

Winter 2023

# Inside

## Swale



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let's do  
**MORE**

\*T's & C's apply.

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## Welcome to the first Inside Swale of 2023

We know it's a hard time for everyone at the moment with inflation and the cost of living, and trying to make ends meet, and it's no different for us as a council. Which is why we all have to focus on making every penny count as we try and get through this crunch.

This means making decisions that may be unpopular, but are essential if we're going to be able to carry on providing you with a good service. As a community we have shown how we can all support each other, such as during the Covid crisis, and we have to continue to work with each other and help support those who are particularly vulnerable or simply unfortunate.

This is why schemes like the fuel and water adviser, which we set-up are so important. We're continuing to prioritise schemes to support our

most vulnerable including providing accommodation for the homeless, and working with organisations to provide the government's Household Support Fund. It may mean the rest of us have to dig a little deeper at a time when we least feel able, but together we will get through these tough times, and the more resilient our communities are the better state we will all be when things start to get better again.

As a council we have over the past few years invested much in improving Swale, increasing our role as a tourist destination and addressing long-standing maintenance issues on many of our important buildings and sites. We have focussed on making our town centres more resilient and our leisure areas more attractive. There is more reason than ever to spend leisure time here within Swale and enjoy what we have on our own doorsteps, be it our towns, our villages, our seaside areas or our countryside.

So together, let's make 2023 a year to remember for the right reasons!

Leader of the council,  
Councillor Mike Baldock

The  
Electoral  
Commission

Find out more at

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

You now need  
photo ID to vote at  
a polling station

## Voter ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

### Which forms of ID can I use to vote?

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards

- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards
- Kent County Council ENCTS bus passes (for older and disabled people)

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call their helpline on **0800 328 0280**.

### If you don't have an accepted form photo ID

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether

your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a **Voter Authority Certificate**. You can apply for this at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk).

### Find out more

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, go to [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID), or call their helpline on **0800 328 0280**.



## Churchyards see much needed investments

We've been making improvements at closed churchyards across the borough, including the Holy Trinity Church in Queenborough, Holy Trinity Church Milton Regis and St Mary of Charity Church in Faversham.

When churchyards close, they become the responsibility of local councils, so it's our job to make sure they are safe for the people who visit loved ones, walk dogs, and enjoy the nature.

Just some of the improvements made in the churchyards around Swale include repairs to crumbling walls, making broken railings safe, repairs to monuments and to paths.



## Zero to hero – sustainability in your hands

We all have a part to play in reducing the waste we generate at home and when we're out. At Swale Media Arts Centre you can learn about how you can reduce waste and turn your recycling into art and more.

Don't wait for others to make a difference, join in and be the change. Make small changes to build a better world for yourself, family and loved ones.



Take part in a six week free program of arts and crafts activities:

- Week one – Creativity and Wellbeing
- Week two – Recycle Single Use Plastic
- Week three – Litter Pick Art
- Week four – Fabric and Textile
- Week five – Creativity and Wellbeing
- Week six – Paper and Card

### Where and when

Swale Media Arts Centre, 34 High Street Sittingbourne on Mondays 10.30am-12.30pm.

**Winter Term** starting on 5 February 2023.

**Spring Term** starting on 3 April 2023.

**Summer Term** starting on 3 June 2023.

For more information, or to register to book your space on the free programme of activities, visit

[www.swalemediaartscentre.co.uk](http://www.swalemediaartscentre.co.uk)

## Levelling Up Barton's Point thanks to successful funding bid

It will be easier than ever for visitors to explore Barton's Point Coastal Park, after we were successful funding in our bid to the Levelling Up Parks Fund.

We successfully secured £85,000 from the Government's Levelling Up Parks Fund, a separate fund to the Levelling Up Fund, to install new walking and cycling signs around the park, as well as information panels to help visitors learn more about the park's history.

The funding will also deliver new seating, tree planting, works to reduce erosion along the edge of the lake and improvements to the entrance to the car park.

The work's are expected to be completed by the end of this spring.



**Cllr Julian Saunders**, chair of the environment committee, said:

“Now we've been awarded the funding, we'll be installing new wayfinding signs around the park to help people enjoy more walks and bike trails. There'll also be some heritage interpretation panels to let visitors know more about the history of the site.

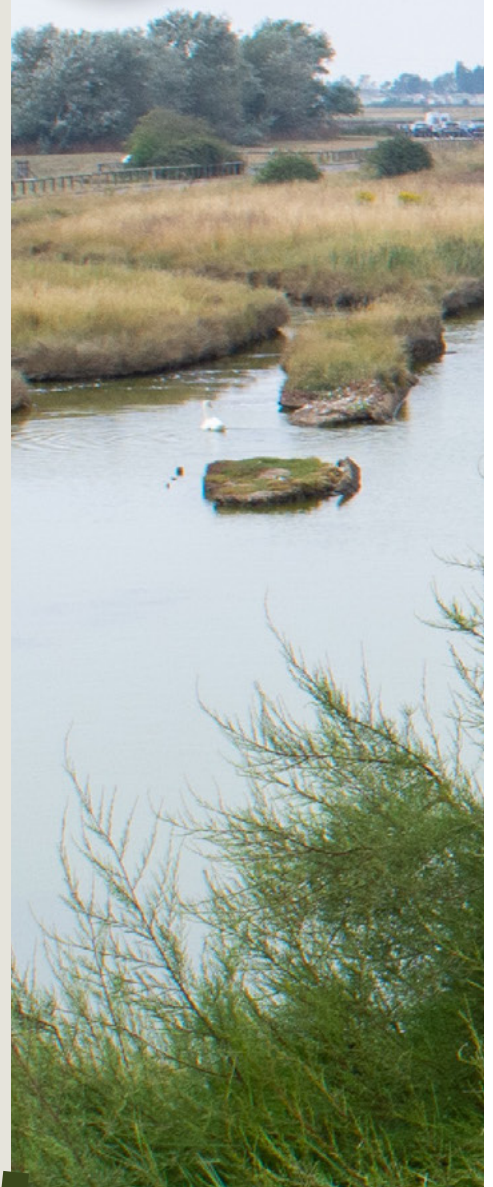
“We'll plant 20 trees during the planting season this winter and reduce erosion at the edge of the salt water lake by supplementing the banks with shingle.

“We'll also be resurfacing the entrance of the car park as the weather warms up in the spring.”

**Cllr Tim Valentine**, vice chair of the environment committee, said:

“We're delighted to be awarded this funding for Barton's Point.

“Aside from our plans to make improvements, there's also lots of work planned for Barton's Point, including a new toilet and shower facility to replace the old one near the Boathouse Café, a lease for new activity operators and the Sheppey Sea Cadets are planning a new headquarters for their training courses with sleeping accommodation.”



# Play area investment across Swale



We have been continuing our planned works to reinvest into play areas around Swale. Millfield play area in Faversham is just one of the latest of our play areas to get a much-needed makeover.

Thanks to an investment of £150,000 the play area has had significant improvements. The equipment that was originally in place was installed in the early 80s and was no longer fit for purpose. We worked with the local community who campaigned for the upgrades to ensure that it was what they wanted.

The design and equipment mean that it is one of the most accessible play areas in the borough, with wheelchair accessible roundabouts, sensory equipment, and accessible footways and paths to seating areas.

Millfield wasn't the only play area to see improvements in Faversham. After the arson attack to the pirate play equipment at Faversham Pools play area, we have completed repairs which means the popular play area is now back up and running again.

These improvements and repairs were among a long line of improvements that have been taking place across the borough over recent years. Last year alone also saw investment into:

- Johnson Road, Sittingbourne
- Manor Grove, Sittingbourne
- Castle Site Play Area, Queenborough Castle
- Diligent Drive, Sittingbourne
- Vincent Gardens, Sheerness
- Festival Fields, Sheerness



## Area committees continue to tackle what matters to you

Area committees have now been running for more than two years and have been working with local communities on issues that matter most to you.

The committees give local councillors a chance to reconnect with the public and bring valuable local insight to council decision-making. Honest and open dialogue with the public is a key priority for the council, so the introduction of the area committees was an important way for us to have that open dialogue.

The four committees are made up of all the councillors representing wards in the following areas:

- Eastern - Abbey, Boughton and Courtenay, East Downs, Priory, St Ann's, Teynham and Lynsted and Watling wards.
- Sheppey – Minster Cliffs, Queenborough and Halfway, Sheerness, Sheppey Central and Sheppey East
- Sittingbourne - Chalkwell, Homewood, Kemsley, Milton Regis, Murston and Roman

- Western - Bobbing, Iwade and Lower Halstow, Borden and Grove Park, Hartlip Newington and Upchurch, the Meads, Woodstock and West Down.

At the last round of area committees, held in December 2022, there were presentations for most on the Active Travel Fund, tranche 4, and the proposals that will be put forward for Sittingbourne, Sheppey and Eastern areas.

Sittingbourne area committee also heard proposals from the Lawn Tennis Association to refurbish the King George's Playing Fields and Milton Recreation Ground tennis courts. The plans were fully supported by the committee and it will now be taken to the community committee.

Western area committee discussed the increased risk of flooding to the area. They also allocated funding to Children and Families for energy packs including hot water bottles, draft excluders, and blankets to help people stay warm this winter, and to Kent Pond Wardens to buy chest waders and sampling nets for their maintenance work.

At Sheppey area committee, parish councillors and the public heard proposals and were consulted with on plans to install 12 additional beach huts at Minster Leas and a further 12 at Leysdown.

The committee also allocated funding to Curly's Farm to help their new 'outpost' learning base, to Warden parish council to replace the flooring in Warden Village Hall, and to Friendly Faces of Kent to run a warm hub in Rushenden.

Eastern Area Committee heard a progress report on the Parishes to Town Project which explores active travel opportunities for local communities and villages. It will then link in with the different Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan proposals. Funding was awarded to Friendly Faces of Kent, Teynham Parish Council, Painters Forstal Community Association, Faversham Umbrella, Abbey Physic Community Garden, Faversham Salvation Army and Brogdale CIC who are all providing projects that will help residents with the cost of living crisis.

Area Committees take place quarterly with the next round of meetings taking place:

**Western Area Committee**, Thursday 16 February, 7pm.

**Sheppey Area Committee**, Tuesday 21 February, 7pm.

**Sittingbourne Area Committee**, Thursday 23 February, 7pm.

**Eastern Area Committee**, Tuesday 28 February, 7pm.

Locations for each of the meetings will be announced soon.



## Gold standard for stray dog service

Our stray dog service has been recognised for its commitment to animal welfare by the RSPCA, receiving its thirteenth consecutive Gold Pawprint Award, and its first ever Bronze Award for Animal Licensing.

The Gold Award recognises our stray dog service for its excellence in animal welfare. This is the first year the team has been put forward for an award in animal licensing, which shows their understanding of animal licencing legislation and practices and managed to secure the Bronze Award.

**Cllr Julian Saunders**, chair of the environment committee at the council, said:

“We’re delighted with these awards. They highlight the important work our teams do, day in, day out.

“We’ve seen an increase in the number of stray dogs in Swale and we work hard to give them a high standard of care.

One of the biggest challenges the service is seeing at the moment is the rapid influx of stray and abandoned dogs. It’s been one of the busiest times in recent memory and unfortunately, is something many dog wardens across the country are facing. Rescue centres are also struggling with record numbers of pets being relinquished, so it’s taking us much longer than average to secure our dogs rescue spaces.

One of the biggest pieces of advice we can give is please make sure your pet is microchipped and that the details are kept up to date.

It’s not only a legal requirement, but it also means that if your dog ever does go missing, they will be returned to you so much quicker.

When looking at getting a new dog, make sure you do your research. Different breeds have different characteristics and your choice should reflect what suits your lifestyle and what you can offer, not which one is the cutest. And remember, pets cost money! Please consider getting pet insurance or putting some money aside each month for those unexpected vet bills.

To report a stray dog during normal office hours, the public should call **01795 417850** where arrangements will be made for the dog to be collected.

If a dog is found between 5pm and 9pm on weekday evenings, or between 9am and 9pm weekends and bank holidays, the public should ring the out of hours service on **07795 237479**.



# HOLLIS HEATING

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**Sittingbourne**

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## Volunteers help break tree planting targets

During National Tree Week we got together with volunteers from around the borough with the aim to plant 1,000 trees. Thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication, we were able to surpass this target, planting 1,300 trees around Swale.

Tree planting during National Tree Week (26 November – 4 November) marked the beginning of our annual planting season and we planted a native mix of:

- beech
- maple
- willow
- hornbeam
- hazel
- dog-rose
- alder
- rowan
- silver birch
- cherry
- lime
- apple

We regularly undertake tree planting around Swale as it's a priority within our climate and ecological emergency action plan, but National Tree week was an opportunity for us to give one big push.

We had tree planting days at:

- Manor Road open space, Rushenden where we planted 350 trees
- 225 trees were planted at Milton Creek Country Park
- at Millfield Park, Faversham volunteers helped us plant 250 trees
- 225 trees at Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park
- King George V Playing Field, Sittingbourne, had 250 trees planted

We want to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who turned up and help make National Tree week such a success for us.



## Young people in Swale able to Reconnect

Last summer we were able to work with lots of businesses in Swale and Kent County Council to offer a number of Reconnect events for young people and their families across the borough.

Just some of the events on offer included cinema and bowling passes for The Light in Sittingbourne, "Sweat it Out" workout sessions for Sheppey, and swimming lessons in Faversham.

Working with Kent County Council's Reconnect, we were able to offer fun activities at significantly reduced costs so that families across Swale could make the most of their summer. One Family who used The Light said they were "blown away" with what their children received for just £1.99. The reduced cost allowed young people to receive free popcorn and a soft drink, as well as an arcade voucher and the opportunity to take part in craft sessions during their visit.

Swimming sessions and swimming lessons at Faversham Pools were also extremely popular. For some this included learning to swim for the first time.

Sheppey Matters teamed up with staff from the Healthy Living centre and BM Run To Save a Life Foundation to host the "Sweat it Out" bootcamp fitness session.

## Draft budget consultation results to be discussed

Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation on our proposed budget for the next financial year.

We asked for your feedback on the draft budget for 2023/24, after the consultation was agreed at a meeting in November, and the consultation ran from December until 13 January 2023.

The draft budget looks at issues including:

- restructuring council services to save £516,000, including £100,000 from senior management
- no annual pay award for council staff, with proposals to maintain current salary levels, our commitment to pay the Real Living Wage and reduce working hours
- increasing council tax by 2.99%, or more if the Government increase the previous cash limit
- increasing income from fees and charges by £581,000
- reducing grants paid by £227,000



**Cllr Mike Baldock**, leader of the council, said:

"This is only the second time we've run a full consultation on our proposed budget in this way, so we can fully understand people's feedback.

"These draft proposals have been put together as a response to the hugely increased costs we're facing, along with the pressures of more and more people coming to us for support with essential things like housing and the cost of living crisis.

"It's no secret that the income we receive from the revenue support grant from central government has fallen from £4.1 million in 2014/15 to £120,000 this year, so we've got to make some tough choices to try to balance the books.

"Local Government funding has been repeatedly slashed by central Government, and councils across the country are facing extreme pressures to try and deliver even basic services.

"Our share of the final council tax bill that residents receive is only around 10 per cent of the total, and any increase we make will be significantly less than inflation.

"But we know our services make a real difference which is why we want to invest in improving things like our waste and street cleaning services and keep working hard on those issues that are important to local people. To pay for these means less funding on other services."

The results will be reported to the policy and resources committee on 8 February 2023 before full council is asked to approve the final budget on 22 February.

## Visit Swale

We would like to thank local businesses for providing local events and news for the Visit Swale website and listings that have made for a great year. Those who live in or visit Swale were able to see just what the borough has to offer thanks to your hard work.

We would love for you to continue to send your events through to us so we can let people know what is going on in the coming weeks and months. It can often be slow at the start of the year but it would be great to showcase what Swale has on offer in 2023.

You can submit all sorts of events, from theatre productions, and heritage events, afternoon teas and carnivals, we want to hear about them all.

It's easy to submit your events. Simply visit [visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on/visit-swale-event-submission-form](https://www.visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on/visit-swale-event-submission-form) or contact us with your listings by email [tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk). Make sure to include as much information as possible and any images you want to use with the listing.

In addition to the Visit Swale website, you can also find out about events on our social media channels Visit Swale Facebook, Visit Swale Twitter and Visit Swale Instagram (@visitswale) so make sure to follow us there for more information.

**The total value of tourism in Swale in 2021 was**  
**£173 million**

**4.3 million day**  
**trips were taken to Swale**

## Civic awards

People who work quietly behind the scenes to benefit others could be in line to be presented with a Civic Award.

We have launched these awards to help recognise those who work hard to help others. Nominations for these new awards are now open. You can put someone forward for an award until the end of February. There are no age limits and nominations are welcome from all walks of life but must live in Swale.

Entries will be judged by the Mayor of Swale, Cllr Simon Clarke and a panel of Swale Borough councillors. The awards will be presented at a ceremony later this year.

Nominations can be made using the awards submission form online by visiting [swale.gov.uk/civic-awards](https://www.swale.gov.uk/civic-awards)

## Become a member of East Kent Hospitals today

**Everyone's motivation for joining their local NHS Trust is different. You or a relative may have had hospital treatment or might simply be passionate about the NHS.**

East Kent Hospitals is your local Foundation Trust and provides acute hospital care in east Kent.

Foundation Trusts have a wide membership of local people, patients and staff, aged 16 and over. Members vote to elect local Governors to represent them.

We want to listen and use your feedback to help us improve services. You can be involved as much or as little as you want, from just receiving news or asking your governor to represent your views, to helping us redesign services or even standing as a Governor yourself.

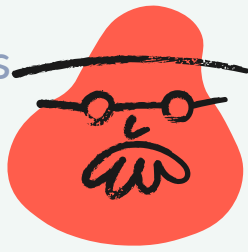
Find out who your governor is by visiting [www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/governors](https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/governors).

For more information visit [www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/members](https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/members); email [foundationtrust@nhs.net](mailto:foundationtrust@nhs.net) or phone us on 01233 616806.

There are lots of reasons to sign up:

- Have your say on local NHS services
- Get the latest news straight into your inbox
- Vote for your local governor or stand yourself
- It's free and you get high street discounts
- Get an invite to our events and annual meeting

Electric vehicles



# Every community needs a Digital Champion.



Share your digital skills with  
friends and neighbours,  
find out more: **digitalkent.uk**.



DIGITAL  
CHAMPIONS  
NETWORK



Funded by  
Kent County Council's  
Helping Hands Scheme  
Digital Inclusion & Capabilities



# Save time with a garden waste bin

With spring approaching, many of us will be having a clear up in the garden. Now is a great time to get yourself a garden waste bin to take care of those trimmings.

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

For £45 a year you can get a brown garden waste bin that will be collected up to 25 times a year, which works out as just £1.80 per collection, saving you the time and hassle of a trip to the tip and a messy car.

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

Got a small garden? Why not share with a neighbour and share the cost.

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**.



# Worried about the rising cost of your energy bills?

With rising energy bills during the cost of living crisis, a cold snap can be daunting during these winter months.

Reducing energy costs doesn't mean you have to be cold during the winter though. If you need extra support in reducing your energy and water bills, you can reach out to our Fuel and Water Home Adviser Service for help and advice.

You can get advice on how to effectively manage energy and water use in your homes, and support if you are eligible to apply for grants and emergency fuel vouchers.

You can make a self-referral to the service, and housing officers, health workers, family finance workers, housing associations, food banks and other charities are able to make a referral on your behalf.

It's simple to make an appointment with Fuel and Water Home Adviser Service, visit [children-families.org/fuel-water-home-adviser.html](https://children-families.org/fuel-water-home-adviser.html) or call **01795 889233**

## Top tips from our Fuel and Water Home Adviser

### Turn your thermostat down

For each degree you cut the thermostat, expect to cut bills by around 4%, or about £65 a year on average for a typical home.

The World Health Organisation says that 18 degrees is enough for healthy adults, with slightly higher temperatures needed for the very old or young. So, consider popping on a jumper at home and seeing what temperature your household is comfortable at.

A common debate is whether it's cheaper to leave the heating on low all day, rather than just turning it on when you need it. The Energy Saving Trust is adamant you should only have your heating on when required.

### Turn draught detective

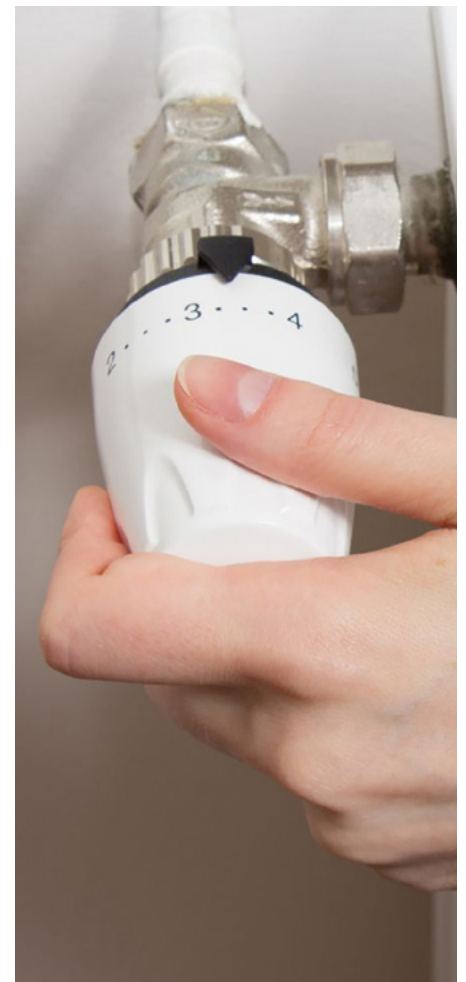
Walk round your home spotting window and door draughts. Decent draught-proofing can cut 2% off energy bills, so about £30 a year on average for a typical home. This applies to chimneys too, where you can get a further reduction of around 1.5%. Again, this is subject to an initial outlay, but you will make it back over time.

The Energy Saving Trust told us putting clingfilm on windows actually works. It says adding a second layer, as long as it's transparent and airtight, will make a difference.

## Use radiator thermostats

You don't need to heat the whole house when you're spending all day in one room. Thermostatic radiator valves are an extra control, where you can use to set the temperature of each individual room (other than where your main thermostat is). When the temperature in that room rises above what's set on the radiator valve, it will stop water flowing through that particular radiator – the boiler will still be on to heat other rooms, but it will use less energy.

Installing them and using them with your thermostat allows you to control the temperature room by room, and could save you almost 6%, so about £85 a year on average for a typical home.







## 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

## 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/hsf/](http://citizensadvice.org.uk/swale/hsf/) or call **0808 278 7979**

If you'll reach state pension age by 31st March 2023 and you need help with hot meals, shopping for food or digital support, please contact Age UK Faversham & Sittingbourne (also covering Sheppey) by telephone on **01795 532766** or email [hsf@ageukfs.org.uk](mailto:hsf@ageukfs.org.uk).

# Recycling made easy with our Waste Wizard



Recycling isn't always as easy as you would like to think. Some items it's easy to tell what bin it should go in, but others might be a little more tricky.

Luckily, we have a handy online tool that can help make recycling a little easier and clearer. Our Waste Wizard [swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard](http://swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard)

### What is it?

The Waste Wizard is an easy to use online tool that helps you to figure out what bin you should be using, or how you can dispose of it.

### How do I use it?

It's really quick and simple to use. Head to [swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard](http://swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard) and simply type in the name of the item you want to dispose of.

The Waste Wizard will give you some suggestions or alternatives to what you are looking for. You can select the item and it will then tell you how you can dispose of or recycle the item. It's that simple.

### Why should I use it?

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 being turned away from the recycling centre because of contaminated loads.

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.

Each rejected load costs local taxpayers an extra £2,000 for alternative disposal.

### Recycling Tip

Please make sure your recycling is free from food residue, as food can cause contamination and means it can't be recycled.

You don't need to use clean running water for this, the waste water after you've washed your dishes will do the trick.



### Top 10 searched for items

**Clothes and textiles** – You can pop any textiles that can't be donated in a tied up carrier bag and place it next to your blue recycling bin on collection day. Please do not put them in your bin.

**Small electricals** – small electricals such as kettles or toasters can be put in a tied up carrier bag and placed next to your green general waste bin on collection day, or taken to any shop where you can buy a

similar replacement. Please do not put them in your bin.

**Disposable batteries** – disposable batteries can be a fire risk so should not be placed in your bin. Some shops and supermarkets provide collection points, but they can also be put in a tied up carrier bag and placed next to your green bin.

**Glass bottles** – these can go in your blue recycling bin.

**Cardboard** – cardboard can go in your blue bin. Please flatten large boxes. If they don't fit in your recycling bin leave it next to your bin for collection. Remove all plastic inserts and polystyrene, as well as packing tape and pop these in your green bin.

**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. Alternately, empty contents into your food recycling caddy and place the rinsed out can into your recycling container.

**Shredded paper** – this can go in your blue recycling bin.


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

## Recycling and refuse collection dates

If you're unsure of your collection week, visit [swale.gov.uk/bins-littering-and-the-environment/bins/collection-days](https://swale.gov.uk/bins-littering-and-the-environment/bins/collection-days) **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) and click the 'Next Bin Collection' link, or call **01795 417888**.

### Week 1 collections

 Blue bin collection week

 Green bin collection week

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

February 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					

March 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		


April 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

May 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				

June 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		

### Week 2 collections

 Blue bin collection week

 Green bin collection week

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

February 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					

March 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		

April 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

May 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				

June 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		

# Are you part of the Food Waste problem?

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.

If every UK household stopped wasting food for one day, it could do the same for greenhouse gas emissions as planting 640,000 trees per day (around 230 million per year). The vast majority, 4.5 million tonnes, is food that could have been consumed and is worth approximately £14 billion (£60 per month for an average UK family).

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 produces bio-gas for energy and 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.

To order a food waste bin, call **01795 417888**.

If you're interested to see what happens to your food waste, or for more information check out the QR code below.



# Re-cycling!

A new bike recycling project could provide affordable, newly refurbished bikes to local families in Swale.

We're working with HMP Swaleside, Kent County Council (KCC) and the Canterbury Bike Project to collect unwanted bikes that would otherwise end up in landfill, refurbish them, and sell them to local community groups for a small fee.

We have provided the initial £3,000 to get the project up and running, investing in the bearings, chains, brake pads, reflectors, bells, and cables needed to refurbish the first 120 bikes, 80 of which have been donated by Canterbury Bike Project.

The bikes will be refurbed by prisoners from HMP Swaleside who are earning a City and Guilds in bike mechanics and developing highly-valued employability skills such as problem-solving and adaptability, meaning that they will leave prison ready to enter the labour market and with industry standard vocational

**Cllr Julian Saunders**, chair of the environment committee at the council, said:

"We're pleased to be working with KCC, HMP Swaleside and the Canterbury Bike Project to deliver affordable options of alternative travel to local people in Swale.

"Last month we agreed our priorities for walking and cycling improvements in Swale, looking into infrastructure that would better connect Faversham, Sittingbourne, and Sheerness town centres with their surrounding areas.

"We already had plans to incorporate bike recycling in our climate action plan, so when we were approached by HMP Swaleside who were already offering the service to national charities, it was an easy decision to get onboard.

"Once the bikes have been refurbished, they will be offered to local community groups, charities, and foodbanks for a small fee of £10, which will provide the money needed to buy the parts to recycle the next bike making the project sustainable into the future. The groups can then pass them on to the local community for free, or for a small fee.

**Cllr Tim Valentine**, vice chair of the environment committee at the council, said:

"We're in the process of setting up collection points with KCC at household waste recycling centres in Sittingbourne, Faversham, and

Sheerness, so anyone with an old bike can drop them off at their nearest centre, and they'll be recycled.

"We hope the collection points will be ready in March, and in the meantime, we'll start the project off with 80 bikes that have been kindly donated by Canterbury Bike Project.

"If you have an unwanted bike lurking in the back of the shed hold on to it for a few months and then you'll be able to donate it. It can then be recycled and passed on to people in Swale who need a free or affordable transport option."

We are funding the setup of the bike project, KCC through FCC will set up the collection points, HMP Swaleside will collect, refurbish and deliver the bikes, and the Canterbury Bike Project will supply the parts and train the prison instructors in delivering the City and Guilds bike mechanic's course.



## StreetSafe

Kent Police are running a pilot service called StreetSafe for anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where you have felt or feel unsafe. This can be because of environmental issues such as street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism, or because of the behaviours of others for example being followed or verbally abused.

To report such incidents anonymously, visit [kent.police.uk/notices/street-safe](https://kent.police.uk/notices/street-safe).

'StreetSafe' is not for reporting crime or incidents. If something has happened to you or someone you know (including in public spaces) you can call us on **101** or report it online at [kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime](https://kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime).

## Be the first to find out what's happening in your area

My Community Voice is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police.

My Community Voice provides real-time messages directly from police officers, staff and volunteers, about matters that may affect you or your community.

Your voice is important to and Kent Police want to hear what concerns or views you may have in the area that is important to you. You can also share messages with others or reply to alerts if you have information to share.

From crime prevention advice, to the latest updates on scams, appeals or events – you control what information you receive and how you receive it, by email, text or voice message. Sign up today or to find out more visit [mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk](https://mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk)

## Recognition for global climate action leadership

We have been recognised by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) as one of 123 districts across the globe that is taking bold leadership on environmental action.

CDP's A List is designed to encourage and support districts to ramp up their climate action and ambition and is based on the environmental data they disclose. This year just over one in ten districts (12% of such cities) received an A.

To score an A, districts must publicly disclose through the CDP's reporting platform, have a renewable energy target for the future, and have a published climate action plan. They must also complete a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and have a climate adaptation plan to demonstrate how they plan to tackle climate hazards.



**Cllr Julian Saunders**, chair of the environment committee and the council, said:

"We've made it a priority to understand the impacts of climate change in Swale and reporting our progress to the carbon disclosure project is just one way we commit to becoming a net zero borough.

"We approach tackling climate change as a whole council, sharing best practice and results across departments and embedding climate change action into our decision making and procurement contracts."

**Cllr Tim Valentine**, vice chair of the environment committee and the council, said:

"We're delighted to be rated A by the carbon disclosure project.





"The recognition highlights our commitment to science based targets to tackle global heating, by planting trees, insulating council buildings, and decarbonising our fleet of vehicles to name just a few actions we have taken."















For more information on how we're tackling climate change, visit <https://cee.swale.gov.uk>.

# Your councillors


For more information about your local councillor visit [swale.gov.uk/find-my-councillor](https://swale.gov.uk/find-my-councillor)













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