

SEPTEMBER 2025

Whats inside:

Town Gardens - Green Flag
Buckhurst Field Improvements
Youth Clubs and Activities Trip



SOUTH SWINDON PARISH SPOTLIGHT

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SOUTH SWINDON

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CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Parishioner,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and you have had a good summer out in the lovely sunshine.

The Council is committed to supporting the community groups and volunteers who help our communities to thrive. We made the decision earlier this year to invest even more into community engagement and have hired a Community Development Officer, Dan, who has been working in our communities over the summer to support a range of initiatives and

social benefit activities. If you have any ideas, or would like to get in touch with Dan to see how they can provide support, please email communities@southswindon-pc.gov.uk.

At the end of July, members of our Parks and Walcot Youth Club went on a residential to Condover Hall in Shropshire. The young people had lots of fun and took part in lots of activities and learnt new team-working skills. I'd like to say a big thank you to our youth worker, Loreli, and the fantastic team of volunteers who have worked so hard to provide this experience for our young people.



This trip meets the council's objective to provide engaging outdoor activities for young people.

Finally, I'm delighted to say that Town Gardens has been awarded with the prestigious Green Flag Award. This highlights the hard work and investment the council have put into the park in recent years. Kind regards,
Neil Hopkins
Chair

SOUTH SWINDON EVENTS

Summer at the Town Gardens Bowl has been a massive hit this year with lots of fun and entertaining events hosted at the historic venue.

The season began with Comedy at the Bowl, where the Old Town Comedy Club hosted over 300 people with comedian Ivo Graham headlining a hilarious evening. The Bowl has hosted children's events such as Rock the Tots and Music for Miniatures.



Throughout the summer season, our parks have hosted free concerts every Sunday, entertaining residents with fantastic music from some of Swindon's favourite local acts.

Visit www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk/events to stay up to date with our events.



PARKS & OPEN SPACES UPDATE



We're delighted to say that Town Gardens is now a Green Flag accredited park! These marks of excellence are awarded by Keep Britain Tidy. They recognise green spaces that meet the highest standards in environmental management, biodiversity, safety, cleanliness, and visitor facilities.

Thank you to all the gardeners and staff who work tirelessly year-round to keep Town Gardens clean, safe and welcoming.

At Queen's Park, new CCTV systems are being installed to enhance security and prevent unauthorised access during closed hours, ensuring the park remains a safe and well-maintained space for all residents. The council is also pursuing grant funding opportunities to support comprehensive improvements to Queen's Park Lake. This will address the ongoing duckweed issues that have affected the lake's appearance over the past few years.

Significant progress is being made on the Town Gardens Bowl redevelopment project, with a grant funding proposal now submitted for consideration. This follows a community consultation in 2024, where residents were asked what improvements should be made to The Bowl. Council staff are also exploring opportunities to refurbish the toilets in the Rose Garden.

Plans are advancing to extend the gardeners' yard at GWR Park, which will provide enhanced storage and maintenance capabilities to maintain the park's high standards. The Council is also working to re-establish the toilet facilities within GWR Park, addressing a long-standing need identified by regular users. These additions will significantly improve accessibility and convenience for park visitors while supporting the continued development of the park.

Chatty Benches

Chatty Bench signs have been installed on 4 benches across Queen's Park and GWR Park. For those who are feeling lonely, or needing to talk, Chatty Benches are a great way of encouraging people to connect with others. The Chatty Benches also have a QR Code that takes users to online mental health support resources, offering a range of useful information on looking after our mental and emotional wellbeing.



Eastcott Cllrs Joseph Pereira, Sam James, Tom Silberberg, Patrick Herring and John Firmin at Queen's Park





Left to Right: Cllr Dave Griffiths, Gardener Dennis Watson, Gardener Stuart Coombs, Head Gardener Aaron Hedges, Gardener Terry Hedges, Cllr Linda Kasmaty, Cllr Neil Hopkins

Westcott Play Area Improvements

At the start of Autumn, improvement work will begin on Westcott Play Area. This £70,000 project is a major investment in outdoor play for the community. The play area will be upgraded with a new inclusive fire station playhouse, new climbing structure and lots of fun new equipment.



Buckhurst Field Improvement Programme

Over the past two years the Parish Council has made delivering sports and recreational activities in Walcot and Parks a priority. We have delivered a new children's play area, regenerated the grass football pitches, redeveloped the skate park and transformed the old changing rooms into a clubhouse for Robins FC. This has been the largest investment in a project by the Parish Council since its formation in 2017, costing £850,000.

The council would like to thank Nationwide Building Society, the Football Foundation and Swindon Borough Council for helping to fund the improvement programme and transforming this open space for the benefit of all residents.



Deputy Mayor Neil Hopkins & Cllrs Mike Davies, Joseph Pereira, Graham Philpot, John Firmin, Patrick Herring with Robins FC, Heidi Alexander MP, Swindon Borough Councillors and Guests.

The Buckhurst Skatepark reopened in May 2025 following an extensive renovation. The new park offers a much enhanced skating experience for users and features a bike repair station and additional benches and bins.

As part of the redevelopment, we commissioned ATBShop to run free skate workshops throughout the summer.

ATBShop are running another free workshop at Buckhurst skatepark during the October half term on Saturday 25th October 10am-1pm.



Mayor Fay Howard and Deputy Mayor Neil Hopkins at the opening of the Buckhurst Skatepark

The sports pavilion at Buckhurst Field has undergone a major transformation, serving as the new clubhouse for Robins FC, a local junior football club. The revitalised facility now provides a dedicated hub for young players, supporting the development of grassroots football within the community. The pavilion's exterior has been enhanced with a fantastic mural created by Murals by Sarah (pictured right), which beautifully incorporates designs inspired by local children's artwork.



Buckhurst PlayZone

Completed ahead of schedule and available throughout the summer holidays, the facility accommodates football, basketball, and volleyball. A booking system will soon be implemented, allowing community groups and the public to reserve the space for exclusive use. For more information and to express interest in booking the facility for your group, please email communities@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Cllrs Jamal Miah & Steve Allsop at the new PlayZone

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME

Demonstrating the council's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, the Parish Council is taking new steps to become more sustainable. Water refill stations will soon be installed at Town Gardens, Queen's Park, and GWR Park to help residents reduce plastic bottle usage.

We are also replacing our vehicle fleet with new electric vans and tippers, ensuring our operations align with environmental best practices.

The council thanks the Wroughton Solar Park Programme for the £20,000 grant to install the solar panels at Broadgreen Community Centre.

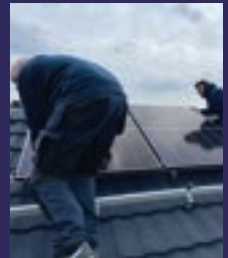


Cllrs Junab Ali and Jamal Miah with Harbour Project CEO Tom Bain and Wroughton Solar Park Programme Panel Member Rod Hebden.



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SOUTH SWINDON YOUTH CLUBS

**THE BASE PARK NORTH
TUESDAYS 6:30PM - 8:30PM**

**EASTCOTT COMMUNITY CENTRE
THURSDAYS 5:30PM - 7:00PM**

**BADBURY PARK COMMUNITY HUB
OPENING SOON
TUESDAYS 5:30PM-7PM
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

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YOUTHWORK2@SOUTHSWINDON-PC.GOV.UK

01793 312006



SCAN ME

**Age
11-16**

**WE'RE LOOKING
FOR VOLUNTEERS**





SOUTH SWINDON YOUTH SERVICE

The Parks and Walcot Youth Club had a great time on their residential activities trip at Condover Hall in Shropshire. All our young people had a great time taking part in activities such as raft building, rock climbing, abseiling, orienteering, trapeze and much more. The experience provided excellent opportunities for personal development and team building. We are pleased to say that all participants engaged positively with the activities and showed excellent teamwork throughout the residential.

Parks and Walcot Youth Club Finds New Home

The Parks and Walcot Youth Club has successfully relocated from its former home at St John's Church to The Base on Lyndhurst Crescent. The Base offers significantly more space and modern amenities. Our youth worker, volunteers and most importantly, our young people are thrilled with the move and love the new space. The youth club is open on Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm.



South Swindon Parish Council is pleased to announce the opening of a new youth club at Badbury Park Community Hub. This program will provide local young people with a safe space to participate in activities, build friendships, and develop essential life skills. We are seeking dedicated volunteers to help create a positive environment and support our efforts. If you're interested, please contact youthwork2@southswindon-pc.gov.uk.



Councillors Mike Davies, Marianne Le Coyte Grinney, Rebecca Banwell-Moore, Graham Philpot, Sam James with Youth Worker Loreli

Youth Club Volunteers Required

The youth department at South Swindon Parish Council is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our vibrant team of youth club volunteers. If you're passionate about supporting young people and creating fun, engaging environments where they can thrive, we want to hear from you!

*Park North - The Base - Tuesdays 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Eastcott Community Centre - Thursdays 5.30pm - 7.00pm
Badbury Park Community Hub - Tuesdays - 5.30pm - 7pm*

REQUIREMENTS

*Willingness to undergo Enhanced DBS check and relevant training.
References available upon request.
Enthusiasm and a positive attitude
Ability to commit regularly (specific hours to be discussed)*

*As a volunteer, you'll help plan and deliver exciting activities and games that inspire, educate, and entertain young people in our youth clubs
This is a chance to make a real difference while having fun yourself!*

*For a detailed job description and how to get involved please contact Loreli at youthwork2@southswindon-pc.gov.uk
01793 312006*

South Swindon Parish Spotlight Advertising Rates

The South Swindon Parish Spotlight is produced by South Swindon Parish Council and is distributed four times a year to 20,000 households covering the parish.

The publication covers the Parish Council's activities, services and past and future events.



	Rate
1/4 Page	£47
1/2 Page	£90
Full Page	£138
Inside Cover	£157



If you're interested in advertising in the South Swindon Parish Spotlight, please contact:
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South Swindon Parish Council Spotlight -

For ease of editing, all submissions should be made in a PNG or PDF.

This magazine is unable to publish political advertisements and contributors cannot refer to political parties, or include party logos, party addresses, emails or websites.

All enquiries about the South Swindon Spotlight should be directed to communications@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

ADVERTISERS - contact communications@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



SOUTH SWINDON IN BLOOM

South Swindon entered RHS South West in Bloom again this year and was visited by RHS judges Lesley Jelleyman and Bob Ollier in July. Parish Officers and Councillors showed them the best South Swindon has to offer including community gardening volunteers, rewilding projects and our parks.

For the past two years the South Swindon in Bloom entry has been awarded with a gold award, including being best in class in 2023 and winning the Tesco Cup. These awards reflect not only the visual impact of our environmental improvements but also the collaboration and sustained commitment that characterizes our community's approach to creating attractive, welcoming public spaces for residents and visitors. A second round of judging also took place to assess all of the 24 community gardens entered in the It's Your Neighbourhood scheme to recognise excellence and effort in these areas and congratulate those taking part. RHS judge Richard Beale presided over the IYN judging. The South West in Bloom award ceremony is in early October and the council can't wait to hear the results of all the hard work across so many community projects.

South West in Bloom judging day in July. Cllrs Neil Hopkins & Linda Kasmaty with In Bloom judges Bob Ollier & Lesley Jellyman, and council staff and volunteers



Old Town Community Gardeners

The Old Town Community Gardeners have been in action for over a decade helping Old Town look its best.

Their gardens include flower beds near Mr Cod, Station Approach, the Marriott Roundabout and planters on the corner of Wood Street and Victoria Road. They also maintain the displays at the Art Centre & Library as well as The Hop pub.



Old Town Community Gardeners at the Mr Cod Garden

The GAP Community Garden

Established in 2021, The GAP is a community project in Park South which grows fruit and vegetables for anyone with green fingers.

Sessions are on Saturday mornings between 10am and 12pm.

For more information, email: thegapswindon@yahoo.com



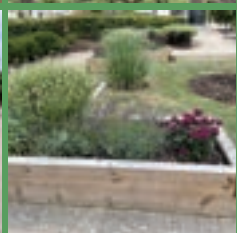
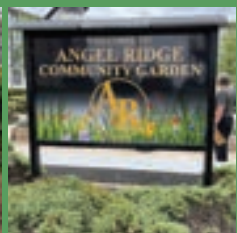
Before



After

Angel Ridge Community Garden

The Angel Ridge Community Garden was established in 2023 by local residents who wanted to improve the aesthetic and feel of the area. The Parish Council helped the group get off the ground by building sleeper beds and trimming the hedges. The volunteers have since planted the beds with a wide variety of plants and flowers, built a bug hotel, and designed a stunning noticeboard and sign. In 2025 the group has entered into the It's Your Neighbourhood competition again.



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers play a crucial role in supporting the work of the parish council as well as the wider community. There are many positive examples of volunteering across South Swindon, and we are committed to supporting the groups and volunteers who help our

communities to thrive.

The summer has been a flurry of activity, with volunteers very much being at the heart of it all. From litter picks and community gardening to workshops and social events, we appreciate everyone who has offered their support as a volunteer.



Commonwealth Work Experience Students - June 2025

We are grateful to work experience students from The Commonwealth School and Sixth Form who supported a variety of tasks that our teams complete daily, such as gardening in our parks, litter picking our streets and event planning at Town Gardens Bowl. We hope all students enjoyed the experience and found it as valuable as we did.

The Council has coordinated several other work experience opportunities for young people and has begun hosting long term student placements in line with the Council's Youth Objectives. We hope to build on the number of opportunities we can create for young people in our Parish, and we want to thank all who have worked with us throughout the year.



Brighter Broadgreen Community Action Day - May 2025

Community Action Days

A massive thank you to everyone who has joined a community action day over the past few months. A community action day is where members of the community come together to achieve a shared goal. This could be something like, tidying up the area through litter picking or gardening.

If you would like to organise a community action day, please get in touch.



***Badbury Park Community
Action Day - August 2025***

A huge thanks goes out to all who have volunteered with us over recent months, and to the community groups and organisations who help our communities to thrive. To subscribe to our online newsletter, and receive regular updates about flexible volunteering opportunities in South Swindon, please sign up on our website.



**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?
GET IN TOUCH
COMMUNITIES@SOUTHSWINDON-PC.GOV.UK
WWW.SOUTHSWINDON-PC.GOV.UK**

OLD TOWN & BADBURY PARK LIBRARIES



The Parish Council operates two community libraries in the South Swindon area: Old Town Library, which we took over responsibility of in 2017, and Badbury Park Library, which opened in 2023.

Contact Details & Opening Times:

Old Town Library:

Email: oldtownlibrary@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

Phone: 07786 027185

Monday – Friday: 10.30am – 4:30pm

Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Badbury Park Library:

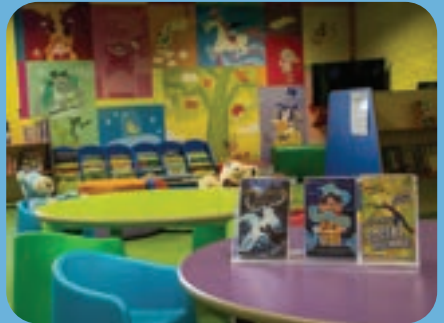
Email: badburyparklibrary@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

Phone: 07827 333664

Wednesday-Thursday: 10:30am-4:30pm

Friday: 11am-4:30pm

Saturday: 9:30am-1:30pm



Badbury Park Library Extends Opening Hours and Now Open On Fridays

We are pleased to say that Badbury Park Library will now be open on Fridays, extending our service to better meet community needs. Since opening two years ago, the library has established itself as a much loved community asset.

This expansion to Friday operations reflects our commitment to increasing accessibility and responds to ongoing requests from library users.



CLLrs Graham Philpot, Marianne Le Coyte Grinney, Rebecca Banwell-Moore, Neil Hopkins and Library Assistant Sian Phillips

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MEMORIAL BENCHES & PLAQUES

South Swindon Parish Council offers the opportunity to install memorial plaques and benches at our three heritage parks. With the addition of new benches at GWR Park over the past year, there is now new space for memorial plaques in the park.

These memorials provide a meaningful way to celebrate the lives of those close to you while enhancing our community's public spaces.

To learn more about the application process, plaque and bench options, and fees, please visit www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk/memorial-plaques-benches



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What do you get for your COUNCIL PRECEPT?

Did you know South Swindon Parish is the sixth largest Parish Council in the country? The budget for 2025-26 has been set and will see residents of an average band D property pay **£3.49** per week for all of the services we provide.



The Parks: £0.47

The Parish Council is proud to run three major parks within Swindon: Town Gardens, Queen's Park and GWR Park, supported by a dedicated Gardening team. The Parish Council has invested significant sums into all three sites and there are exciting plans for the future.

Libraries: £0.14



We have operated an incredibly successful community library in Old Town since 2017. Since then our borrowing has increased by 350%. Building on that success we have since opened the first new community library in Swindon for 20 years in Badbury Park. Both libraries host various events and activities for residents throughout the week. We also fund 20 hours worth of staffing at Parks Library.

Other (Buildings, Allotments, etc): £0.19

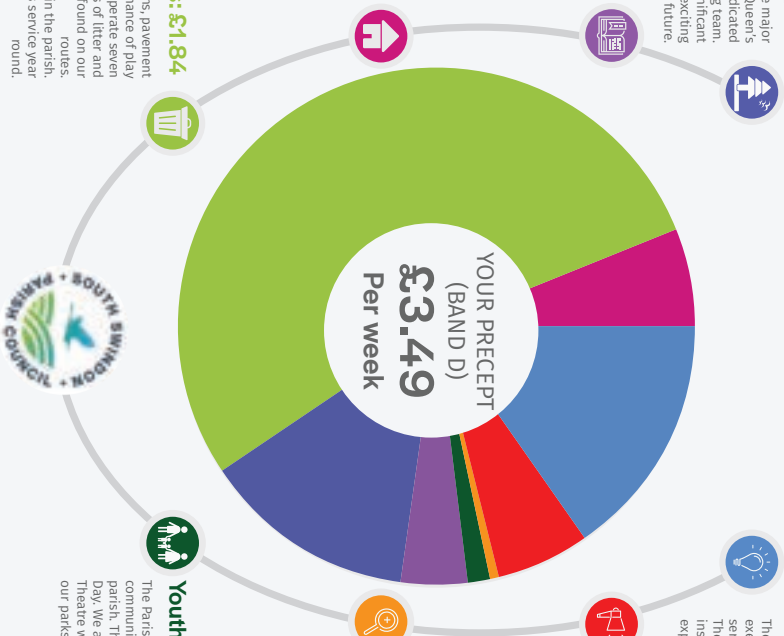


We are responsible for 14 allotment sites, 2 community centres, a depot and a mark office. Our community centres are available for hire year round for community gatherings, meetings, classes and more.

Grounds and Services: £1.84



Including the emptying of street bins, pavement sweeping, litter picking and the maintenance of play areas. We have two street sweepers that operate seven days a week cleaning the pavements of litter and leaves. We also collect any fly-tipping found on our routes. We are also responsible for 22 play areas in the parish. We employ over 30 staff to deliver this service year round.



Admin: £0.52

The administration team includes all office staff and executive officers, who work hard to ensure all council services run smoothly and efficiently. The cost of running this service includes salaries, insurance, staff training, the website and election expenses.

Events: £0.20

The parish council organises a full calendar of summer events, bandstand concerts and the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail in December at the town gardens. We also run and host many community events at Queen's Park and GWR Park.

We also support other events in South Swindon such as the My Dad's Bigger Than Your Dad Festival and the many events on Wood Street, which we insure and sponsor.

Grants and In Bloom: £0.02

Parish Council grants are available to support community groups and charities inside our parish. We also offer hands-on support for lots of voluntary groups, offering equipment and services where they are needed. South Swindon in Bloom is a volunteer-led programme which aims to brighten up and take pride in the town through horticulture. The bee symbol (right) can be found on fingerposts throughout the parish and signify areas designated for re-wilding.

Youth and Community Development: £0.05

The Parish Council supports various youth and community development schemes in the parish. This includes the Buckhurst Family Fun Day. We also support groups such as Prime Theatre who run free summer workshops in our parks.



YOUR COUNCILLORS



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For more details and contact information, visit our website:

www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk/council/councillors

WHO DOES WHAT

South Swindon Parish Council Responsibilities



Grass cutting



Dead Animal Collection
(public land only - report to SBC)



Shrub/Hedge Maintenance



Hypodermic Needle Collection
(public land only)



Tree Maintenance
(from ground using hand tools only)



Graffiti Removal
(small tags only)



Emptying Bins
(Dog & Litter)



Fly Tip Removal
(car boot size loads only)



Litter Picking



Allotments



Street Cleaning/Sweeping
(pavements only)



Play Area Maintenance

South Swindon Parish Council Office
Phone: 01793 312006
Email: office@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council Responsibilities

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Adoption |  Environmental Health |
|  Adult Safeguarding |  Highways |
|  Benefits |  Housing |
|  Births, Deaths & Marriages |  Libraries |
|  Blue Badge Parking |  Neighbourhood Wardens |
|  Burials |  Noise Nuisance |
|  Child Safeguarding |  Parking Enforcement |
|  Council Tax |  Planning Applications |
|  Cremation |  Recycling & Refuse Collection |
|  Drainage, Flooding & Gully Clearance |  School/Education |
|  Elections & Voting |  Tree Maintenance (Any work over 12ft) |

www.swindon.gov.uk

Phone: 01793 445500

Do you want to start a local Physical Activity Project?

APPLY NOW FOR FUNDING



The Swindon Place Partnership is offering Test & Learn funding through your Parish Council to support grassroots projects that promote physical activity in priority communities. If you're a local provider with a great idea to get people moving, this is your chance.

If you operate in Central Swindon North Parish or South Swindon Parish, we're looking to fund small-scale, innovative physical activity projects that:

- Increase physical activity
- Decrease physical inactivity
- Improve the experience for children and young people
- Tackle inequalities in health and access

Who can apply?

Registered charities, businesses, sole traders or community groups.

Project Delivery Window

All activities must run between July and December 2025

Projects must take place in one or more of the following Swindon areas:

- Gorse Hill
- Moredon
- Penhill
- Pinehurst
- Broadgreen
- Railway Village
- Walcot East
- Park North
- Park South

What's available?

Fully funded awards of up to £5,000 for successful applications

Funding awards vary based on your proposal.

Apply Now



Scan the QR Code and complete your application online



GET IN **TOUCH**

CONTACT

Please find our contact details below

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office@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

WEB

www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk

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