

TOWNCrier magazine

Christchurch • St Mary's • Swanley Village • White Oak Wards



Residents Success

Private developer U&I had its ambitious town centre application rejected last night (16th November 2017) at Sevenoaks District Council's Development Control (*planning*) Committee by unanimous vote. Swanley Councillors **Michael Horwood, Lesley Dyball, Laurence Ball, Paul Darrington, John Barnes & Mike Hogg** spoke against the application, having been supported at the meeting by local resident **Mrs Judith Brickell**, representing Swanley residents. District Councillors from all parts of the District were incredibly concerned about the height of not just the 11 storey building, but also the numerous other 8 storey buildings, which would have been visible for miles outside

of Swanley. Furthermore, several of the buildings would have overlooked Berkeley Court and Nightingale House, impacting severely on the residents there and cutting the amount of light and privacy in their homes. The fact the application, which built over most of U&I's existing car park, would have created just 7 extra car parking spaces to accommodate all the residents of the 303 new residential units, as well as extra shoppers and workers in the new retail units. This was lambasted as an "utter farce". Cllr Dyball in her speech especially challenged the fact there was no affordable housing for Swanley residents, with no provision even for part-buy part-rent or starter homes,

to help local young people get on the housing ladder.

The meeting, which lasted around 2 1/2 hours, concluded with a unanimous rejection of the unsuitable plans. Councillors were keen to emphasise that although they welcomed U&I's determination to renovate and regenerate Swanley Town Centre, it is important that U&I comes back with something more in keeping with a Kentish country town, as well as addressing the unsatisfactory parking provision and other problems. For more information on projects in Swanley, visit the council's web site **www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk** or ring **01322 665 855**

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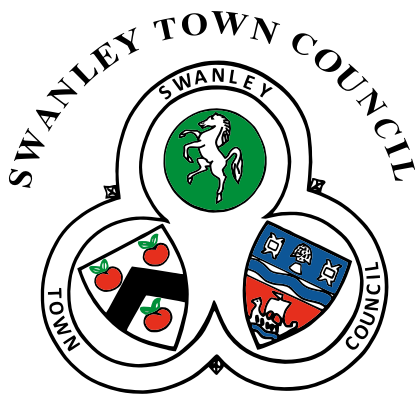
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TOWN Crier magazine

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You can download and read the Town Crier magazine on the go via the QR Code below or by visiting www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk/town-crier



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7 Edwards Gardens, Swanley, Kent, BR8 8HP

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A word from the CEO

This is the start of my second year as the CEO and my first year was certainly an eventful one for me and my family with new activities, new events and changes at the council.

To recap for you all, in March we took over the operation of the Park for the first time in 30 years which was a huge task. As a result we introduced several new activities and employed over 40 local seasonal staff to operate the facilities. We introduced Continental Markets and saw 6 of these appear in the town centre over the year with request for more this year.

We introduced Armed Forces Day in June and obtained funding from the Ministry of Defence to put the event on. Swanley in Bloom was put into place with great displays all over the town and continuing now into the winter with plans to extend the displays further in 2018.

This was closely followed by 1812 Night which was the best attended so far with over 3000 people watching the event and where we are now encouraging community groups and local business to come in and show case what they do in addition to running our own bar and food stalls.

The annual Firework Display also saw the largest attendance in many years with a bonfire, a Guy Competition along with fair rides, food stalls, a great display and plans to introduce live music this year.

The year culminated for us at the Switch On event in the town centre where an all new display of lights have been provided around the town along with a much larger tree and a Christmas event with Santa in his Grotto and elves giving out sweets. Funding for this also came from the National Lottery and business sponsors who are mentioned later. See page 9.

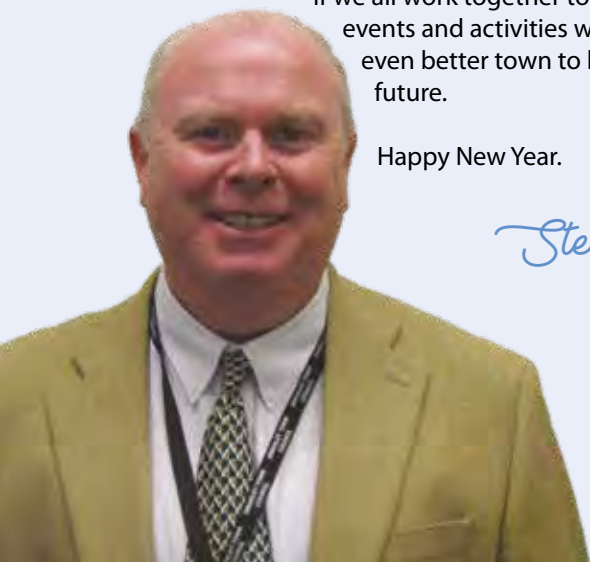
Behind the scenes we have been training staff, introducing new systems of work and reducing costs across the board. We have rented out our empty office space to a local charity and taken back leases from non-profitable sources.

In 2018 we want to see more local residents involved in all our activities and will be holding meetings and sending out information about developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the town.

If we all work together to support events and activities we will have an even better town to live in for the future.

Happy New Year.

Steve Nash
CEO



A word from the Mayor Councillor Laurence Ball

I do hope that you and your families had a wonderful festive season. It seems that 2017 just flew by at a rapid rate.

Swanley was certainly busy in the last quarter of 2017: Remembrance Sunday was suitably well attended as was the Firework Night at the Rec. Pantos, Market days, shopping and seasonal parties were the order of the day. We may well not have seen the last of the bad weather and would urge you be extra careful in the wet, frosty and snowy conditions.

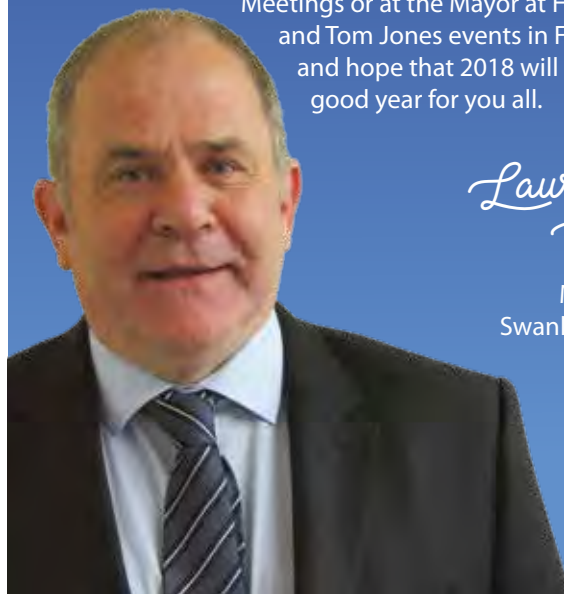
Many thanks to those who attended the Mayor's 007 Charity Ball. We had a good turnout and valuable funds were raised for The Swanley Thereapy Centre.

By now most of you will be back at work after the normal Christmas break, that first day or two does take a bit of readjustment. In the forthcoming year it is likely that the Developers, U&I, will update their proposals for Developing the Centre of Swanley. It is hoped that U&I will be more sympathetic to residents' wishes and concerns and that, at the end of the day, we end up with a Town Centre that most would be happy with. Please keep a look out for any possible consultation meetings.

I look forward to seeing some of you at Council Meetings or at the Mayor at Home and Tom Jones events in February and hope that 2018 will be a good year for you all.

Laurence Ball

Mayor of
Swanley Town
Council



If you have an idea for an Event or something you would like us to consider please get in touch.

Email: towncouncil@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01322 665 855

Write to us: The Civic Centre, St. Mary's Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 7BU

We would love to hear from YOU!



Please note: All events and news are current at the time of going to press.

Princess Royal opens the new Citizens Advice Bureau Offices



citizens
advice

The Princess Royal toured the new offices in the Swanley Centre, meeting Citizens Advice volunteers, staff, trustees, sponsors of the building refurbishment and local dignitaries.

As national patron of Citizens Advice, The Princess Royal welcomed the new offices which she said were "a huge improvement".

38 Swanley Centre London Rd
SWANLEY
Kent
BR8 7TQ

info@swanley.cab.org.uk

Telephone Adviceline 0300 330 9001

Swanley & District Athletics Club



Fed up with running alone, talking to yourself, sourcing your own routes. Even miss the social aspect of running with other like minded people. Want company? Then come join our friendly all abilities club. Don't delay contact us today, or come along to see us in action.

Our Clubhouse is located in the picturesque Swanley Park, just off New Barn Road. This allows us to train on some road & trail runs in the surrounding countryside. Favourites include Joydens Wood & Farningham Wood as well as around the park itself.

When do we run?

Monday: 6:45PM for 7:00PM Coached session usually start at Dartford track, Central Park (near Fairfield Pool entrance), Dartford.

Tuesday: 7PM, 5-6 Mile relaxed local run from Birchwood Park Golf course car park. This may change in winter months. Varied speed and abilities.

Wednesday: Coached sessions starting at 6:30PM at Swanley Park during the summer months and then from White Oak Leisure Centre, Hilda May Avenue, Swanley BR8 7BT in winter.

Sunday: Start 9AM from the newly refurbished clubhouse. This is a longer social run at a steadier pace. Runners of different abilities split into different groups.

The route is usually chosen on the day. Tea, Biscuits and toast are always on offer at the end of the run in the clubhouse.



You can contact us via our Facebook page
Swanley & District AC, or on our website
www.swanleyanddistrictac.org



Swanley Rangers FC
Baby Swans
Wildcats Centre
www.swanleyrangersfc.com



Help is on hand from your local Mind
www.westkentmind.org.uk
01732 744 950

Information given, volunteers welcome and donations needed.

We're here to make sure anyone with a mental health problem has somewhere to turn for advice and support.

Community Policing Volunteers being recruited

Kent Police is looking for volunteers to play a new role in community policing.



**Kent
Police**

Community Policing Volunteers are being recruited as part of a pilot scheme in the West Division which includes Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

The scheme is open to all adults aged 18 or above who are able to commit to 16 hours a month and interested in contributing to their local community as a volunteer.

They will wear a uniform and support their local Community Safety Units by providing additional visibility and an extra point of contact for members of the public, while also improving the communication flow to the police and back to the community.

Applicants will need to successfully pass a standard fitness test and provide a medical certificate to confirm they are in good health to perform an active role.

Volunteers will work as part of a team to reduce crime and improve community safety.

They will have a number of duties including supporting police officers; responding to the needs of communities and supporting victims.

They will play a vital role in solving local problems and gathering useful evidence about criminal activity and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The new role has been established following the Policing and Crime Bill 2017, which has given Chief Constables authority to extend certain powers to volunteers.

This includes the power to request the name and address of someone committing ASB, some powers to control traffic, the power to place traffic signs and the power to enter premises to save life and/or prevent serious damage.

Recruitment has just started and closes on 26 January 2018. Interviews for those shortlisted will take place during February and training will start at the end of April which will take place over five weekends over a 10 week period.

Assistant Chief Constable Tony Blaker said: 'We know from talking to many people that there is a strong interest in volunteering to support the police and the community, and this is a fantastic opportunity that we hope will attract people of all ages and backgrounds.'

'We have a rich tradition of volunteers in Kent Police with a thriving Special Constabulary, a growing Volunteer Cadet Force and a multitude of people who help in support roles throughout the force.'

'This new role will build on that and provide an invaluable service to both the police and the local community.'

Anyone interested in applying to become a Community Policing Volunteer can get further information from our website: www.kent.police.uk

Swanley History Group



Blue Town on
The Isle of Sheppey.

2017 was another successful year for Swanley History Group. Committee members have been working hard to ensure that our 2018 programme continues to offer great speakers on a range of topics.

In early January Keith Whitmore took us on a photographic stroll 'Up The Junc.' around Swanley Town of a few years ago.

Our AGM plus musical quiz is on 6 February and on 6 March we welcome popular speaker Christoph Bull who will take us on a virtual trip through nearby downland parishes in times past in his inimitable way.

Each year we organise a visit. We were well looked after during our tour of Parkwood Hall Co-operative Academy in 2016 and Cobham Hall in 2017. We look forward to a trip to Blue Town on The Isle of Sheppey, including entertainment at The Criterion Old Time Music Hall, later this year.

A group of members have been researching the names of The Fallen of World War 1 on Swanley War Memorial and are grateful to people who have answered our call for information. We are planning to publish their stories in a tribute later in 2018.

Our meetings - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start, on the first Tuesday of each month, at White Oak Indoor Bowls Centre, Garrolds Close, off Hilda May Avenue, Swanley, BR8 7BF.

Christina Tyler,
Programme Organiser



Visitors are very welcome and many become members. See our website www.swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com for further information or telephone Terry Morris - 07884493894. To email us - swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk

THE ALEXANDRA SUITE

EVENTS CALENDAR 2018



70's & 80's Disco Party
Live DJ Playing all your party floor fillers
8.00pm - Late
£10.00

Saturday
24
February



Elvis Tribute & Disco
8.00pm - Late
£20.00 including Basket Meal

Friday
13
April



Motown & Soul Night
Live DJ Playing Motown & Soul
8.00pm - Late
£10.00

Friday
27
April



Party Anthems
Live DJ Playing all your party anthems
8.00pm - Late
£10.00

Friday
25
May



Rydell High Schools Out
Live DJ Playing all your favourite music
8.00pm - Late
£10.00

Friday
20
July



Summer Party
Live DJ Playing all your party anthems
8.00pm - Late
£10.00

Friday
31
August



Live Mediumship
Come and enjoy an evening with Steve Holbrook
7.30pm - Late
£15.00

Thursday
11
October



Pre Christmas Party
Live DJ Playing all your party anthems
8.00pm - Late
£10.00

Friday
30
November

Christmas & New Years Eve

Christmas Dinner - **Saturday 1 December**

Christmas Basket Meal & Disco - **Friday 7 December**

Christmas Casino Dinner - **Friday 14 December**

Only Fools & Horses Dinner & Disco - **Saturday 15 December**

All Inclusive Dinner & Disco - **Friday 21 December**

Family NYE Party - **Monday 31 December**

NYE Dinner & Dance - **Monday 31 December**

Christmas and New Year Prices and times TBC

01322 613 900

sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

www.sbweddingsandbanqueting.co.uk

St Mary's Road | Swanley | Kent | BR8 7BU



The Olympic

EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

**FIRST THURSDAY
OF EVERY
MONTH**



Open Mic Night
First Thursday of every Month
From 7.30pm

**SUNDAY
CARVERY**



Sunday Carvery
From £9.95 per person
Bookings are Essential

**SATURDAY
24TH FEBRUARY**



Tom Jones Tribute Night
Tickets £30 per person
Includes a 3 Course Set Dinner

**SUNDAY
11TH MARCH**



Mother's Day Carvery
Free Glass of Prosecco for all Mum's
Bookings Only

**FRIDAY
6TH APRIL**



Karaoke
Sing, Dance and Drink the night away!
From 7.30pm

**SATURDAY
12TH MAY**



Drag and Disco
A night of Drag and Disco Favourites
Includes Finger Food | £25 per person

**SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL FOR ALL BOOKING
ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL 01322 669201
THE OLYMPIC, BEECHENLEA LANE,
SWANLEY, KENT, BR8 8DR**

SWANLEY PARK SURVIVAL PARTIES



BUILD YOUR OWN PARTY!
CHOOSE THREE ACTIVITIES FROM THE LIST
2 HOUR PARTIES £130.00 UP TO 10 CHILDREN
£13PH EXTRA CHILDREN MAX 20

★ SOFT ARCHERY ★ ASSAULT COURSE ★ CAMOUFLAGE AND CONCEALMENT ★
 ★ ESCAPE AND EVASION ★ FIRE LIGHTING ★ MAKING A SHELTER ★
 ★ NERF WARS ★ TUG OF WAR ★

ALL KIDS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES ★ BRING A PICNIC AND CAKE

NERF WARS PARTY



1 hour party
 £100 up to 10 children
 £10ph extra children max 20

All against all
 Capture the base
 Team shoot out match

Half hour hire of the party room
 available at the café £7ph to include
 hot or cold food.
 Parties run all through the year!

TO BOOK CALL: 01322 665 855

6 Weeks Football Training

Wednesday & Saturday's
 Coaching different basic football skills to
 7-13 year olds on a turn up and play basis
 finishing with 'Game Play'

FREE

Starting

Wednesday 10th January
 4pm - 5pm

Saturday 13th January
 10:30am - 12pm



**Swanley
 Recreation
 Ground**

**St Mary's Road,
 Swanley**

Hosted by Active Sport Initiative
 Supported by Swanley Town Council and Kent PCC



ASI
 Active Sport Initiative



THE ALEXANDRA
 SUITE
The Alexandra Suite



Personalised Wedding Packages

Exclusive Venue Hire

Licensed for Ceremonies

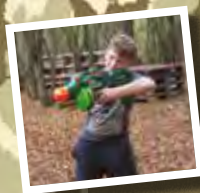
01322 613 900

sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk
 www.sbweddingsandbanqueting.co.uk
 St Mary's Road | Swanley | Kent | BR8 7BU



Scan the QR Code to find out more

PARK ACTIVITIES FEBRUARY HALF TERM



**MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY
 NERF WARS**

11.00am - 12.00pm & 1.00pm - 2.00pm

**WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY
 SURVIVAL FUN**

11.00am - 12.00pm & 1.00pm - 2.00pm



**FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY
 NERF WARS**

11.00am - 12.00pm & 1.00pm - 2.00pm



12 places available for each session.
 £5 per person paid in advance
 To book your place Call 01322 665 855



Be A Christmas Sponsor For 2018 And Light Up The Town

If you missed Swanley Christmas Lights this year it's probably because you never came to town. The tree was bigger and brighter and the lamppost decorations stretched around the town centre so there was no way of passing through the town without seeing them, but we don't want to stop there, we want more lights and a bigger event and we need your help to do it.

You can sponsor an existing lamppost decoration for just £150 and provide a new decoration for £250. You can help us cover that awful Asda wall with new decorations from £250 each to really help make an impact.

You can sponsor as an individual, as a business, as a school or youth group, as an organisation or as a group of residents. Why not set it as a fund raising goal for your group or use it as part of your advertising campaign.

But we don't want to stop there, we want more people involved in our event, we want businesses and organisations to come out for the event and showcase themselves, we want local craft makers and food makers to get involved and we want entertainers to come and make the day a success.

The clock is ticking its less than 336 day till Christmas

You will get advertising on our web site and social media pages, a sign under the decoration with your name on it and in the Town Crier magazine which is delivered to every household in Swanley and this last for the life of the decoration, not just for one event.

A big 'Thank You' goes to our sponsors of the Christmas Lights 2017
Specsavers ★ Jones Homes
Swanley & North Downs Lions
Doors & Windows ★ Towes
Whiteoak Management ★ Robert Murrell



Green Gym for 2018

Are you or your family members seeking out a new out door activity for this year? The Swanley Wildlife & Nature (SWAN) group would like to invite you to join us in creating and maintaining wildlife habitats in the Environment Area of Swanley Park. We have a number of activities planned during the year including

planting 200 small trees in March. The award winning group of volunteers meets usually at 10.00a.m. on the last Saturday of every month at the top car park of Swanley Park. All under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.



Further information about the group can be found on their website. Please visit: www.freewebs.com/swanleyenvirogroup

SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL SENIOR PASSPORT TO LEISURE

The Swanley Town Council Senior Passport to Leisure scheme provides residents with the opportunity to meet socially with local people within the community and enjoy a range of events.

Trips to historic places of interest, sightseeing cruises and theatre outings are organised and arranged by Swanley Town Council throughout the year.



Ligibility Criteria to qualify members must:

Be over 60 years of age.
 Reside within Swanley or the villages of Crockenhill, Farningham and Hextable.

Provide identification and proof of address documents to Swanley Town Council.

The Swanley Link, London Road, Swanley Kent BR8 7AE
 Telephone: 03000 421270 or 03000 421254
 E-mail: csa@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

Swanley Town Council Events 2018

Mayor at Home

Tuesday 27th February

Alexandra Suite

Tickets can be booked by contacting Swanley Town Council 01322 655855 Afternoon Tea and Entertainment in the company of the Mayor for the Senior Citizens of Swanley

Great British Spring Clean

Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd March

Meeting points & times available on our website. We want to inspire people to get outdoors, get active and help clear up the rubbish that lies around us. Join in with others who have had enough of other people's litter and are willing to do something about it.

Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth Day

Monday 12th March

Civic Centre Car Park

Raising of the Commonwealth Flag
Uniting a family of Nations in common purpose and understanding around the world

Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday 28th March

Alexandra Suite

Meet the Councillors, ask your questions what is the councils plans for Swanley

Swanley in Bloom Launch

Saturday 28th April

Swanley Town Centre

Swanley In Bloom launch in partnership with Coolings Garden Centre. Judging will take place throughout July 2018 and a presentation to the winners is planned for late July 2018.



St Georges Day

Sunday 22nd April

Swanley Town Centre

St George's Day in England remembers St George, England's patron saint. Join in the family fun, fancy dress competition best dressed Damsel or Knight, arts and crafts, face painting and lots more



Armed Forces Day

Saturday 30th June

Recreation Ground

Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets. Stalls, Static displays, demonstrations, food & drink

Luna Cinema

Wednesday 11th July & Thursday 12th July

Swanley Park

The UK's number 1 outdoor cinema company present two nights of classic cinema under the stars at Swanley Park. Films showing are Bridemaids & Grease

Just Bin It Presentation

July 2018 – Date to be confirmed

The Bin It! Programme includes an award winning educational roadshow and free teaching resources designed to tackle the impact of littering, particularly chewing gum litter, in schools.

Summer Grand Gala Day

Saturday 21st July & 22nd July

Swanley New Barn Railway

Swanley Park

Jams Owls will be returning for 2018 2nd Chance Animal Centre confirmed for 2018. Visiting Miniature traction engines confirmed, Face Painting Confirmed

1812

Friday 25th August

Swanley Park

An evening of music and entertainment provided by The Rock Choir and the Eynsford Concert band. There will refreshments and stalls, something for all the family. The evening will be rounded off by a firework finale.



Luna Halloween & Party

Friday 26th October

Alexandra Suite

Be prepared to be scared
Film to be shown on Recreation ground followed by party in Alexandra Suite

Luna Halloween & Children's Party

Saturday 27th October

The Olympic - TBC

Kids are you ready to be ghouls and ghosts, witches and werewolves?
Film and party at the Olympic



Firework Night

Friday 2nd November

Recreation Ground

Annual firework display which promises to be equally as entertaining and will include, live music, guy competition and bonfire.

Remembrance Day

Sunday 11th November

St Mary's Church

Remembrance Sunday, is a day for the residents of Swanley to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. There will be a parade, church service and a laying of wreaths

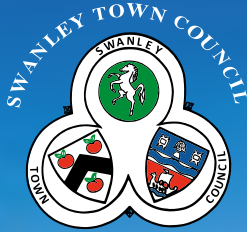


Light Up the Town

Saturday 1st December

Swanley Town Centre

Family fun day including Santa's grotto, The Rock Choir and Christmas lights switch on



Swanley Town Council is seeking to create a Neighbourhood Plan



The CEO Steve Nash, is looking for residents and organisations who would like to get involved in this process, which will help to shape the future of the town.

There will be monthly and quarterly meetings of theme groups and surveys for people to complete.

We need your contact details and would like you to contact us via our web site, where you can fill in your details on our contact form.



www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF SWANLEY

ACTIVE SWANLEY FREE SPORTS FOR UNDER 16's



**Kent
Police**

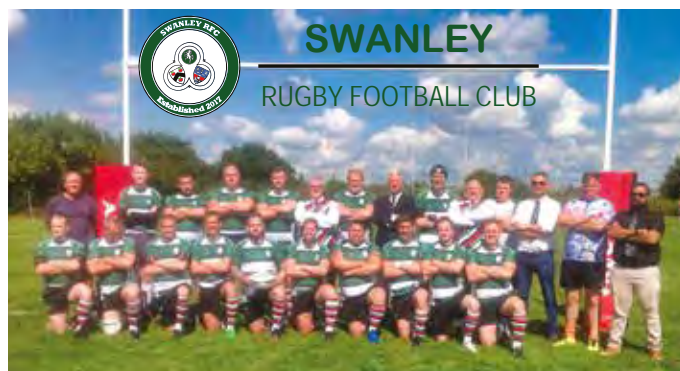


Every week there are free sports being provide to young people in Swanley through a project jointly funded by Kent Police and Crime Commissioners Office and Swanley Town Council. The funding is being used in a variety of ways to encourage young people into sports and ensure they have access to grass roots level activities. There are free places available for young people to train with Swanley Rugby Club, Swanley Boxing Club, Camp Zero Survival and Swanley Rangers FC, all people need do is ring to find out training times or visit the web sites.

The funding has allowed 6 new coaches to be trained, including one ladies football coach, and provides weekly sessions after school and on Saturday mornings at the Recreation Field. It has provided new equipment for the clubs to engage with more people and to enhance their club facilities with Swanley Boxing Club now having their very own training facility. If you have a child who wants to play a sport but lacks the equipment to participate then we may be able to help by purchasing rackets, or clothing perhaps even footwear.

In the next few weeks we hope to introduce tennis on a regular basis and information regarding this will be published once confirmed.

If you are an individual wanting to participate, a parent wanting to get their child involved in sports or a club looking for support then why not contact us and see if we can help.



Launched last year Swanley RFC has been going from strength to strength. With a playing squad of over 30 and general club membership of 80 plus, many of whom are drawn from the local area. We are midway through our first season and currently sit second in the league table just 2 points behind the leaders Sevenoaks RFC.

Generous sponsorship from local firms and real support from Swanley Town Council have enabled us to make progress beyond anything we expected. That said we are always keen to welcome new members to the club whether playing or non-playing. We train on Tuesdays at 7.30p.m. near the bottom car park of Swanley Park. Match details can be found on our website.

With the support of Swanley Town Council we will be launching a youth section in the spring of 2018 and see this as the cornerstone to the future of the club. Currently we are going through the process of training 5 youth coaches and ensuring that all the correct safeguarding checks are in place.

We are very keen to hear from any potential players who would like to try rugby be it youth or adult. Full launch details will be published nearer the date but should you or your child like to express an interest please contact us through the following links. www.swanleyrfc.co.uk
SWANLEY RUGBY CLUB clubcaptain@swanleyrfc.co.uk

2017 - 2018
SWANLEY RFC
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Swanley Park Improvements



Swanley Town Council is investing in your park and an exciting 2018 awaits. Changes and new activities are already being planned for the summer, which are being overseen by the new **Park Manager, Ryan Hayman**. He said 'We are planning for the Parks future. Swanley Park is a wonderful area for all to enjoy and we are aiming to provide a park everyone can be proud of'. See these improvements first hand by visiting throughout the year. The Park already has a number of exciting amenities

including; **Paddling Pool**, **Miniature Railway**, **Play Park**, **Café**, **Tree Trek**, **Boating Lake**, **Adventure Golf** and **Bouncy Castle**. Party packages are also provided at the Park, our Survival and Nerf parties are extremely popular and won't disappoint. This year the Park will be open from the **30th of March**. To book your child's dream party or to find out more general information call us on **01322 668 415**. Alternatively, find us on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk.

