



## Sandwell News

### Covid-19 - self-isolation can save lives




You must self-isolate if you:

- have any Covid-19 symptoms
- have tested positive for Covid-19
- are 18+, alerted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case and have NOT been


double vaccinated at least 14 days.


It's a legal requirement to self-isolate if you are told to by NHS Test and Trace. Got symptoms? [Get tested.](#)

### October half-term fun

 There's fun for all the family this half-term with our bushcraft sessions.

Activities include:

 Shelter building

 Fire lighting

 Camp craft

Children must be registered first.

Find out about [this event and more on our holiday activities webpage.](#)

And you can check out [Discover Sandwell for more things to do over half-term.](#)





The graphic features a teal background with a white cloud and a bird. On the left is a circular portrait of Councillor Rajbir Singh, with the text 'Councillor Rajbir Singh, Leader of Sandwell Council' next to it. Below the portrait is a purple button that says 'INVITES YOU TO JOIN'. The main title 'SANDWELL RESIDENTS' PANEL' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it is the text 'Tell us your views and help shape our plans for Sandwell.' On the right side, there are three stacked purple buttons with white text: 'Your Area', 'Your Voice', and 'Your Services'. At the bottom, there are small illustrations of people walking and riding bicycles. The Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council logo is in the top right corner.

Find out more and sign up at [www.sandwell.gov.uk/residentspanel](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/residentspanel)

#### IMPORTANT BINS UPDATE



## Update on bin collections

Today (Friday 22 October) and Tuesday 26 October there will be further changes to bin collections due to the continued strike action being undertaken by some employees at Serco, our waste collection provider.

The focus of Sandwell Council will be to ensure that the disruption caused to bin collections is kept to a minimum.

The council has agreed to suspend garden waste collections today (Friday) and Tuesday 26 October to allow the remaining crews to concentrate on the collection of domestic waste and recycling bin collections.

These garden waste collections will now take place on Friday 5 November and Tuesday 9 November.

On the days of the strike the bin crews will prioritise domestic waste bin collections. Recycling bin collections will take place, however there may be some delays to these collections.

Residents who do not receive a collection on their usual day, should leave grey bins and recycling bins out until they have been emptied. This will be done as soon as possible.

Those residents affected by the suspension of garden waste collections who are unable to wait until their next collection day may wish to take their garden waste to the tip. [Bookings for the tip can be made by visiting the council website.](#)

There are additional crews working this week and over the weekend to catch up on bin collections that have been missed today (Friday), and additional crews are planned for next week to reduce the delays.

---

🎃👻🕷️ **It's spooky time at Sandwell Valley Country Park's Forge Mill Farm!** 🎃👻🕷️

🎃🎃🎃 Come on down and pick your Halloween pumpkins from the pumpkin patch, every day between now and 31 October. [Boo-king is essential!](#)



🕷️🌻 Plus there's the spooky sunflower trail to enjoy and other activities happening over the half-term holiday. 👻👻👻



## Queen's Award for Voluntary Service winners

Congratulations to four Sandwell voluntary organisations which have received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) for their fantastic work supporting our local community.


Equivalent to an MBE, the QAVS is the highest award given to local voluntary groups in the UK.

We're very proud of Sandwell's latest QAVS recipients who received their well-deserved awards from the Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands Mr John Crabtree OBE:

- Black Country Touring
- Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick
- The People's Orchestra
- Shri Venkateswara Balaji Temple Voluntary Action Group


The council works closely with the voluntary sector and the West Midlands Lieutenancy to offer help to any organisations that would like support through the application process. This includes special QAVS workshops.


---







## **Talk to us about safety**

 We want to hear your thoughts, feelings and concerns about community safety in Sandwell, as part of the Safer Sandwell Partnership's online consultation.

 [Please complete an online survey](#) which will help us to update Sandwell's Community Safety Strategy and shape changes to improve community safety.

 We've launched the survey during our autumn Safer 6 campaign and the consultation will close on Saturday 6 November 2021.

---





Hosted by Sandwell Libraries and Archives, Live at the Library autumn programme events are available to book now.

Eight of the borough's libraries are hosting events and with poetry, talks by authors and historians, plays and music events, the diversity of the events mirrors the diversity of our people and our communities - so there is something for everyone. Many events are free but events are ticketed so we encourage everyone to book in advance.

[Find out more on our libraries webpage](#)

---

## Got money worries?

You aren't alone and there is help available. That's why [we've launched an online information hub](#) with lots of advice and resources to support people through their money worries.

Get help with rent or council tax arrears as well as advice around budgeting, employment support, personal well-being and upskilling.

---





## Got money worries?

Advice is available whether your debt is big or small

Go to: [www.sandwell.gov.uk/helpwithdebt](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/helpwithdebt)



In addition to the classic three symptoms, you can also book a COVID-19 'PCR' test if you have any of the following:

- ▶ **headaches**
- ▶ **aches and pains**
- ▶ **feeling very tired for no good reason**
- ▶ **sore throat**
- ▶ **runny nose**
- ▶ **sneezing**
- ▶ **tummy ache in children**

Don't leave it to chance, book your test today

[WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/TESTSANDWELL](http://WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/TESTSANDWELL)



## West Bromwich Quarter Project - what are your ideas?

♥ We are restoring [West Bromwich Town Hall and Central Library](#) to develop new community spaces as part of Sandwell's Town Fund in West Bromwich.

🚧 We've made a start on the repairs, but we'd like to know what you would want to see going on inside and how the Town Hall and Central Library should be developed in the future. [Find out more and take part in the consultation now.](#)

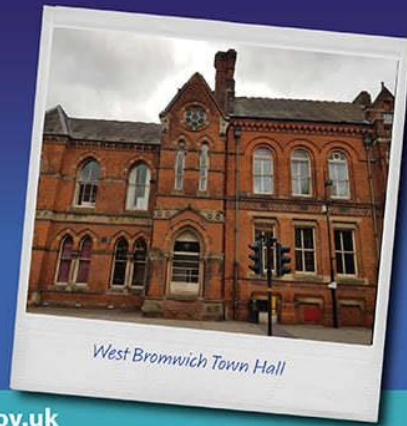
Get involved...

# WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Join the consultation at Central Library, West Bromwich and have your say on the West Bromwich Quarter Project

Tuesday 19 October, 11am - 3pm  
Thursday 21 October, 11am - 3pm

Wednesday 20 October, 11am - 3pm  
Thursday 28 October, 11am - 3pm



Book your place by emailing: [manju\\_patel@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:manju_patel@sandwell.gov.uk)

## Black History Month Day Webinar

Sign up to the Black History Month Day “in conversation” Webinar taking place on the Thursday 28 October at 10am to 11.30pm, organised by The Black Country Healthcare Foundation Trust.

The event will have a number of key speakers and grass root voices. [Register for the event.](#)

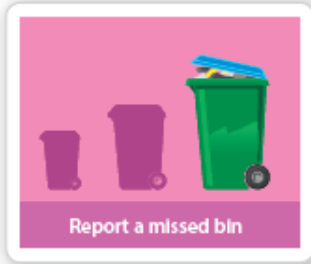
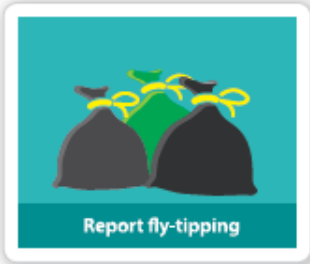
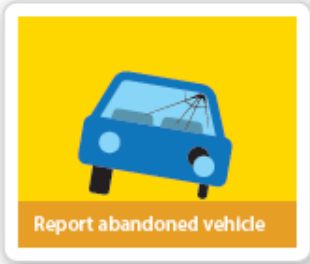
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
CONVERSATION**

 **28 October**  
**10-11.30am**  
on **ZOOM**

Register: [bhmregisteroct2021.eventbrite.co.uk](https://bhmregisteroct2021.eventbrite.co.uk)

**B:M2021**

  
Black Country Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust



[my.sandwell.gov.uk](http://my.sandwell.gov.uk)