



Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service

*Merry
Christmas*



And a happy new year

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From all of us at SCIPS



Please note that SCIPS will be closed from 23/12/2023
till 02/01/2024

Digi-comm

As we look back at 2023, one of the stand-out successes for us has to be Digi Comm.

We successfully completed our original 3 year programme, far exceeding the targeted outputs across the Partnership. In recognition of the achievements of participants and partners alike, we hosted a very well attended Celebration Event and produced a Good Practice Guide featuring all of our learning to date.

We then commenced two new programmes; Digi Comm Unity – a 12 month project taking learning to our High Rise flatted estates and providing support to Champions via a volunteer coordinator - and Digi Comm Power Up – a three year succession project to reach more communities, enable more learning, and provide more support to community centres and other venues across Sandwell. So far these programmes have seen courses delivered at Hamstead House, St Clements House, Lancaster House, Boscobel TMO and the Millennium Centre with more planned for the New Year.

We would like to thank everyone that has attended courses on these programmes, the venues that have hosted us, and friends and partners that have supported us. Merry click-mas!



Hateley Cross Big Local have had an enormously productive year. The 4 Community Trust Hub is buzzing with activities for families and individuals from Coffee and Natter and craft sessions for adults and children run by Essex Avenue CTRA to J's Pantry and Cost of Living Advisors attending every Friday and 4 Free Family Fun days on our green spaces during the summer holidays, with free food for all.

2024 promises to see even more activities underway including an exciting new community orchard on Mill Pool (The Milky), over 100 fruit trees will be planted including apples, plums and damsons”

Thank you to all who attended the awayday on the 18th November



Last chance to have your say on the draft Sandwell Local Plan

The consultation on the draft Sandwell Local Plan finishes at 5pm on Monday 18 December.

The Plan is a document that plans for the future development of our borough. It sets out how and where we expect to build the new homes we need up to 2041, and what land is required to accommodate new jobs.

This consultation gives you the chance to have your say on the sites that are proposed for development, and where development should or shouldn't take place in Sandwell.

Sandwell Council has identified enough land to build more than 11,000 new homes by 2041. However, this isn't enough to meet the expected housing needs of our growing population. Around 97% of these homes will be built on previously developed or brownfield land. The Plan protects the Green Belt and does not propose any new development within it.

The Plan also sets out how we will address challenges like dealing with climate change, protecting our natural environment, supporting our high streets and encouraging sustainable travel. It includes policies that will help us meet our target to be a carbon neutral borough by 2041.

It is really important that everyone who is interested gets involved in the consultation. Don't miss your chance to have a say!

You can view the consultation documents and complete the digital comments form by visiting us online (<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/planning/sandwell-local-plan>).

Paper copies of the consultation documents and summary document are also available in all Sandwell's libraries.

If you have any queries, please email Sandwell_LocalPlan@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 4054.

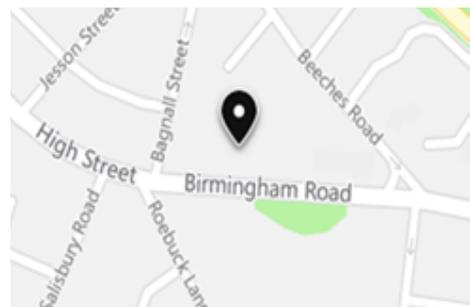


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