit with our help. We offer a range of proven methods to help you stop smoking, including FREE nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), vaping guidance, and behavioural support.

Visit: www.stopforlifesandwell.org
Call: 0800 612 4580
Text "QUITNOW SANDWELL" to 66777



Looking for a new hobby this year?



Our activity finder has something for everyone, and lots of it is FREE!

From basketball, to bell ringing, to knit and natter groups, this is the place to find new friends and discover new passions and activities near home!



Go to www.healthysandwell.co.uk/activities-finder to find out more.



Town centre boost for Tipton

Work is now well under way building 55 new affordable council homes on sites either side of Union Street in Tipton.

A further 15 council homes will be built further along Union Street, on the site of the former flour mill. This will involve refurbishing a locally-listed empty building and creating new apartments on land behind.

We will also be thinning out overgrown trees and bushes along the walkway that runs behind these sites and connects the two mainline canals. The aim is to make the route safer, lighter and more open, as well as discouraging anti-social behaviour.

Work has now started on transforming Owen Street. This will include new lighting, resurfaced pavements, more and better crossings, bus stops brought closer together and a 20mph zone to help reduce vehicle speeds.

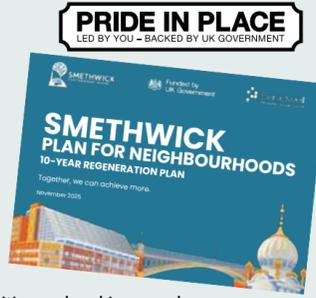
The project will also see tree planting and landscaping along the main road and extending through the precinct. Town centre businesses are open as usual throughout the works.

These improvements will help make a safer and more attractive place for everyone in the future. With more people coming to live in the town centre and the improvements to public spaces, our aim is to boost footfall with more shoppers and support our Tipton businesses and traders.

The overall Tipton regeneration project is supported by £20million of government funding plus investment from Sandwell Council.

Smethwick regeneration and investment plans

Smethwick has been selected to receive up to £20million from the government over 10 years to help improve the area through the Pride in Place Programme (formerly the Plan for Neighbourhoods).



This funding is aimed at supporting local priorities and making a real difference for Smethwick's communities.

Your feedback from engagement activities last summer helped shape these priorities and create a 10-year Regeneration Plan.

The Smethwick Partnership Board, which oversees the programme, submitted this plan to the government in November and is now awaiting a response.

If approved, the first year of funding will focus on small local projects of up to £25,000, helping to deliver visible improvements quickly in neighbourhoods across Smethwick. The application process is currently being developed, with opportunities shared on the Board's website.

Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/smethwickpfn to find out more. Email smethwick_pfn@sandwell.gov.uk to join our mailing list.

Preparations continue for Friar Park Urban Village

This joint project between Sandwell Council and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is set to see around 600 homes built on this huge site in Friar Park, Wednesbury, approximately the size of 32 football pitches.

At least 25% of the homes will be classed affordable.

The first phase will treat the land to address historic contamination issues, so that it can be made ready for housebuilding. This month, the council and WMCA are submitting 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, which are set to deliver more than 700 much-needed new homes.

Friar Park is also set to benefit from the government's new Pride in Place Programme. Over 10 years, the area will receive up to £20million investment.

A new Neighbourhood Board involving residents and community representatives will oversee this programme. There will be lots of opportunities for Friar Park residents to decide the priorities for the funding. Keep an eye out for more information about how to get involved.

Wednesbury town centre works nearly finished

As the public spaces project nears completion under the Levelling Up Partnership, we've installed new wayfinding totems to help visitors find their way from the Metro station into the town centre.

These combine a simplified town centre map with information on the history of key locations and landmarks.

Work continues to upgrade shop fronts and prepare the land at key sites in the town to make them ready for development.

Have you visited the new West Brom Indoor Market yet?

The new West Bromwich Indoor Market has proved a real hit with shoppers – if you haven't visited yet, pop along soon!

Located in the High Street, it is one of the centrepieces of our West Bromwich Masterplan to create a modern and vibrant destination for both traders and shoppers.

The new market received more than 330,000 visits in its first four months. That's an average weekly footfall increase of more than 90 per cent compared to the same period the previous year at the old market.

Combining traditional market stalls with contemporary facilities, the market also features specialist street food in the new food court.

The 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 (with later opening for Friday evening concert nights).



Photo courtesy of Express & Star



Check out our new-look regeneration website at: www.regeneratingsandwell.co.uk

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



Improving your homes and services

We are continuing to make strong progress with our Housing Improvement Programme, with a particular focus on addressing outstanding repairs.

By working closely with our contractor, Seddon Construction Ltd, we are steadily reducing the repairs backlog. Alongside this, we remain committed to our day-to-day repairs service, completing more than 86,000 repairs over the past year, with 95.6% of emergency repairs carried out within 24 hours. This sustained effort is helping to make homes safer, more comfortable and better maintained, reflected in our customer satisfaction rating of over 95% for repairs.

To improve safety and security, we are rolling out CCTV and 24-hour concierge services to high-rise blocks that do not currently have them. These upgrades will include monitored CCTV cameras and improved door entry systems, all linked to our control room, giving tenants greater peace of mind.

We are also finalising our Tenant Engagement Strategy, which sets out how we will listen to you, involve you and work together to improve homes and neighbourhoods. Our Tenant Engagement team has been visiting all six towns to hear your feedback in person.

Our next Tenant and Leaseholder event will take place at West Bromwich Albion Football Club on Saturday 5 September – please save the date.

A big thank you to our Tenant Auditor Group (TAG) whose ideas have already helped improve our anti-social behaviour reporting process and made the Choice Based Lettings bidding system easier to use.

We always want to hear from tenants and leaseholders. Contact us at Comm_Partnerships@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 2537 (leave a message and we'll get back to you).



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 just over 6,000 households that are either homeless or at risk of homelessness in the past year.

Demand for council housing has also increased significantly with almost 25,000 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 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 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.



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 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

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

New council phone number coming soon!

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**



Late paying your Council Tax bill?

If we have your contact details, we'll send you a reminder by text or email to help you avoid falling into debt.

Not sure if it's a genuine message?

Check our website to confirm or pay your bill online.

Scan the QR code or go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/counciltaxalert



YOUR SANDWELL COUNCILLORS

YOUR OLDBURY COUNCILLORS

Bristnall			Langley			Old Warley			Oldbury		
07811 583 956	07974 883 588	07450 963 628	07813 364 277	07974 883 521	07929 729 943	07968 576 563	07977 710 948	07442 878 825	07811 583 817	07814 862 104	Rizwan_Jalil@sandwell.gov.uk

YOUR ROWLEY REGIS COUNCILLORS

Blackheath			Cradley Heath and Old Hill			Rowley			Tivdale		
07825 706 133	07812 682 584	07852 699 513	0121 559 9263	07501 066 202	07970 497 742	07480 744 438	Khayam_Khan@sandwell.gov.uk	07442 878 404	07555 985 817	07424 965 084	07810 850 960

YOUR SMETHWICK COUNCILLORS

Abbey			Smethwick			Soho and Victoria			St Paul's		
07817 617 595	07890 952 567	07929 658 986	07855 985 146	Luke_Davies@sandwell.gov.uk	07956 149 668	07811 583 860	07974 883 550	07967 591 228	07855 985 100	07424 965 084	07929 729 532

YOUR TIPTON COUNCILLORS

Great Bridge			Princes End			Tipton Green		
07855 985 156	07930 492 467	07929 729 485	07855 985 153	07549 817 139	07929 729 950	07811 583 951	07766 421 436	07442 879 919

YOUR WEDNESBURY COUNCILLORS

Friar Park			Wednesbury North			Wednesbury South		
07813 989 422	07977 532 070	07443 707 790	07549 657 831	07974 876 939	07896 914 849	07974 883 554	07974 883 522	

There is currently one vacant seat in Wednesbury South. A new councillor for this seat will be elected at the Local Elections in May 2026.

YOUR WEST BROMWICH COUNCILLORS

Charlemont with Grove Vale			Great Barr with Yew Tree			Greets Green and Lyng		
07429 517 031	07827 444 769	07443 551 022	0121 502 5751	07977 729 107	07380 334 497	07816 353 752	07813 364 299	07951 861 263
Hateley Heath			Newton			West Bromwich Central		
07969 138 038	07971 524 694	07925 174 940	07970 202 313	07465 724 276	07785 405 486	07515 354 967	07874 660 324	07769 300 455

Key to councillors' political parties

- Labour Party
- Conservative Party
- Independent
- Green
- Advance UK

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



SPRING INTO RECYCLING!

Reduce and Reuse your waste

Collections start weeks beginning
2 March and 9 March



Sign up
for garden waste
collections 2026
[www.sandwell.gov.uk/
gardenwaste](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

Sign up
for free food
waste collections
[www.sandwell.gov.uk/
foodwaste](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/foodwaste)



Remember to check the bin day
finder for your collection day as some
households' collection day may have
changed.

If you haven't received a new food waste
bin, please check whether you still have
the original one that was issued when
collections first began.

Spring cleaning tips!

Thinking of having a clear-out? Sell, reuse or pass items on.



Clothing and textiles can be sold online
or donated to charity shops.

If toys and games are in good condition pass
them on to friends or charity shops.

Bulky waste – donate to charity shops
or take it to the tip in Oldbury.

Book bulky waste collections and tip slots online.



Learn more about recycling

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

