

Dear Residents

I hope you are all coping well and have the support that you need. The past months have been a challenge for all of us. In response to Covid-19, our contractor has reduced its service considerably so you will have seen fewer grass cuts and reduced cleansing work.

Some of you have contacted us to say that you have enjoyed seeing the grass longer and its contribution to local wildlife. We will consider this feedback as we move forward.

It is always a balancing act. The recent lockdown and warm weather has seen an increase in local cycling and walking. With this we have also seen an increase in graffiti, littering and higher

levels of flytipping. We understand that restrictions at the household waste recycling centre has caused problems, however flytipping is never acceptable. Please work with us to prevent this from continuing. We have limited enforcement powers but you will have seen our posters and messaging across West Swindon to encourage everyone to take steps to stay safe.

Many of you will have seen the work to improve local play areas, there is more detail later on. We hope that lives will get closer to normal in the coming weeks and that you stay safe and well. Your Councillors contact details and more information is available on the Council's website, www.westswindon-pc.gov.uk. Our meetings are taking place remotely but you can still join the meeting and ask questions in Public

Question Time, see Agendas for further information.

Take care and stay safe



Cllr Nigel Gibbons – Chair, West Swindon Parish Council

WEST SWINDON
PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMER UPDATE

New Look Team for West Swindon

Over the last three months, we have been working hard to prepare for changing over from using an external contractor, to delivering your grounds maintenance and street cleaning services ourselves. We hope that it will give us more control and bring together a dedicated team, committed to making West Swindon look clean and well cared for. The change should be completed by August this year. Keep a look out for our team in their blue uniforms.



Swindon Support

Cllr Tim Swinyard set up Swindon Support in response to the corona virus to help vulnerable and elderly residents with their shopping, picking up medication and to provide professional mental health support where required.

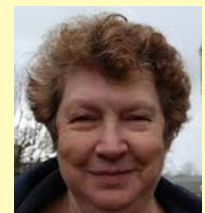
He says "To help organise this, Cllr Caryl Sydney-Smith and others have been working with me. We have a website which is swindonsupport.uk, a phone number which is **07564 073931** and a Facebook page called Swindon Support.

We have helped hundreds of people across the whole town and continue to give support wherever it is needed.

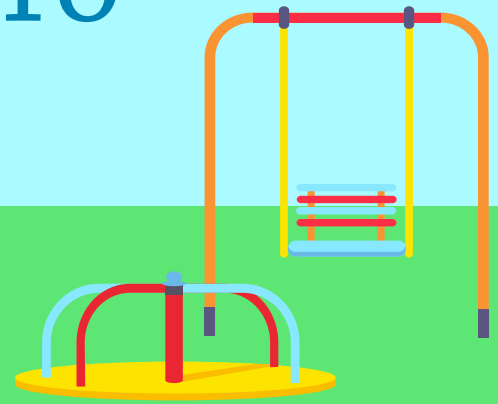


Cllr Tim Swinyard

Cllr Caryl Sydney-Smith



It's Time To PLAY



In the last six months, West Swindon Parish Council has invested nearly one quarter of a million pounds into refurbishing seven play areas. "Some areas needed a bit of extra play whilst others needed a full makeover" says Cllr Keith Williams, Chair, Leisure & Amenities Committee. It is unfortunate that our investment has coincided with the national lockdown but hopefully this is soon forgotten and we really look forward to everyone enjoying these new spaces"

Nine Elms Play Area, Shaw:

This boasts a new toddler space and old wooden equipment has been replaced. "We've also added new paths because people complained that the area was wet and unusable in the winter." says Cllr Prakash Khaitan.



Cllrs Prakash Khaitan & Keith Williams

Tumpy Field, Shaw Ridge:

This site has had a makeover with new toddler and junior equipment. Cllr Nick Martin is confident of its success "We are sure it will be enjoyed by many" he said.



Cllrs Nick & Mary Martin

Uxbridge Road & Bloomsbury Park, Freshbrook: Cllrs Geoff Gould and Trish Philpot agree that the aim here was to improve the toddler play

area and add new interest with static fitness equipment. At Uxbridge Road, Councillors opted to add new interest by creating a scooter route and new multi play unit.



Cllr Geoff Gould

Work at **The Holbeins in Grange Park** included adding a swing and some outdoor fitness equipment."It is a small space", says Cllr Umar Ali. "I hope people of all ages enjoy the extra fitness kit."

At **The Chesters, Westlea**, Councillors decided to keep the big slide but have created a colourful new space. "We wanted great toddler play with something for everyone" says Cllr Suresh Gattapur.



Cllr Suresh Gattapur.

The biggest change can be found at **Shelfinch, Toothill**. "We've responded to local ideas and I hope families will enjoy the change" says Cllr Steph Exell. "We went back to basics with swings, slides and roundabouts" says Cllr Mike Burtenshaw.



Cllr Tim Makofu

Love Where You Live

West Swindon has many volunteers helping keep local green spaces clean and tidy. We paused this during the last few months however we are slowly starting again, taking into account extra steps to encourage our volunteers to stay safe. At Westlea Park, volunteers were recently out tidying and planting, planning for Spring next year. If you would like to do your bit on your own or as part of a group, check our website or please contact us. Cllr Simon Firth says "If you have an idea for a community or neighbourhood project please get in touch with the Parish office, we may be able to help".



Volunteers at Westlea Park

Contacting the Parish Council: For reports or enquiries, please contact the parish office,
Email: westswindonpc@outlook.com, • Tel: 01793 466418 / 07470 652137

The parish office is based at the West Swindon library, Link Centre subject to opening.
Councillors contact details, updates on events, meetings and information can be found on the Parish Council's website
www.westswindon-pc.gov.uk.