

"This is Swindon" Summer 2010

SSP Conference— October 8th 2010

Invitations have now been sent out for the Swindon Strategic Partnership Conference on Friday 8th October 2010.

The conference will enable you to be part of the 'One Swindon' conversation with partners and also hear more about the work around Connecting People Connecting Places.

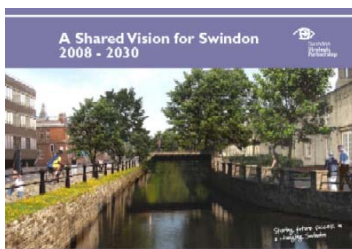
The Conference is being held in the newly refurbished Great Western Hall at the STEAM Museum. Further details are available on the conference 2010 page of the SSP website.

Please contact Janet Beattie at jbeattie@swindon.gov.uk if you would like a booking form sent to you.

Please book your place by 17th September 2010.

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One Swindon

One Swindon is a 4 year Partnership plan for Swindon. It will also be the replacement to the Council's existing Corporate Plan, the Swindon 2010 Promises and Swindon's Local Area Agreement as the medium-term focus for partnership working in Swindon.

On 21st July 2010, Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet approved the priorities that will form One Swindon. They will now be developed and presented to Full Council and respective partners Boards during November /December 2010.

Four areas have emerged as priorities for One Swindon:

- Regeneration, employment, skills and managed growth
- Cleaner, safer streets and protection of green, open spaces
- Sports, leisure and cultural opportunities
- Providing a safety net for the most vulnerable

When adopted by the Council and its partners One Swindon will require SBC, public sector partners, the business community and local people to work together to achieve joint outcomes over the next four years.

Over the next 4 months there will be a series of conversations to develop the outcomes which sit beneath the priorities. These conversations will continue at the SSP Conference on 8th October, and beyond.

Come along and be part of the workshops that will help shape the priorities. Book you place by contacting Janet Beattie for a booking form, see front page of the newsletter for details.

The One Swindon Plan will be launched in January 2011.



Theme 3: We have safeguarded our environment for future generations

Take a stand

Life Cycle UK and Swindon Borough Council are continuing to give free cycle parking to small businesses and community groups based in Swindon. The Samaritans, Lower Shaw Farm and St John's Church in Haydon Wick are 3 of the many organisations that have recently benefited from free cycle parking, and the good news is that the scheme has been funded for another year.

The stands are available under Life Cycle's 'Take a stand' scheme', offered in partnership with Swindon Borough Council. The inverted-u shape Sheffield stands are the classic form of cycle parking. Two stands are available per organisation, and are delivered free of charge to the organisation. The organisation then has to install them.



Picture courtesy of Lifecycle.uk

Charlie Bolton, who coordinates the scheme said

'We are keen to hear from organisations who are interested in this very simple scheme to promote cycling. Cycle parking is an easy way of letting the world know you welcome cyclists to your premises . Cycling – is good for the planet, good for the cyclists health, and often the quickest way to travel.'

Claire Fleming from Swindon Borough Council adds, "We have funding schemes

available to provide schools and larger businesses with cycle facilities, and the Take a Stand scheme is a way for smaller organisations to benefit from cycle parking too. We've had a good response from a wide range of organisations across the borough so far, and are delighted that we can continue to provide these stands in the future."

Organisations interested in having cycle parking can contact Charlie on 0117 353 4580 or download a simple application form from www.lifecycleuk.org.uk. They need to own the land on which the stands are to be installed, or have the permission of the owners. Stands – under this scheme – should not be installed on the public highway.

Life Cycle is a cycle promotion charity based in Bristol who do what they can to promote cycling, be it cycle training for kids and adults, bike maintenance courses, Dr Bike surgeries and projects working with young people, those who are partially sighted and those with mental health issues.

More information is available from:

Charlie Bolton, Life Cycle UK, 0117 353 4580, www.lifecycleuk.org.uk
'the Cycling Promotion charity'

Theme 2: All Swindon people are benefiting from our growing economy

Bid to create more apprenticeships in Swindon

In a bid to improve Swindon's name as the worst town in the country for employing apprentices, a campaign has been launched find jobs for 150 apprentices before Christmas.

The Plan 500 scheme is backed by the Swindon Strategic Economic Partnership and Nationwide Building Society. Its aim is to get local businesses and the local community working together for the benefit of young people in the town.

When the scheme was first mooted Melvin Packham, employment services manager of the National Apprenticeship Service, said: "Given the figures involving youth employment it is clear that action is required in the Swindon area to encourage employers to increase the number of apprenticeship opportunities that are being created.

The apprentice schemes are targeted to help young people into work and help to generate participation from local businesses.

"It was important that we got off to a good start here," said Caroline Hallatt, the head of corporate responsibility at Nationwide. "We have more than 60 companies who have pledged support and here at Nationwide we have started the ball rolling with seven people already signed up on the scheme.

"We will be reviewing the scheme continually between now and the end of the year."

The 500 Plan involves:

- 150 apprenticeships – creating opportunities for young people who are currently unemployed.
- 50 diplomas – getting employers to support local Diploma delivery.
- 150 work experience opportunities – helping school or college students to get work experience.
- 50 work based qualifications – helping young people currently in employment work towards a level 2 qualification.
- 100 mentors – matching 100 young people with a business mentor.

Theme 3: We have safeguarded our environment for future generations

Communities team up to protect the local environment and save money



Save Water Swindon was launched by WWF-UK, Thames Water and Waterwise on 17 June. The twelve month campaign aims to make Swindon the most water wise town in the UK by encouraging all Swindon residents to sign up to the 20 Litre Challenge! The campaign estimates that if everyone in Swindon reduced their water consumption in the home by 20 litres a day then Swindon, as a whole, could save up to 4 million litres of water every day! This will help to ease pressures on rivers and the natural environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It will also benefit individuals, saving each household up to £100 a year on reduced water and energy bills*.

Save Water Swindon is looking for innovative approaches to engage communities to join the campaign. The ambition is to generate interest by word of mouth and to have local community groups champion and promote the 20 Litre Challenge.

Through Swindon Strategic Partnerships we are hoping to identify community groups that are interested in becoming involved in the campaign. We'll be presenting and hosting a stall at the SSP Conference on 8th October. If you are interested in finding out how you can help to protect the local environment and help Swindon residents reduce their annual water and energy bills then please come up and speak to us on the day, or e-mail Heather Large, Community Liaison Officer: hlarge@waterwise.org.uk.

More information about the campaign is available on our website

www.savewaterswindon.org.uk.

** This is based on homes with a water meter, saving £20 a year on their water bills and £80 from reduced energy bills.*



www.savewaterswindon.org.uk

Working in partnership



waterwise

Supported by



Visit our website: www.swindonsp.org.uk

Theme 4: A healthy, caring and supportive community

Swindon Health Ambassadors



Swindon Health Ambassadors

Swindon's first Health Ambassadors are now really established in the town and helping many local people become healthier and more confident. Since their official launch in September 2009, the team has doubled to 10 Health Ambassadors to help with the growing demand for this popular service. Within this team, there is also an Elder Ambassador worker who promotes and helps towards healthier lifestyles specifically for older people.

Employed by Swindon Borough Council and funded by Swindon PCT, a Health Ambassador can meet with a client for six 1:1 sessions and initially help them devise an action plan regarding their health.

Already Health Ambassadors have helped many people to maintain a healthier weight, take up physical exercise and stop smoking. The support given can range from informing the client of all health related activities within their area, accompanying them on healthy walks or helping them shop for healthier foods at the supermarket.

The service is free and confidential for anyone over the age of 16 and you can access it by e-mailing Peter Kent, the Health & Elder Ambassador Co-ordinator at pkent@swindon.gov.uk, or by phoning him on 07824 868437. Alternatively, you could call into one of the following weekly drop-ins:

- Mondays—Pinehurst Library—11.30 am—1.00 pm
- Tuesdays—Broadgreen Community Centre—1.00 pm—4.00 pm
- Wednesdays—St Peters Church, Penhill—9.00 am—11.00 am
- Wednesdays—One Stop Shop, Wat Tyler House—12.00 pm—3.00 pm
- Thursdays—St Johns Church, Cavendish Square— 9.00 am—10.30 am
- Thursdays—Broadgreen Community Centre—9.30 am—11.30 am
- Fridays—Freshbrook Community Centre—8.45 am—10.45 am
- Fridays—St Peters Church, Penhill—9.00 am—11.00 am
- Fridays—Drove Centre—9.15 am—11.15 am
- Fridays—One Stop Shop, Wat Tyler House—1.00 pm—4.00 pm

More information is also available on the Health Ambassadors page of the Swindon Strategic Partnership website at

www.swindonsp.org.uk/ssp-index/communityinformation-2/healthambassadors-2.htm

Theme 4: A healthy, caring and supportive community

Wroughton grandmother goes smokefree thanks to NHS Stop Smoking Service



A grandmother of four from Wroughton was inspired to quit smoking for good for the sake of her husband and grandchildren.

Maggie Dunmore, 62, was a 10 to 20 a day smoker from an early age, but managed to quit for about six years when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, but started smoking again a couple of years ago.

“I am not really sure why I went back to it,” said Maggie. “I think it was a combination of everyday life and stresses. When I started again I didn’t smoke indoors as I really felt it wasn’t fair on anyone else and definitely not for my grandchildren.”



Grandmother, Maggie Dunmore, has more energy to devote to her grandchildren since she quit smoking.

“The crunch came when my husband and I went on a cruise. I kept leaving him on his own to go out on deck to smoke. He had been nagging me to stop for a while and this made me realise how much time I spent outside and away from my family just for the sake of a cigarette.”

“I’d been to the pharmacy at Wroughton Health Centre previously for a blood pressure check and the pharmacist Nick Jephson recommended that I quit smoking. He said that whenever I was ready, they would be there to help.”

“When I went to my first appointment we talked through my options and I went back whenever I needed to. There was an adviser on hand all the time and I knew I had support when I needed it. My family have been great as well. Two of my sons still smoke and they have been doing their best not to smoke in front of me, but I have told them not to worry as it is something you have to get used to as a non-smoker. I have been encouraging them to use the Swindon NHS Stop Smoking Service to quit as I feel so much better having done it.”

“Now I have so much more energy and I am able to do things with my grandchildren that I would never have been able to do before, like taking them ice-skating. I can afford to as well now as there is more money in the bank. “I would really recommend using the NHS Stop Smoking Service which is available at a variety of places across Swindon. It really helped me through the quitting process and has helped me stay smokefree.”

An estimated 33,000 people in the South West stopped smoking last year using the free NHS Stop Smoking Service. Research has shown that smokers using the NHS Stop Smoking Service are giving themselves the best chance to quit and with over 1,000 locations across the South West, there is free help and support available nearby.



To find your local NHS Stop Smoking Service, call 0800 7076543 or text **NEARBY** and your postcode to 88088

Theme 4: A healthy, caring and supportive community

Taxi Driver Health MOT Day



Taxi drivers are used to getting their cars checked out in order to be safe and legal to drive, but as busy people may not be so good at remembering to get their own health checked out.

Sickness and work absence can often be prevented. Even small changes to lifestyle can make a big impact on overall health and well-being.

NHS Swindon and Swindon Borough Council as partners of the Swindon Tobacco Control Partnership provided a health support day for taxi drivers. All drivers were invited to drop in at any time for a mini or full NHS Health Check or just a quick chat, a cup of coffee or simple well being and lifestyle advice.

The Community Safety Bus was parked at the County Ground between 10am and 3pm on Wednesday 23rd June. The central location was conveniently positioned for drivers to drop by between trips.

Some of the health checks available were:

- Blood pressure check
- Cholesterol check
- Glucose check
- Lung age check
- Body Mass Index
- Carbon monoxide check

Specialist advisors from the NHS Stop Smoking Service, NHS Health Check Team and Health Ambassadors Team were available on the day offering support to help with a range of health and well being advice such as stopping smoking, diabetes, stress, drinking, relationships, diet, weight loss and keeping fit.

Inequalities in health amongst the residents in Swindon can be attributed to such life habits as smoking, poor diet and lack of exercise. This informal event encouraged taxi drivers to lead a healthier, happier and more active life by providing and promoting information and services which support people in taking care and responsibility for their own health.

For more information on NHS Health Checks contact Louise Van de Watt, Health Check Facilitator on 01793 708701 or email louise.vanderwatt@swindon-pct.nhs.uk

For further information on tobacco control initiatives in Swindon contact Katie White, Health Promotion Officer on 01793 466040 or email kwhite@swindon.gov.uk

Theme 4: A healthy, caring and supportive community



The lottery funded Gateway project offers a team of specialist advisers ready to help with matters ranging from finance, fundraising, running a group, volunteer management and youth activities.

Collaboration between organisations including Voluntary Action Swindon, the Charities Information Bureau, Volunteer Centre Swindon and Community First has led to the new service.

Any voluntary, community or not-for-profit organisation in Swindon could benefit from support this can range from those involved in small informal support groups to those with more established organisations..

The Gateway specialists also attended Wroughton Carnival and Swindon Does Arts Day in July.

If you would like some help or more information, please contact::

- Advice on funding, contact Jane Butler at the charities Information Bureau on
Tel: 01380 729279
Email: jane@cibwilts.org.uk
- Running your group, contact John Phipps at Voluntary Action Swindon on
Tel: 01793 538398
Email: john@vas-swindon.org
- Youth Activities, contact Simon Hughes at Community First on
Tel: 01380 729813.
Email: simon@youthactionwiltshire.org
- Volunteering, contact Louise Hallett at Volunteer Centre Swindon on
Tel: 01793 420557
Email: lou@swindonvolunteers



Theme 4: A healthy, caring and supportive community

GROUNDWORK

Groundwork South West, forming part of the national Groundwork federation, is an environmental and social regeneration charity which operates across the South West region of England. It has funding available for projects in and around Swindon.

Groundwork helps people and organisations to create better neighbourhoods, to build skills and job prospects, and to live and work in a greener way. We work alongside communities, public bodies, private companies and voluntary sector organisations to achieve these goals. In particular, we have a focus on:

- Improving public spaces
- Community engagement and consultation
- Building skills and improving job prospects
- Health & well being and
- Supporting organisations to access funding.

Our local programmes and services are tailored to the needs of partners and communities, and we focus our activity on disadvantaged areas where we can make the most difference.

Groundwork has recently opened an office in Swindon and we are keen to talk to organisations and community groups in the area about how we can work together to enhance existing activities.

Current opportunities include the Community Spaces Programme (which provides funding for community groups in England to create or improve green, open spaces)

<http://www.community-spaces.org.uk/>

and the Cadbury Community Games Programme

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/news--events/news/2009/cadbury-launch-programme-to-ge.aspx>

Kerry Wray is the Swindon Development Manager and can be contacted on 01752 217721 ext 450 / 07790 547713 or email kerry.wray@groundwork.org.uk.

Please contact Kerry if you have any ideas or suggestions for projects or partnership work in and around Swindon.

For more information about Groundwork South West please visit
www.groundworksouthwest.org.uk

Theme 4: A healthy, caring and supportive community

Broadgreen Fun Day

Arts workshops, a local history display and food from different cultures were among the attractions at the fourth Broadgreen Fun Day on Saturday. The free event, which aimed to build links between different sections of the community, drew dozens of people to the Broadgreen Centre in Salisbury Street. Broad Street Area Community Council, a residents' association and charity, organised the fun day.

Karen Leakey, who chairs the council, said: "The aim was to bring people together, to get to know each other, break down barriers, and just to have fun.



Picture courtesy of Karen Leakey, Broad Street Area Community Council

"It was a really good day. People were really happy and positive about the event. Some people were sat down talking, making new friends, and a lot of the Goan community came too which was really welcome."

"We have had offer's of help for the future from people from other communities within Broadgreen - The Goan Community have come forward and we shall be working a lot closer together - also after doing a verbal 'survey' people want to do a lot more - small social gatherings/ History events/children and families doing things together - so it was really good and more positive than before."

The fun day was opened jointly by Swindon South MP Robert Buckland and John Popowicz, area manager for Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The hall was lined with stalls selling cakes and bric-a-brac, and there were also information stands for other organisations, including Swindon Council and Wiltshire Police.

Young children enjoyed arts and crafts workshops and tried their hands at several creative activities, including making hats, decorating masks, colouring in a summer picture and making hand puppets.

Meanwhile some of the older children played Wii Sports on the big screen or went into the youth room to play pool and table tennis.

In the lounge, the Broadgreen and Queenstown History Group held an exhibition showcasing old photographs of the area. Several residents also brought in copies of their own photos and documents to add to the collection.

Towards the end of the day, free food which had been donated by residents was shared out to allow everyone a taste of cooking from different cultures.

Olencia Vales, who lives in Broadgreen, attended the fun day with husband Vincent and their children Lizanne, four, and Ehren, one.

She said: "It was an awesome day. The children really enjoyed it. It was a really good idea to have a community event. "We met different people and talked to them."

Theme 5: A Place where high aspirations are supported by superb education provision for all ages

Swindon Libraries encouraging young people to show off their talents



Prizes are up for grabs in a competition designed to bring out the creative talent in Swindon's young people.

Swindon Libraries is running its Headspace summer competition and is encouraging those aged between 11 and 19 to enter a piece of artwork, poetry or short story in a bid to win cinema or HMV vouchers.

Cllr Fionuala Foley, Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Corporate Services, said: "It's a great chance for budding writers and artists to showcase their talent and be in with a chance to win a prize."

Young people can enter the competition between 25 July and 1 September and just have to take their entry to their local library with their name, contact details and library card number.



And Finally.....

Forthcoming Events

11th September 2010—Youth Festival, Town Gardens, Old Town—more information available by phoning 01793 463401

11th & 12th September 2010—Heritage Open Days at Lydiard House and Park—more information available by phoning 01793 770401

8th October 2010—SSP Conference at STEAM
For details contact jbeattie@swindon.gov.uk

10th October 2010—Swindon Half Marathon sponsored by Nationwide. More information available by phoning 01793 511033 or visiting the website at www.swindonhalfmarathon.co.uk



We would appreciate any feedback you may have on the This is Swindon newsletter.
Please send your comments to swindonsp@swindon.gov.uk

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Next edition
If you have any articles for the Autumn 2010 edition of "This is Swindon" please send to the Partnership Team at swindonsp@swindon.gov.uk by Friday 17th September 2010.