

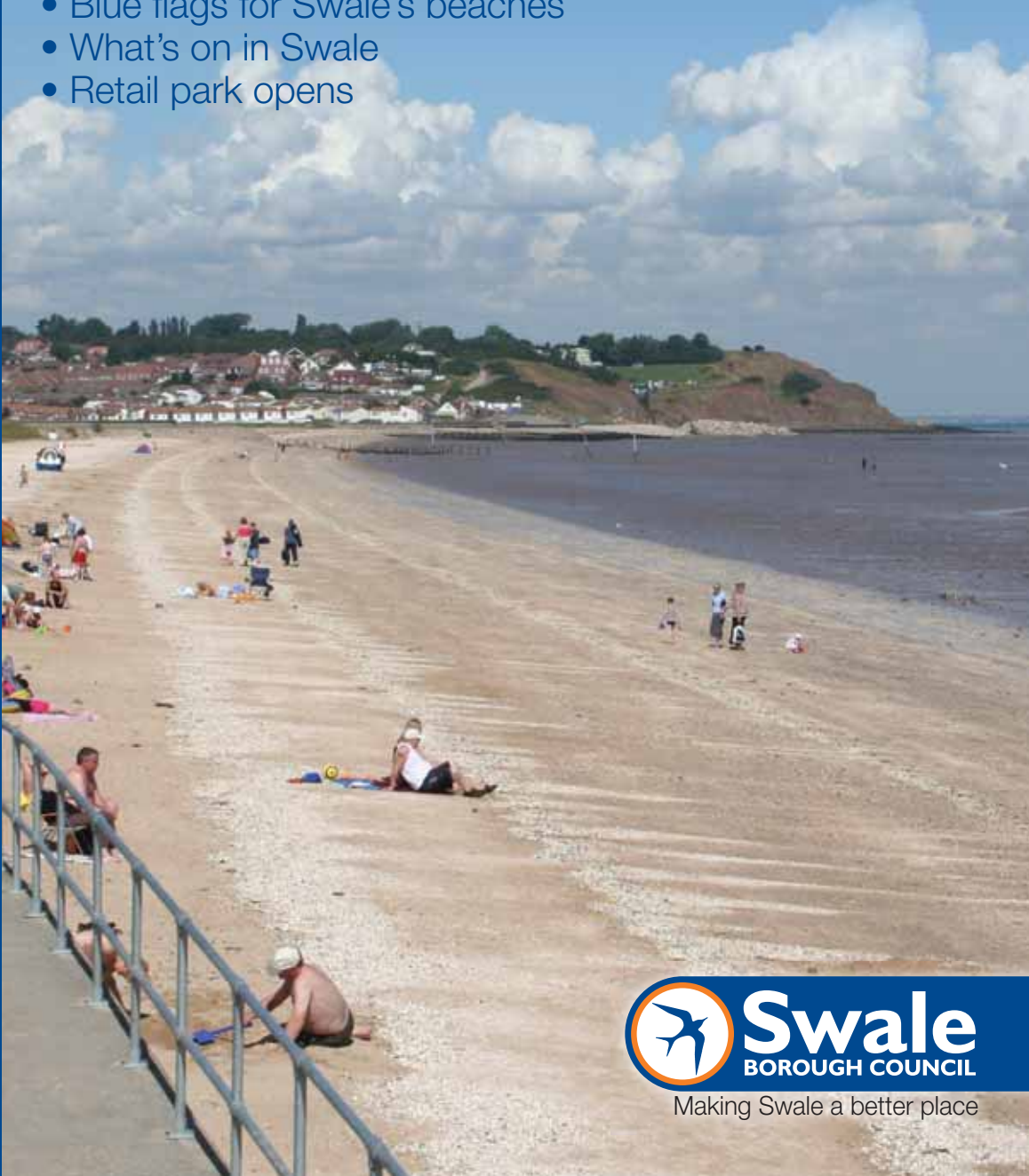
inside Swale

Summer 2018

Keeping you informed about your council services

In this issue

- Recycling and refuse collection dates
- Investing in active lifestyles
- Blue flags for Swale's beaches
- What's on in Swale
- Retail park opens





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IN PEOPLE



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Cover photo: The beach at Leysdown

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*Andrew Bowles, Leader,
Swale Borough Council*

Welcome to the Summer issue of Inside Swale.

This is a busy time of year for many of you and it's no different for us at the council.

We're busy planning ahead – for next year's elections (see p6) and with our review of the local plan (p16-17).

Our street cleaning crews are continuing to work hard to deliver the deep cleaning programme to streets that need a bit more attention than the usual street cleaning (p12-13).

We also have a new Mayor (p29), who will be kept busy attending many events and meeting people all over the borough, and beyond.

But, it's also important to relax and recuperate at this busy time of year.

Many of us like to unwind on the coast, so the news that our beaches at Leysdown, Minster Leas and Sheerness have received Blue Flag Awards (p7) shows you don't have to go far to enjoy some of the best beaches in the country.

If you prefer more energetic ways to relax, we hope you'll be glad to hear about our upcoming investment in local leisure facilities (p5). There are also lots of events happening across the borough, and our What's On guide (p8-10) has just a few of the activities taking place.

Whatever you're plans, I hope you have a pleasant summer.



Needles at the ready



Pick up your knitting needles or crochet hooks and to take part in a special project to mark Remembrance Day.

The council has teamed up with the Royal British Legion, Sheppey Matters and Sheppey Gateway, as well as local libraries and community groups, to create a garden of knitted and crocheted poppies at Sheppey Gateway.

The group wants local people to get creative and knit a poppy (or several) to contribute to the project. The poppies can be any size and knitters can follow any pattern.

Cllr Andrew Bowles, leader of the council, said: “Last year’s appeal prove such a success, and the response from local people helped create an amazing display to mark Remembrance Day.

“People of all ages and backgrounds took the time to create hundreds of poppies, and I hope this time even more people will get involved. Even by making just one poppy, you can help us create a unique tribute to the memory of the fallen.”

Poppies can be donated until Friday, 26 October 2018, and can be dropped off at:

- Sheppey Gateway, High St, Sheerness
- Minster, Queenborough, Sittingbourne and Faversham Libraries

For more information about the project, please contact Justin Aggett at Sheppey Matters on **01795 585335**.

Cllr Sarah Aldridge joins the cabinet at Swale



Sarah who represents Roman ward and has lived in the borough for most of her life, said “I am looking forward to my new cabinet role in health and wellbeing and am passionate about improving services for the residents in Swale such as adult and children’s mental health, which is a subject dear to me.

“I am married to my husband Lee and we have two children. Our daughter has autism & ADHD and I am always proactive in trying to make sure we have the right services for SEN in Swale. A few years ago, I had an idea for an autism provision in

Swale, as one of the original co-founders of Aspire Free School, which hopefully will open in late 2019 to provide a primary provision for pupils with autism.

“My mother who also lives in Sittingbourne was a nurse and worked at Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital where she was a ward sister. I myself have worked for MEDOCC and as a health care assistant at Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital.

“In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and going to the gym to de-stress and can always be found on the cross trainer!”

Investing in active lifestyles

Local leisure centres will be getting a £2 million makeover, after the council approved plans to invest in improvements and repairs to Sheppey Healthy Living Centre, Sheppey Pool and Swallows Leisure Centre.



Alongside the investment, the contract with Swale Community Leisure (SCL) – the trust that manages the leisure centres, supported by Serco – will be extended by 5.5 years.



Cllr Sarah Aldridge, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: “Our leisure centres are already popular with residents and visitors – we had almost 600,000 visits in 2016 alone.

“We want to increase their use even more, by investing in some essential repairs, and providing new facilities and equipment.

“The council is committed to promoting and encouraging residents of all ages and abilities to become more active and receive the benefits of a more active lifestyle.”

Work is expected to begin by the end of the year. This would include some closures during the works, which users would be made aware of in advance.



Help plan polling places

With local, parish and town council elections taking place next May, we're checking to make sure the polling stations are in the right places.

Every ward - a geographical area of the borough - is divided into polling districts and places. The Returning Officer has to allocate a polling station within the agreed polling place.

When choosing locations for polling stations, we try to make sure the available facilities are convenient and accessible for electors to cast their vote, and that there are not too many voters allocated to one station.

We want people to have a look at the arrangements we currently have in place, and let us know what they think about them - are the polling stations in the right places and are there any venues that you think would be more suitable?

Your comments and suggestions will be collated and considered, with any proposed changes arising from this review will be considered by the General Purposes Committee in September, with recommendations being considered by the full council in October.

A list of the current arrangements for polling districts, places and polling stations, including maps, is available at www.swale.gov.uk/polling-district-review and hard copies can be made available to view at council offices.



**POLLING
STATION**

Best beaches



Slap on the sun cream, grab a picnic and head to the Island to enjoy some of the best beaches in the country this summer!

For only the second time, all three of Sheppey's bathing beaches – Leysdown, Minster Leas and Sheerness – have received both the Blue Flag Award, and the Seaside Award from Keep Britain Tidy.

The popular local beaches were among only 42 in the country to achieve both awards – a feat last achieved in 2016.

The international Blue Flag Award is widely considered to be the gold standard for beaches. The 65 beaches in England who achieved it had to meet the highest standards for cleanliness, facilities and water quality.

The Seaside Award is Keep Britain Tidy's own award that 125 beaches across the country achieved. These meet the very highest standards of beach management and, for bathing beaches, the required standards for water quality.

Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for the environment and rural affairs, said: "The Island's beaches are a wonderful natural asset, and are enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike.

"To have them all be recognised as meeting the highest standards possible is fantastic news, and is a testament to the hard work the seafront team put in all year round.

"Their work, alongside local volunteers, the RNLI lifeguard service and local businesses, mean our beaches are a great place for families to enjoy."

To find out more about local beaches, visit www.swale.gov.uk/seafront



What's on in Swale

7 July - 21 July 2018

Faversham Open House 2018

Organised by the Faversham Society, Open House is the annual opportunity to gain special access to properties of considerable historical and architectural interest. Community minded owners open their properties on the first 3 Saturdays in July so we can view and enjoy these special places.

www.favershamsociety.org

7 - 8 July

Steam & Beer Weekend at SKLR



It's Steam & Beer time again with a wide selection of real ales and ciders from across the UK will be available – while stocks last. Live music on

Saturday and family fun on Sunday.

www.sklr.net/timetable-fares/special-events/steam-beer

14 – 15 July

Faversham Nautical Festival



Come and enjoy the sixth annual Faversham Nautical Festival and delight in

Faversham's nautical heritage at the Town Quay and Front Brents.

You can see the many beautiful traditional vessels. There will be Thames Sailing Barges, Dutch Barges, tugs, smacks, gaffers and many other big and small boats. The vessels will be 'dressed overall' making a colourful display and

some owners may invite you on board.

www.facebook.com/favershamnauticalfest

15 July

Cherry Fair at Brogdale



The Cherry Fair at Brogdale is packed with cherry entertainment including

live music, local producers, craft demonstrations alongside cooking demonstrations. Take a tour of the orchard as they burst into fruit, it really is a sight to see!

www.brogdalecollections.org/product/tickets-cherry-fair

21 – 28 July

Sheppey Promenade Festival

The Sheppey Promenade Festival, organised by the Sheppey Promenade Group based at Rose Street Cottage of Curiosities will open with a band concert on Saturday 21 July and climax with a parade on 28 July. This year's theme is 'Women in WWI coupled with Womens Suffrage'.

www.facebook.com/SheppeyPromenade

22 July

Classic Vehicles on the Sea Front

Including vintage prams, motorcycles, craft stalls and more!

Come along to Minster Lees from 10am to 4pm. Why not dress up in period costume, bring a picnic and enjoy the nostalgia of a classic day by the sea?

www.facebook.com/The-Sweet-Hut-803761116330075

Feature

27 – 28 July Sheppey Summer Spectacular

Come along and enjoy a family fun day at the Co-op Sports and Social Club, St Georges Avenue, Sheerness. Live music, food stalls, classic vehicles, side shows and fun fair from 3pm - 10pm on Friday 27 July and 11am - 11pm on Saturday 28 July.

For all enquiries ring **07730 794646** or email: sss.funday2018@yahoo.com

3 – 5 August A New Day Festival 2018



A three day family-friendly festival of music, featuring the best of classic

rock, prog, blues and roots. Additionally there are craft stalls, music workshops, well stocked and reasonably priced bars.

Camping, pre-pitched camping and glamping is available, and parking is free.

For more information, line up and tickets, visit www.anewdayfestival.com

5 August Open Day at BWLR



Bring the family along to seasonal themed activities and let the trains take the

strain and relax in the grounds and enjoy the heritage attractions.

The narrow gauge railway is set in a delightful and secluded 30 acres on the North Downs in Kent. It is central to their activities at Bredgar and is part of a collection of restored vehicles and exhibits which ensure an absorbing day out for both enthusiast and the family.

Also working on the site will be their road and agricultural traction engines and some of the vintage tractors. there are woodland walks and plenty of places in the field or woods for visitors to have a picnic and for children to play. Free car park and a warm welcome awaits those who visit the tea room and the railway shop.

<https://bwlr.co.uk>

11 August Art in the Park



Once more Milton Creek Country Park's fantastic 'Art in the Park' event returns to Sittingbourne, bigger and better than ever!

Featuring live performances and music from a plethora of local artists, and many favourites from previous years, the event is an idyllic way to enrich your culture and is bound to be an excellent way to spend the day.

There will be a mobile climbing wall and geocaching in addition to a variety of creative workshops and demonstrations.

There's bound to be something for everyone at this family, fun-filled event!

18 August Sheppey Summer Carnival

Sheppey Summer Carnival once more returns to Sheerness High Street!

The procession will leave from New Road, Sheerness at 17:30 and will make its way around the town centre. In addition to the procession, there will also be many stalls in the Broadway so come down and have a good time!



Feature

25 – 26 August Artisan Cider Festival at Brogdale

Get in the festival spirit with local artisan ciders and live music all weekend! Taste over 60 ciders and help crown the cider trail winner. Entertainment for the whole family with live music across three stages, a little festival goers fun area, talks, demonstrations and local shopping.

<http://brogdalecollections.org>

26 – 27 August Ivor the Engine Weekend at SKLR

Ivor the Engine returns to Kemsley Down on bank holiday Sunday 26 and Monday 27 August 2018 for fun and games at Kemsley Down. A wide selection of Ivor the Engine gifts will also be available from the railway shop.

www.sklr.net/timetable-fares/special-events/ivor

27 August Kent Chrome and Cruisers Classic and Custom Vehicle Show



Come along to the grounds of the Abbey School from 10am to 6pm and enjoy the range of classic vehicles on show together with some great

music and live performances including

the legendary 'Matchbox' - the original Rockabilly Rebels.

www.facebook.com/events/208504576235018

1 – 2 September Faversham Hop Festival



The 29th year of the Hop Festival, and they will be celebrating it in style.

There will be the usual excellent selection of live music on three stages, plus the Shepherd Neame stage, and the vibrant live music scene in the pubs around the town. There will also be featured, a wide range of morris dancing, and other dance troupes, a large and varied selection of stalls, along with official Hop Festival merchandising stands, where you can get souvenirs of your visit.

www.favershamhopfestival.org

14 – 16 September Faversham Food Festival

The Faversham Food Festival is an annual free to visit celebration of local food and drink. This year it takes place from Friday 14 to Sunday 16 September. The festival is very much a community event – something for everyone.

www.favershamfoodfestival.co.uk

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)

Spotlight on:

Faversham Town Centre



This is the second in our series of features looking at what's on offer in your high streets and town centres.

Faversham residents and visitors enjoy a charming bustling ancient market town which has more than 400 listed buildings, a 16th century Guildhall, and is home to Britain's oldest brewery.

Local traders are proud to boast an impressive range of independent shops selling unique gifts, local crafts and artisan products. Whether shopping for groceries or a special gift, you'll get great service from both the independents and national chains.

If you need a break, there's a fantastic choice of restaurants, cafes and pubs, many of which serve locally sourced food and drink.

As well as being home to Kent's oldest market – the Charter Market - Faversham hosts a range of themed

markets such as the Best of Faversham and the Antiques & Vintage Market.

And if all that isn't enough, the town has an extensive programme of festivals and events. As well as the famous Hop Festival, events include the Hat Festival, Open Gardens weekend and the Nautical Festival to name just a few.

To find out more about what Faversham has to offer, visit the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre and Tourist Information Centre, which is managed by knowledgeable volunteers from the Faversham Society.

Come and take a look at Faversham's markets:

- Charter Market: Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays
- Best of Faversham Market: first and third Saturdays monthly
- Antiques & Vintage Market: first Sunday monthly (not September)



Streets to get deep clean

Twenty five residential streets across the borough are being given a deep clean as part of the council's commitment to making Swale a cleaner borough.

Every fortnight, a team from the council's contractors are visiting identified roads to remove litter, leaves and detritus, as well as clearing the road and path edges of weeds.

Residents are warned in advance that the works will be taking place, so cars can be moved to allow the crews to get to areas usually inaccessible to the regular street cleaning team.

The streets are identified by experienced council officers – in consultation with local councillors - who have



Feature

assessed the need for cleaning usually where there is heavy car parking and mechanical sweepers can't get to the areas needing cleaning.

Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said: "Our street cleaning crews do a great job, but due to things like parked cars, they can't always easily access the roadside.

"Our deep cleans ask people to park elsewhere for a few hours so we can get in there and clear the litter and debris.

"These wouldn't work without the cooperation of the local residents, and their positive reaction shows that by working together we can make a difference."

Last year, the crews went out 28 times, and cleaned more than 13 miles of roads across Sheerness, Sittingbourne and Faversham.



Planned deep cleans for the next three months are:

- 11 July William Street, Faversham
- 25 July Victoria Rd, Sheerness
- 8 August..... Staplehurst Rd, Sittingbourne
- 22 August..... Chapel Street, Faversham
- 5 September Vincent Gardens, Sheerness
- 19 September .. Chalkwell Rd, Sittingbourne

To find out more about the deep clean programme, including which streets are next due a visit, go to www.swale.gov.uk/deep-cleans

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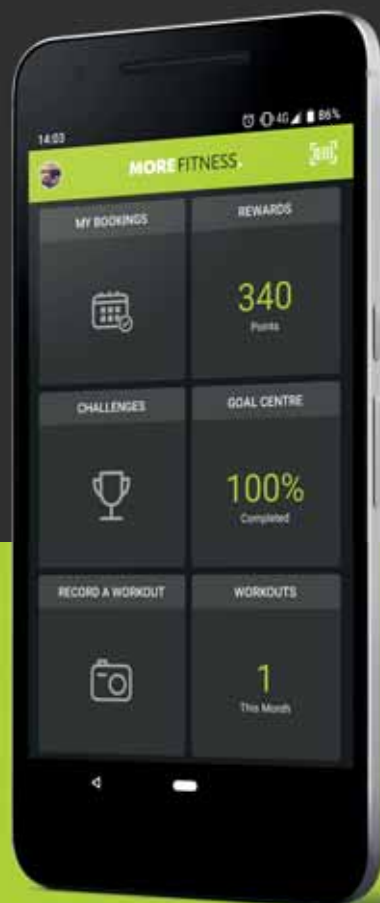
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Tel: **01795 420420**

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*Terms and conditions apply.

Retail park opens



The first tenant in the newly built Princes Street Retail Park opened their doors last month. The Food Warehouse opened its 8,823 sq ft unit on the park last month, creating 30 new jobs and offering shoppers all the great value of a wholesale store without the need for membership.

Launched just four years ago, The Food Warehouse now has over 62 stores across the country.

The retail park is the first part of the Spirit of Sittingbourne regeneration scheme to be completed, and – as we were going to press - will soon be home to Costa Coffee and Home Bargains.

Speaking about the new Sittingbourne store The Food Warehouse managing director Richard Walker, said: “We’re delighted to be opening our new store in Sittingbourne. The Food Warehouse is an innovative store format, responding to the changing needs of shoppers by offering amazing bulk-buy deals and homeware offers alongside a fantastic range of frozen, fresh and chilled foods.”

The site is owned by the council and was formerly a waste depot. Cllr Andrew Bowles, leader of the council, said: “It’s great to see the site brought back into use with the new units being occupied and starting to trade.

“This is the first element of the regeneration scheme to be completed, and is only the beginning of the positive changes we hope to see in the town over the next few years.”

To find out more, and keep up to date with the ambitious regeneration scheme, visit www.spiritofsittingbourne.com

Town centre regeneration project



Closed/Area of Work Road Closure

Rail users:
 The station drop off area for cars will be within the South East Rail Car Park, which is accessed off St Michael's Road, adjacent to Kwik Fit.

Bus users:
 The bus stop outside The Forum will remain in use, however the bus stop on the eastbound St Michael's Road will be moved to a temporary location in the layby after Quick Fit.

Taxi users:
 The taxi rank at the station will remain open as usual for the first two stages of the work, as will the taxi rank at the back of The Forum, which will now only be accessible from the east side of Station Street. Any changes to the taxi rank will be communicated far in advance.

Town centre businesses are open as usual



Progresses to the next stage



The next stage of works to transform Sittingbourne town centre involves significant work to realign the A2 St Michael's Road.

Moving the road to pass closer to the station will unlock the land that will then become part of the new leisure quarter, with a new public square, restaurants and eight-screen cinema.

The new layout will create a more attractive approach to the town centre from the train station, and the new leisure offer will help attract visitors to the town, benefitting local businesses.

The Spirit of Sittingbourne – the consortium behind the town centre regeneration - acknowledges that the works will be disruptive, and have been working to try to minimise the time road closures are in place.

Town centre businesses are open as usual, and diversions for HGVs and through traffic are being advertised on all approaches.

Visitors to the town centre are being asked to allow more time for their journey, and think about using car parks away from the roadworks such as Spring Street, Cockleshell Walk and at The Swallows.

For information and updates about the roadworks, visit www.SpiritOfSittingbourne.com
email roadworks@SpiritOfSittingbourne.com
or call **01795 602011**



Lower Road improvements start this summer



Planned improvements to address congestion along the Lower Road on Isle of Sheppey are set to start this summer. Having secured £1.2m grant funding from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and developer contributions, work is set to commence on the A2500 Lower Road/Barton Hill Drive Roundabout improvement week commencing

25 June and will be completed by January 2019. Much of the work will be carried out off the carriageway, but when it is necessary to work on the carriageway, it will be postponed until September to avoid the peak tourist season.

A second phase of improvements involves widening 1.1km section of the A2500 Lower Road between the A249 at Cowstead Corner and Barton Hill Drive, including the construction of a new 3.5m wide shared footway/cycleway alongside the road. These phase 2 works are to follow in spring 2019. The overall estimated cost of the scheme for both phases of work is £6.65m.

Junction 5 improvements



Highways England has announced a new design for the M2 junction 5 improvements. A previous design met local opposition from the council, MP's and local residents and businesses during a consultation in the autumn of 2017.

Highways England have responded to calls for a flyover and no signals to allow traffic to flow along the A249, with a new option, referred to as 4H1.

Further details can be found at:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m2-junction-5-improvements/>

Public information events will be held later this year, with works to start in March 2020 and complete in the second part of 2021.

LEADER Grants programme

A project to support rural businesses grow has so far approved funding to help create more than 20 jobs in the borough.

The LEADER grants programme works with rural companies to create jobs and support the local economy.

Grants of £2,500 to £50,000 are available – more if there are potentially significant benefits - for a wide range of rural businesses: from farms and growers to environmental organisations, heritage providers and more.

The grants can make up to 40 per cent of the cost of the scheme, and aim to:

- support micro and small enterprises, and farm diversification
- increase rural tourism
- encourage cultural and heritage activity
- increase farm productivity
- increase forestry production

Recent grant recipients include S. C. Berry, who were awarded £63,000 to help modernise the hop drying facility at Boughton Church Oast. Brogdale Collections at Brogdale Farm also received an award of £25,000 towards providing new interpretation boards and displays in shelters, as well as supporting the development of an app, and buying new equipment for festivals and events.

Cllr Andrew Bowles, leader of the council, who represents Swale Borough Council on the Kent Downs and Marshes LEADER Group, which covers most of the borough, said: “Rural businesses are a crucial part of the local economy, and we want to see them thrive and create jobs for local people.

“So far, seven local firms have been granted more than £350,000 to help them take their companies to the next level.”

Funding is limited and any firms hoping to receive a grant need to make sure they submit an expression of interest by the end of October.

Find out more and apply at

www.leaderprogrammekent.org



Planning for growth

The plan for the future development in the borough is being reviewed.

The current local plan Bearing Fruits was adopted last year, and sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used and what will be built where until 2031.

Bearing Fruits needs to be reviewed, and a new plan covering until 2038 adopted, by 2022. To help do this, we ran an initial consultation called Looking Ahead which asked for people's thoughts on possible approaches for the council to consider.

The government inspection of the existing plan raised concerns that need to be addressed, particularly around the capacity of local road network along the A2, to cope with increased development.

The next local plan also needs to address changes to national planning policy, particularly those around future housing numbers and how they may impact upon the borough.

These changes mean that more new homes will need to be built every year than ever before – possibly increasing the borough's housing current target of 776 per year until 2022, to more than 1,050 when the new local plan is in place from 2022.

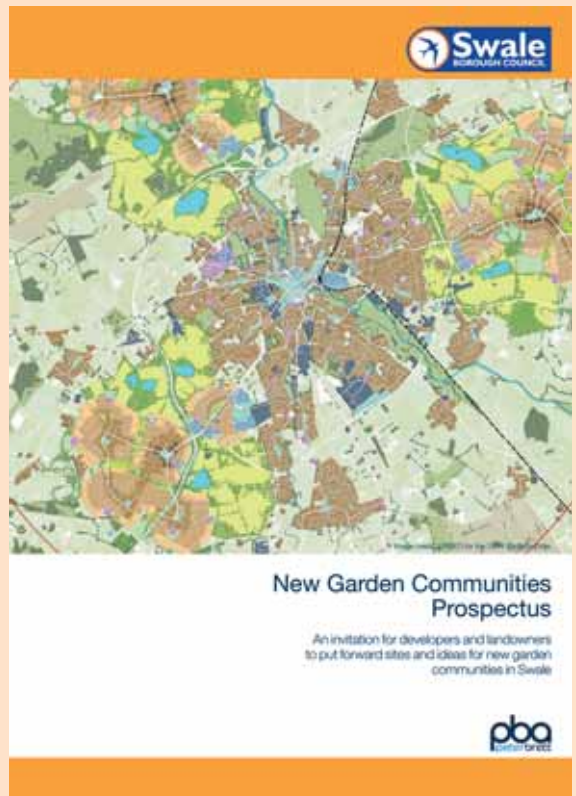
Cllr Gerry Lewin, deputy leader of the council, and cabinet member for planning, said: "The government is setting local councils the challenging task of addressing the housing crisis through ever-increasing targets for the number of homes to be built.

"At this early stage of the local plan preparation, we wanted local people to help us shape how we approach the process. We asked some challenging questions about how we have previously approached strategic planning, and wanted to gauge the level of support for alternative approaches, such as possible new garden communities.

"At this stage, nothing is decided, and we are open-minded about the way forward."

The responses to the consultation are being used to help inform the next stage of the review process. This will see potential approaches and sites compiled into a list of issues and options which will be published next year to get people's views and ideas.

To find out more, and keep up to date on the local plan review, visit www.swale.gov.uk/the-emerging-local-plan



New garden communities?

One potential approach to meet the challenge of higher housing targets is creating new garden communities.

These are self-contained developments of between 2,500 and 10,000 homes and would be expected to provide well-designed, socially cohesive and healthy communities.

Landowners and developers who may be able to bring forward garden communities have been asked to submit their ideas to the council. These will be assessed against the Town and Country Planning Association garden community principles to provide modern, accessible, connected and locally distinctive communities within a strong landscape setting.

If any proposals meet strict criteria for design, infrastructure, employment, environmental protection and tenure, they could be included in the issues and options proposals to be consulted on next year.



Food waste collections



Almost a third of rubbish in our bins is food waste, and an average family throws away around £700 of food shopping every year.

The food waste recycling collection service is collected every week, and all the food waste collected is composted. This helps divert waste away from expensive incineration and landfill, so saves council taxpayers money.

Using the service is easy – homes were given a kitchen caddy which seals tight and a larger food waste bin with a lockable lid for keeping outdoors.

Simply empty the kitchen caddy into the food waste bin outdoors and secure the lockable lid.

Put the food waste bin out every week with your blue or green bin and we'll do the rest.

You can recycle:

meat, fish, bones ■ fruit, vegetables ■ all dairy product ■ eggs
bread, cakes, pastries ■ uneaten food ■ tea leaves, coffee grounds

Please don't put in the bin:

packaging of any sort ■ plastic bags ■ liquids ■ oil or fats

For more details about food waste recycling visit www.swale.gov.uk/food-waste

Give your garden room to bloom

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- Great Value
- Convenient
- No more trips to the tip!

To find out more or to order your brown bin, visit:

swale.gov.uk/brown-bin-garden-waste
or call 01795 417888

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

July 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					

August 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		

September 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

Week 2 collections

July 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					

August 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		

September 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

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

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Get help from councillors' fund



There's almost £113,000 available from your local councillors for projects that benefit the community.

Each of Swale's 47 councillors has £2,400 available to support small-scale, local community projects through the council's member grants scheme.

Community groups can bid for funding for projects that provide benefits in areas such as culture, sport, recreation, health, environment and community safety.



Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley, cabinet member for finance and performance, said: "The people who really know what their area needs are those who live there. These grants are part of our work to help organisations work to improve their community.

"To neighbourhood projects, even a small amount of money can make a huge difference to, so we want to make sure as many as possible apply for support over the next year."



The application process simply needs the organisation to discuss the project with their local councillor in order to get their support, and fill in a simple form.

To find out more about member grants visit www.swale.gov.uk/member-grants or contact your local ward councillor – their details are on pages 30-31.

Bowled over with support



MS Swale based in Sittingbourne received £2,275 of council grant funding to provide new services for people living with multiple sclerosis across the borough.

Their 40-strong group enjoyed new physiotherapy classes, fitness programmes and the introduction of outdoor bowls during the summer, made possible by specialist equipment paid for by the grant. £1,275 was granted by

six Members – Cllrs Bowles, Conway, Harrison, Baldock, Truelove and Whiting – in addition to a £1,000 sports grant.

Working together for a Safer Swale

The Swale Community Safety Unit, also known as the CSU, is based at Swale House and brings together a range of partners working to tackle community safety issues.

It is the operational arm of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and includes representatives from Kent Police, Swale Borough Council, Optivo, Kent County Council and Swale Safe who work together to improve the quality of life for local residents.

These pages show a snapshot of some of the work the CSU have carried out in the last year to help make the borough a safer place for everyone.

To find out more visit www.swale.gov.uk/community-safety

Estates Project

The CSU have been working to tackle community safety issues in specific areas identified through intelligence from the partner agencies.

The first phase of the project identified three areas for more focussed work for this project: Whiting Crescent in Faversham, Lapwing Close in Minster-on-Sea; and Middletune Avenue in Sittingbourne.

Initial walkabouts, coupled with intelligence from partner agencies, helped the team identify issues in these areas such as littering and fly-tipping, poor fire safety, anti-social behaviour and crime.

These led to advice being given to residents on topics as diverse as illegal lending, recycling, home fire safety and pathways to employment. Alongside this, robust enforcement measures have also been taken where appropriate.

Residents have been brought together at community events, such as neighbourhood clean-up days and a Christmas fun day.

Cllr Alan Horton, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing and safer communities, said: "This work has really made a huge difference on the ground. We've been able to help vulnerable people to get the support they need, and residents have come together to make their areas look better and feel safer."

The success of the project means work is already underway to identify further areas that could benefit from the approach.

Multi-agency Training

The CSP has organised specialised training on serious and organised crime, rural crime and urban environment crime for more than 200 front line officers from a range of agencies over the last six months.

These sessions helped to increase the understanding of the criminality and offences linked to the different crime types, and the ways in which partners can play a vital role in tackling the offences and supporting the affected communities.



Feature

The Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

The CSP was awarded White Ribbon Status in November 2016 and an action plan was implemented to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

There are currently seven trained ambassadors working to raise awareness of domestic abuse and promoting the White Ribbon principles to never commit, excuse or remain silent about domestic abuse

A campaign last year around the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls encouraged people to take the White Ribbon pledge, and worked with community groups, agency staff and the public to promote the campaign and the support services available in the borough.



Cllr Alan Horton signing the White Ribbon Pledge

Swale Fusion Festival



The CSU organised a colourful celebration of different cultures that filled Sittingbourne town centre in October.

The Swale Fusion Festival saw 750 people taking part in a lantern parade through Sittingbourne High Street, with pupils from eight local schools joined the procession with their hand-made lanterns inspired by different cultures.

The festival continued with food from around the world and street entertainment celebrating different the arts, bringing different communities together, as well as helping break down barriers.

PSPO

Following a public consultation on proposals to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in the borough, the council has converted two existing alcohol control zones for Sheerness High Street and the Leysdown area into PSPO's.

These were introduced to tackle anti-social behaviour being committed by individuals or groups in a public space, and replace similar orders such as alcohol control zones and dog control orders.

The orders can be varied and will be reviewed every three years and give the police and specific council officers the power to confiscate alcohol from people drinking in a public area where they are causing nuisance or annoyance to others, or there has been drink-related disorder.



I'm Matthew Scott, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent

My role includes holding the Chief Constable to account, setting the council tax precept for policing, commissioning services for victims of crime and funding community safety projects.

I also set the policing priorities for the county by consulting with residents like yourself; so I'd be grateful if you could complete this short survey about policing where you live.

Let me know your views by filling out this survey and returning it to me.



Name: _____ First half of your postcode: _____

Gender (male/female/Non-Binary/Trans/Intersex/prefer not to say) Age: _____ Ethnicity: _____

Do you currently work for, or volunteer with, the police? Yes No

Have you been a victim of a crime in Kent in the last year? Yes No

How safe do you feel where you live, on a scale of 1 to 10? _____
(where 1 is 'very unsafe' and 10 is 'very safe')

The PCC is responsible for the Kent Police budget of £333.3million for 2018/19, or roughly £185 per person in the county.

On a scale of 1 to 10, do you think the services you get represent value for that £185? _____
(where 1 is 'very poor value for money' and 10 is 'excellent value for money')

In your view, what one type of crime or anti-social behaviour does your local area have the biggest issue with?

Tell us one thing you think Kent Police does really well: _____

Tell us one thing you think Kent Police could do better: _____

If you would you like to opt-in to receive our monthly e-newsletter, please give your email address here:

Tell us where you heard about this survey: *Inside Swale magazine*

Please cut out and return this form to:

Annual Policing Survey 2018, OPCC, Kent Police HQ,
Sutton Road, Maidstone ME15 9BZ

Or, if you prefer, you can complete this survey online at
www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/consultations

For information about how we use your personal information
please visit www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/privacy



New Mayor takes chains of office



Mayor Cllr Samuel Koffie-Williams and Mayoress Mrs Doreen Koffie-Williams.

Cllr Samuel Koffie-Williams has been handed the chains of office for the coming civic year on 15 May at UKP Leisure Club in Sittingbourne.

Following the ceremony, Cllr Koffie-Williams said: "I am delighted that a centuries old ceremonial position can still play a supportive role in some of the UK's most modern businesses. One of my focuses this year, is to work closely and support businesses that promotes healthy living. My belief is, that you are only wealthy when you have good health. I am also extremely keen on supporting businesses within Swale particularly small businesses, and supporting our young people to enhanced creativity and innovation."

The Mayor who lives in Sittingbourne with his wife and children, and is a lecturer in accounting, business economics, enterprise and finance, continued: "My charity work for this civic year, will focus more on the disadvantaged, vulnerable and young people in Swale, around education, mental health and music.

My three main charities will be Sittingbourne and Sheppey Fibromyalgia Support, MIND focusing on mental health, and Encore Music Workshop enabling us to use music as therapy.

Cllr Ken Ingleton will serve as Deputy Mayor for this civic year.

Retiring Mayor

Outgoing Mayor Cllr Prescott said: "It has been a momentous year, and meeting all the wonderful people who volunteer in various capacities throughout the borough has been a humbling experience.



"I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped me collect the astonishing sum of £17,250 for my two charities - Parkinsons Support in Swale and Hospital Radio Swale."

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