

inside Swale

Autumn 2018

Keeping you informed about your council services

In this issue

- What's on
- Sittingbourne Regeneration update
- Delivering for you
- Recycling and refuse collection dates

Faversham, Sheerness, Sittingbourne and surrounding rural communities



Making Swale a better place



LEARNING TO SWIM IN SWALE

Children signed up to lessons swim **FREE** in all casual swimming sessions!*

*As part of swimming lessons, when signed up to a monthly direct debit agreement.

SWALE
COMMUNITY LEISURE

Swallows Leisure Centre
Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 4NT
Tel: **01795 420420**

Sheppey Leisure Complex
Off the Broadway, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1HH
Tel: **01795 668652**

www.swaleleisure.com



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Contact us

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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



Do you have difficulty in understanding this magazine? Do you need it in Braille, large print or on audio CD? For translations or interpretations contact us on **01795 417850** or csc@swale.gov.uk and we will do our best to help.

Cover photo: Corn fields taken from Colgates Road, Oare, looking towards the Swale Estuary.

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*Andrew Bowles, Leader,
Swale Borough Council*

Welcome to the Autumn issue of Inside Swale.

After the record breaking temperatures we saw over the summer months, I know many of us are looking forward to the cooler months that autumn brings.

Although the leaves are turning brown and the nights are drawing in, there is still plenty to look forward to this autumn. Our What's On guide has a whole host of exciting events for the whole family. Just turn to pages 8 and 9 to find out what's coming up near you.

This November marks 100 years since the end of World War One, and there are numerous centenary commemoration events across the borough helping to mark the occasion. Page 10 has a list of projects where you can find out more about how the war affected Swale, as well as the remembrance events taking place.

The autumn months also mark Halloween and Bonfire Night, and we have some useful tips to help you and your family stay safe while also having fun. Read all about it on page 24.

The days may be getting shorter, but it doesn't mean that the work is slowing down for the regeneration of Sittingbourne. You can find out what the next stage of the Spirit of Sittingbourne project brings on pages 16 and 17.

On page 14 we continue our spotlight feature, this time focusing on Sheerness Town Centre. It highlights what Sheerness has to offer, and how you can make the most of a town that's on your doorstep.

Wrap up warm, and have a safe and enjoyable autumn.



Are you ready to vote?

With the elections in May quickly approaching, there has never been a better time to make sure you are registered to vote.

If you provided an email address when you registered to vote, or completed other electoral forms, you should have received an email asking you to confirm your details are correct. This just helps us to keep the electoral register up-to-date using a secure online system.

It does not ask for other sensitive information such as bank, passport, or driving licence details, so be wary of any sites asking for this information.

If you haven't provided an email address, or you didn't reply to the email, don't worry! You will be contacted by post in the usual way later in the year.

For more information, visit

www.swale.gov.uk/all-about-voting



Use your phone for a quick, easy and secure way to pay

Looking for an easy way to pay? You can now pay your Council bills and penalty notices by using our automated telephone payment line.

Our customer service centre is unable to take payments over the phone, but using the payment line is a secure way to pay 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 0330 number is a local call rate and will replace the 01795 417766 payment line.

The local charge number allows you to pay by card for:

- Business Rates
- Council Tax
- Penalty Charge Notice (parking fine)
- Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN for littering)
- Garden Waste Renewal
- Council Invoice

All you need to do is call 0330 088 1702 to pay by credit or debit card.

If there is a payment that you can't make by the automated telephone payment line, you will be able to pay it online through www.swale.gov.uk



It's not easy being green

Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park has held on to its prestigious Green Flag Award yet again!

The award recognises the park, which can be found just outside Faversham, as one of the best in the world.

Oare was once one of the main gunpowder factories in the south east, and the country park is now one of the best places to discover the history of gunpowder manufacturing in a tranquil woodland setting.

The park has a rich variety of habitats including woodland, wetlands and open glades, meaning that the site is a wonderful place to discover wildlife. Birds, bats, amphibians, and much more call this place home, and make the country park a perfect walk or cycle ride.

The park's success is mostly thanks to the efforts of local residents who give up their free time to help maintain and improve the country park. You can get involved with the Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works, or help them in their conservation work by joining them on one of their activity days on the second Sunday of the month at 10:30. Or you can sign up to join by visiting their website: www.gunpowderworks.co.uk



Play areas now even more fun thanks to makeover!

We have been working hard to make sure that the play areas in Swale are not only kept to the best standards, but also been making improvements so that they are even more fun for your family.

The past year has seen a number of projects finalised, with even more expected over the next 12 months. Some of the play areas that have seen improvement are:

Iwade Nature Park, Sittingbourne – completed in autumn 2017, the park saw installation of a new circular path including new footbridge across the stream. New benches have also been added as well as rubbing plaques and a play trail.



Above, one of the rubbing plaques and left a grasshopper on the play trail at Iwade Nature Park.

Castle Site Play Area, Queenborough – paid for by Queenborough Town Council and opened in Easter 2018, the play area was extended to include an additional basket swing and play unit, which added to the existing swings and roundabout on site.

Nursery Close Play Area, Sheerness – the play area has been improved to include a new play unit and fencing. The work was finalised and the play area reopened in Easter 2018.

Milton Recreation Ground, Sittingbourne – Milton Rec has seen a number of improvements, all of which were completed by summer 2018. A new Teen Area was set up, which includes a five-a-side area, a cableway, aeroskate and street workout area. The play area was then improved with a new climbing net, seesaw, springer and spinner.



Nursery Close Play Area.



The next year will see more improvements made across the borough, including:

Windermere Play Area, Faversham – the play area is set to be refurbished with a new play unit and seesaw. The work is due to be completed in autumn 2018.

Minster Play Areas (New Road sports area, Noreen Avenue, The Glen, Lovell Road) – the existing play areas are set to be improved and additional equipment including swings, play unit, seesaws and springers are to be installed, with work set to be finished by autumn 2018.

Swimming Pool Play Area, Faversham – Faversham will see the current equipment replaced with a whole new play area installed and ready for Easter 2019.



Beachfields Sandpit Play Area, Sheerness – by summer 2019 Beachfields will have new play area equipment installed to replace the old galleon ship.

Rectory Playing Field Play Area, Sittingbourne – the existing play area will have additional play equipment installed by summer 2019.

Faversham Recreation Ground, Faversham –

Faversham Rec will see a complete refurbishment of toddler and junior play areas, which is aimed to be finished by next summer.

Minster Promenade, Minster

– by summer 2019 the outdoor gym equipment will be fully replaced.



Photo above, Beachfields Sandpit Play Area, Sheerness and right Minster Promenade.

What's on in Swale

13 – 14 October National Apple Festival at Brogdale



Find out everything there is to know about apples at the National Apple Festival at Brogdale. The fruit-filled weekend means you can learn more about the huge variety, take an orchard tour and fill a bag full of your favourites to take home.

You can learn more with the free talks and pick up a few tips in the cooking demos that are running all weekend.

Enjoy the local food, browse and buy the craft and discover every appley delight there is to offer.

www.applefestivalkent.co.uk

Saturday 13 October Faversham Carnival



Make the most of a crisp autumn evening and take part in Kent's only illuminated carnival!

Faversham's annual town carnival will see a brightly lit procession of floats take

a tour of the town starting at Whitstable road and finishing in Preston Street.

Carnival queens and marching bands from around the county will take to Faversham to set the procession off in style.

www.favershamcarnival.com

Sunday 28 October Halloween at Belmont House and Gardens



Dare to be scared!

Join the spooky fun at Belmont House, where children can get creative with pumpkin carving and creepy craft sessions. Brave parents can then join them on a terrifying trail around Belmont's gardens.

£1 adults; £5 children (all craft materials included)

www.belmont-house.org

Sunday 28 October BWLR End of Season Gala

Bring the family along to the end of season gala day, where most of the engines at Bredgar & Wormshill Light Railway will be on display. Take a ride on the locomotives or enjoy the grounds with a track side walk and heritage attractions.



A day at the light railway includes unlimited trips in the vintage style railway carriages hauled by historic locomotives. Also working on the site are the road and agricultural traction engines and vintage tractors.

Visitors can also warm up in the tea room and railway shop, which will both be open throughout the day.

www.bwlr.co.uk

Saturday 3 November Doddington Firework Spectacular



Wrap up and enjoy the annual Doddington firework display with the whole family at the Palace Farm.

Hot food and a licenced bar will be on hand to help you warm up throughout the stunning display.

Free parking is available on site. £6 adults; £2 children 6-12; under 6s go free!

www.doddingtonkent.btck.co.uk

Saturday 24 November Faversham Christmas Lights & Night Food Market



Come with your family to not only see the switch on of the Faversham Community Christmas Lights, but also enjoy the delights that are on offer at the fifth Night Food Market.

The evening will start from 5pm with the switch on of the beautiful Faversham Christmas lights by Father Christmas and Friends. The night market will then start at 6pm with ample delicious local food and drinks to choose from and plenty of entertainment.

Don't forget to wrap up warm so you can enjoy the festivities all evening – blankets are recommended if you aren't dancing the night away!

www.favershamchristmaslights.org

All of these events, and many more things to do in Swale, can be found on the new and improved Visit Swale website: www.visit-swale.co.uk

Visit Swale is a great place to advertise events and attractions, and can help you reach thousands of people – locally and from further afield – for free. We also publish as many listings as we can in Inside Swale.

You can contact us with your listings by emailing tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk And don't forget to follow us on social media:

 [@Visit_Swale](https://twitter.com/Visit_Swale)

 [VisitSwale](https://www.facebook.com/VisitSwale)

WW1 Centenary Commemorations

Since 2014 we've been providing grants of up to £750 to support local organisations delivering WW1 Centenary commemorative projects. This year we have awarded grants to a number of projects to mark 100 years since the end of WW1. A number of the upcoming events and projects include:

- **Battle's Over** – A Nation's Tribute on 11 November – 100 Years of Remembrance www.brunopeek.co.uk
- **Swale Remembers** – 10,000 knitted poppies will be displayed at Sheppey Gateway – led by Sheppey Matters and KCC libraries
- **'Lest We Forget'** – WW1 Commemorative Concert – Swallows Leisure Centre, Saturday 10 November
- **Murston HeArt Poppy Project** – in association with Swale in Bloom, community made poppies representing over 2,000 of Swale's fallen heroes from WW1 will be exhibited in the grounds of Murston Old Church at a memorial event. www.murstonheart.org/murston-heart-poppy-project
- **All Swale Schools Commemoration Event** – Remembrance and Peace themed Poetry, Music and Dance Competition – The Oasis Academy, Isle of Sheppey, Friday 9 November
- **Faversham War Memorial Project** – reopening of the memorial garden, with the names of service personnel killed in both World Wars inscribed around it – Saturday 3 November
- **WW1 Bunting Project** – a Faversham Town Council community project is producing a piece of bunting with the names of the fallen men from the town in WW1 – No. 12 Market Place throughout November 2018

Many heritage attractions have been at the forefront of much of the WW1 commemorative activity on the Isle of Sheppey. A WW1 timeline can be seen at Blue Town Heritage Centre, Rose Street Cottage of Curiosities and Minster Gatehouse Museum.

The Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne and local history groups have researched the names on the war memorials across the borough. Stories of local men who fell in WW1 will be displayed in Heritage Hub and in The Forum Shopping Centre. www.hrgs.co.uk

The Mayor of Swale will attend a number of commemorative events including:

- **The Annual Civic Journey of Commemoration to Ypres** – The Mayor will continue the commitment to honour the 'Civic Twinning with Ypres'. The Mayor will participate in the Poppy Parade and lay a wreath during the Armistice Day Service at the Menin Gate at 11am.
- **WW1 Centenary Memorial Stone** – Civic Service to dedicate a stone marking the centenary of WW1 – Sittingbourne War Memorial, 10.45am Sunday 28 October.

These are just a few of the events and projects taking place to mark Armistice Day this year, more can be found on www.visit-swale.co.uk. If you are organising a commemorative event that you would like included on Visit Swale, please contact:

tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk

Faversham Rec to get £1.9 million makeover

Faversham Rec will be given a new lease of life after receiving a boost from National Lottery funding to transform the park.

Along with the initial funding we secured a couple of years ago, and contributions from property developers, this latest boost of £1.6 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund has put the total to £1.9 million for the project.

The funding will go towards an ambitious, heritage-led regeneration that will restore many of the park's historic features, and improve the facilities.

The planned improvements and activities include:

- refurbishment of the former gardeners lodge and loggias
- restoration of the original wrought iron gates and boundary fence on Whitstable Road and Park Road
- reinstatement of some areas of historical planting and paths
- re-imagining unique features such as the drinking fountain and mile stone
- refurbishment of the main changing pavilion and toilet block
- improvements to both the play area and skate park
- development of a catering kiosk
- creating an outdoor performance space
- establishing a Community Park Forum
- employing a park activities co-ordinator, park ranger and two horticultural apprentices
- recruiting volunteers and offering training opportunities
- a programme of events to bring the park alive

Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said: “This is fabulous news for the town, and will help us build on the 150 year history of The Rec to make sure the park will be enjoyed by the local community for generations to come.

“Local people have been involved every step of the way, and thanks to their contributions, a lot of hard work by the team here and the support of our partners, the park will be given a new lease of life.”

We are looking to start initial work this autumn, including improvements to the play areas, with remaining works getting underway in spring 2019.

Sorry, no trick or treat



I will not open my door to you



**Kent
Police**

**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



**Kent Fire &
Rescue Service**



Swale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

If you are concerned about trick or treat, please cut this out and stick on your front window or door.

Face the fine

You may want to rethink dropping that crisp packet on the floor as you can now be facing a fine of £150!

The £80 level had been in place since 2006, so after nearly a decade it was decided that it was time for change. The maximum fixed penalty notice (FPN) has now been increased to £150 after new regulations came into force earlier this year allowing councils to increase the fines.

It's not just dropping cigarette butts or packaging in the streets that could see you face a charge. Our officers are keeping an eye out for 'careful littering' too. There has been a steady rise in food and drink packaging getting left behind on benches or in parks when eating or drinking on the go.

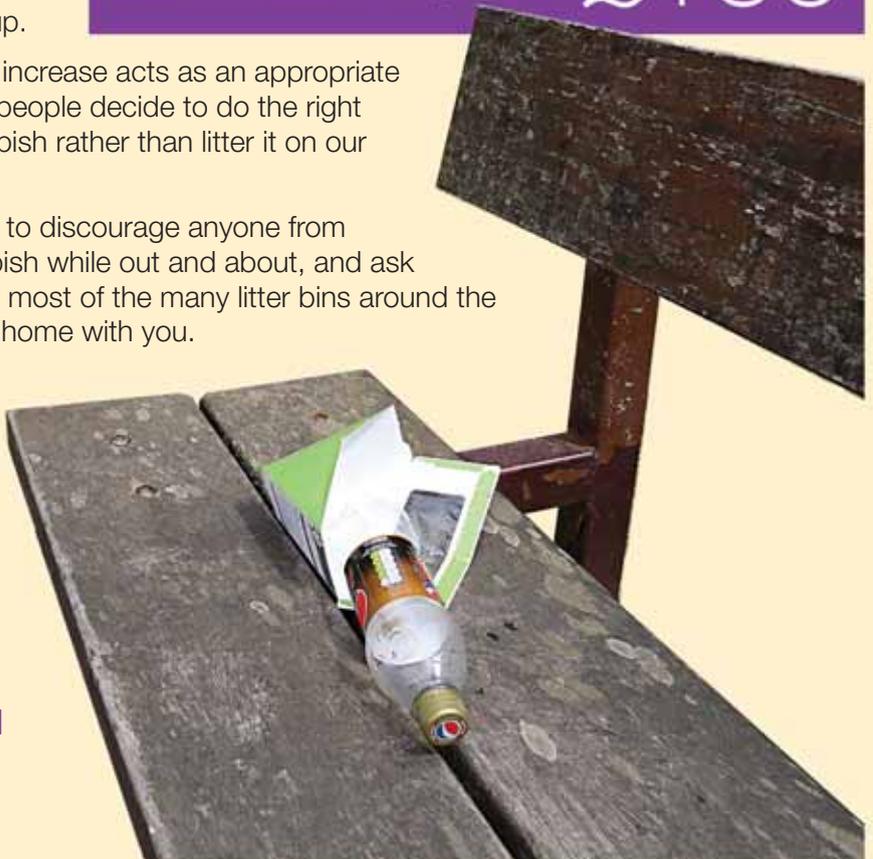
Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said: "In the last few years we've put in a lot of effort to increase the amount of litter enforcement with extra patrols being carried out. These are making a difference, but there is still a minority who believe they can get away with leaving a mess for others to clear up.

Even 'careful littering'
can cost you £150

"We hope that this increase acts as an appropriate deterrent and that people decide to do the right thing with their rubbish rather than litter it on our streets."

We of course want to discourage anyone from dropping their rubbish while out and about, and ask you all to make the most of the many litter bins around the borough, or take it home with you.

Remember
just leaving
it behind,
can get you
a fine!



Spotlight on: Sheerness Town Centre

The third in our series of features looking at what you can do in your high streets and town centres shines a spotlight on Sheerness.



While Sheerness is a traditional seaside town, if you look at it a bit closer you'll find a wide range of shops, with a good mix of independents sitting alongside national chains. You have a great range on offer, no matter what you are looking for. Need to buy a last minute gift? No problem. If you're a fan of fishing, you

can head into town to buy fishing tackle. You can even get a picture framed with ease.

That's just a snapshot of what's on offer in Sheerness town centre, friendly local retailers are happy to help, and will make you feel at home. New eateries have recently opened offering more choice, so why not pop into town, do some shopping and take a well-earned break in one of the many cafes and coffee shops?

Just off the High Street is Rose Street Cottage of Curiosities – a wonderful potted history experience with a range of arts and events workshops.

If you want to make a day of it, bring the family and spend some time at the beach! One of Sheppey's 'Blue Flag' award winning bathing beaches is just a stones-throw away.

Or head over to Blue Town where you'll find the Blue Town Heritage Centre. The centre promotes the history of Blue Town and the surrounding area, and is home to the Criterion Music Hall, which hosts regular cinema presentations and Victorian Music Hall Shows.



And if you love a bargain, don't forget to visit the market in Sheerness:

Every Tuesday and Saturday throughout the year.



New town council for Sheerness

Sheerness will be getting a new town council. This comes after a consultation earlier in the year which showed support for a town council.

Following a second consultation, the results were presented to a full council meeting, and after a debate, a vote was cast to set up a town council. Once set up, the council will be made up of nine councillors who will be elected next May.

So, what goes in to setting up a new town council? We have been in discussions with the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) to help us progress the next steps. The first thing we are looking at is the precept for the town council's first year. A precept is an extra charge to each property, which is included in the council tax for properties in the area.

A meeting is being arranged with key stakeholders, officers and KALC to look at what will need to be included in the draft budget for the town council's first year. This will then be a basis for consideration when setting the precept.

KALC will also be providing further support in setting up the new town council including policies and procedures and for induction arrangements.

More information about the new town council is available on www.swale.gov.uk/sheerness-cgr

Driving change in Sittingbourne

Travelling through Sittingbourne is changing, as works to realign the A2 come to an end.

The road has been moved as part of the Spirit of Sittingbourne regeneration scheme, to enable construction to begin on the new leisure quarter.

Moving the carriageway releases the land under the old road for construction to begin on the new 8 screen 'The Light' cinema, alongside a new Travelodge hotel, and units for big name restaurants including Nandos and Pizza Express.

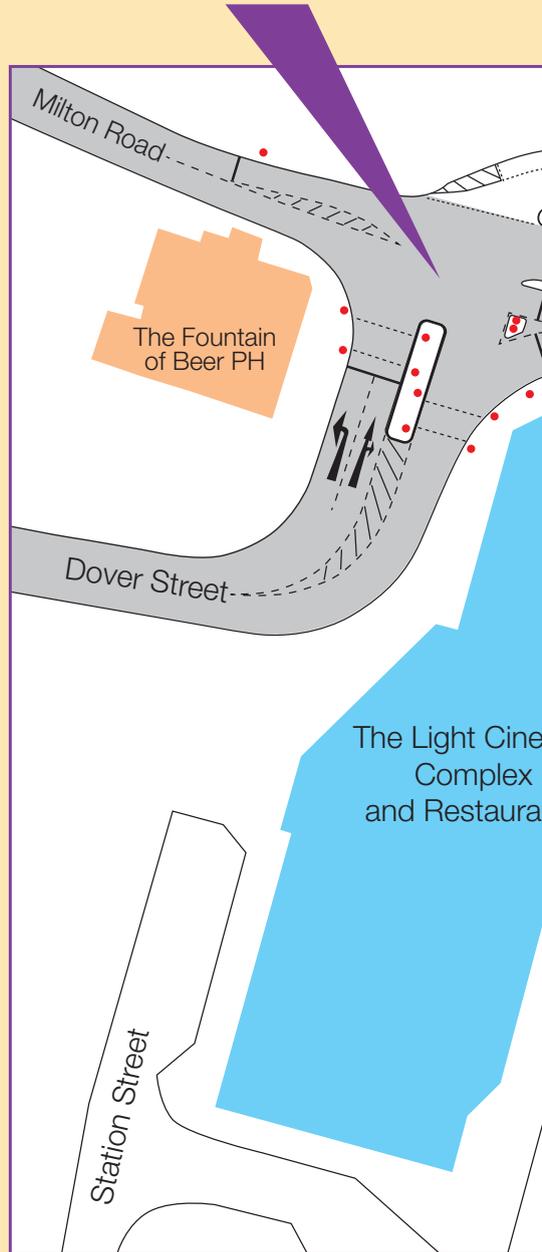
The new layout provides easier access to the town from the train station through the new Bourne Place public square, a new, smaller roundabout by the entrance to the station car park, and new traffic signals to help manage traffic flows through the town.

To find out more, and keep up to date with the development, visit:

www.spiritofsittingbourne.com



New traffic signals at junction of Station Road, Milton Road and Dover Street

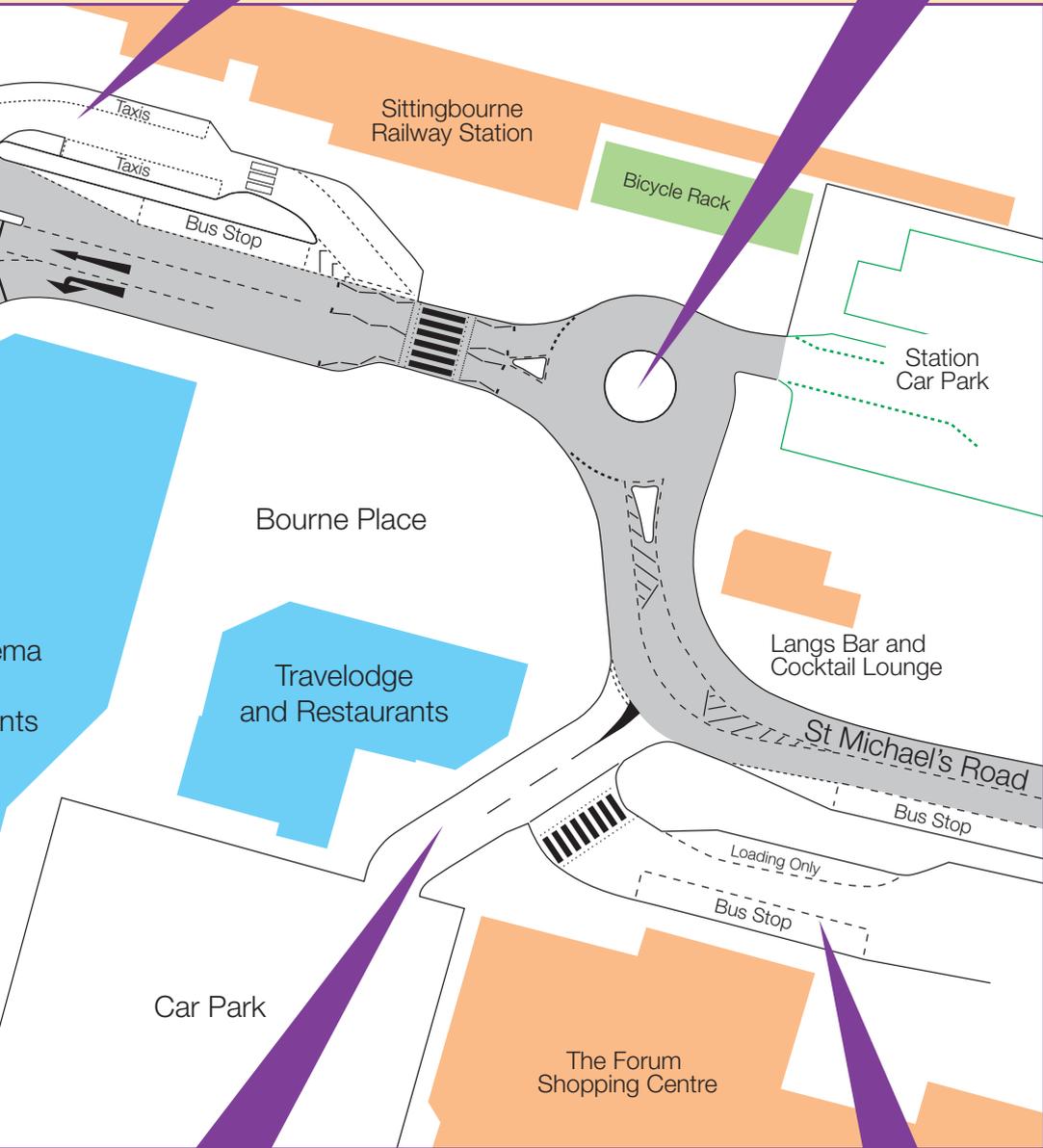


Bourne

Michael's
et.

New taxi rank.

New roundabout at
entrance to station
car park.



Entrance to car park at
The Forum.

New bus
terminal area.



Clearing things up...

There can sometimes be a little confusion when it comes to the rules around bin collections, so we're here to help make things a bit clearer... and cleaner too!

Blue bins – recycling

You can include:

- glass bottles/jars
- plastic bottles/jars
- food and drink cartons and containers
- empty aerosol cans
- paper/cardboard products
- metal lid/jam jar lids
- aluminium foil and foil trays
- food tins/cans

We won't take:

- Brita filters
- black sacks/carrier bags
- food waste
- textiles
- light bulbs/panes of glass/drinking glasses/Pyrex
- crisp packets/sweet wrappers
- polystyrene/bubble wrap/film plastic
- garden waste
- nappies

If your blue bin is full, we will take extra recycling on collection day as long as it is placed alongside your blue bin in a cardboard box or clear sack.

Green bins – general waste

You can include everything that isn't recyclable in your green bins, but should always make the effort to use your blue bin where possible.

We will not take extra waste left beside your green bin in sacks unless

- You are a resident that is on sack collection
- You called to inform customer services that your green bin wasn't collected – up to five bags of extra waste will be accepted in this case.

Food waste bins

If you have chosen to take up a food waste collection, this will be taken every week when placed alongside your bin for that week.

You can include:

- Raw and cooked fruit/vegetables/meat/fish
- eggs and egg shells
- tea bags/coffee grounds
- all dairy products such as cheese
- uneaten food/ leftovers
- pet food

We won't take:

- packaging
- liquids/oils/ liquid fats
- plastic bags

Brown bins – garden waste

For just £37 a year you can have a brown bin for garden waste recycling. Collected on a fortnightly basis, **you can recycle:**

- grass/hedge/shrub clippings
- cut flowers
- twigs and small branches

We won't take:

- soil/stones/gravel
- kitchen/ food waste
- seed trays/flower pots
- pet litter

Recycling and refuse collection dates

If you are unsure of your collection week, go to www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day and click the link 'Next Bin Collection', or call Customer Services on **01795 417888**.

 Blue wheelie bin collection week

 Green wheelie bin collection week

Don't forget, food waste is collected weekly with both bins.

Week 1 collections						
October 2018						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2018						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2018						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Week 2 collections						
October 2018						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2018						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2018						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

 For collections during the Christmas period please refer to our website or local press.

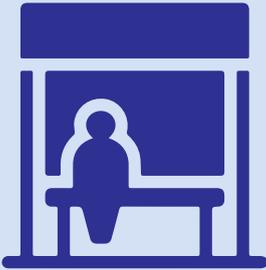
If you are subscribed to our garden waste service you can check your collection dates at www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day

In the event of severe weather, please leave your green/blue bin and food waste bin out as per your normal collection schedule – we will get to you as soon as we can. Daily updates will be available on our website: www.swale.gov.uk

Delivering for you



13,439 tonnes
of recycling
collected



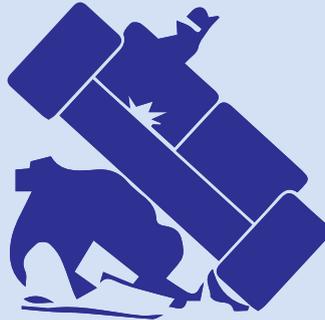
11 bus shelters
to be refurbished
or replaced



£2 million
investment in
leisure centres



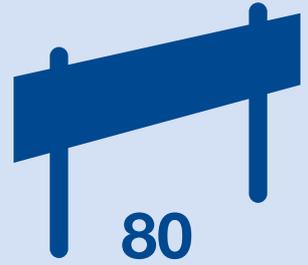
19 streets deep
cleaned
so far this year



16
successful
fly tipping
prosecutions
over the last year



70 new litter bins
installed across the
borough



80
street name
signs replaced



1,503 FPNs
handed out for
littering over the
last year



4 play areas
improved
over the last
12 months

New lease of life for leisure centres

Swallows Leisure Centre, Sheppey Pool and Sheppey Healthy Living Centre will be getting a £2 million investment to make improvements.

Alongside the investment, the contract with Swale Community Leisure (SCL) – the trust that manages the leisure centres, supported by Serco – was extended by another five and a half years.

The improvements planned include:

Swallows Leisure centre:

- New family fun zone, with enhanced soft play
- Clip and climb/augmented climbing wall
- Expanded gym, with 10 new stations on new mezzanine floor over the café
- Virtual spin studio, with healthy lifestyle toning suite for mobility/postoperative managed exercise

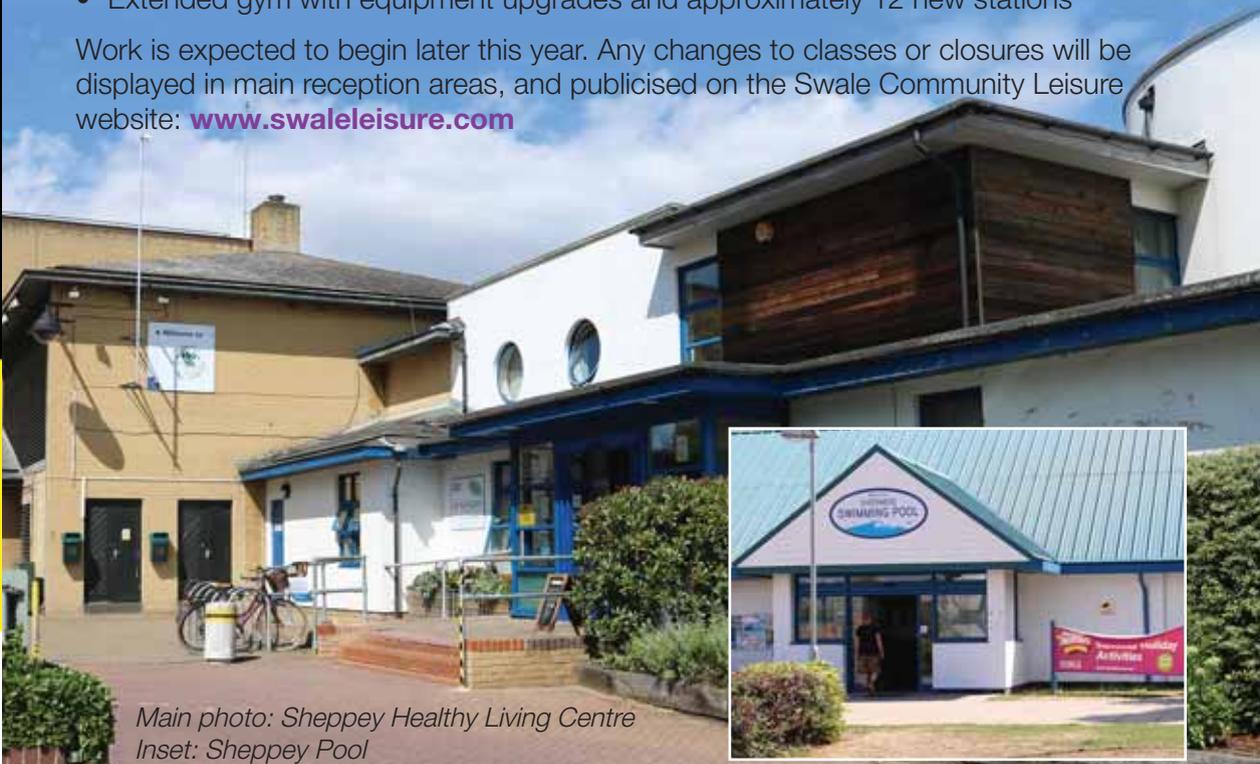


Swallows Leisure Centre, Sittingbourne

Sheppey Pool and Sheppey Healthy Living Centre:

- New healthy lifestyle toning suite
- Virtual spinning studio
- Extended gym with equipment upgrades and approximately 12 new stations

Work is expected to begin later this year. Any changes to classes or closures will be displayed in main reception areas, and publicised on the Swale Community Leisure website: www.swaleleisure.com



*Main photo: Sheppey Healthy Living Centre
Inset: Sheppey Pool*

HOLLIS HEATING

Family run business for over 50 years

Sittingbourne

01795 473170

Boiler installations starting from

£1600 inc VAT

10 years parts and labour
warranty on selected boilers



Swale set for second Fusion Festival

Following its success last year, we are bringing back the Fusion Festival to Swale. Organised in partnership with Cohesion Plus and Kent Equality Cohesion Council, the colourful festival of light, music and art will take place on Friday 12 October 2018 in Sittingbourne.

The Fusion Festival was introduced to promote our shared values of tolerance, understanding and respect that bind us together as communities. The aim of the festival is to help showcase diversity in the borough and improve community cohesion. This aim comes as reported hate crimes continue to be on the rise in Swale. From October 2016 to September 2017, 1,040 reported crimes were recorded, representing an increase of 407 incidences or 39% on the same period last year, with Kent seeing an increase of 59% on last year.

This year, all schools in Swale have been invited to take part in art workshops, where they will make brightly coloured lanterns while learning about diversity within our community. These will then be used in a Lantern Parade through Sittingbourne High Street; starting at Wilkinsons, the parade will end at Albany Recreation Ground with a climactic free public firework display. There will also be a range of activities, including an artistic light display, alongside the firework show so you can get involved.

Cllr Nicholas Hampshire, deputy cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said: "It is great that we are able to bring back the Fusion Festival for a second year. It is a fantastic opportunity for us to celebrate the cultural diversity of the borough and bring together different communities to break down barriers."

Drum group from last year's festival.





Tips and tricks... and maybe some treats!

Halloween is just around the corner, but this fun time of year can sometimes be made scary by a few. The CSU works closely with partner agencies to help cut down on antisocial behaviour at Halloween.

“Unfortunately we typically see a rise in antisocial behaviour around Halloween,” commented Cllr Alan Horton, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing and safer communities. “We’re pleased to be working with Kent Police and KCC again this year to provide additional foot patrols around the borough. They not only deter antisocial behaviour, but act as a clear point of contact for residents with concerns.”

If you’re concerned about opening the door to trick or treaters, you can display a ‘No Trick or Treat’ poster in your front window, which can be found on page 12. It can also be downloaded from www.swale.gov.uk/no-trick-or-treat or call **01795 417850** to request a copy.

We will again be setting up pumpkin recycling sites after Halloween in a bid to reduce the amount of food waste going to landfill. Pumpkins can also be left out next to your black and orange food waste bin on your collection day for collection. The pumpkin recycling sites will be located at Central Avenue Car Park, Sittingbourne, Rose Street Car Park, Sheerness and Central Car Park, Faversham from Friday 26 October to Friday 9 November.

Staying safe this bonfire night

It is also approaching the time of year to wrap up warm and watch as fireworks light up the night’s sky.

To really enjoy Bonfire Night responsibly and safely, head to www.visit-swale.co.uk/find-events to find your nearest fireworks display.

But if you’re planning a display at home, remember to follow the safety advice and make sure you know the law by visiting: www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law.

Creating a safer community

The Swale Community Safety Unit (CSU) works with representatives from Kent Police, Optivo, Kent County Council (KCC) and Swale Safe to form the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to help make the borough safer for everyone.

Here you can find out more about the team and how they can help you.

Vulnerable Adult Intervention Officer – works in the Swale CSU. The officer supports vulnerable adults in the community, particularly those with mental health conditions, to provide timely and effective interventions. They work with partner agencies, helping to provide a co-ordinated approach so vulnerable adults receive the best and most appropriate level of service.

Youth Engagement Officers - support children and young people both in and out of schools to build trust, confidence and positive relationships. They are responsible for identifying vulnerability and risk among children and young people through intelligence gathering, information sharing, relationship building and multi-agency working.

KCC Community Wardens – work between 7.30am and 10pm every day in the community to tackle low-level crime and antisocial behaviour. They're a reassuring uniformed presence and fully trained to the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme. They offer advice on things including scams and doorstep criminals, and work closely with Kent Police and other authorities.

Safeguarding Officer – is responsible for dealing with concerns raised about the protection of at risk children and adults, through supporting front-line staff and liaising with partner agencies. They're also responsible for training staff and provide support to officers in monitoring contracts to ensure safeguarding across the council.

Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

- The Community MARAC provides an effective multi-agency response to support vulnerable people in Swale. MARAC focuses on identifying and supporting vulnerable adults within the community. It provides early intervention support to prevent isolation, mental health deterioration or becoming a victim of crime or antisocial behaviour.

KCC Adult Social Services

call: **03000 41 61 61**

email: **social.services@kent.gov.uk**

KCC Children Social Services

call: **03000 41 11 11**

email: **social.services@kent.gov.uk**

For Out of Hours Social Services

call: **03000 41 91 91**

Feature

Staying safe and keeping clean



The Environment teams along with the Swale Community Safety Unit (CSU) have been working together to help not only tackle community safety issues but also to clean up the borough.

After initial walkabouts of selected areas, the teams are able to identify issues including littering, fly tipping, poor fire safety, antisocial behaviour and crime. This is then useful to help the teams to provide residents with advice on a broad area of topics including illegal lending, home fire safety, recycling, and employment. Where appropriate, further enforcement measures have been taken.

The last walk-round meant that Sittingbourne town was able to get a major clean up. Fly tipping was logged, investigated and cleared, litter was picked, bins were collected and emptied, roads were swept and areas needing a deep clean or a bit of weeding were located. It was a chance to see what was needed to keep the area looking clean and to set high standards that the streets should be kept to.



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Proudly delivering for you



Every day staff here at the council, and at our partner organisations, work their hardest to provide you with the best possible services, and to ensure that we keep delivering for you. That's why every year we like to recognise those people who go above and beyond. We call these people our Swale Stars.

Once a year we thank the people or teams that have gone out of their way to get the job done. That can range from helping to ensure the council runs smoothly, helping members of the public, or helping run a project that has seen significant change in the borough.

We are always keen to hear if residents from around the borough have had a positive experience with one of our members of staff. You can provide feedback to us through our website by visiting:

www.swale.gov.uk/compliments-and-complaints

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Kent, ME10 4NT
Tel: **01795 420420**

www.swaleleisure.com

SWALE
COMMUNITY LEISURE

Website testers wanted!

We've been undertaking a major project to completely overhaul our website, something that we have mentioned in previous issues of Inside Swale.

We are working towards a website that will be easy to use and will work for everyone. Since some initial user testing by residents earlier this year, we've been incorporating the feedback into our design.

To make sure the new design works for local people, we are looking for more volunteers to carry out further website testing ahead of the launch of the new user-friendly website.

If you'd like to help us make sure the website works for residents, you can register your interest in volunteering as a tester now. Just email icanhelp@swale.gov.uk and we'll be in touch with details of the testing sessions.



Do you need Debt or Money Advice

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▶ Labour ▶ The Swale Group

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