



Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service

SCIPS GENERAL MEETING



Tuesday 21st March 2023

10.30am to 12.30pm

A reminder that our next General is on Tuesday 21st March at our offices in the NMC building in West Bromwich.

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We have the following guest speakers in attendance

Jennifer Mayes
RSA Group

Emma Sharman
NHS Black Country

Refreshments will be provided.

To confirm your attendance please call us on 0121 544 1230.

Black Country Connected Programme

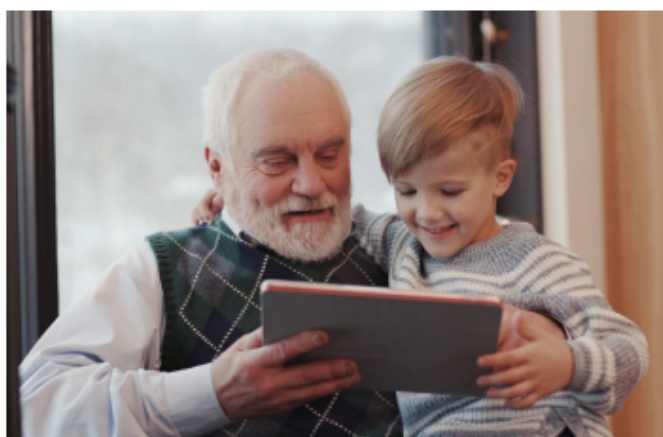
Do you have access to a digital device?

The NHS and partners in the Black Country are working together to give local people who don't have access to a computer, a free and convenient way to get online.



Black Country Connected is a programme to loan residents a Geobook laptop, providing training to get started as well as ongoing support if needed. There is also a data connection option for those without broadband at home.

The programme aims to address digital exclusion and enable people to access a range of online resources including healthcare, education and social opportunities.



The programme is ideal for people who have no or limited access to a device, or who would benefit from help to build their digital skills and confidence. Recipients will be invited to a "hub day" to collect their laptop

and get 1:1 start-up training and they will be asked to complete two short surveys during their loan period.

To find out more come along to our General Meeting on 21st March to hear from Emma Sharman, Digital Inequalities Lead for NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board.

Residents are being asked for their views on Sandwell Council's Draft Housing Strategy. The consultation will run for a 6-week period from Wednesday 8th February until Wednesday 22nd March 2023. There are two copies of the Strategy - one for partner organisations to comment on and a shortened version for tenants and residents. Follow this link to access them

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/SandwellHousingStrategy>

The document sets out the Council's housing vision and ambitions for the 5-year period to the end of 2028.

The draft strategy will help meet the needs identified in the Housing Needs Assessment, produced in 2022, which sets out the data and evidence of housing needs in Sandwell. The data and intelligence have to be coupled with the voice of our residents and SMBC will be consulting widely on this draft before finalising the strategy for adoption in 2023.

The strategy identifies 5 priorities that are fundamental to delivering Quality Homes in Thriving Neighbourhoods:

- Providing more affordable homes
- Making the best use of the homes we have
- Quality housing for all
- Supporting people's health through housing
- Addressing climate change and fuel poverty

Comments are invited on the consultation
by Wednesday 22nd March 2023.

Contact Sandwell MBC

If you have any questions about the consultation, or need a copy of the Draft Housing Strategy and consultation survey in a different language or accessible format, please email housing_strategy@sandwell.gov.uk

Welcome to our new member of staff

Carolyn says....It's great to be joining SCIPS at such an exciting time. I've always been interested in community initiatives and how people can empower themselves and make their communities what they want to be. Someone once said to me "be the change that you want to see" and I am looking forward to finding out about all the changes that the Board and membership are making.

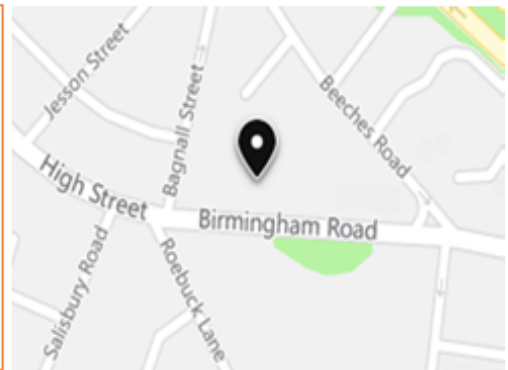
The Electoral Commission logo is in the top left. Below it, the text reads: "Find out more at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID" and "No ID? You can apply for free voter ID". A purple sticky note with handwritten text is placed over the bottom right of the graphic.

You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station

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If you would like to find out more about us visit our website
www.scips.org.uk