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Swindon News is distributed to more than 80,000 homes. It is also available free of charge from many of the main Swindon Borough Council buildings.

Swindon News

Your Council, Your News, Your Paper

www.swindon.gov.uk

Issue seventy one

October 2007

It's show time



Main photo: Cinderella, Ellie Baker & Wicked Stepmother, Courtney King
Small photo: Wicked Stepmother, Cinderella, Roderick Bluh, Leader of the Council, Gavin Jones, Chief Executive & theatre mascot Willy the Wyvern.

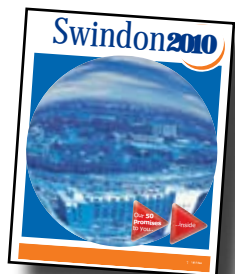
 **SWINDON**
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Leader's Column

Delivering our promises

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Swindon's council officers, councillors and our partner organisations, the town continues to improve. We are delivering on more and more of the council's promises.



More recycling success

Our newly introduced recycling scheme has exceeded all expectations and is contributing towards us reaching our locally determined goal of halving the amount we send to landfill by 2010. It is vital for us all that we make Swindon a green, sustainable place in which to live and work and I hope you will all help by noting your local collection days and preparing and bagging your recycling materials correctly.



More exam success

Swindon's pupils and teachers have worked incredibly hard and have achieved more good results. The number of pupils achieving at least 5 grade A* to C passes rose by 1.3%, and 96% of all pupils gained at least one qualification. The Council remains firmly committed to its goal of seeing 86% or more of our children leave school with five good GCSE passes.

More regeneration success

Members of the council, both officers and councillors, literally burnt the midnight oil in order to secure redevelopment of the Locarno in Old Town to act as a new registry office as well as a commercial café and restaurant. This will preserve a historic building as well introducing a continental note to Swindon. (see opposite)

And finally...

The newly refurbished Wyvern Theatre has now re-opened and is well worth a visit.

Roderick Bluh
Leader of the Council



Future looks bright for Old Town and Locarno

One of Swindon's landmark buildings is to get a new lease of life, which will include a new venue for people to tie the knot in an historic setting.

Swindon Borough Council, which owns the land and car park surrounding the Locarno in Old Town, has signed a three-way agreement with Gael Mackenzie, who owns the buildings, and the developer Bach Homes.

The site's Victorian heritage, which dates back to 1852, will be retained. The scheme involves restoring the dilapidated Old Town Hall and clock tower, which have suffered two fires in recent years. The resulting damage left the beleaguered building derelict, and its future uncertain.

A new Register Office set in a public area - styled like an Italian piazza - combined with a mix of businesses and 125 apartments forms part of the proposed development. The new homes will range from studio apartments to luxury two-bedroom penthouses. A restaurant, bar and gym are also planned in the overall development.

Full details of the scheme were unveiled at a public exhibition in August.

Bach Homes anticipates submitting a planning application in the autumn and hopes to be on site early next year.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Swindon Borough Council Deputy Leader, said: "I am delighted that we have managed to secure a vibrant new beginning for a historic building which is in desperate need of restoration.

"I would like to thank residents for their patience while the understandably complicated negotiations took place. We can now look forward to work starting very soon on what is a fantastic scheme, not just for Old Town but Swindon as a whole."

Steve Rosier, Bach Homes Managing Director, added: "I'm delighted that we are working with Swindon Borough Council and Gael Mackenzie and will be involved in regenerating the heart of Old Town and restoring the area to its former vitality with this unique scheme."



It's show time again at the Wyvern Theatre – and tickets are selling fast

The Wyvern theatre has been given a new lease of life thanks to a £1.3million revamp by Swindon Borough Council. The newly-refurbished venue, in Swindon town centre, reopened last month and some shows are already nearly sold out.

The theatre now boasts new seats, carpets, the latest technology lighting and sound systems, and a re-fitted café and bars. The work, which included fitting a state-of-the-art air cooling system, means audiences will be able to enjoy performances in fresh surroundings and greater comfort.

Swindon Borough Council closed the Wyvern Theatre 12 months ago following the discovery of asbestos. The council immediately arranged for the asbestos to be removed as it was determined to provide people with an operational theatre as soon as possible, and embarked on a £1.37million refurbishment project.

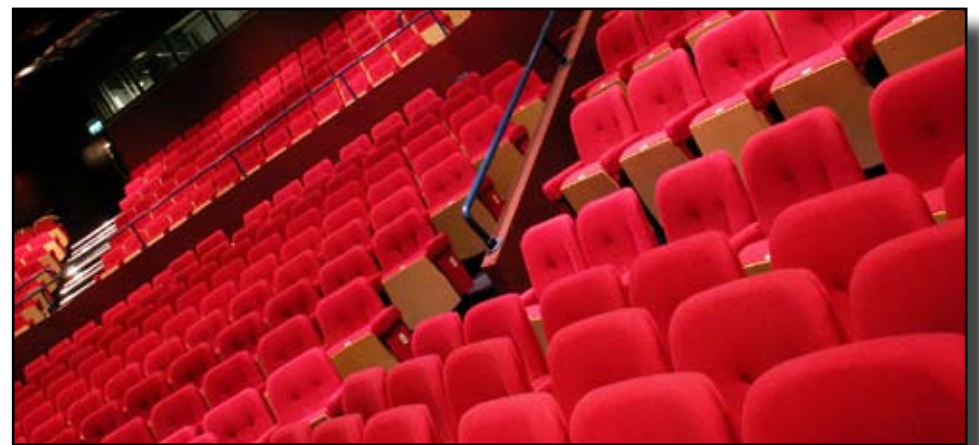
Working in partnership with the theatre management company Hetherington Seelig Theatres (HST), the project was completed on time and on budget.

Andrew Hill, Director of the Wyvern Theatre, said: “The response to the revitalised theatre has been fantastic. It is testament to the partnership between HST and Swindon Borough Council that we have worked through this difficult time for the building and are now back in action presenting more exciting shows.

“Our autumn programme is packed with performances to suit all ages and tastes. People are particularly excited about the pantomime, which promises to be a spectacular treat for all the family. Some performances are nearly sold out, so don't miss out.”

A debut stage-adaptation of Danny the Champion of the World, The City of London Sinfonia, Jongleurs Comedy Club and Basil Brush are among the highlights of the autumn programme.

And of course Britt Ekland is set to grace the stage as the Fairy Godmother in the Christmas pantomime, which runs from Friday, December 7 until Saturday, January 6.



Cllr Justin Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Recreation & Culture said: “This is brilliant news for Swindon. The theatre looks fantastic and I'm sure audiences will be thrilled when they see what a great job has been done.

“This project demonstrates the council's commitment to embracing and enhancing culture in the borough. We are grateful for people's patience whilst the theatre was out of action, but judging from the end result it was well worth the wait and I hope this exciting venue will help establish Swindon as a destination of choice for performing arts.”

For more details of performances visit the website www.wyverntheatre.org.uk or call the ticket office on 01793 524481.

Young people asked to rename landmark Swindon building

A landmark building in Swindon is set to be transformed – and young people who will use it are invited to rename the exciting new venue. The former Railway Museum, in Faringdon Road, will become the hub for Swindon Borough Council's Youth Service, securing a bright future for this historic grade II listed building.

An al fresco café, stage for artistic performances and alcohol-free bar are among the attractions planned in the £1million investment project. The building has great acoustics and a new wooden floor will be fitted, enhancing its potential as a concert venue. People aged between 11 and 19 are being given the opportunity to think of a new name for the venue, which is a keynote building in Swindon's Railway Village.

Alternative venues have been found for the juggling club and music group, which have been temporarily occupying the premises. The Council is liaising closely with The New Mechanics' Institution Preservation Trust, which has been given notice to vacate the building by Wednesday, 3 October. After which the essential repair works needed to safeguard the building the building will begin.

Councillor Nick Martin, Cabinet Member for Resources, said: “The restoration of the old Railway Museum is a marvellous way to unite young people with the redevelopment of Swindon. I look forward to receiving their suggestions for what they want to call their new meeting place in the centre of Swindon.”

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Children Services, said: “This is a great opportunity for Swindon to really engage with young people. It will be a flagship building, providing a host of new facilities for the community at large. The former Railway Museum needs a new name to signify this exciting new beginning and I'm sure young people will come up with some fantastic ideas.”

The deadline for name suggestions is Friday, November 30 and ideas can be sent to Andrew Newton Cox, Plus One, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2SG, or texted to 07766368378.



Top photo: Swindon Borough Council Leader Cllr Roderick Bluh with some of the stones at Wroughton airfield.

Bottom photo: The Tabernacle as it was in the mid 1960s.

Stones return to Swindon

After an absence of nearly 30 years, the stones that made up one of Swindon's most distinctive buildings have returned to the Borough.

It took more than a week, and twenty heavy lorries, to deliver the hundreds of tonnes of Bath stone that used to make up the classical frontage of the Baptist Tabernacle for temporary storage at Wroughton airfield.

The tabernacle stood on Regent Circus from the 1870s until it was demolished in 1978, and was thought to be lost to history.

But Council leader Cllr Roderick Bluh discovered four years ago that by a quirk of fate, the stones that made up the front of the building still existed, and were lying in a field in Northamptonshire. The original buyer of the stones, and a second owner had both wanted to rebuild them, but the projects fell through.

After lengthy negotiations they have now been bought from their former owner and will be incorporated into the major retail, leisure and residential development that is planned for the Granville Street area of the town centre. The developer will refund the £349,000 cost of the stones to the council.

Cllr Bluh said: "It's fair to say that in the past, like many towns, Swindon demolished some buildings that with hindsight, it should perhaps have saved. As soon as I heard the stones still survived, I was determined that they should be rebuilt here as a very visible sign of our regeneration. Many people remember the tabernacle with affection and I can't wait to see it back in the new town centre."

Pupils thumbs up to new school

Children have been exploring new classrooms and facilities at Even Swindon Primary School following the completion of a major building project.

Swindon Borough Council has spent £2.6million to extend and improve the building in Pasture Close, which was formerly used as Even Swindon Junior School.

There is a spacious new hall, nursery and reception classrooms, library/ICT suite, speech and language rooms, a food technology room and soundproofed music room. Teachers can also relax in a new staff room.

Cllr Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Children Services, said: "The right environment can aid a child during the early stages of learning and development. I am delighted that we have been able to create this spacious new facility and give pupils an inspiring start to their education."

The extension follows the amalgamation of the junior and infant schools into a primary school. The former infant school building will be used by community groups.

Changed your address recently?
Had a problem getting credit?

Your problem could be caused by your name not being in the right place on the Register of Electors.

Banks, Building Societies and Finance Companies use the Register of Electors for credit reference checks.

If your name is not on the Register of Electors it could affect your ability to obtain credit.

Get Registered!

If you don't - you could lose more than your vote!

If you live in Swindon and want to register - Call **01793 463543**
or email: elecrag@swindon.gov.uk
or visit our website: www.swindon.gov.uk
and download and complete a registration form now!

Published by the Electoral Registration Officer, Civic Offices, Swindon SN1 2JH
www.swindon.gov.uk

Your new waste and recycling service

Wheelie bins

The delivery of wheelie bins has now begun and will continue until the new fortnightly collections begin on 5 November. Your Black sacks will continue to be collected weekly on your normal collection day until then, except in West Swindon where wheelie bins have already been in use for over two years. Please note - there will be no black sack collections after Friday 3 November.

A wheelie bin information pack will be stuck to the wheelie bin lid on delivery with date tape informing you when your first collection will take place.

Residents whose homes are unsuitable for wheelie bins and who are using special blue sacks, should have now been notified in writing.

Remember, remember the fifth of November!

- Every household will receive their first collection using their new wheelie bin between the 5 and 16 of November.
- No additional bags of waste (sidewaste) will be collected.
- Collections will be fortnightly.
- Rubbish should be put into a bag before it is placed in the wheelie bin. Food waste should be double bagged.

Smaller bins

Over 9,000 residents have already opted for the smaller size wheelie bin which will hold the equivalent of approximately 2½ black sacks. If you have a larger bin but feel you could manage with a smaller one, please contact us on 445501 and we will happily swap it over.

Contact centre opening hours

The contact centre is now open from 8.30am to 7pm to answer all your questions about the new waste and recycling service. Call 445501.



The wheelie bin roadshows held across the borough received an enormous amount of support from residents.

Recycling

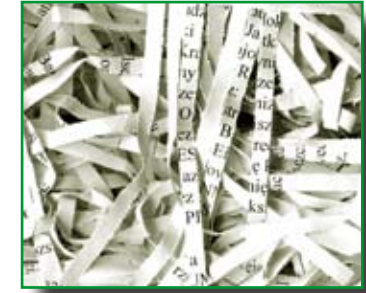
We have had an amazing response to the new recycling service. The amount of recycling collected from the kerbside has doubled, to 300 tonnes per week.

Textiles



Please ensure that any clothes and shoes are placed in carrier bags within the recycling box. This ensures that the clothes remain clean and can be easily separated from the rest of the recyclable material.

Shredded paper



Put all shredded paper into an envelope or cereal box. When loose it blows away and creates littering problems. Remember, shredded paper is an excellent addition to your compost bin, if you have one.

Plastic bottles

Plastic bottles are collected in a different vehicle to other recyclables and may be collected at a different time. Please remember that these collections are fortnightly. Check your recycling calendar for actual collection dates.



Have you mastered the three R's?

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. It makes perfect economic and environmental sense!

Reduce

Don't buy more than you need - reduce your purchasing and packaging. Apart from anything else, it will save you money.

Re-use

If you've finished with it, someone else might use it - re-use whenever possible through charity shops, for example.

Recycle

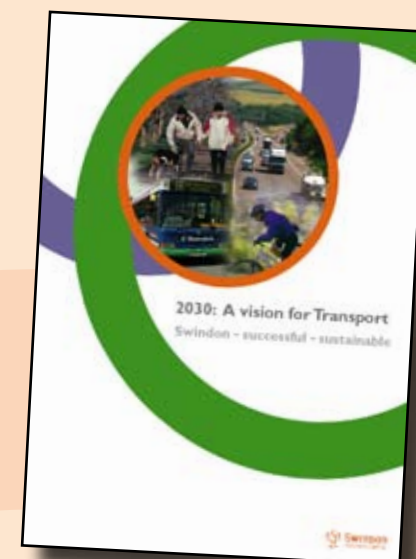
If you can't re-use, then recycle or make compost. Finally, and only when there is no other option, should material go to landfill for safe disposal.

Swindon's Transport Vision for 2030

We need your views!

By 2030 Swindon Borough aims to be:

- The UK's best business destination.
- The UK's number one sustainable community.
- A location where an estimated 32,000 new homes have been successfully integrated, creating a sense of place and coherence.



To have a quality of life that everyone can enjoy Swindon will need an effective, modern transport system.

This means:

- Reducing journey lengths and the need to travel.
- Managing the existing infrastructure better and influencing travel choice.
- Targeting investment in new infrastructure where other options have been exhausted.

Developing transport policies is challenging. Everyone has different needs and requirements for getting around. This is why we need your help to decide how we can make Swindon a better place to live.

The Vision and the strategy documents set out the council's current thoughts on how we think improvements to the transport infrastructure could be made. The rest of 2007 will be spent consulting on these documents.

The strategies for the Town Centre and for parking are part of an overall strategic approach to particular problems in Swindon's town centre, where congestion, air quality and demand are key issues that need addressing.

These strategies are also designed to complement the council's Central Area Action Plan and the Core Strategy.



Strategy for transport in the town centre

The strategy aims to highlight specific measures that can help reduce congestion and provide a high quality transport system that the people of Swindon deserve for the 21st Century.

The aims of the Transport Strategy are to:

- Create a town centre which is easily accessible from all parts of Swindon.
- Gives pedestrians priority, which provides a pleasant and safe shopping and leisure experience.
- Create a road network which discourages traffic and reduces the amount of circulating traffic.

Strategy for Parking

In order to accommodate growth, the council needs to provide as much access as possible for people, and manage the use of cars, in order to reduce the impact of pollution and congestion on the built and natural environment, as well as the economy.

The council's transport estimates have shown that action needs to be taken if gridlock on parts of the network is to be avoided. The aims of the strategy for parking include:

- To co-ordinate parking provision across the town centre and ensure that the operation of the individual car parks supports the overall strategy.
- Establish how the management of the various car parks can be brought together and used to support the council's long-term commitment for town centre regeneration, national and local objectives for environmental protection, sustainable development and travel choices.
- Using intelligent transport management to reduce the number of drivers using the town centre as a through route, or searching unnecessarily for parking spaces.

To view these documents in full you can find a copies of them in your local library, or alternatively log on to the Swindon Borough Council website at www.swindon.gov.uk/transportvision

If you have any comments or questions you would like to make on the proposals or would like more information please contact us on 01793 466449 or email us at transportplanning@swindon.gov.uk

Chance to rename Cavendish Square

Residents are invited to participate in the rebirth of Cavendish Square by choosing a new name for the area.

St John's Square, as a reference to a family with historical links to Swindon, and Compass Point, which relates to the local areas Park North, Park South and East Walcot, are a couple of suggestions to get people started.

Ideas from local residents of Park North, Park South and East Walcot are very welcome, so now is the time to get thinking and have your say. We're also happy if most people want to retain the name Cavendish Square - the choice is yours.

The deadline for suggestions is Wednesday, October 31. The final decision will be made by asking people to vote for their favourite from the most popular three suggestions. The chosen name will be the one with the most votes.

Progress on the transformation of Cavendish Square is going well. The former Kwik Save block has been demolished and a number of the new retail units are nearing completion. The next stage will involve work in the central block area and we thank residents for their patience whilst this takes place.

The new face of Cavendish Square, which includes a rejuvenated shopping centre, revamped community facilities, enhanced school facilities and new homes is on target to be completed during 2009.

Swindon Borough Council is therefore on track to fulfil part of Promise number 39 of its 50 promises to residents to be achieved by 2010: "We will redevelop a range of other sites including...Cavendish Square."

Cllr David Renard, Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Social Care said: "From the outset, local people have been closely involved in this exciting project. I look forward to hearing their suggestions for what they want the revitalised Cavendish Square to be called in the future. There may be no desire to change the name - but this decision must be made by local people."



Send your chosen option to the Thistle Construction site office, on the first floor level, in Cavendish Square. Alternatively people can send their suggestions by email to namecavendish@swindon.gov.uk

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Option one: | St John's Square | <input type="radio"/> |
| Option two: | Compass Point | <input type="radio"/> |
| Option three: | Cavendish Square | <input type="radio"/> |
| Option four: | Suggest a name of your own | |



Summary Accounts 2006/07 – Part 1

This is the first of a two-part summary of the council's financial activity for 2006/07. In the next issue of Swindon News, out in December, we'll show the final accounts summary.

Summary of the final financial position for 2006/07

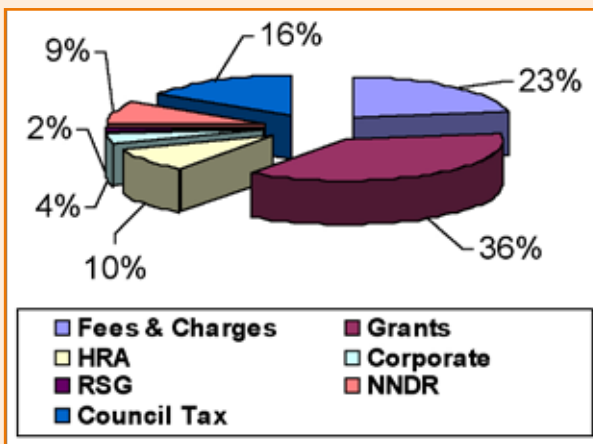
The following table is a summary of the final outturn position of the Council for 2006/07. It shows that most services performed within their budget, and that overall, the council had no underspend or overspend.

Net Cost of Services 2006/07

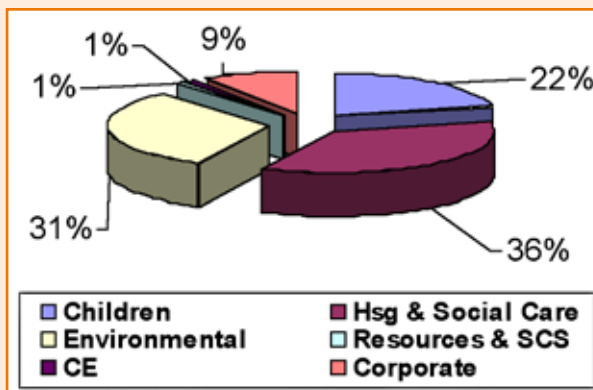
Service Area	Budget £000's	Actual £000's	Variance £000's
Children Services	24,537	24,350	(187)
Housing & Social Care	39,578	40,066	488
Environment & Leisure	35,737	35,359	(378)
Resources	3,298	2,449	(849)
Chief Executive Unit	1,326	1,169	(157)
Swindon Commerical Srvs (1,331)	(1,331)	(1,343)	(12)
Corporate	9,521	10,616	1,095
Corporate one-offs	0	1,119	1,119
Net cost of services	112,666	112,388	(278)
Carry Forward Reserve	0	278	278
Net General Fund Impact	112,666	112,666	0

Income & Expenditure Charts 2006/07

The following charts show where the income sources of the Council came from. Grants now include the Dedicated Schools Grant which is direct schools funding.



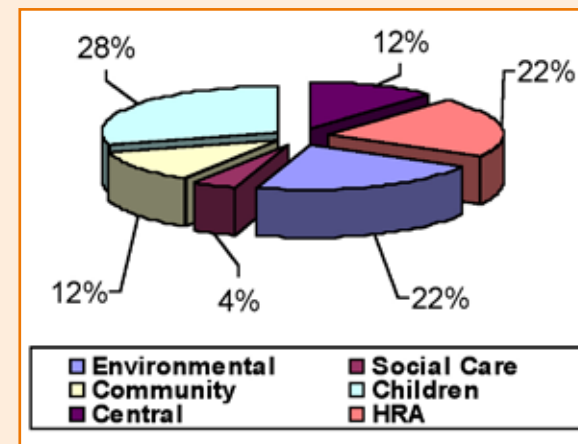
The graph below shows the split of service spend against the Council's structure.



Key
 HRA Housing Revenue Accounts
 RSG Revenue Support Grant
 NNDR National Non Domestic Rates
 CE Chief Executive Unit

Capital Projects

The Council undertakes many projects that are not classified as revenue spend. These are capital schemes that will generally take more than one financial year to finish or involve developing assets currently owned by the Council.



Council Tax

Council Tax is the element of the Council's budget that is raised from residents of the Borough. The table below shows the collection rates for 2005/06 and 2006/07:

	06/07	05/06
Unitary Council Ave.	96.6%	96.4%
Swindon	98.1%	97.1%
All England Ave.	96.9%	96.8%

Celebrate excellent service

Have you received top-notch service from a member of council staff or a council team? Help us give praise where it's due. The council's Excellence Awards celebrate the successes and dedication of Swindon Borough Council staff.

Nominations for the awards are open from Monday 1 October to Wednesday 31 October.

If you've received outstanding service and want to nominate a member of staff or team for the Quality Service Award visit the website www.swindon.gov.uk or call 0800 032 5642 for a nomination form.



Your Streets Need You. Be a Street Ranger

Jane Deeley
 School Travel Plan Coordinator
 Tel. 466335
WWW.WALKTOSCHOOL.ORG.UK

Walk to School 2007

Your Council News

Isambard Community School

The brand new Isambard Community School opened its doors to students on 10 September, signalling the completion of another Swindon Borough Council promise.

The state-of-the-art building, which forms part of a Learning Campus in Redhouse Way, will eventually cater for 1,200 mainstream students aged between 11 and 16. The school will fill up on a phased basis over a number of years, starting with Year 7.

Students are being educated in four spacious teaching wings, each with a specific purpose - science, design technology, general teaching, and maths/ICT.

Facilities include a conferencing/television studio, dance hall, drama studio, main hall, dining/kitchen room, resource base/conference room, and a youth room.

There is also a separate sports hall with changing facilities, and external playing fields, including an artificial pitch with floodlights.

Isambard Community School is the fourth and final PFI (Private Finance Initiative) school to be built at the Learning Campus in a joint agreement between Swindon Borough Council and ESSL (Education Support Swindon Ltd) in conjunction with John Laing Integrated Services Ltd.

The Learning Campus is designed to provide accessible and integrated community facilities, whilst maintaining a secure and safe environment for all students. Two special schools and a primary school, all of which opened in 2006, are also situated on the site.

Sarah Hudd, General Manager of ESSL, said: "We are delighted to have completed construction of the final school in this exciting project, and look forward to working closely with the council and all



Cllr Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Children Services, said:

“The completion of Isambard means Swindon Borough Council has successfully achieved Promise 28 to build seven state of the art PFI schools in the north of the borough. I hope all of the students at the campus find it an inspiring environment in which to learn and play.”

There is still time to enter this year's Nationwide Swindon Half Marathon on Sunday, 14 October.

This is the first year people can enter the 13-mile race online by visiting www.swindonhalfmarathon.co.uk, a new website dedicated to the event, which is organised by Swindon Borough Council and sponsored by Nationwide. The deadline for online entries is Friday, 12 October, but people can still sign up to run on the day.

The half marathon is open to all adults of all abilities, aged 17 years and over. Alternatively, people can take part in either the five-mile multi-terrain run (15 years and over) or the two-mile fun run (under-eights must be accompanied by an adult).

Registration for entries on the day is between 8am and 10.30am. To speed up the process, competitors are advised to complete entry forms beforehand. For more information contact the Half Marathon Team at the Lifestyle Centre on 01793 511033.

Prospect Hospice and The Clivey Project are the two nominated charities which will benefit as a result of people signing up to run and raise money on their behalf.

Councillor Justin Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Recreation, said: "The Swindon Half Marathon promises to be a great day both for participants and spectators. I wish everyone taking part the best of luck and hope lots of worthy causes will benefit from this exciting event."

Culture Vulture



Create Studios Swindon's Centre for Digital Media

'OK', 'What's Create Studio's?'

Create is about improving the quality of life for local people by providing opportunities for creative expression and access to digital media training, production support and facilities. We help people of all ages who are interested in getting involved in, or learning about film, web culture, photography, music, games and animation.

We do this through programming training and mentoring sessions with industry professionals, providing spaces for people to show their work and giving access to cutting edge equipment and facilities. Creative technologies can also be a powerful communication tool. We take the excitement of new digital technologies out to people in school and community settings throughout Swindon, enabling people to tell their stories and to get them heard.

So, if you're an artist, someone in the media industries looking for business support, a young person wanting careers advice, an adult looking to learn new skills, or if you just want to have fun and be creative, give us a call. And if you're a local band or musician looking to make a recording or get into the music industry, our new sound studio is open for bookings. You can contact us on 01793 465399, email enquiries@createstudios.org.uk or visit our website www.createstudios.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Stuart Webb
Art Business & Development Manager



Switch off Standby

By turning off items left on standby such as your TV, video, DVD, laptop and your sound system, you will save a tonne of CO₂ in just over 3 years.

Switch off and Save...

Did you know that in standby mode some appliances can still use as much as a quarter of the energy they use when switched on? Switching all appliances off when not in use can save you around £35 a year and help reduce CO₂ emissions.

Green renewable energy

Swindon Borough Council's Energy Manager has been working hard to increase the sustainability of the energy supply to council-owned buildings.

Did you know?

- Street Lighting in Swindon has been powered from 100% green renewable energy sources since 2004.
- Premier House and the Civic Centre council buildings are both powered by 100% renewable energy sources.

Green renewable sources can include wind power, solar power, biomass and small-scale hydro electricity. Green renewable energy must be from sources of energy that produce zero emissions when used and can be counted as exempt from the Climate Change Levy (a tax on energy delivered to non-domestic users to encourage energy efficiency and to reduce CO₂ emissions).

How can you power your own home with green renewable sources?

Home owners can purchase green energy through their utility supplier or a green power provider. At the moment paying green electricity tariffs can mean the money goes to one of three things:

- 1. Green Source electricity** – A percentage of energy is bought from a renewable energy generator to match every unit of electricity used by the consumer.
- 2. Green Fund** – The money goes to support the construction of new renewable sources, research projects or environmental causes.
- 3. Carbon Offset** – The money goes to offset the amount of CO₂ produced by the household, for example by planting trees that absorb the equivalent CO₂

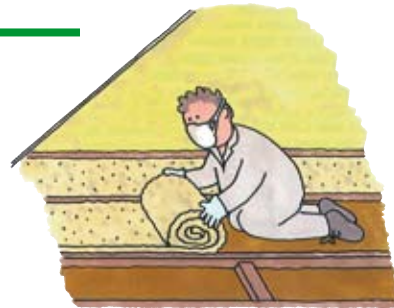
For free, impartial advice and information on green energy options and tariffs for your home call the Wiltshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012

Making sure your home is as energy efficient as possible is a great way to reduce your CO₂ emissions. You can find out about grants and discounts that may be available to you to help with installing energy saving measures.

If you currently have no loft insulation, and you install it to the recommended 270mm depth, you could save around £110 a year on your heating bills and nearly one tonne of CO₂ per year.

* Source Energy Savings Trust

Help with cavity wall and loft insulation from Swindon Borough Council



Insulation Grants

Are you a home-owner or renting privately?
Are you 65 and over?

Was your house built before 1980?

If so you may be able to get a grant to help with cavity wall and loft insulation.

How much will it cost?

You pay £100 for each measure - so cavity wall and loft insulation would cost £200.

For more information contact:

The Home Energy Conservation Officer,
Swindon Borough Council
01793 466100 (Tues - Thurs)

This article was provided by the Swindon Energy Project, which provides home energy advice in Swindon. Please contact Lucy Rees to arrange talks, workshops, events and training on home energy saving. Call (01793) 463679 or email: lucyr@wiltshirewildlife.org

The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust runs the Swindon Energy Project, which is part-funded by Swindon Borough Council.

Events

Things to do

The events listed are just a taster of what's on. For more information please visit the council website or visit the Tourist Information Centre.

Sat 20 - Sun 28 Oct Children's quiz trail through the State Rooms & Walled Garden - Lydiard

Available every day of the half term holiday.

Make a bouncing bat or spider at a special drop-in Halloween themed craft activity day on Tues 23 Oct 1pm - 4pm. Normal admission applies. Lydiard House, Lydiard Park, Lydiard Tregoze, Swindon SN5 3PA. Tel: 01793 770401 www.lydiardpark.org.uk

Wed 24 Oct Half term fun at STEAM - Smiley Cats Kidz Club

For ages 4-11, Smiley Cats offers structured fun activities, such as circus skills, face painting, arts and crafts, with all materials included. Choose from 10am - 12.30pm or 4pm - 5pm sessions. Cost: £8 or £17 for both sessions (children bringing a lunch box can stay all day). Booking is advisable. To book or find out more, call STEAM on 01793 466637



20 & 21 Oct Day Out with Thomas at STEAM

Young children will love to meet the real Thomas the Tank Engine at this fun-filled popular event and will delight at the many Thomas-themed activities on offer. Special admission prices apply. Please see www.swindon.gov.uk/steam for more details.

Wed 24 Oct What happened next...?

Swindon Museum & Art Gallery

Children can have fun with story telling games, make glove puppets and use these to create their own stories. For ages 5 - 11. Time: 2pm - 4pm. Cost: £5 per child. For further information and booking tel: 01793 466556.

15 Sept 07 - 30 Aug 08 Resonant Forms Swindon Museum & Art Gallery

Exploring the dynamic relationship between artists' ideas and the ways they structure their work. This exhibition tracks changes in emphasis across the last 100 years through works by artists such as David Bomberg, Richard Hamilton and Lisa Milroy. Free admission.



Have you seen the new Arts Services guide?

You can pick up copies from all council buildings including the Link Centre, the Oasis and all libraries.

For more information visit www.swindon.gov.uk/artsandculture



Lydiard Park's newly restored Walled Garden

Lydiard Park's newly restored garden opened in May. This summer visitors to the garden were treated to a spectacular display of flowers and bedding plants. The transformation of garden, which was rough grass has taken two years.

The garden is now back to its former glory as an ornamental fruit and flower garden. It is open Tuesday to Sundays 11am to 5pm (winter closing Nov to Feb) at 4pm - entry by joint ticket with Lydiard House with annual season ticket priced at £12, £10 senior. Lydiard House, Lydiard Park, Lydiard Tregoze, Swindon SN5 3PA Tel: 01793 770401 www.lydiardpark.org.uk

Your Information

Customer Services



Customer Services offer a wide range of services from the One Stop Shop located at Wat Tyler House including Swindon Cards, disabled parking badges, commercial waste sacks, allotments, general enquiries, all housing related enquiries, issuing of car parking permits and all payments relating to council services. We can also arrange collection and payment of bulky waste items as well as offering passport size photos, which can be used for the disabled parking badges and concessionary travel passes. Concessionary travel passes are processed at Premier house (opposite the Railway Station), which also houses planning applications available for viewing.

You may contact us in the way that best suits your needs:-

Visit us at Wat Tyler House, Princes Street

Telephone us on 01793 463725, Minicom 01793 436659

Email us at customerservices@swindon.gov.uk

Disabled Car Parking

If you require disabled car parking spaces there are six at the rear of Wat Tyler West, a further three spaces in the front of Civic Offices, two at the rear of Premier House and one adjacent to the Occupational Health building.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Should you wish to contact a department directly, please use some of the following numbers:-

Council Tax and Housing Benefit enquiries.
0845 8500962

Customer Services
01793 463725

Adult Services Care Line
0800 0856666

Disabled Facilities Grants SBC
01793 463927

Means tested grant to meet all or part of the cost of adaptations to the home for disabled persons.

Swindon Commercial Services
01793 463463

Refuse enquiries, recycling, green waste, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, bulky waste, commercial waste, and asbestos removal.

Tourist Information Centre
01793 530328

Tourist Information, ticket sales, and what's on in Swindon.

Switchboard
01793 463000

Waste and Recycling
01793 445501

If you require any council information including Swindon News in another format, please contact Customer Services on 01793 463725. A taped version of Swindon News is also available on request.

Italian

Per informazioni in altro formato, contattare il Servizio Clienti chiamando il numero: 01793 463725

Bengali

আপনার যদি অন্য কোন আকারে বা রূপে তথ্যের দরকার হয়, কাউন্সিল সার্ভিসেসকে (01793) 463725 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

Chinese

如果您需要用其它语言或方式咨询这方面的信息，请拨打我们的顾客服务热线：(01793) 463725。

Gujarati

જો તમને બીજા ફોર્મેટ (પત્રક) માં જાણકારી જોવાની હોય તો કૃપા કરી ગ્રાહક સેવા પ્રતિનિધિનો ટેલીફોન નંબર (01793) 463725 ઉપર સંપર્ક કરો.

Hindi

यदि आपको अन्य फॉर्मेट (प्रपत्र) में जानकारी चाहिए तो कृपया ग्राहक सेवा प्रतिनिधि से टेलीफोन नंबर (01793) 463725 पर संपर्क करें।

Japanese

別の構成・形式で資料をご使用される必要がある場合には、次の番号の弊社顧客サービスまでお問い合わせ下さい。電話：01793 463725

Polish

Jeśli chcesz uzyskać informacje w innym formacie, prosimy o kontakt z Wydziałem Usług dla Klientów pod numerem telefonu 01793 463725.

Punjabi

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਫਾਰਮੈਟ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਸਟਮਰ ਸਰਵਿਸਜ਼ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ (01793) 463725 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Hadaad u baahatid macluumaad hab kale ku qoran fadian la soo xinir. Adeega macmiisha (Customer Services) oo kasoo wac lambarkan (01793) 463725

Urdu

اگر آپ کو کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر کھائی وغیرہ میں معلومات درکار ہوں تو براہ مہربانی کسٹومر سروسز سے ٹیلی فون نمبر: 01793 463725 پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔

Fixed Penalties for litter dropping

Anybody now caught dropping litter in Swindon town centre could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80.

Since January Swindon Borough Council has been carrying out an awareness campaign to educate businesses and the public about littering, and its legal powers under the Environment Protection Act and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

The campaign is now over and the council intends to issue notices to anyone it catches littering the streets in various hotspots. This will include those dropping cigarette butts or gum, and people leaving an excessive amount of bread for feeding pigeons. Failure to pay the notice can result in a Magistrates Court prosecution which has a maximum penalty of £2,500.

A team of 15 officers has been trained for the job and have been patrolling the town centre since 1 September. This action has been taken because litter encourages rats and other pests to urban areas. Places that look neglected and dirty can also become targets for other anti-social activities, such as graffiti and fly tipping.

Additionally, 3,000 tonnes of litter is dropped or fly-tipped in the borough every year and the council presently spends nearly £2million per year keeping the streets clean and removing illegally dumped waste.



Lord Sebastian Coe visited Swindon to support the town's annual Get Active Day.

Lord Coe, chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, joined school children as they walked to STEAM, Museum of the Great Western Railway, on Wednesday, 12 September.

The former Olympic champion met pupils and school sports co-ordinators as they took part in a host of activities, from croquet to circus skills.

Representatives from the South West directorate for the 2012 Games and local dignitaries, including Swindon Mayor Cllr Michael Barnes and Cllr Justin Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Recreation, accompanied Lord Coe on the tour.

Get Active Day, organised by Swindon Borough Council, aims to encourage as many people as possible to participate in a minimum of 15 minutes of physical activity.

Councillor Justin Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Recreation, said: "We are honoured that Lord Coe visited Swindon. It is fitting that this special occasion coincided with the town's annual Get Active Day, when thousands of people took part in a wide variety of sports and physical activities."