

Christmas recycling and refuse collections

Changes to collections over Christmas and your calendar for the next three months

Christmas opening times

Phone lines over Christmas and out of hours contacts

Covid-19 the latest guidance

Information on restrictions in place for Covid 19

Golden Pawprint

Another win at RSPCA awards for Swale's stray dog service and emergency planning

Cracking down on fly tippers

Vehicle crushed for one repeat offender of fly tipping

Christmas recycling

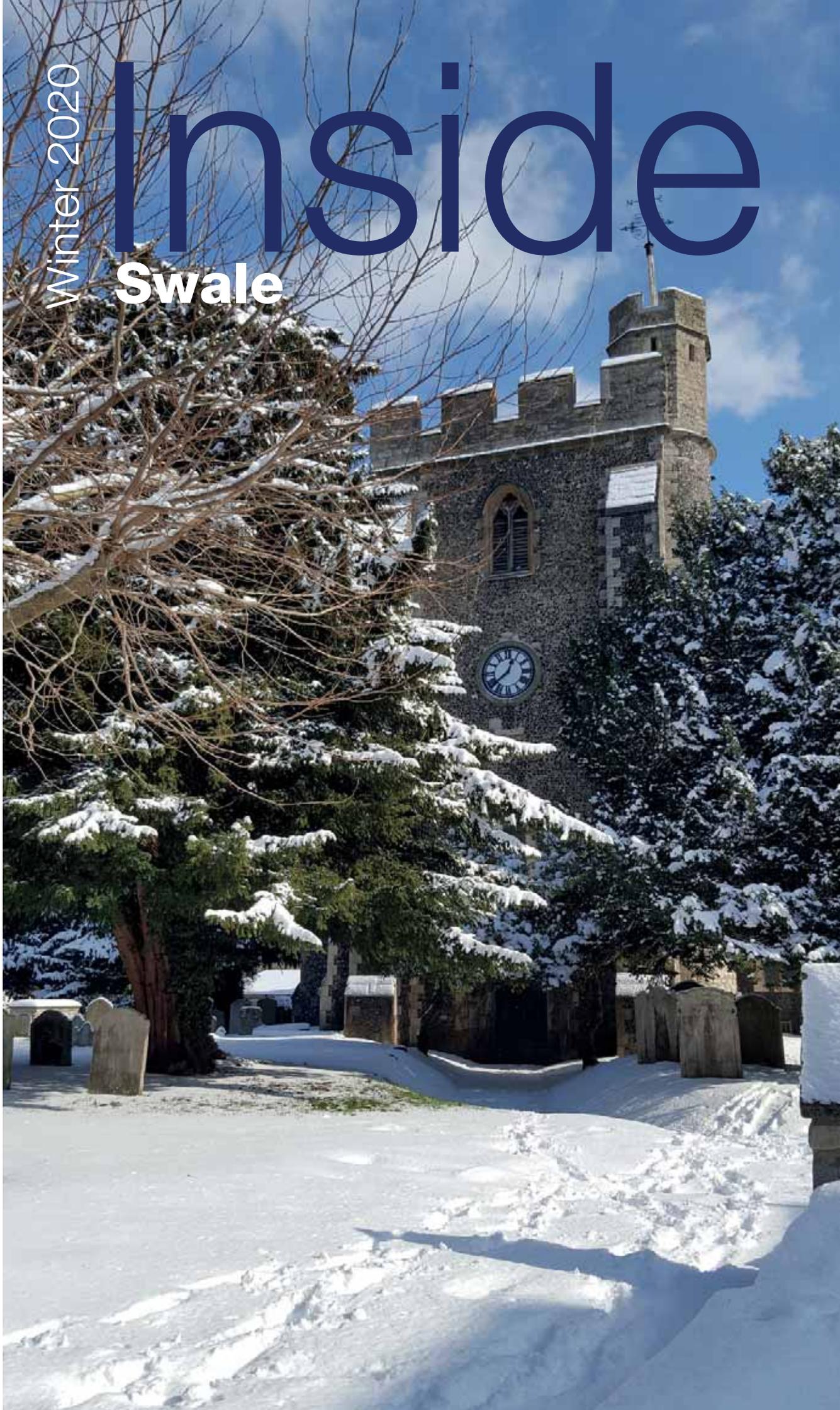
Tips and tricks to help you get recycling right this Christmas

New CEO for Swale Council

A new chief executive has been appointed

Winter 2020

Inside Swale





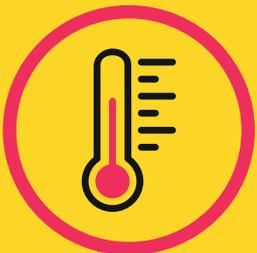
HM Government

NHS

Got any coronavirus symptoms?

Book a test now, even if you don't feel too bad.

Use the NHS COVID-19 app
or go to [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



High
temperature



New
continuous
cough



Change/loss
of smell/taste

STAY ALERT
▼
**CONTROL
THE VIRUS**
▼
SAVE LIVES



Ben J Martin, Cabinet Member for Housing

Welcome to the Winter edition of Inside Swale. I want to start by saying a massive thank you to each and every one of you. This has been a tough year for many of us, with the impacts of COVID still effecting all our lives on a daily basis. As we adjust to the latest measures during this second lockdown introduced to try control the virus (full details on pages 12 and 13), we have seen a real community spirit across the borough. Many people have volunteered their time to help those most in need and we'd like to thank the majority of people who have been complying with the COVID regulations and guidelines throughout the year, helping keep everyone safe. We will continue to keep everyone updated as to the latest changes to measures on our website and on social media.

Despite the current restrictions, the administration and officers have continued to work hard to deliver our priorities and to maintain the best possible service for you. Our stray dog service has been awarded the golden pawprint (page 8), and several parts of the borough received awards from South East in Bloom (page 7).

Housing and homelessness are a real priority for us. Last year we had the second largest reduction in rough sleepers in the country, and thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone in our housing and rough sleeper team, we have helped more than 60 people get their lives back on track and off the streets, with our work attracting additional financial support from the next steps accommodation program (page 21). There is always more to do, which is why we will be investing £23million into affordable housing, the second highest investment in this council's history. (page 20)

We have been forging ahead with the local plan review (page 8), which aims to ensure development is allocated to the right places, and delivers on the much needed affordable housing and infrastructure needed locally.

We also have updates on air quality (page 6), the Great British September Clean (page 9), our crushing response to fly-tippers (page 5) and of course it wouldn't be a winter edition of Inside Swale without the much anticipated Christmas bin collection schedule! (page 18)

From myself and everyone at Swale, stay safe, have a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.



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Cover photo: St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne in the snow. February 2018.

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The information in this publication is correct at the time of going to print and every attempt is made to ensure its accuracy.

New CEO for Swale Borough Council



Larissa Reed has been confirmed as the new chief executive of Swale Borough Council.

The appointment was approved by councillors at the full council meeting in October and follows the death of our previous chief executive Mark Radford in May.

Larissa is currently executive director of neighbourhoods and environment at Southend-on-Sea Borough Council where she is responsible for services including community safety, street cleaning, waste services, highways and parking, parks and open spaces, regulatory services and town centre management.

She grew up in Faversham and began her career at Swale Housing Association as housing officer manager. She has extensive housing and local government experience and has been a director at Brighton and Hove City Council, Canterbury City Council and Thanet District Council.

Cllr Roger Truelove, leader of the council, said: “We had some exceptional candidates for the role, and I’m delighted we are offering Larissa the position.

“She will bring a wealth of experience to the council and, having been born here, she shares our passion for the borough. The interview panel were unanimous in the decision to offer her the role, and I can’t wait to start working with her.”

Larissa said: “I am very excited to have been appointed chief executive.

“I am looking forward to working with councillors, staff and communities to deliver the priorities of the council and achieve the best outcomes for our residents. There are many challenges ahead as we are still in uncertain times, but I look forward to getting started.”

Larissa is expected to take up the post in January 2021.



Parking concessions extended

If you’re visiting town centres you will continue to have 30 minutes free parking added to their parking tickets until 10 January.

We initially introduced the concession in July to give people more time to carry essential jobs in high streets, which could take longer due to businesses needing to comply with coronavirus safety measures.

Enforcement officers will continue to add an extra 30 minutes to the expiry time when checking tickets in windows and will also be applied to users of RingGo.

The concession applies to all council car parks except the Bourne Place Multi Storey Car Park, as this is a pay on return, barriered car park and such a concession cannot be applied.



Coming down hard on fly tipping

We've been cracking down on fly tipping in Swale. Our environment officers worked with Kent Police's Rural task force to seize a vehicle earlier in the year that was used for multiple fly tipping offences. Thanks to information from duped residents who thought they were using a licensed waste carrier the vehicle has now been crushed.

The vehicle was crushed in October at Bobbing Car Breakers after being seized from outside the owner's property in James Street, Sheerness in June.



It's alleged that the vehicle was used as part of an operation which duped residents into thinking they were having their household waste disposed of legally by a trader using a waste carrier licence, which potentially belonged to somebody else.

A year-long investigation that's still ongoing, written statements from deceived customers, and asbestos guttering and down pipes dumped by the river in Maple Street, Sheerness provided the evidence needed to seize the vehicle during enquiries into waste offences.



Once seized, the owner had 15 days to reclaim the vehicle by providing the relevant proof needed to show that he was the current registered owner of the vehicle.

As the vehicle was not claimed and was not able to be sold by the recovery yard to reclaim expenses due to its age and poor condition, it was decontaminated and crushed.



Did you know?

Fly tippers could face an unlimited fine

Cllr Tim Valentine, cabinet member for environment, said:

"This is a win for the local residents who were misled into thinking they were disposing of their household waste responsibly.

"We are still investigating this case but thanks to written statements from residents and our officer's

enquiries, we were able to seize a vehicle believed to be involved with alleged waste offences.

"We're serious about cracking down on fly tipping and will continue to work together with police and local residents to stop the criminals that ruin our local towns and countryside."

For more information about fly-tipping, and what the council is doing to tackle it, visit www.swale.gov.uk/fly-tipping.

Another win at RSPCA Pawprint Awards

Our stray dog service has been highlighted as one of the best in the country by the RSPCA for the eleventh year in a row.

The service has been awarded the Gold Pawprint Award, which recognises good practice in animal welfare by local authorities in England and Wales.



Tim Oxley and Melissa Herbert Swale's Animal Control Officers

Alongside this award, the council has also been awarded the Gold Pawprint Award for Contingency Planning for the fourth year in a row.

The award for contingency planning is given to councils that can demonstrate a comprehensive set of processes and procedures that protect animal welfare in the event of an emergency.

The council also provides information to help animal-based businesses be prepared to look after their animals in the event of an emergency.

Cllr Tim Valentine, cabinet member for environment at the council, said: "The Gold Pawprints Award recognises us for going above and beyond to ensure the high welfare standards for the animals across the borough.

"Our stray dog team really does put their heart and soul into caring for the stray animals they find, as well as actively promoting the schemes and services we offer such as micro-chipping.

"We've received this award for 11 years in a row and we will continue to work hard to keep up the high level of service we've been recognised for."

To find out more about how you can prepare to look after your animals during an emergency visit www.swale.gov.uk/emergency-pet-welfare.

Tackling air quality

We're taking additional action to tackle poor air quality in two parts of the borough.

Data from air quality monitoring at St Paul's Street and Keycol Hill has shown increases in certain types of pollutants, prompting us to take action.

Keycol Hill is being declared an air quality management area (AQMA) from the A249 to Rook Lane after nitrogen dioxide levels (NO₂) reached 55.5µg/m³ - above the national target of 40µg/m³. We'll work with partners such as Kent County Council to come up with plans to reduce the levels of NO₂ in the area. The pollution is primarily being caused by heavy traffic, with the uphill gradient producing more emissions, and the tree canopy that slows the dispersal of pollutants.

St Paul's Street is already an AQMA due to NO₂ levels but further observations have found that levels of particulate matter (PM₁₀) exceeded 50µg/m³ for 42 days in 2019 – the national target is 35 days or less.

Air quality is slowly improving across AQMAs in Swale with data collected throughout 2019 showing improvements in East Street and Teynham where NO₂ stayed within the national standard.

We're implementing a number of measures to improve air quality across the borough including working with consultants to develop proposals for a Clear Air Zone on the A2, installing charging infrastructure to encourage the take up of zero-emission electric vehicles, converting the council fleet to electric vehicles and implementing anti-idling legislation to help reduce pollution from waiting vehicles.

Swale blooms in annual competition

This year's South and South East In Bloom competition saw Sittingbourne in Bloom and Faversham in Bloom receiving gold awards, as well as Queenborough and Rushenden in Bloom and

Leysdown-on-Sea both receiving a silver award.

Sittingbourne in Bloom has been awarded gold for the fourth year in a row in the large town category, and Faversham in Bloom has returned to gold after receiving a silver gilt last year.

Queenborough and Rushenden in Bloom were also awarded silver in the small town category and Leydown on Sea received silver in the parishes in bloom category.



Milton Creek Country Park in Sittingbourne and Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park in Faversham were awarded gold in the country park category alongside six other parks around the south and south east of England.

King George V Playing Fields in Sittingbourne was awarded a silver gilt and the improvements made to Faversham Recreation Ground attracted silver in the large park category.

The Community Gardening Award also recognised the Holy Trinity Church Parish Hall Garden in Green Porch Close, Sittingbourne, alongside Faversham Community Gardeners in Middle Row, The Bee(r) Garden, Friends of Westbrook Stream and Stonebridge Pond, The Friends of Abel's Acre and Millfield Allotment Association.

For more information visit <https://swale.gov.uk/open-spaces-leisure-and-tourism/swale-in-bloom>.



New toilets for Milton Creek country park

People will soon be able to use the new toilet facilities in Milton Creek country park thanks to a £75,000 investment from the council.

The new modular block toilets will be made up of two unisex cubicles and one disabled cubicle with a grass sedum roof to help it blend in with the surrounding environment.

Work has started to install the new toilets by the play area and will be ready for visitors later this year.

Local Plan

In January, the council will be carrying out a consultation on draft plans for future development across the borough.

The council is pressing ahead with a review of the current local plan Bearing Fruits to set out what new development is needed across the borough between 2022 and 2037.

This includes how the Government-set target of 10,000 extra homes will be met, as well as where improvements are needed to things like schools, health centres, open spaces and transport.

The review is also looking at issues like design standards and what infrastructure is needed to support new communities as well as policies to protect our heritage and natural assets.

Consultation on the issues the local plan review should address and what development strategy option should be planned for has already been carried out. Evidence has been prepared to help inform the new draft local plan review.

Cllr Mike Baldock, deputy leader and cabinet member for planning at the council, said: “We have been told by the government that we need to plan for more than 10,000 new homes. Whether we agree with this or not, we want to make sure we have as much say as possible over where this goes. We have already permission for 1,000 homes against that target, and now must allocate the remaining 9,000.

“We’ve tried to focus on schemes where we can deliver social benefits through new housing, and we want to make sure we get the necessary supporting infrastructure – schools, healthcare, jobs and open spaces – in place.

“The draft plan spreads out development across the borough, rather than focussing too much in one or two areas, including the possibility of an urban extension of Faversham promoted by the Duchy of Cornwall.

“It’s vital we get people’s views, so I urge as many people as possible to have a look at the draft plans, and let us know what they think when the consultation begins in January.”

For more information about the local plan visit www.swale.gov.uk/localplan



Housing



Schools

Health Centres



Open Spaces



Transport

Jobs



Heritage

Two hundred bags of litter picked from around Swale

Volunteers collected almost 200 bags of litter from around the borough as they took part in the Great British September Clean.

We teamed up with volunteers and partners including Optivo, Faversham Town Council, Bredgar Parish Council and Plastic Free Faversham to collect discarded litter in Murston, Minster, Faversham, Milton Creek Country Park, Bredgar, Boughton, Teynham and Rodmersham.



Bagged-up collected rubbish in Bredgar



Litter pick in Boughton

The Great British September Clean ran from 11-27 September and replaced this year's Great British Spring Clean, which unfortunately coincided with the start of the coronavirus lockdown in March.

Cllr Tim Valentine, cabinet member for the environment at the council, said: "This annual event is a wonderful

opportunity for communities to get together and take part in keeping our borough clean and tidy.

"Although normally held in March, September was a good a time as any to get out there and clean up our environment. Not only does it improve how the borough looks but also helps protect our local wildlife.



Litter pick in Teynham

"We've been doing a lot of work behind the scenes to improve biodiversity around the borough and keeping our parks and green spaces free from empty drink cans, crisp packets and other rubbish."

Virtual outdoor activities for Milton Creek



The Friends of Milton Creek Country Park decided to go virtual with their events programme this year and teamed up with local business Anna Outdoors to host some fun and fact filled Facebook live events.

Anna Bell, from Anna Outdoors and our Greenspaces Ranger Kristian Staples, celebrated International mud day, with a mud pie bake off on the banks of Milton Creek, which received over 7,000 views and included lots of follow up activities.

Anna also designed a trash to treasure Facebook live event inspired by the Country Parks former use as a landfill site. In true Blue Peter style Anna challenged Kristian to make an underground version of Milton Creek Country

Park! The session also received over 3,000 views.

Fuel and Water Home Adviser Service starts in Swale

If you are in need of extra support this winter, you can now reach out to our new Fuel and Water Home Adviser Service for help and advice.

Householders will be able to get advice on how to effectively manage energy and water use in their homes, installing low cost measures such as draught proofing and radiator reflector panels, and helping those who are eligible to apply for grants.



Children and Families

The service will be managed by Swale charity Children and Families who provide support services to families around the borough.

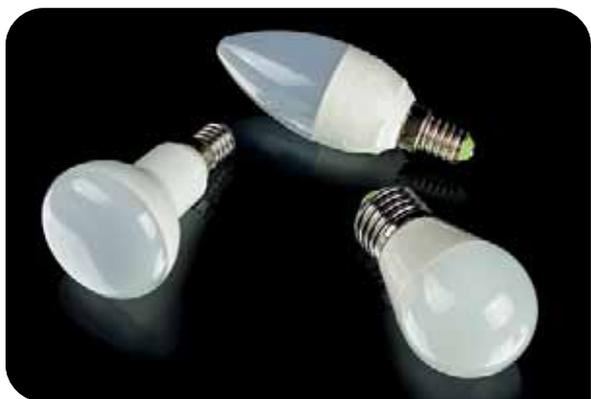
Residents can refer themselves to the service, and housing officers, health workers, family finance workers, housing associations, food banks and other charities are able to refer people on their behalf.



Cllr Hannah Perkin, deputy cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Many of our residents are struggling to pay water and energy bills.

"This service will help people get onto the best tariff and will also show people simple ways of saving both water and energy in their homes.

"The link between cold homes and poor health is well known and we hope helping people to have a warmer home will also improve their health."



Ian Townsend-Blazier, Business Development Manager at Children and Families Ltd, said: "We are really pleased and excited to be delivering the Fuel and Water Home Adviser project in partnership with Swale Council.

"We are a local charity with a keen interest in the environment and it's great to see the council leading this initiative.

"Our project is designed to partner with local organisations, energy providers and water companies to support these households in understanding and accessing green initiatives, switching energy providers to get access to the best available tariffs, supporting households to become water efficient and helping residents implement cost saving measures which can reduce CO2 emissions across the borough."



To make an appointment with Fuel and Water Home Adviser Service contact Steve Pettit on spettit@children-families.org or **01795 889233**.

Whoever you are, **you** are not alone

The **Witness Care Officer** who supports you through the court process.

The **Domestic Abuse Worker** who offers emotional and practical support.

The **Housing Worker** who advises on safe accommodation.

The **GP** who treats your wounds.

The **police officer** who attends your home and makes sure you are safe.

The **999 operator** who answers your call for help.

There are many people working to give you support.

We will respect you and treat you compassionately, professionally and sensitively, whatever your circumstances.

www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk
For all the help you need in Kent.

National Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247 a free 24-hour service.

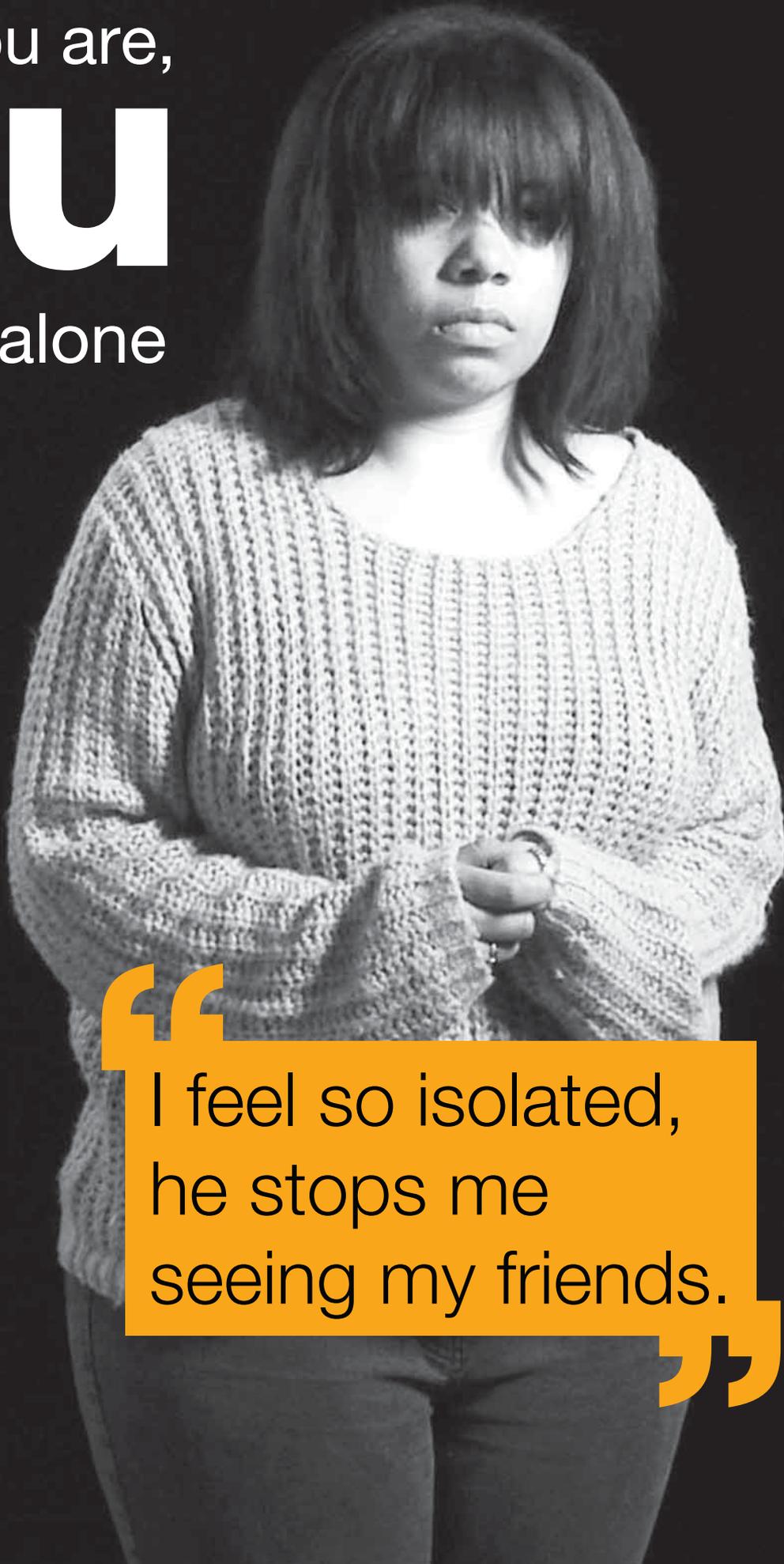
Call **999** in an emergency.

One Stop Shops

Available across Kent

www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk
for opening times and locations.

Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops offer free advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse. No appointment needed.



“ I feel so isolated,
he stops me
seeing my friends.”



**Kent
Police**



**Kent & Medway
domestic abuse
Strategy Group**

**NATIONAL
COVID
ALERT**

**STAY
HOME**

5 NOV – 2 DEC

Find the latest
guidance and
exemptions at
gov.uk/coronavirus

STAY ALERT
▼
**CONTROL
THE VIRUS**
▼
SAVE LIVES

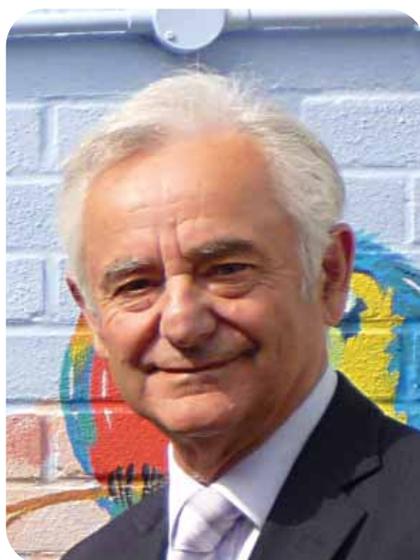
Latest on restrictions

With new national restrictions in place, Swale Borough Council is taking action to help support local people and stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The council will be working with partners to monitor compliance with the new restrictions and has the power to issue fines of up to £10,000 to businesses who are breaking the rules.

People who are clinically extremely vulnerable are being advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend essential health appointments. If people don't already have a priority supermarket delivery slot, the council can help set one up, or work with them to find alternatives.

The Government is providing funding for business grants of up to £3,000 a month to support firms forced to close their normal operation by the new restrictions, which the council will be running. The council is also overseeing a £3 million fund to provide further support for local businesses affected by the pandemic.



Cllr Roger Truelove, leader of the council, said: “No-one wanted to be in this position, but we are, and now we must do all we can to get through this.

“We will continue to do all we can to help people and I am confident that if everyone works together and follows the rules, we will

“But everyone needs to make sure they are doing all they can

to stop the spread of this virus.

“The Government has indicated that these new restrictions will be followed by a return to the local alert level system.

“Before the national measures were announced, there was the real risk that the borough could have been put into a higher level, as cases were rising.

“So, if we want to keep people safe, and avoid further harm to the local economy, we simply must get the number of cases under control.

“That way, when the restrictions end, we will be able to return to less restrictions, and crucially, less risk of the virus causing further harm to local people and businesses.”

To find out more about how the council is working during the coronavirus pandemic visit **www.swale.gov.uk/coronavirus**

Concerned about Covid compliance?

Anyone worried about businesses not following the Government's coronavirus regulations can report their concerns to the council.

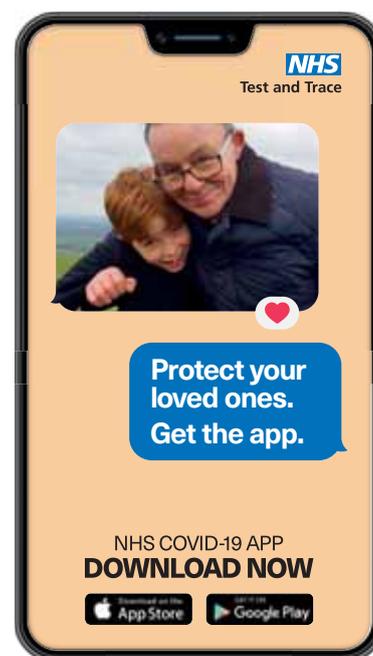
With new restrictions coming into force, the council is increasing the number of spot checks on local businesses to make sure they are complying with the regulations in place.

The council has the power to issue fines to firms of up to £10,000 if they are found to be breaching the regulations, and the police can issue fixed penalty notices of up to £6,400.

To report concerns about a local business in Swale not complying with the coronavirus restrictions, you can use the form at www.swale.gov.uk/stay-safe-concerns

To report an issue of people not complying with the instructions, such as large gatherings of people from different households, you can use the form at www.kent.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/c19/tell-us-about-possible-breach-coronavirus-measures

The latest advice and guidance for businesses is available at www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19



Community response

People with certain health conditions that put them at risk of hospitalisation if they catch coronavirus, known as clinically extremely vulnerable, have been advised to stay at home as much as possible. Unlike earlier in the year, there are exceptions for exercising outdoors or attending essential health appointments.

The Government has written to people in this group, but if you haven't received a letter and think you should be on the list, you can register at www.gov.uk/coronavirus-shielding-support

To help these people stay safe, the council is working with local voluntary groups to make sure they have priority supermarket delivery slots for food and essential supplies, or to find alternatives. We are also able to provide advice for accessing medication; and signposting to support services for mental health, loneliness and financial issues.

Anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable who needs help with accessing food, or other services, can contact the council on **01795 417 525** or visit www.swale.gov.uk/community-response for help.



Support for businesses

The Government is providing some financial support to help businesses which are significantly impacted by the restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19.

Businesses in rated commercial premises that have been forced to close can get grants of between £1,334 and £3,000 per month through the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed).

Businesses that are affected by the new restrictions, but haven't been forced to close, could receive one-off payments of between £1,334 and £3,000, through the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG).

To qualify for the ARG a business needs to meet certain criteria, and there's more information, including how to apply for either grant, at www.swale.gov.uk/coronavirus

Other support is available from the Government, and businesses can find what is available to them at www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder

Christmas closures



Our phone lines will be closed over the Christmas break, you can see more details of when they will be closed in the table below.

Thursday 24 December	Christmas day Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December to Friday 1 January	Monday 4 January
Phone lines close at 3pm	Phone lines closed	Phone lines closed	Phone lines open as usual

Our out of hours service will continue to operate during this time.

- You can contact our emergency housing service on **01634 304400** if you're homeless and have no alternative accommodation.
- Tell us you've found a stray dog by calling **07795 237479** (please note there is no service on Christmas day or Boxing day)
- Report flooding by calling Floodline on **0345 988 1188**
- To report road and highway emergencies, including street lighting by call Kent County Council on **03000 41 91 91**

You can also head to our website to make a payment, report fly tipping plus many other services, simply visit www.swale.gov.uk

Worried about another cold, lonely winter? Don't be...

As restrictions on our everyday lives look set to continue throughout the winter, does the thought of darker nights, with limited company make you feel anxious? If the answer is yes, then now is the time to make a change. By moving to a brand new flat, you could leave your worries behind. Churchill flats come with a built in social life, so even during these socially distanced times you'll have *companionship* in the *warmth* and *comfort* of a *safe* environment.

Less than 0.4% of our 10,000+ Owners across the country have tested positive for Covid-19*, highlighting how well our developments are managed.



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†T&C's apply. Visit our website to find out more. *As at 1st October 2020

Getting bowled over in Bourne Place

The new Bourne Place leisure quarter is to get a bowling alley as part of the entertainment offering.



The new 9-lane bowling alley was approved in September after plans were submitted by The Light, the company behind the 8-screen cinema currently being fitted out in Bourne Place.

The decision gives permission to change the use of one of the ground floor restaurant units that will share an entrance with the cinema above.

The Light Cinema CEO, James Morris commented: "We're delighted with the decision and excited to be opening a nine-lane bowling alley and retro arcade as part of our new leisure experience at Sittingbourne."

"Driven by the idea of creating a destination to Meet, Watch and Play, we think it will complement our unique social and meeting spaces, eight-screen cinema with recliners and couples seats, and our street food style dining experiences perfectly.

"We would also like to thank Swale Council for their support, and we can't wait to welcome everyone to The Light very soon."

The bowling alley will join the 63 bed Travelodge hotel, The Light Cinema, and restaurants Nando's and the newly opened Sentado Lounge Café Bar (Loungers).

The new tenants of the units in Bourne Place are preparing their units for opening in the next few months. Opening dates will of course depend on the latest public health guidance available.



Photos above: Internal artist impressions of the new bowling alley.

Right: Sentado Lounge Café Bar is now open under the 63 bed Travelodge hotel.



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Sittingbourne

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Recycling this Christmas

Christmas generates more waste around your house than usual and it can be difficult to know what to do with it. Where possible it's a good idea to reduce the amount being produced, but a lot can also be reused and recycled before putting it in with general waste.

Reuse

Unfortunately artificial trees can't currently be recycled. Offer an unwanted tree to friends or family, or book a slot and take them to your local Household Waste and Recycling Centre. Christmas gift bags, chocolate tins, tinsel and Christmas decorations, crisp or whiskey tubes can all be reused. Even Christmas cards can be used for handmade gift tags next year.

Recycle

Be sure to pop empty cardboard boxes, Christmas cards and wrapping paper (make sure to do the scrunch test) in with your recycling.

Chocolate tins, cardboard chocolate boxes, plastic inner trays, chocolate advent calendars, foil trays, empty cranberry sauce and brandy butter jars and lids, and empty cream pots can also all be recycled.

Your real Christmas tree can be chopped up and put in your garden waste bin. Alternatively, book in a slot at your local household waste and recycling centre. Head to the Kent County Council website for the Christmas opening times at tips.

General waste

Don't forget to pop any bubble wrap, polystyrene, plastic wrapping, sweet and chocolate wrappers, used party poppers, glittery Christmas cards and wrapping paper that doesn't stay scrunched in with your general waste.

If in doubt, visit www.swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard to see what bin you should pop something in.



Scrunch it and see!

Did you know that not all wrapping paper can be recycled?

But there is a quick and easy way to test if it can be recycled or not. Simply grab a handful and scrunch it into a ball, if it stays in a ball when you open your hand then it can go in with your recycling. If it doesn't, pop it in your general waste or save it for wrapping next year's presents!



Christmas collections changes

The table on the right shows changes to **recycling, refuse, food waste, clinical waste and garden waste collections.**

Bulky collections will be suspended from Christmas Day and will start again Monday 11 January 2021.

Usual collection day

Christmas Day
Monday 28 December
Tuesday 29 December
Wednesday 30 December
Thursday 31 December
Friday 1 January
Monday 4 January
Tuesday 5 January
Wednesday 6 January
Thursday 7 January
Friday 8 January



Revised recycling and waste collection day

Monday 28 December
Tuesday 29 December
Wednesday 30 December
Thursday 31 December
Saturday 2 January
Monday 4 January
Tuesday 5 January
Wednesday 6 January
Thursday 7 January
Friday 8 January
Saturday 9 January

Revised garden waste collection day

Monday 28 December
Suspended
Suspended
Suspended
Suspended
Suspended
Suspended
Suspended
Suspended
Suspended
Suspended

Monday 11 January – All collections return to normal

Recycling and refuse collection dates

If you're unsure of your collection week, visit www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day and click the 'Next Bin Collection' link, or call 01795 417888.

Week 1 collections

January 2021							February 2021							March 2021						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

Week 2 collections

January 2021							February 2021							March 2021						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

■ Blue bin collection week
 ■ Green bin collection week
 ■ Please refer to the table above for changes to your Christmas collections.

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

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

www.swale.gov.uk

You can check garden waste collection dates at www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day



Lots of leftovers?

Full to bursting after all that food at Christmas, but not sure what to do with your leftovers? Or what about the extra pack of mince pies you got because you didn't think you would have enough, which is now going untouched?

Christmas generates lots of leftovers, but you can cut down on the festive food waste with some simple tips.

Cook it – there are lots of things you can do with your leftover turkey and trimmings. Why not try a tasty turkey curry this Boxing Day? There are plenty of recipes online. Try out the Love Food Hate Waste website, and use their search to find out what you can do with your Christmas leftovers:

www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipes



www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipe/turkey-and-chickpea-coconut-curry



Freeze it – If you make some extra space in your freezer on the lead up to Christmas you can stock it with the milk, bread, cakes, and mince pies you may have bought too much of.

Recycle it – Anything that you can't use up can go in your black and orange food waste bin. If you need help with what can and can't go in your food waste bin, visit: www.swale.gov.uk/food-waste

If you would like to see if you're able to start food waste collections, or if you would like to order replacement food waste bins, call **01795 417888**.

New housing company to create affordable housing

Swale's cabinet has approved proposals to set up a housing company which will help deliver affordable homes for local people without placing a financial burden on the council.

Council-owned land at the old bus depot in East Street Sittingbourne, Fountain Street and Cockleshell Walk car park would be transferred to the company to provide around 139 new properties, in exchange for an equity share in the company.

Cllr Ben J Martin, cabinet member for housing, said "The setting up of Swale Rainbow Homes Ltd housing company is a key indicator of the high priority we place on delivering decent affordable housing residents need, and will enable us to intervene directly in the local housing market.

"It gives us control of the density, location, environmental standards and management of any scheme, so we won't be at the mercy of developers trying to maximise profit.

"By owning equity shares in the company, we can get an income stream on assets that should go up in value over time, which reduces the financial risk to the council.

"We estimate build costs, energy efficiency and lifecycle costs of developing, managing and maintaining the initially planned 139 properties to be up to £23 million, which we would initially pay for through 50-year loans to the company."

Cllr Ghlin Whelan, deputy cabinet member for housing, said: "This is an exciting opportunity for us to provide the affordable housing the borough so desperately needs.

"Social housing is a nationwide issue and councils are looking for ways to meet the demand without being at the mercy of large developers.

"The number of people needing local, affordable housing is only rising, and it's our duty to do what we can to meet that need."

Do you need to manage the affairs of someone else?

Register to watch one of our Zoom webinars that we host on the 2nd Thursday of every month which covers the following topics:

- how to protect your family assets from inheritance tax
- Lasting Powers of Attorney; and
- planning for the cost of long-term care.

We're now taking bookings for:

Thursday 10th December at 7.00pm

Thursday 14th January at 7.00pm



Clarkson Wright & Jakes
Solicitors and Notaries



To register your interest and to receive a webinar link, visit www.cwj.co.uk/site/seminars or email marketing@cwj.co.uk or call 01795 536820



"The helpful and efficient way we were dealt with each time was great."

"I have been using your company for years as do other family members - as always excellent service from start to finish."

Extra help available this winter

We are urging anyone experiencing financial trouble this winter to get in touch to see how we can help.

One-off payments, benefits, step change programs and loans are some of the ways we can provide support if you're struggling to pay your rent and bills or buy food.

We can also help you connect with any charities that may be able to help, as well as foodbanks.

For help, call **01795 417485**, email housingoptions@swale.gov.uk or visit www.swale.gov.uk

Making it easier for those in need of social housing

Councillors have approved changes to our housing allocation policy which aims to provide social housing to those who need it most.

The policy aims to provide a fair and transparent system that prioritises social housing. It was approved at the cabinet meeting in October and will make efficient use of the homes available in the borough, giving choices to applicants and developing sustainable mixed communities.

Cllr Ben J Martin, cabinet member for housing at the council, said:

"We will now taper income considerations for those seeking social housing, which will make it more realistic for single people and larger families who are at opposite ends of the spectrum.

"Homeless households will also be moved from a band C to B which will make it easier for them to move from temporary to permanent accommodation.

"We've also reduced the amount of time someone needs to have lived in the borough from four to two years."

More than £180,000 to support borough's homeless

We received more than £180,000 from the government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme to help provide interim accommodation and support to rough sleepers.

This funding will help us move rough sleepers who were taken off the streets during the pandemic into appropriate accommodation.



We've helped more than 60 rough sleepers into accommodation in the past year through the Everyone In initiative, and this money will help them remain in suitable accommodation.

Moving people from temporary into long-term accommodation is difficult, so the funding helps secure 20 long-term leases in the private rented sector.

Alongside this funding, we also submitted another bid so we can lease eight units of accommodation through the Riverside Housing Group, and work with Swale Housing First to provide a more seamless approach from all our partners and recruit a full-time support officer to help people moving from temporary accommodation into long-term housing.

Anyone sleeping rough in Swale should contact the council on **01795 417485**.

If you've seen someone rough sleeping and you think they're in immediate danger or in need of urgent medical help, call 999.

For more information and advice about rough sleeping and homelessness, visit www.swale.gov.uk/homelessness-prevention

Your councillors

For more information about your local councillor visit
www.swale.gov.uk/find-my-councillor



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HatHats Coffee to run new kiosk at Faversham Rec



You'll soon be able to get food and drink from the new kiosk at Faversham Rec now that councillors have approved the lease for local company HatHats Coffee.

HatHats Coffee - who successfully manage a coffee shop in Reculver Country Park on behalf of Canterbury City Council - will take on the ten-year lease.

The new kiosk forms part of the £1.9 million investment to refurbish the lodge, pavilion and grounds. You'll find it in front of the pavilion, which is home to Faversham Rugby Club, and includes public toilets plus a seating area with tables and chairs on the terrace.

Hot and cold drinks, cake, ice creams, frappes and smoothies will be available to customers all year round alongside free wifi and toilet facilities.



Angela Harrison, cabinet member for health and wellbeing at the council, said: "We're delighted to offer the new kiosk lease to HatHats Coffee. They're an established local company who already do a marvellous job running a space in Reculver Country Park.

"We hope the kiosk will be open in the coming months, however we take local people's safety seriously and any new and future government guidelines will need to be adhered to.

Cllr Eddie Thomas, chairman of the Faversham Rec project board, said: "We supported the submission from HatHats Coffee and are pleased it was passed at last month's cabinet meeting.

"Local people have been requesting somewhere they can get a drink and a bite to eat at the Rec for a while and it makes sense to lease the kiosk to a company that can offer a variety of healthy food and drink to our visitors.

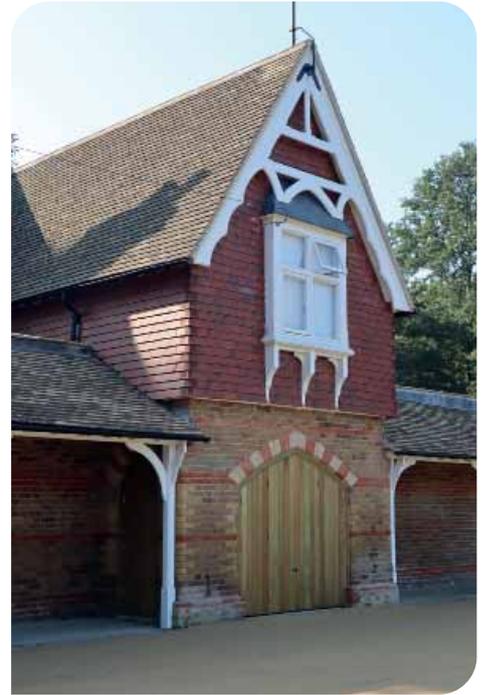
"We have rugby, football and other sporting games at the Rec, as well as people coming here for their solo or group exercise, so the pavilion at the Rec is the perfect location for this kiosk."

Louis Hurst, HatHats Coffee Founding DiRector, said: "We are delighted to bring HatHats to Faversham and can't wait to open the new kiosk at the Rec.

"We hope to be serving up our freshly roasted coffee, fine teas and hand baked cakes and treats very soon.

"We'll soon be in a Recruitment drive to create some local jobs, including employing a young person under the governments kick start scheme."

HatHats is considering how to safely open with the latest government guidance in place. You can stay up to date on when it will open by visiting the HatHats website www.hathats.co.uk





HM Government

NHS

NATIONAL COVID ALERT

STAY HOME

5 NOV – 2 DEC

▶ Only leave home for food, medical reasons, exercise, education or work

▶ You must work from home if you can

▶ Avoid travel unless essential

▶ Schools and essential shops will remain open

▶ Remember: wash hands, cover face, make space

Find the latest guidance and exemptions at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES