

South Swindon Parish Council newsletter

Welcome to the South Swindon Parish Council first quarterly newsletter. I am honoured to have been elected as the Chair of the Council and I look forward to playing a key role in building a Parish Council that will best serve the community of South Swindon.

It is widely understood that the parish was created in haste due to Swindon Borough Council financial pressures.

Whilst the parish origins were hotly debated, it is now clear that those who have been elected to serve work together to ensure the parish succeeds in improving services

and enhancing the area. Members of the public who have attended the various Parish Council meetings will have witnessed a single-minded determination by all members to achieve the best outcomes for the area.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those who served selflessly and collaboratively on the Shadow Parish Council prior to the elections. Their collective hard work has laid the foundations for the newly elected members



to build new services and enhance existing services. Whilst we are still in negotiation with the Borough Council regarding leases and deeds we are content

to accommodate an interim agreement regarding playground inspections, StreetSmart duties and upkeep of the parks such as Queens Park, Town Gardens and the GWR Park on Faringdon Road.

Indeed, the creation of the Parish has already allowed

for enhancements of services such as grass cutting that has been returned to a three week cycle and additional funds for street cleaning. In these times of continued austerity and budget cuts it is pleasing that we can immediately start improving the public realm for all parishioners.

The newsletter includes contact information for the Parish office. Councillor contact details, information, news and meeting schedules can be found on our new website www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Chris Watts
Parish Council Chair

Working with StreetSmart to improve environment

Due to the extremely short timescales in which the parish was created, it was agreed that the best approach to protect and enhance service would be to keep the

StreetSmart team intact.

With additional funding and flexibility afforded the parish we have been able to re-instate a three week grass cutting service with further

contingency for bad weather.

This has proved to be very popular with parishioners and we are pleased that we have seen immediate improvement in the area.

Allotment opportunities for available for residents

The parish took over the running of the allotments from 1 October 2017. There is availability of allotment plots across the parish, as many people gave up their allotments when Swindon Borough Council increased the rent.

The parish has reduced the rent back to £46 per year for a full plot for parish residents.

The parish council will also

budget for improvements to the allotments over the next twelve months.

In addition to the obvious benefits of growing your own flowers, fruit and vegetables, having an allotment can be great fun for all the family.

If you are a resident of South Swindon Parish and would like more information, please call the Parish Office.



Parish council helps secure library provision

Your parish councillors have worked hard to ensure we preserved a suitable library provision.

We are pleased to report that the parish council has secured additional hours for the Park Library and have taken over the running of the Old Town library.

The Old Town Library will be staffed part-time as

listed below. If there are volunteer groups that would be interested in extending the opening hours to support community groups, please contact the clerk for more information.

The current opening times are as follows:

Park Library

Monday 10am - 7pm
Tuesday 11am - 3pm

Wednesday 1pm - 6pm
Thursday 12pm - 7pm
Friday 11am - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm

Old Town Library

Tuesday 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Thursday 10.30am - 4.30pm
Friday 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm

Grant applications

Community Grants forms are now available for constituted community groups in the Parish.

These applications should be for assistance with capital expenditure and demonstrate an added value for the parishioners.

Graffiti service

The Parish Council has taken over the removal of graffiti from Swindon Borough Council. If you see offensive graffiti, then please let the Parish Office know and it will be removed immediately.

Graffiti that is not offensive on Council owned property will also be removed. Graffiti on private property can be removed but there will be a charge for this service. The price will be assessed on an individual basis.

Litter: let us know

Within the StreetSmart duties, the Parish is also responsible for emptying the litter bins and dog waste bins.

If you know of a bin that needs emptying on a more regular basis or a location that would benefit from a litter bin, please let us know.

Contact the Clerk

Broadgreen Community Centre, Salisbury Street, Swindon, SN1 2AN
TEL: 01793 466486, email: clerk@southswindon-pc.gov.uk
www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk