

Spring 2022

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SWALE
COMMUNITY LEISURE

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In May Swale Council will make a decisive change in the way it operates. After just over 20 years the Leader plus Cabinet system will go and be replaced with a more inclusive and representative Committee system.

So, the three-year Coalition Cabinet will come to an end, but not the Coalition. It's been an extraordinary three years; functioning without a Chief Executive, adjusting to a pandemic and going forward with a unique coalition of five groups.

I like to think we have made a real difference: stabilising both the administration and the finances of the Council, making real improvements to our community facilities, our open spaces, our local organisations and our environment; and making Swale a kinder Council by tackling homelessness, supporting foodbanks, backing schemes to help vulnerable people and working closely with the voluntary sector.

The Council will have one year before elections to adjust to the change. There will still be a Leader but it will be a different role and I think it right that someone should at least be available to bridge the gap before and after the 2023 elections.

I decided long ago that I would not seek re-election in 2023. I was first elected in 1987.

There are many talented and committed Councillors available to lead us now and over the next few years.

So, I will stand down before the Annual Council in May and a new Leader will be elected.

I want to thank our officers, my outstanding Cabinet colleagues and the whole Council for giving me the privileged opportunity to lead Swale Council. I've done my best and I hope with integrity.

Above all, I want to thank the public for their encouragement and support and I look forward to Swale going forward in the years ahead.

Cllr Roger Truelove



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Inside Swale is changing

The changes are continuing to roll for Inside Swale as we will be moving from a quarterly magazine to twice yearly.

This will be your last Spring issue, as we will be having Summer and Winter issues moving forward.

We will continue to bring you up to date news on our website and social media, and will provide you with the most important topics twice a year.

Ukraine

Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the local community has responded with offers of help and support.

Local groups and national charities are working hard to provide aid and supplies and - as we go to press - the government is expected to provide details of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Once we have more details, we will work with our partners to make sure we have support in place for any refugees that come to Swale.

If you want to find information and advice about how you can help those living in, or fleeing from, the war zone visit [swale.gov.uk/ukraine-support](https://www.swale.gov.uk/ukraine-support).

Upchurch cricket club one step closer to new £70,000 batting net equipment



Cricket players will soon be able to use a brand-new batting net facility at Upchurch cricket club after the club's previous batting nets' astro turf was stolen. Thieves stole the large patch of astro turf during the first lockdown in 2020.

We contributed £10,000, through the special projects fund, toward the cost of a modern, secure and long-lasting batting and training net facility with three lanes and all-weather access.

The new batting nets will be accessible to anybody with restricted mobility and be surrounded by impenetrable metal caging with locks and CCTV.



Cllr Richard Palmer, cabinet member for the community, said:

“Contributing to the new, long-lasting batting and training equipment was an easy decision for us.

“We made a commitment in our core priorities to promote people’s wellbeing and enjoyment through sporting and leisure activities that are accessible to all age groups, and Upchurch cricket club is a well-loved staple in Swale.

“The actions of a few irresponsible criminals should not ruin the fun, fitness and mental wellbeing provided by the club to the many age groups that use it.

“Once installed, the over 50s, over 60s, ladies, girls, boys, district, school and disability teams will be able to book their slot and play in any weather.”



More than £2,000 for Borden Bowls new bowling wheelchair

Bowls players with mobility challenges will be able to continue playing thanks to more than £2,000 from the special projects fund.

Borden short mat bowls club applied for the funding to have a special bowling wheelchair made to provide players experiencing mobility challenges the opportunity to continuing playing.

Cllr Richard Palmer, cabinet member for community, said:

“We made a commitment to make leisure and sporting activities accessible to each age group and ability, so when Borden bowls club approached us, we were pleased to help.

“This specialist bowls wheelchair will help promote wellbeing and enjoyment for our residents who are facing mobility challenges and that’s exactly what this funding is for.

Cllr Mike Baldock, deputy leader, said:

“This funding is from our special projects fund, which gives us the opportunity to support local projects that are important to you.

“It’s been a tough few years and we’re pleased to be able to provide the equipment needed for people facing mobility challenges to keep active.”

Millfield open space to get upgraded play area

Millfield open space in Faversham will soon see its play area get a makeover thanks to funding of £155,000.

As part of our play improvement plan significant investment has been made in the refurbishment of priority play equipment across the borough.

The existing play equipment at Millfield open space was installed in 1989 with some minor upgrade work completed in 2001, and it's now showing significant signs of wear.

The £155,000 investment will include the removal of all equipment and the installation of six pieces of toddler equipment, three pieces of junior equipment, three pieces of teen equipment, new high fences, gates, bin, picnic bench, seats, sub-terranean bases, safer surfacing around all equipment and ‘eco-mulch’ pathway for access.

Equipment for toddlers, juniors and teens will be set within their own zones with areas for appropriate adults to attend included.

We engaged with the Millfield Community Group to liaise with local residents, schools, stakeholders, and interested parties, which helped us understand what was wanted.

The play area has been designed to benefit the widest selection of children and young adults as well as meeting disability and access requirements.

Sheerness Clocktower

It has been six months since the Sheerness Coronation Memorial Clock was removed from its home in the heart of Sheerness and taken to the Smith of Derby Clockmakers workshop, for its full restoration.

Back in October the clockmakers began the huge task of breaking down the clocktower into to each of its component parts. These parts were assessed, and repair works undertaken, and, only if absolutely necessary, new parts were recast to replace those pieces that were beyond repair.

Lanterns

The restoration of the clocktower also includes the fabrication of new lanterns to match the design of the gas lanterns originally hanging in 1902. The brackets and arms that also saw electric lights, and later hanging baskets, have also been enhanced to look as they were intended.

Bell

The clocktower is crowed by a large bell that was cast by John Taylor & co of Loughborough, a specialist bell-foundry, who had cast 'Great Paul' the bell for St Paul's Cathedral. The Sheerness clock tower bell was around 100kilos (220lb).



Dragons

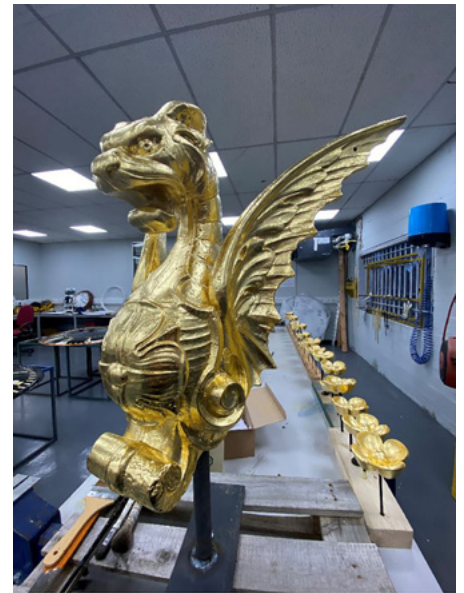
On each corner, alongside the clock faces, were four dragons, alongside 24 red flowers.

These dragons were removed, bead blasted, zinc coated and painted, alongside each of the clocktower's component parts. They were then gilded with 23.5 carat gold leaf. The red flowers were also given the same treatment.

Plaques

On the base of the clocktower, two red plaques featured Queen Alexandra and King Edward VII. These plaques were removed, bead blasted, primed and then painted the vibrant red colour that they appeared.

There is still a huge amount of work remaining, followed by the arduous task of reassembling all those component parts, which is estimated to take place in Spring this year.



Sheppey's bathing water is rated Excellent

Sheppey's popular beaches have earned top marks after last year's monitoring by the Environment Agency.

Minster Leas, Sheerness and Leysdown all achieved the highest rating of Excellent, bringing the beaches one step closer to earning a blue flag in time for summer.

The ratings from the Environment Agency are based on more than 30 monitored measures at over 400 bathing waters in England between May and September every year.

“

Julian Saunders, cabinet member for environment, said:

"We're really proud of our beaches.

"Minster Leas and Sheerness have now held an excellent rating for five years, and Leysdown has been excellent for two years.

"The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised awards and we have to meet a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria to qualify and achieving this excellent water quality rating gets us one step closer to achieving the coveted blue flag again this summer."

Cllr Monique Bonney, cabinet member for economy and property, said:

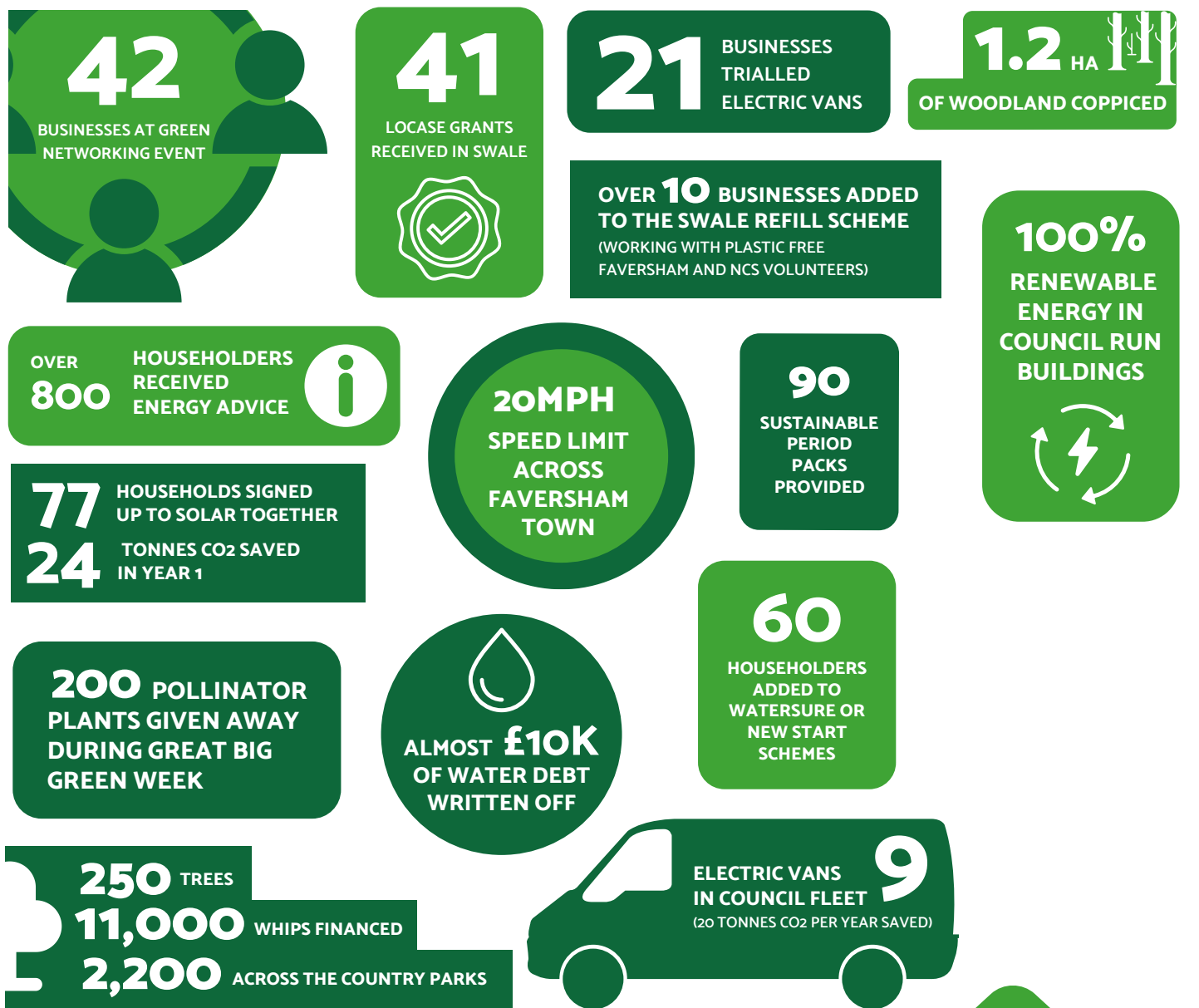
"We've worked closely with Southern Water and the Environment Agency to maintain our excellent bathing water quality at our award-winning bathing beaches.

"We're part of Southern Water's bathing water enhancement programme that investigates any possible sources of pollution to create award winning beaches, and we also provide real time information to the beachbuoy scheme which provides alerts on possible sewage releases.

"We also enforce dog restrictions between May and October and carry out daily beach cleaning."

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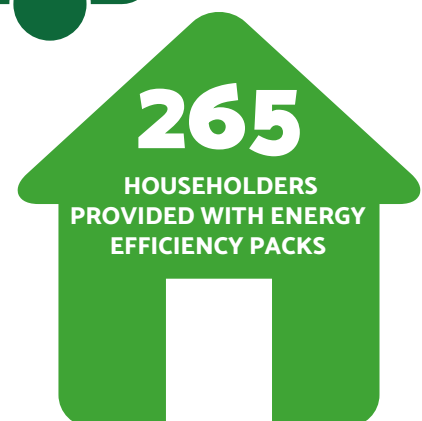


Annual climate and ecological emergency progress

In June 2019 we, along with many other local authorities, passed a motion to declare a climate and ecological emergency.

We have some of the most ambitious targets in Kent and the UK, and are looking to achieve net zero carbon for our own estate by 2025, and across the borough by 2030.

Despite most of 2021 being affected by COVID19 and our operations changing dramatically, we have made considerable progress against the targets in the climate and ecological emergency declaration.



Some of the achievements, which are included in the annual report, include:

Master's House

A successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant Fund that will facilitate carbon reduction work in the Master's House in Sheerness.

Electrified fleet

Most of our fleet of vehicles have been replaced with electric vehicles (EVs). Work on the waste contract is looking at alternative vehicles to the current contract and the new grounds maintenance contract will see new EVs and power tools used for the first time on this service.

Special projects

The Special Projects Fund has funded projects which help to tackle the emergency. These include the appointment of a climate and ecological emergency project officer, and the fuel and water home advice service. The Improvement and Resilience Fund was created in 2021 and will be used in 2022 to fund LED lighting, tree planting, a car club, EV charging points and air quality measures.

Clean air zone

We are working in partnership with KCC to explore and develop in more detail a package of measures to reduce traffic, improve flow and improve the vehicle fleet along the A2 to establish a clean air zone. We are working with schools close to air quality management areas to promote sustainable travel. Further air quality monitoring is also taking place. An anti-idling campaign has been rolled out with signage, staff training and the ability to issue fixed penalty notices.

Single use plastics

The climate and ecological emergency declaration stated that we would eliminate single-use plastic from council operations wherever possible by 2021. A cross department audit of the council's plastic use was undertaken and elimination or replacement of single use products is underway both in Swale House and across our estate.

Fuel and water home advisor

A fuel and water home advice service has been developed as a way of reaching our more vulnerable residents to help them reduce bills and carbon emissions.

Electric vehicle charging points

A network of EV chargers has been installed in Council carparks. Charge points are available in Sittingbourne (Swallows, Swale House, and Bourne Place carparks), Faversham (Central Car Park) and Sheerness (Rose Street car park). We require all new properties to have charge points.

Building regulations

The planning committee has successfully requested more renewable energy and energy-efficiency measures to be included in new developments. All new developments are encouraged to achieve a 50% saving in carbon emissions over current building regulations. The Local Plan will bring this down to net zero emissions by 2030.

Solar Together

The Solar Together programme saw over 70 applications for solar PV installation, and 16 of these opted to also install battery storage. We continue to support community solar projects.

Tree planting

We successfully bid for £170,000 from the Forestry Commission for the Local Authority Tree Fund for the planting and subsequent maintenance of 11,000 whips and 250 standard trees. Sites for planting have been identified.

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Car club coming for Faversham

Faversham will be the first in Swale to pilot a new car club which will provide their members with convenient access to cleaner vehicles without the hassle and expense of ownership.

Councillors appointed Hiyacar, a peer-to-peer car sharing operator, to run the car club.

The car club trial in Faversham will provide socially inclusive, low emission vehicles to break dependency on typical car ownership. Pay as you go cars offer affordable, occasional access to cars. Hiyacar will also provide the booking platform, QuickStart access to the car, insurance, car cleaning, car maintenance, and management information.

Residents of Faversham will have the opportunity to become members of the car club which will give them convenient access to cleaner vehicles without the hassles and expenses that ownership brings. Members can save on expenses including tax, MOT, fuel, servicing, repairs, depreciation and parking. For members who drive less than 6,000 – 8,000 miles per year, a car club could save up to £3,500 a year.

It was decided to initially roll the car club out in Faversham following a survey which showed an interest in taking part in such a scheme.

More than 44% of people in Faversham that took part in our survey last year indicated that they would be interested in using a car club locally.

The car club will be launching in Faversham in the spring.

Benefits of car clubs

- Reduced cost of living
- Improved air quality
- Members more likely to walk and cycle
- Research reveals that British car club vehicles emit 33% fewer CO2 emissions per kilometre than the average British car
- Car clubs provide access to a car without ownership. They act as a catalyst to increased use of sustainable transport. They also nurture adoption of progressive low emission technologies
- Contributes towards Swale's efforts to encourage a shift away from sole internal combustion engine car ownership. Complements work of the Faversham local cycling and walking infrastructure plan and the newly appointed active travel co-ordinator.

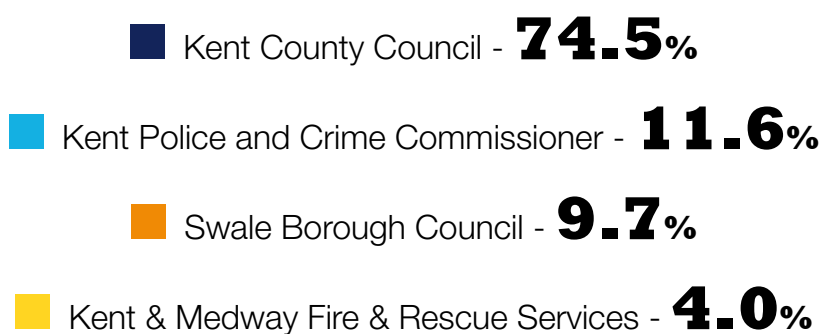


Let's talk council tax

We are asking band D council tax payers to pay less than 10p extra per week for our services.

Households across all property bands will see some form of an increase, which was agreed in February. Following the increase, for example, a band D household will be asked to pay just £3.64 a week, or £189.27 a year, for Swale Borough Council services from April this year, a rise of 2.7% for the year (£4.95). Most properties in Swale are in bands A-C, which means they will pay less than this.

Who receives the council tax you pay?



Let's break this down...

Our total budget is made up from a combination of council tax, business rates, fees and charges (from things including car parks, garden waste collections and fines) and from funding through central government.

So what does this go towards? Some of the total revenue is spent on:

-  Housing advice and homelessness support
-  Grounds maintenance
-  Refuse collection
-  Street cleaning
-  Leisure and sports centres
-  Planning services
-  Environmental response
-  Environmental health

Ways to pay

There are a number of ways to pay your council tax, but the easiest way is by Direct Debit. It's simple to set up and saves you time. You can complete a Direct Debit form online – you don't need to register for an account or sign into our website.

Once it's set up, your council tax bill can be paid in either 10 or 12 monthly instalments. Visit www.swale.gov.uk/ways-to-pay to set up your Direct Debit or to find out about other ways to pay.

You'll need the:

- Council Tax reference number
- Name of the person who's responsible for paying the Council Tax
- Account number, sort code and the name of the bank we should take payments from

You'll also need to provide an email address and phone number.

Other ways to pay include calling our 24-hour automated payment line on 0330 088 1702, online at www.swale.gov.uk/pay-your-council-tax, by standing order, cheque or PayPoint.

If you do not already have an online My Services account to view details of your Council Tax Account, visit www.swale.gov.uk/my-services to register now.

If you have questions about how to pay, or are struggling to make payments, call **01795 417272**.

Ebilling

You can now receive your council tax bills by email. A copy of your bill will be sent to you as a pdf document attachment.

To sign up for the new e-billing service, visit swale.gov.uk/ways-to-pay, email ctax@swale.gov.uk or call **01795 417272**.

Electric vehicle waste collections trial

We've been trialling an electric refuse collection vehicle around Swale for refuse, recycling and garden waste collections. The trial, which was ran by our contractor Biffa, is part of our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2025 and will provide the information needed for the new waste contract due to start next year.

The trial ran until the end of March to provide real time evidence of how an electric vehicle compares to its diesel counterpart.

The electric vehicle will help improve air quality, and over the life of the vehicle could save almost £100 per day in running costs. It is also much quieter than the diesel and is easier for drivers to manoeuvre and lift bins.



“

Simon Baddeley, commercial director at Biffa, said:

“We've already reduced our carbon emissions by 70% since 2002, and we plan to reduce this by a further 50% by 2030.

“This is the first repurposed electric collection vehicle we've invested in, and although they are more expensive to purchase upfront, we expect to see cost savings throughout the 10-year life of the vehicle.

“Swale is a large geographical area with a wide variety of landscapes including towns, seafronts and caravan parks, the downs and some hard-to-reach countryside villages, so what we learn from this trial will really dictate how we move forward to a greener fleet in the borough.”

Cllr Tim Valentine, cabinet member for climate and ecological emergency, said:

“Our waste contract currently makes up half of the total carbon emissions from all of the council's operations, so it really is key that we tackle this if we are to meet our target of being carbon neutral by 2025.

“It's essential that we move away from diesel vehicles and find greener and more sustainable ways of collecting waste.”

Cllr Julian Saunders, cabinet member for environment, said:

“We've been seeking expressions of interest for our new waste contract which is due to start in October 2023.

“As part of the new contract we'll need a service that is not only reliable and effective but also helps reduce our carbon footprint.”

Cllr Eddie Thomas, deputy cabinet member for environment, said:

“Biffa has been using the electric waste collection vehicle on a range of different rounds to see what capacity it has to deliver what the borough needs.

“Residents will find the new vehicle is much quieter and crews so far have found it easier to manoeuvre which should also bring safety benefits.”

”

Worried about the rising cost of your energy bills?

Everyone is feeling the effects of the rising cost of fuel and energy. Our fuel and water home advisor has some useful advice to help ease your worries.

Talk to your supplier as early as possible

If you're falling behind with your energy bills, and finding yourself struggling to pay, the best thing to do is contact your supplier as soon as possible.

Under rules from regulator Ofgem, your supplier has to help you – usually by negotiating a payment plan that you can afford. So don't panic – your supply won't be cut off.

There are a range of options suppliers could offer if you're struggling, including:

- a full payment plan review
- affordable debt repayment plans
- payment breaks (though this won't be right for everyone)
- payment reductions
- more time to pay
- access to hardship funds

What help you can get is decided on a case-by-case basis, but importantly, repayment must be based on your ability to pay.

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.

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.

Wash more clothes less – and try not to use the tumble dryer

Try to do one load fewer of washing a week and make sure you fill up the machine each time. No more washing just one shirt or dress that you need for a big night out.

The savings aren't huge, around £10 a year for modern machines, but can be much more with old ones. You could also try doing your washing on a colder setting.

You could also save by avoiding using the tumble dryer where possible, as it uses a lot of energy. The Energy Saving Trust says you could save £40 a year if you never use it. Try drying your clothes on an airer, but make sure you leave a window open, as it can cause damp in poorly ventilated homes.

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.

Using them with your thermostat could save you almost 6%, so around £85 a year on average for a typical home.

It's simple to make an appointment with fuel and water home advisor service, visit children-families.org/fuel--water-home-adviser.html or call **01795 889233**.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Although the anniversary of the Queen's coronation fell on 6 February, the official celebrations always take place at the start of June. The Queen is the first British monarch to reach this milestone of 70 years since the coronation.

Celebrations are focused and encouraged around the four-day extended bank holiday weekend, from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June. Across the country individuals and community groups are encouraged to take part in a range of community-led activities, projects and events.

A run down of the official four-day celebrations is as follows:

Thursday 2 June

The Queen will attend the Trooping the Colour – 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians will gather at Buckingham Palace and proceed down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade joined by Members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages. The event will be closed by a RAF fly-past, which will be watched by The Queen and other royals from the Palace balcony.

The UK's long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, weddings and coronations with the lighting of beacons will be continued to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

Friday 3 June

A 'Service of Thanksgiving' for the Queen's reign will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral, London

Saturday 4 June

The Queen and members of the Royal Family will attend the Derby at Epsom Downs.

A special concert will be held at Buckingham Palace that promises to "bring together some of the world's biggest entertainment" – attendance will be via public ballot.

Sunday 5 June – The Big Jubilee Lunch and the Platinum Jubilee Pageant

Communities are encouraged to share "friendship, food and fun" with neighbours by holding street parties, picnics or BBQ's as part of the Jubilee celebrations ahead of the final event of the weekend, the Platinum Jubilee Pageant. The Big Lunch provides tips and ideas for hosting an event, further guidance can be found here: edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-jubilee-lunch

More information about organising a street party can be viewed here: gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party

A pageant featuring more than 5,000 people from across the UK and Commonwealth will take place against the backdrop of Buckingham Palace and the surrounding streets, combining street arts, theatre, music, circus, carnival and costume.

Organisations planning events in the Swale area are encouraged to look to our website for event guidance (swale.gov.uk/business-licensing-and-procurement/events), and share details if the events are open to the wider public and visitors to the area with Visit Swale either by email to: tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk or submit event details with images online visit-swale.co.uk/find-out-whats-on-in-faversham-sittingbourne-and-the-isle-of-sheppey/visit-swale-event-submission-form

The Queen's Green Canopy – Treebilee

Everyone from individuals to community groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporations are encouraged to plant a tree for the Jubilee.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October to March. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of the Queen's leadership of the nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service. For more information visit queensgreencanopy.org



What's on in Swale this Easter

Family Easter Egg Trail

Brogdale, Faversham

**Friday 15 April –
Sunday 17 April**

Brogdale Collections is holding an Easter Trail in its beautiful blossom orchards.

brogdalecollections.org
or call **01795 536250**



Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 17 April

A new Easter Egg hunt will be taking place for the kids! Grab a form from the gate when you arrive to take part with chocolate treats for those who find the hidden eggs.

bwlr.co.uk/tickets-online
or call **01622 884254**



Easter Egg Hunt

**Belmont House and Gardens,
Faversham**

Sunday 17 April

Take part in the outdoor trail around the beautiful grounds to find the wooden eggs and win a chocolate treat, then head back to the Orangery to get crafty with Easter themed activities.

belmont-house.org/events/easter-egg-hunt
or call **01795 890202**

Simon Elliott - Julius Caesar at Sheppey Little Theatre

Friday 6 May

In this talk historian, archaeologist and broadcaster Dr Simon Elliott will discuss his new book in which he sets out how Caesar came to dominate the age in which he lived.

Tickets £4 from Box Office in advance and at theatre on night.

Faversham Family Bike Ride

**Faversham
Sunday 8 May**

A 12.5 km bike ride open to all ages. Organised by the Rotary Club of Faversham. A fun day and a great way to make a difference!

favershamrotary.org/bike-ride



Faversham Festival of Transport

Saturday 14 - Sunday 15 May

Faversham Festival of Transport, celebrating transport throughout the ages returns from a two year break.

Check out the event website for more information at favershamfestivaloftransport.org.



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

All of these events, and many more things to do in Swale, can be found on the Visit Swale website: 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. Or, you can contact us with your listings by emailing tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk

Don't forget to follow us on social media:

@Visit_Swale, VisitSwale

Make the most of your food waste this Easter

Cooking up a storm this Easter? Don't forget all your peelings can go into your food waste bin. Got some veg left over from Sunday lunch? How about bubble and squeak to use up those leftovers. Love Food Hate Waste has some great ideas on how to make the most of your leftovers on their website. You can even search by food item too: lovefoodhatewaste.com, they even have some ideas for some sweet treats.

Anything that isn't used up can be frozen, gifted to a neighbour or family member, and for anything else pop it into your food waste bin. If you need help with what can and can't go in your food waste bin, visit: swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard.

Don't have one? Call us on **01795 417888** and join our weekly food waste collection service.

Get your garden ready this spring with a garden waste bin

As your garden comes into bloom this spring, there hasn't been a better time to get 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 which will be collected up to 26 times a year.

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 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 **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 and click the 'Next Bin Collection' link, or call **01795 417888**.

Week 1 collections

 Blue bin collection week

 Green bin collection week

April 2022						
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 2022						
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 2022						
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

April 2022						
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 2022						
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 2022						
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			

Plans to revitalise Sittingbourne town centre

Sittingbourne's supplementary planning document went to public consultation earlier in the year and it set out plans to regenerate Sittingbourne town centre.

The document will become part of the current local plan and will shape how we consider new development proposals, outlining what developers and landowners need to include in planning applications.

“

Cllr Mike Baldock, cabinet member for planning, said:

“These exciting new plans to revitalise Sittingbourne town centre will bring much needed life to the area and we want to know what local people think.

“We plan to develop a leisure quarter, a historic quarter and a community hub.

“Once this draft supplementary planning document has gone through the consultation and approval process, it will sit alongside our current and future local plan.

“We have important heritage that will need to be considered when developing Sittingbourne town centre and it's important that we preserve and promote what we have whilst incorporating these plans for the future.”

Cllr Monique Bonney, cabinet member for economy, said:

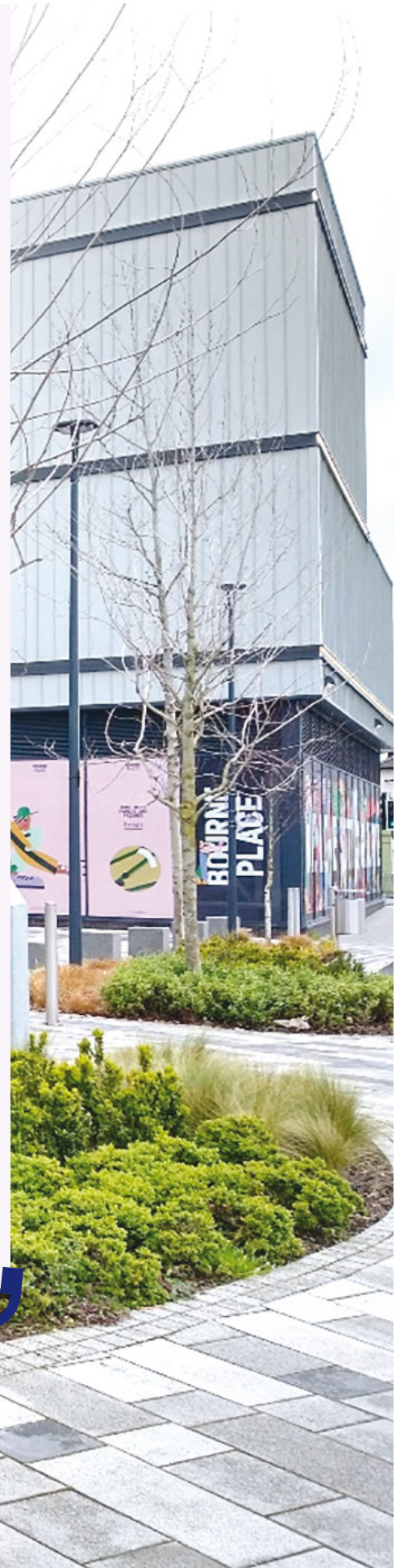
“We have essential plans to revitalise Sittingbourne town centre, bringing much needed footfall to the high street and providing better links to surrounding areas.

“We've been committed to investing in our town centres and high streets.

“We know we need not only leisure and businesses in our town centre but also a better healthcare provision that is easily accessible.

“We also need a range of housing in our town centre to meet the diverse needs of the population from young to old, including affordable homes.

”



↑ Levelling Up Sheerness

We are hoping to unlock £20 million of Government funding for Sheerness through Government's Levelling Up Fund.

We have been working hard with local groups, businesses and the community on plans that would help to transform Sheerness, with plans to:

- improve health and leisure facilities at Beachfields, to support the local community and boost the appeal of the area for local people and visitors
- develop new creative studios/workspace on the Master's House site by converting the existing outbuilding to help support local trades
- putting local history, heritage and natural environment at the heart of the plans and help development projects to the high street to bring wider benefits for Sheerness and beyond.



Cllr Monique Bonney, cabinet member for economy, said:

"We're working really hard to make sure that when the bidding opens, we're putting forward the strongest plans possible to secure the Government funding that Sheerness, and the wider local area, desperately needs.

"There was a really positive response to the consultation, and we've incorporated as many ideas from that as we can. It was clear people want to see an emphasis on local history and environment throughout the plans, and we're incorporating this as we finalise the more detailed plans.

"We have also heard loud and clear that people would like to see soft play and café facilities at Beachfields, and we are keen to include those. We're also pleased to confirm that we will be including public toilets.

"There were other brilliant suggestions that, unfortunately, are beyond the scope of the funding available, but that doesn't mean they all won't happen. Many people talked about improved coastal footpaths, but that is already been worked on as part of another project.

"Similarly, a tidal pool does sound great, but unfortunately early investigations have shown it is highly unlikely to be deliverable within the constraints of the Levelling Up funding available.

"As it stands, it looks like we'll be at or near the limit of the £20 million funding bid, and we are including our own match funding to give us a better chance of success.

"We're committing to invest in Master's House, and plan to use the land value of the Bridge Road car park to help deliver the scheme, alongside other investment in public facilities and specialist equipment for the college.

"We would have loved to do more, but whilst it sounds a lot, £20 million can only pay for so much. That's why we're trying to make sure the bid not only directly improves the area to be developed, but also delivers wider, longer term improvements across the town and the Island. That will be the true measure of levelling up, and one I'm confident these plans will help deliver."

Government's Levelling Up Fund opens for bidding in the Spring.

White Ribbon Accredited

Swale Community Safety Partnership has been recredited by the White Ribbon Campaign. Staff within many partner agencies are already signed up as ambassadors or champions and are joining others in the campaign to end violence against women and girls. Our vision is to spread the White Ribbon message as far as we can. If you want to join the campaign, you can pledge your White Ribbon Promise to 'never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women' on the White Ribbon website whiteribbon.org.uk



Hollie Guard

We're working closely with Kent Police to promote the Hollie Guard app and to also raise more awareness about the already established Ask for Angela scheme.

Hollie Guard is a smartphone app that provides enhanced levels of protection and has you covered, whether you're working alone, travelling to an unknown area or simply commuting around town.

With Hollie Guard, you can set extra levels of protection from right inside the App. There are two settings that can be used to raise alerts from your phone.

1. Deterrent mode - Deterrent mode makes it clear to anyone in your surrounding area that an alert has been raised and to reduce the risk of an attack. The phone will display an obvious red alert screen capturing your GPS location, as well as audio and video footage that may be used to assess danger and collate evidence.

With a second shake of the phone it will generate a high-pitched alarm and a flashing light to attract help.

2. Stealth Mode - Alternately, Stealth Mode allows you to raise an alert silently while displaying a default home screen that would look inconspicuous to the attacker, thereby giving the impression that no alarm has been triggered.

This feature is useful in certain situations in which raising an alert could increase the risk of harm if the assailant becomes aware that an alert has been triggered.

For further information regarding the Hollie Guard App, visit hollieguard.com

Ask for Angela

Ask for Angela is the name of a campaign in England that is used by bars and other venues to keep people safe from sexual assault by using a codeword to identify when they are in danger or are in an uncomfortable situation.





When an establishment uses this program, a person who believes themselves to be in danger can ask for Angela, a fictitious member of the staff. The staff will then help the person get home discreetly and safely by either escorting them to a different room, calling them a taxi and escorting them to it, or by asking the other party member to leave the establishment.

Along with Kent Police, we will be working with local licensed premises in Swale to deliver this initiative to make the borough a safer place to be.




























ASK FOR ANGELA

Your councillors

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