

Summer 2023

# Inside

## Swale



# SUPER SURVIVAL SKILLS



FEELING  
SUPER!

with

# SWIMMING LESSONS

PLUS  
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SWIMMING\*



Get your little superheroes signed up!

[swaleleisure.com](http://swaleleisure.com)

#### Sheppey Leisure Complex

Off the Broadway,  
Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1HH  
Tel **01795 668652**

 SheppeyLeisureComplex

#### Swallows Leisure Centre

Central Avenue,  
Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 4NT  
Tel **01795 420420**

 Swallowsleisure

For full details of all our swimming lessons for all ages and abilities please visit our website.

**SWALE**  
COMMUNITY LEISURE

let's do  
**MORE**

\*T's & C's apply.

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Your councillors

Swale Borough Council  
Swale House, East Street  
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT

[swale.gov.uk](http://swale.gov.uk)

**01795 417850**

**Phone lines open**

Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm,  
Friday 9am-1pm

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

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Firstly can I say that I am thrilled to be given the opportunity and privilege of leading Swale

Borough Council and I will continue to work tirelessly to justify the faith that has been placed in me. Born in North Yorkshire I moved to Sittingbourne over thirty five years ago and it has become my adopted home. I am a family man with two grown up children and four grandchildren. I have always been immersed in our community through sport, music, church, as a school governor, trustee of voluntary organisations, charitable work and serving at Sittingbourne, Sheppey and Faversham fire stations in a career spanning 30 years. I am very proud of Swale and there is much, that is very special and unique about it, not least of which its countryside, its heritage, its coastline and the diversity of its people.

Throughout our Borough, sadly, many residents are suffering, physically, mentally and financially and with an economy that is barely off life-support, we face the stark reality that so many of our residents are just not going to be able to manage. We must find ways to support, inspire and encourage every resident

and business that needs our help, and we are determined to create an environment and the opportunities in which this can happen given challenging budgetary constraints. Affordable housing and homelessness will continue to be a priority as will the excellent progress that we have made on environmental issues which has put this council at the forefront nationally. We will also continue in our quest to tackle health inequalities particularly in terms of GP provision and strive for educational opportunities for our youngsters, in a system that is fit for purpose and allows them to have, and realise, their ambitions and dreams. We must also not forget our businesses that are currently struggling, especially our high streets and local centres and how we might create opportunities to help to support them in challenging financial times for all.

In closing, partisan politics can often get in the way of achieving what our communities want at a local level and it is my intention to work with all parties so that we spend more time focusing on the needs of you, our residents, who elected us.

*Tim Gibson*

Cllr Tim Gibson

## Blue flags for Sheppey beaches

Minster Leas and Sheerness beaches are flying the prestigious Blue Flag again this year.

The beaches are among only 78 sites in the country, and 14 in the South East, to receive the Blue Flag Award.

The award is widely considered to be the gold standard for beaches, and flying the Blue Flag means the beach has met the highest standards for cleanliness, facilities and water quality.

The two beaches, along with Leysdown beach, also received the Seaside Award. This is Keep Britain Tidy's own award for beaches that meet the very highest standards for cleanliness and facilities, which has been awarded to 128 beaches in the country this year.

The flags were raised at the beaches in May, ready for the start of the summer season. To find out more about local beaches, visit [swale.gov.uk/seafront](https://swale.gov.uk/seafront)



## Day of action to crackdown on fly tipping

In May we teamed up with Kent Police's Rural Task Force to carry out enquiries and collate evidence with a view to prosecuting offenders for waste related crimes.

As a result we stopped and searched four vehicles and issued three Fixed Penalty Notices.

“Although the low rates being offered by some carriers may seem like a cheap and easy way to clear your waste, it could land you with a large fine.

“Remember, if using a waste carrier, it's your responsibility to make sure they're licensed. If any illegally carried or dumped waste leads back to you, you could receive a £400 FPN.

“Always ask to see a waste carriers license before using them.”

You should check whether someone is licenced to carry waste by visiting the Environment Agency website below, or alternatively call **03708 506506**. It also helps if householders receive a written receipt or transfer note, including contact details, description of waste removed and details of where the waste is being taken to.

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>



**Cllr Rich Lehmann**, chair of the environment committee at the council, said:

“Fly-tipping is something that affects us all. Dumping waste in our towns and across our countryside is irresponsible and thoughtless.

More and more of these action days are taking place across the county. A tremendous amount of preparation takes place ahead of these days, including the gathering of vital intelligence to support the Council's Enforcement team with their duties.





## Lower emissions for grounds maintenance

Our grounds maintenance contractor Blenwood have introduced new zero emission and environmentally friendly vehicles and equipment to help provide the lowest emission fleet possible.

As part of their contract, they were tasked with helping meet our climate and ecological targets and part of this was introducing a low emission

fleet and equipment over the next few years. Blenwood were quick to action and have added zero emission and low emission vehicles to their fleet including

- 3x Electric Vauxhall Combo E (with zero emissions)
- 1x Valtra Hi tech N135 Tractor (with a Euro 6.2 rated emission standard)

- 1x Azura flex road sweeper (with a Euro 6.2 rated emission standard)

The rest of the fleet all have at least a Euro 6.0 rated emission standard.

Blenwood have also introduced a variety of electric hand-held tools including blowers, hedge cutters and trimmers to be used on some smaller sites.



Funded by  
UK Government

## Swale Link Helping to make our town centres safer

We're encouraging local businesses and shopkeepers to sign up to Swale's radio communication scheme to help reduce crime and theft in Swale's town centres.

We joined forces with Kent Police and the National Association of Business Crime

Partnerships to create the Business Crime Reduction Partnership who will run the scheme.

Previously, a similar scheme was run by a private company, but has now been relaunched by the partnership using the council's CCTV.

The scheme is called Swale Link and is available to local businesses and organisations in Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and Leysdown.

The Town Centre Radio Scheme has received £49,000 from the UK Government

through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

We've also created a new business crime website for members to share intelligence with each other, such as photos to help our CCTV team, Kent Police and other businesses look out for offenders banned from the scheme.

For more information about the scheme, including how to join, visit [swale.gov.uk/swale-link](https://swale.gov.uk/swale-link).



POWERED BY  
**LEVELLING  
UP**

## Community champions recognised with Civic Awards

This year saw the first ever Civic Awards, which recognised people who have made an outstanding contribution to life in our community.



The former Mayor of Swale, Cllr Simon Clark, handed the honours to the award winners. He said: “When we originally announced the awards and asked for nominations, we had no idea how many we would receive but I was heartened to find that there are so many people in our community who are prepared to give their time, energy and expertise to improve the lives of others.

“Swale has some exceptional individuals who are making a valuable contribution to community life and it was very difficult to narrow this down to just three Civic Award Winners. We therefore agreed that we would give a Highly Commended Award.”



Mike Brown was given a Highly Commended Award for his years dedicated to charity work. As president of Rotary Minster on Sea he has helped to fundraise both internationally for disasters, such as the war in Ukraine and earthquake in Turkey, and closer to home - Sheppey Foodbanks and Sheppey Matters to name a few.

Anna Stonor was the first to receive a Civic Award for her active role in improving the local environment. She is secretary to and helped set up the Friends of Westbrook and Stonebridge pond - a group of volunteers who help care for and maintain one of Swale’s important areas for local people and wildlife. She holds talks for the residents of Faversham who are interested in conservation and works on projects concerning climate change, air quality and flooding.

Yvonne Crawford gets up early every Saturday morning so that other people can get fit and stay fit. She has been the event director of Sittingbourne Park run for over 4 years. It cannot function without a team of deeply committed and reliable volunteers. After a recent Parkrun one of the runners suffered a cardiac arrest and she and other runners were able to perform CPR and use the defibrillator to re-start the heart while waiting for ambulances.

She also organises food parcel donations for the local food bank throughout the year and works closely with the Friends of Milton Creek to promote their community events such as organising litter picks or tree planting.

Rebecca O’Neill started a community interest company to provide respite and short breaks for disabled young people in Swale. This means many disadvantaged young people have the support of an organisation that champions the needs of young people and their families, particularly those with learning or other disabilities. For young people who find mainstream school daunting, she has set up Craftworks College which allows them to work in small groups on practical skills such as horticulture, animal care and creative crafts alongside the functional skills of English and maths.

A Lifetime Achievement award was given to Dale Howting (BEM), the Whistling Postman. Dale has raised £320,000 since he began fundraising in 1977. For many years he could be seen in the town centre, braving all weathers on his beautifully decorated bike - giving a smile and welcome to passers-by. Now in his 89th year, he fractured his shoulder but is not deterred and most mornings he is back collecting in the town.

The charities who have benefited from his fundraising are too numerous to mention but they include Kent Air Ambulance, Demelza House, St Michael’s Church and Swale Community Church.



# £1million funding for safer walking in Faversham

Faversham has gained almost £1million in government funding to improve the cross-town walking route running from the east to the west of Faversham.

Working with Kent County Council and Faversham Town Council, we built a successful bid that built on the details of Faversham's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

The £995,000 scheme, called the Faversham Cross Town Path, will include new crossings and junction improvements to create a more pedestrian and cycle friendly environment.

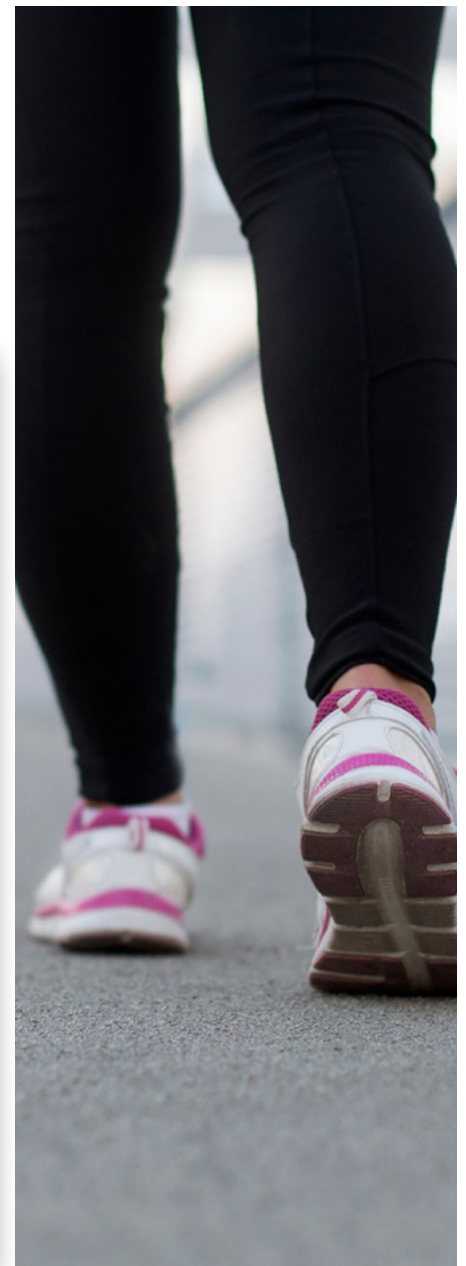
It will be paid for by the Government's Active Travel England fund.

The improvements will work alongside Faversham Town Council's 20mph area and will be among the first new changes to encourage drivers to watch their speed.



**Cllr Rich Lehmann**, chair of the environment committee, said: "We're delighted Faversham has been awarded a substantial sum from the government's Active Travel England fund to invest in a more pedestrian and cycle-friendly Faversham. We are committed to taking

action to combat the climate and ecological emergency in Swale, which is why we were happy to put resources into this bid. This won't just bring environmental benefits, but will also make a difference to local people's health and wellbeing by helping to make walking and cycling a more viable alternative to the car."





Funded by  
UK Government

# Sheerness revival

## Levelling Up fund success

In January it was announced that we were awarded £20 million from the Government's Levelling Up Fund to improve health, education, leisure, and employment opportunities in Sheerness.

This comes after months of work with stakeholders, the community, and businesses to put together a strong bid proposal that fit within the strict guidelines set out by government for the bid.

Swale was identified as one of 100 priority areas in the country that were prioritised to apply for up to £20 million from the LUF for capital projects to support

economic recovery and growth. The characteristics of the borough that merited this priority status are most evident in Sheerness, so we worked closely with the local MP, Gordon Henderson, who backed the proposals.

We want to thank residents for their time and thoughts that went into the consultation period when putting together the bid to go to government. There were some really interesting ideas included, and we are sorry we couldn't include more of them. Due to the strict criteria, not everything could be included, and the funding we have received means there are limitations as to what we can achieve, especially with the rising cost of inflation.

The scheme will expand the existing Healthy Living Centre to provide more and better services for local people, including better GP facilities.

Sheppey College will offer new courses to give young people aged 14-18 on the Island easier access to more training and education

opportunities, and will offer adult education courses.

The conversion of the Masters House out buildings to new creative studios and workspace will help create and support local jobs. Whilst the main office space will allow for new start up businesses and young entrepreneurs to gain support.

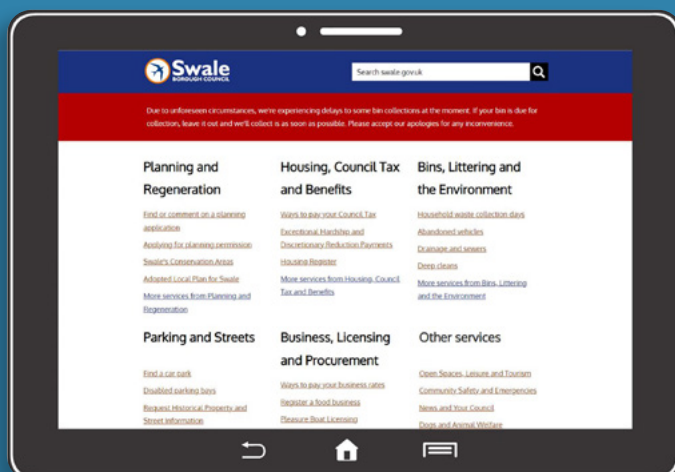
There will also be new leisure activities such as soft play, adventure golf, TAG active, new café and outdoor gym at Beachfields. Allowing local people and visitors a greater choice of things to do in the town.

The funding will also deliver public realm improvements from the train station and around the leisure complex. Improvements will be made to better connect the high street, train station and seafront to encourage visitors to explore and enjoy more of the town.

The progress of Sheerness Revival will be discussed at the next Sheppey Area Committee, the date and location will be confirmed soon.







# Making things quick and easy – do it online



If you're looking to get in touch with us to apply for a garden waste subscription, make a payment or report an issue, did you know you can do a lot of this online?

There are lots of services that you can use online to make things quick and simple.

## Report it

Got home from work and need to report an issue but it's out of office hours? No problem, you can fill in one of our forms to report it.

If your bin has been missed, head to [swale.gov.uk/report-a-missed-bin](https://swale.gov.uk/report-a-missed-bin) within two working days of when your bin was due to be collected.

Know a street that needs cleaning? You can report it online at [swale.gov.uk/request-a-street-clean](https://swale.gov.uk/request-a-street-clean) or if you know an area that has litter or fly-tipping you can report these online too, for litter, visit [swale.gov.uk/report-litter](https://swale.gov.uk/report-litter) and for fly-tipping head to [swale.gov.uk/fly-tipping](https://swale.gov.uk/fly-tipping).

## Apply for it

Not only can you report issues online, but you can also make applications. One of the things you can do is apply for a garden waste bin subscription. It's quick and easy to do, head to [swale.gov.uk/subscribe-to-garden-waste](https://swale.gov.uk/subscribe-to-garden-waste), all you'll need is

- a debit or credit card
- your postcode
- an email address
- any special instructions about delivering or collecting your new garden waste bin

## Pay it

There are payments you can make online too. If you want to make a council tax payment, you can do this online at [swale.gov.uk/pay-council-tax-online](https://swale.gov.uk/pay-council-tax-online).

You'll just need:

- your council tax reference number
- a debit or credit card

## Request it

If you have furniture or bulky items that you need to dispose of, you can request and book a bulky collection for £30, this can be done online at [swale.gov.uk/book-bulky-collection](https://swale.gov.uk/book-bulky-collection) you'll need:

- a debit or credit card
- the address including postcode for the property we'll collect from
- the total number of items to be collected
- the type of items being collected (for example, fridge or sofa)

# HOLLIS HEATING

Family run business for over 50 years

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**Sittingbourne**

**01795 473170**

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**Boiler installations starting from**

**£1850 inc VAT**

**10 years parts and labour  
warranty on selected boilers**



## Help available for households

During the cost of living crisis that everyone across the country is currently experiencing, you may be eligible for help with your food and the cost of utilities through the Household Support Fund.

The scheme is funded by the Government and is for those most in need of support to help with significantly rising living costs.

We have been working with local organisations to deliver support with food and fuel provision through a network of established agencies throughout Swale.

### Help available

The help available can be in the form of:

- Food parcels
- Fuel vouchers for pre-paid meters
- Vouchers for billed utility accounts
- Information and guidance about lowering bills

To be eligible for help, you must:

- be a Swale resident
- be aged over 16 or as part of a household application
- be at risk because you do not have access funds to support you
- have less than £500 in your bank account

For more information about the household support fund visit [swale.gov.uk/hsf](http://swale.gov.uk/hsf)

## How to apply

For access to an emergency food parcel, please contact the food bank in your area:

- Sheerness (Family Food Bank) – email [hsf@children-families.org](mailto:hsf@children-families.org) or call **01795 889233**
- Sittingbourne (Swale Food Bank) – email [info@swale.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@swale.foodbank.org.uk) or call **07486 370709**
- Multicultural (Diversity House) – email [info@diversityhouse.org.uk](mailto:info@diversityhouse.org.uk) or call **01795 420455**
- Faversham (West Faversham Community Association) – email [support@westfavershamca.org](mailto:support@westfavershamca.org) or call **01795 537321**
- Faversham Foodbank – email [info@faversham.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@faversham.foodbank.org.uk) or call **07938720604**

For support with a pre-paid gas or electricity meter, contact:

- the Fuel and Water Home Advisor, call **01795 889233**, email: [fwha@children-families.org](mailto:fwha@children-families.org) or visit [children-families.org/fuel--water-home-adviser.html](http://children-families.org/fuel--water-home-adviser.html)
- Citizen Advice Swale visit [citizensadvice.org.uk/citizensadvice/swale](http://citizensadvice.org.uk/citizensadvice/swale) or call **0808 278 7979**

For support for those who are on billed utility accounts visit [children-families.org/household-support-fund.html](http://children-families.org/household-support-fund.html)

Support available for pensioners including, hot meals, shopping and digital support please contact:

Age UK Faversham & Sittingbourne by telephone on **01795 532766** or email [hsf@ageukfs.org.uk](mailto:hsf@ageukfs.org.uk).

Age UK Sheppey by telephone on **01795 662562** or email [admin@ageuksheppey.co.uk](mailto:admin@ageuksheppey.co.uk)

# ENJOY A SUNNY SUMMER IN SWALE

## What's on in Swale

OPEN AIR THEATRE:  
LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

Belmont House and Gardens

Friday 14 July

This early Shakespeare promises luscious costumes and a few surprises, including an original music collaboration with Kent arts festival, Jam on the Marsh.

The event will go ahead if it's raining. Picnics are welcome in the gardens. Adults £24, Children (10-18 years) £14, under 10's free.

To find out more, or to book, visit [belmont-house.org/events/open-air-theatre-loves-labours-lost](http://belmont-house.org/events/open-air-theatre-loves-labours-lost), or call 01795 890202

Artisan Craft & Gift Markets

FAVERSHAM ARTISAN CRAFT AND GIFT MARKET – SUMMER

The Alexander Centre

Saturday 15 July

Selling jewellery, fashion, beauty, artwork, artisan crafts, photography, candles, soaps, gifts, local food and much more!

10am – 3pm, Free entry.

QUIZ NIGHT HOSTED BY THE QUIZ PEOPLE

The Light, Sittingbourne

Tuesday 18 July (and every Tuesday night)

Just £2 per person and plenty of prizes to be won. No need to book, just turn up and claim your victory! Starts at 8pm every Tuesday evening.

BIG BASH

Beachfields, Healthy Living Centre

Thursday 27 July

Enjoy a picnic in a park themed event, with lots of entertainment for all the family and free entry too.

The event will start at 11:00 and end at 14:00. The day will include children's activities, River Rodents and Reptiles, live music, Boogie Tots, ice cream van, Community Chef, Girls Football, Tai Chi and lots more.

ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC NIGHT

The Light, Sittingbourne

Thursday 3 August

Hosted by Josh Hassell, bring your instruments and join the jam or just sit back and enjoy the vibe. All are welcome - musicians, poets, comedians, fortune tellers, mediums. Takes place the first Thursday each month from 7.30pm until late.



BEASTIE DAY

Brogdale Collections

Friday 18 August

Hunt for bugs in the orchards, meadow and wildlife garden. See where they live in the wild! Learn all about these interesting creatures and why they are so important. Book a Live Bug Show time and meet the giant insects and more! You can also take part in the outdoor crafts including making your very own bugs and beasts to take home using model clay and scavenged beastie bits.

To find out more and to book, visit [brogdalecollections.org/event/beastie-days](http://brogdalecollections.org/event/beastie-days)

SALSA AND BACHATA DANCING

The Light, Sittingbourne

Every Monday night

Every Monday Salsa and Bachata Dancing at The Light, Sittingbourne from 7:30pm. All ages and abilities welcome and there is no need to book.

For prices and more information, please visit [salsawild.co.uk](http://salsawild.co.uk) or call 07704 924 925.



COMEDY OF ERRORS

Mount Ephraim Gardens

Sunday 27 August

Two sets of shipwrecked twins – who lost their doubles years ago – unknowingly end up in the same place at the same time. Chaos ensues; but will the searching siblings find each other in the end?

Bring a picnic and something to sit on! Adults £15, Children £9.

To find out more, or to book, visit [tickettailor.com/events/the-pantaloons/811051](http://tickettailor.com/events/the-pantaloons/811051), or call 01227 751496.



FAVERSHAM HOP FESTIVAL

2 – 3 September

Following the success of last year's festival, back to its best after a two year absence, preparations for Faversham Hop Fest 2023 are well and truly underway!

To find out more, visit [favershamhopfestival.org](http://favershamhopfestival.org)

KENT ROLLER DISCO

Sheppey Leisure Complex

Sunday 3 September

Kent Roller Disco is a traditional Roller Disco and since the return after Covid in May 2021 we now allow the use of recreational inline skates as well as quad skates. If you have your own, that's fine, as long as they are in good working condition. If not then don't worry, there a great selection of Quad skates from a child's size 10 to an adult's size 12.

For more information, visit [kentrollerdisco.co.uk/locations/16sheppey](http://kentrollerdisco.co.uk/locations/16sheppey) or call 01304 619007.



QUEENBOROUGH CLASSIC BOAT FESTIVAL

Queenborough Harbour

16 – 17 September

Celebrates all historic vessels from sailing yachts, to Thames barges and steam tugs, with boat trips and other activities. Annual boat and sailing festival held at Queenborough Harbour. Open to the public, this event celebrates all historic vessels from sailing yachts, to Thames barges and steam tugs, with boat trips and other activities taking place during the event.

If you have a classic boat that you would like to get involved, please contact [admin@queenborough-harbour.co.uk](mailto:admin@queenborough-harbour.co.uk)



KENT ROLLER DISCO

Sheppey Leisure Complex

Sunday 1 October

Kent Roller Disco is a traditional Roller Disco and since the return after Covid in May 2021 we now allow the use of recreational inline skates as well as quad skates. If you have your own, that's fine, as long as they are in good working condition. If not then don't worry, there a great selection of Quad skates from a child's size 10 to an adult's size 12.

For more information, visit [kentrollerdisco.co.uk/locations/16sheppey](http://kentrollerdisco.co.uk/locations/16sheppey) or call 01304 619007.

For the latest information about all these events, and to stay up to date, head to the Visit Swale website [visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on](http://visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on)

All of these events, and many more things to do can be found on the Visit Swale website [visit-swale.co.uk](http://visit-swale.co.uk)

You can submit events online for listing on Visit Swale and Visit Kent. Simply visit [visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on/visit-swale-event-submission-form](http://visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on/visit-swale-event-submission-form). Or you can contact us with your listings by emailing [tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk)

Don't forget to follow us on social media:





## Elections May 2023

The beginning of May was a busy one for our elections team with local elections taking place. The results of the elections brought with it a host of changes and around 23 new councillors.

We had 47 seats contested in the borough elections for 24 wards. There were also seats available for some town and parish councils, as well as a Kent County Council seat for Sheppey.

There have been changes in most wards in the borough, so you may now have a different councillor representing you for your ward. You can find the details of your new councillors on pages 22 and 23.

Election day was a busy one, with polling station staff working across the borough to ensure you were able to cast your votes from 7am to 10pm.

### Day of the count

As with all local elections, we count the following day to ensure everyone is well rested and able to focus on counting the close to 44,000 ballot papers for borough, town, parish and county council elections. We only count overnight for general elections.

It can feel like it takes a while for the first results to come through even though we start at around 9.30 in the morning. This is because there are a few different stages to get through before the actual counting can begin. Our count teams go through seven different stages to get to a declaration of the result for each of the ward seats, and can sometimes take longer for wards that have more than one seat available.

#### 1 Verification

Each ballot box has a unique number, and are checked in on arrival of the counting hall after polling stations have closed. The number of ballot papers in each box is then counted to make sure it matches the number of papers issued at each polling station.

#### 2 Sorting

Once verified, ballot papers from different boxes are mixed to further ensure the secrecy of the vote. They are then allocated to count teams, who sort the ballot papers by candidate.



#### 3 Adjudication

Ballot papers that aren't clearly marked with an X next to a candidate are then adjudicated by an official. As long as the voter's intention is clear, the vote can be counted, if it isn't then the ballot paper is rejected as a spoiled vote.

#### 4 Counting

After the sorting is complete, count teams will then count the number of votes cast for each candidate.

#### 5 Reverification

The valid and rejected votes are then added together and checked against the total number of ballot papers from the first stage of the count.

#### 6 Provisional result

This is then shared with the candidates and their election agents to check they are content with how the count has been conducted. This is when any requests for a recount can be considered.

#### 7 Declaration

Once candidates and their agents are satisfied, the result will be declared publicly. This is when we post the results on our website and on social media, and the official declaration of the result will be posted at our council offices.

### All change for committee chairs

As a result of the elections, we not only have a new Leader, Cllr Tim Gibson, we also have new committee chairs and vice chairs.

**The new service committees, and their chairs and vice chairs, are:**

Committee	Chair	Vice chair
Communities	Cllr Richard Palmer	Cllr Elliott Jayes
Environment	Cllr Rich Lehmann	Cllr Dolley Wooster
Housing and health	Cllr Angela Harrison	Cllr Karen Watson
Policy and resources	Cllr Tim Gibson	Cllr Mike Baldock
Regeneration and property	Cllr Monique Bonney	Cllr Sarah Stephen

**The chairs and vice chairs of the area committees are:**

Committee	Chair	Vice chair
Eastern	Cllr Hannah Perkin	Cllr Chris Williams
Sheppey	Cllr Ken Ingleton	Cllr Mark Tucker
Sittingbourne	Cllr Mark Last	Cllr Derek Carnell
Western	Cllr Paul Stephen	Cllr Ann Cavanagh

**The chairs and vice chairs of other committees are:**

Committee	Chair	Vice chair
Audit	Cllr Simon Clark	Cllr Derek Carnell
Licensing	Cllr Derek Carnell	Cllr Tony Winckless
Planning	Cllr Mike Baldock	Cllr Elliott Jayes
Standards	Cllr Ashley Wise	Cllr Monique Bonney
Urgent decisions	Cllr Tim Gibson	Cllr Mike Baldock

**Voter ID**

This was also the first election that saw the introduction of photo ID being required to cast your vote, and it will be needed for all future elections. There are many forms of photo ID that are accepted including:

- Passport
- Driving Licence
- Blue Badge
- Older Person's Bus Pass
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- Oyster 60+ card
- Freedom Pass
- Registered Blind Smart Pass
- Identity card with the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Biometric immigration document
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- National identity card issued by an EEA state

You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you and the name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.

If you don't have one of these, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply online by visiting [gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate) or contact us by calling **01795 417316**.



# Swale Trails

## Discovering the hidden beauty of rural west Swale

The landscape in the west of Swale is a hidden gem. There are picturesque villages and hamlets, ancient churches, traditional village pubs, unique cafes, wonderful woodlands, acres of open fields, pastures, orchards, glorious hill-top views down to incredible estuary birdlife.

The Western Area Committee have funded a series of new walks and rides to reveal the beauty of west Swale.

All the trails are circular, so you can start anywhere on a route and you'll always return to where you began. The walks and rides are designed to be achievable by anyone with a reasonable level of fitness.



**4.25 miles**

### Apples Galore - The fruit bowl of England walk

An uplifting rural walk through the North Kent Fruit Belt. Along quiet country lanes

to the picturesque village of Hartlip with its pretty church and characterful houses on the edge of the North Downs, across open fields on the loop back into Newington.

**5.4 miles**

### Birds, Boats and Countryside Trail

A stunning rural walk with vistas of both coast and countryside around Upchurch, Lower Halstow and Newington. Open fields with scenic views, salt marsh and estuary birdlife, wharfs and Thames barges, woodland glades with bluebells in season, ancient churches, quiet country lanes, traditional country pubs and village life. This walk truly has it all.



**4.4 miles**

### King & Country Trail

Step out of the urban into the rural. From a park that celebrates a king, across open fields to the picturesque rural hamlet of Tunstall with its ancient church and lovely countryside views. Then onward across orchards to the village of Borden with its traditional pub, nature reserve and church.

**3.8 miles**

### The Woodland and Duck Ponds Trail

A wonderful country walk via the picturesque village of Rodmersham, with its village green, duck ponds, coffee shop, pub and church. Walk across open fields, through fruit orchards and along leafy woodland trails, with an optional extra loop thrown in.

**12.5 miles**

### Estuary Edgelands Explore

A rural ride through Newington, Iwade, Lower Halstow and Upchurch, with views of the estuary and countryside. Enjoy open fields with scenic views, salt marsh and estuary birdlife, acres of orchards, ancient churches, quiet country lanes and traditional country pubs.

**12 miles**

### Ride in the shadow of The Downs

A circular ride through the hamlets and villages of Rodmersham, Milstead, Bredgar, Oad Street, Borden and Tunstall, that sit in the beautiful countryside north of The Downs.

Details of all the Swale Trails are available in a series of leaflets. These can be found at the Visitor Information Centres, local hospitality providers or ordered on [visit-swale.co.uk](http://visit-swale.co.uk).

The Swale Trails are downloadable on [explorekent.org](http://explorekent.org) and can be followed on the [Kent Connected app](#).

# Don't let gardening be a pain in the grass

We all want to make the most of our gardens in the summer, so they often need a little more TLC and work to keep looking their best. So now is a great time to get yourself a garden waste bin to take care of those trimmings and grass cuttings.

Taking a trip to the tip can take time out of your weekends. So, what do you do with all this waste?

For £55 a year you can get a brown garden waste bin which will be collected up to 25 times a year, saving you the time and hassle of a trip to the tip.

Grass cuttings, leaves and flowers are perfect for the garden waste bin but remember, please pop these in loose – no black sacks!

To sign up for a brown garden waste bin subscription, visit [swale.gov.uk/garden-waste](http://swale.gov.uk/garden-waste) or call 01795 417888

**Only  
£2.20 a  
collection**



## Recycling made easy

Do you know what you're doing when it comes to recycling? It can be a bit tricky when there are different rules for different councils. Some items it is easy to tell what bin it should go in, but others might be a little more tricky.

To help ensure we are able to recycle as much as possible, we need clean, uncontaminated recycling.

We're unfortunately seeing more lorry loads of recycling rejected because of non-recyclable items causing contamination.

The worst offenders are clothes and textiles, food waste, black sacks and carrier bags, sanitary products and nappies. None of these should be going in your recycling bin.

### How do I know what to recycle?

If you are unsure what bin you should pop something in, we have a handy online tool that's really quick and simple to use. Head to [swale.gov.uk/what-goes-in-my-bin](https://www.swale.gov.uk/what-goes-in-my-bin) and simply type in the name of the item you want to dispose of.

### Most searched for items

**Plastic tubs** – plastic food tubs can go in with your recycling in your blue bin.

**Metal pots and pans** – pots and pans shouldn't go in your bin and should be taken to your local household waste and recycling centre.

**Unopened canned goods** – if it is still in date but just unwanted, then please think about donating unopened cans to your nearest food bank. Alternatively, empty contents

into your food recycling caddy and place the rinsed out can into your recycling container.

**Food waste** – if you have any food waste, you should use your food waste bin. Don't already have one? Order a bin and caddy online for free by calling **01795 417888**.

**Garden waste** – if you have garden waste, consider getting a brown garden waste bin subscription. To find out more, visit [swale.gov.uk/garden-waste](https://www.swale.gov.uk/garden-waste) or call **01795 417888**.



## Handy recycling tips



Please make sure your recycling is free from food residue, as food can cause contamination. You don't need to use clean running water for this, the waste water after you've washed your dishes will do the trick.



Flatten your cardboard boxes, you can fit more in your recycling bins that way.



Have a system: keep a clear recycling bag, cardboard box, or bin next to your rubbish bin as a reminder for everyone in your house to recycle.






When recycling plastic bottles don't forget items like shampoo and mouthwash bottles.

## Recycling and refuse collection dates

If you're unsure of your collection week, visit [swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day](https://swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day)

**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 [swale.gov.uk](https://swale.gov.uk).

### Week 1 collections

 Blue bin collection week  Green bin collection week  
 Please check for updates for changes to Christmas collections

July 2023						
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 2023						
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 2023						
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	

October 2023						
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 2023						
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 2023						
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

### Week 2 collections

July 2023						
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 2023						
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 2023						
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	

October 2023						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2023						
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 2023						
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



# Changes to collections in Marine Town coming this October

After successful trials in three roads in Marine Town, we'll be rolling out weekly food waste collections and alternate weekly general waste and recycling collections across the rest of Marine Town in October.

The food waste collections is in direct response to many Marine Town residents requesting the service to be introduced.

To help cut down on food waste, district councils in England will be required to offer kerbside food waste recycling collections to all residents over the next few years.

Marine Town residents will be provided with a 23 litre food waste bin, a 5 litre silver caddy for inside the kitchen and a roll of compostable food waste bags. These will be delivered at least one week prior to the first collection date.

The food waste collections are also being introduced alongside moving residents to alternate weekly collections for general waste and recycling. We will be getting touch with Marine Town residents directly over the coming weeks about what this will mean for them and how to make the most of their food waste bins.

Food waste recycling helps you see what food is going to waste each week and it gives you the opportunity to adjust, which saves you money and makes the most of the food you are buying.

If you are not yet signed up to weekly food waste collections, call **01795 417888**. Food waste bins are provided for free to residents and they are a key step towards reaching our net zero carbon targets.



**Food waste**  
Weekly



**General waste**  
Alternate weekly



**Recycling**  
Alternate weekly

# Are you part of the Food Waste problem?

Using a food waste bin makes it easier to see what is going to waste each week, and by trying a few of these simple things as part of your weekly routine you'll quickly see how a few small actions make a real difference both to your pocket and the planet.

- Stay in control of your shopping – by making a few simple habits such as sticking to what you have on your shopping list, minimising impulse food purchases and meal planning, you can spend less, and save on potential food waste.
- Storing your food after shopping – putting your food away in all the right places will keep it fresher for longer, which means there's more time for you to use it for a delicious meal, and you're less likely to create waste of something left unused.
- Keep an eye on your fresh food – keep track of your perishables and fresh food and remember frequently check to use up what is likely to go off first.
- Save what you can – eat as much of the food as is possible by using up all the edible parts of fresh food, and by freezing left overs to be used later.



If you can't reduce the amount of food you throw away, please pop it in your food waste bin. We send food waste from your black and orange food waste bins to an anaerobic digester where it is then turned into soil conditioner to grow new food.

By using a food waste bin, you could remove up to 23 litres of food waste from your green bin every week. No amount of food is too little, we will still collect it weekly alongside your other bins.

## Top tips for keeping your food bin clean:

- Put all food waste into a compostable liner bearing the Seedling logo (or a sheet of newspaper or kitchen roll) before putting it in the food caddy.

- Don't overfill the compostable liner so that the top of the bag can be twisted to contain the waste inside the bag (to prevent the food waste spilling out of the bag) and into the black and orange bin.
- Keep the lid of both your kitchen caddy and black and orange food bins shut at all times, and lock the lids by lifting the handles.
- Rinse out your bin regularly with boiling water and salt.
- Put your food bin out for collection every week.
- When it's hot keep your bin out of direct sunlight.


## Compostable bags


These can be bought from most supermarkets, please only use bags with the Seedling logo. Compostable bags bearing the Seedling logo indicate that they have been certified as industrially compostable and are made of compostable matter like cornstarch or potato, which fully breakdown in controlled composting environments.

To order a free food waste bin and kitchen caddy, call **01795 417888**.


In the UK around 70% of the food waste produced comes from our homes and 36 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions could be prevented by saving food from our bins in the UK, or by using a food waste bin.

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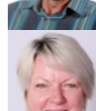
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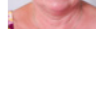
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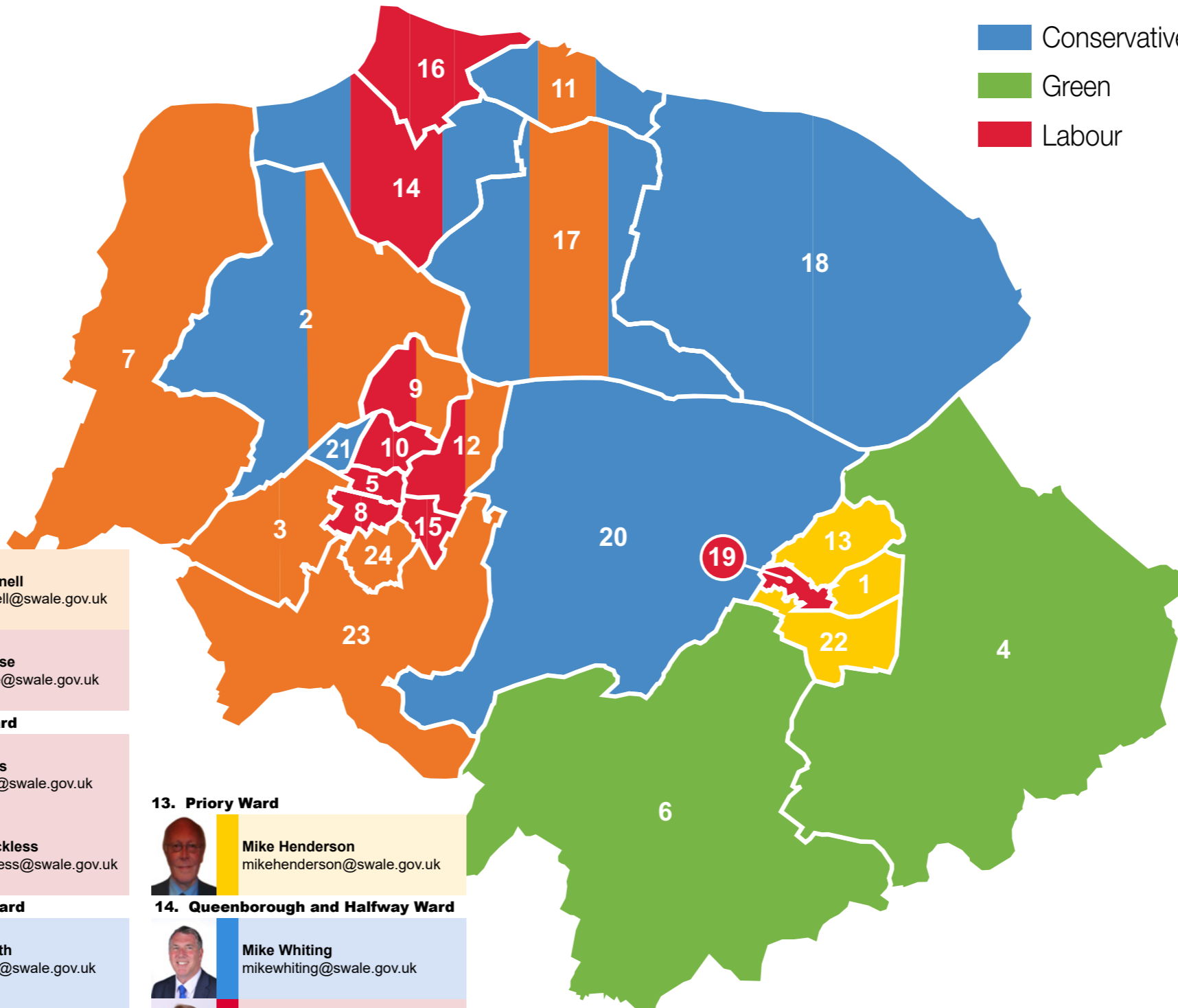
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**MORE**