

Appendix A

A new Leisure Centre for Swanley



An artist's impression of the new centre

White Oak Leisure Centre has served generations of Swanley residents well for more than 50 years. Built in 1967, the centre, due to its age and condition, is coming to the end of its life.

In 2016, we asked residents about the future of leisure in the town and the response was loud and clear – residents wanted to keep a leisure centre in Swanley.

We have listened to residents and are committed to providing a brand new leisure centre in the town.

The current White Oak centre is really expensive to run, uses a lot of energy and will cost too much to repair.

We want to build a modern leisure centre offering a first class experience for residents and visitors with swimming and learner pools, a new gym with modern equipment, rooms for classes and other events, alongside new and exciting things to do.

The proposed centre would be energy efficient, powered partially by solar energy, better for the environment and with lower running costs.

The new leisure centre would be built in the grounds of the current White Oak Leisure Centre, which would remain open during construction.

The new centre would cost around £17 million, which would be paid back over a number of years.

As this publication went to print, our Cabinet was recommended to make a £500,000 initial investment in the new centre to pay for plans, surveys and the planning application.

We hope to submit a planning application later this year when you will have an opportunity to comment on our plans

Turn to page 2 for more information



An artist's impression of the new centre

The story so far...

- 1967 White Oak Leisure Centre opens
- 1999 Centre undergoes a multi-million pound refurbishment to extend its life
- 2016 Following two public consultations, 96% of residents told us they want to retain a leisure centre in Swanley
- 2018 Feasibility study produced followed by plans for new, modern leisure centre
- 2019 New leisure centre proposals unveiled

What residents have told us...

In February and September 2016, we asked for your views on leisure provision in the town.

You said:

- Update or rebuild the leisure centre
- Keep a leisure centre on the current site within easy reach of the town centre
- Cater for the needs of all residents
- Retain a swimming pool
- Provide more facilities for young people

We are proposing:

- To build a modern leisure centre for the whole community next to the existing White Oak Leisure Centre

- Provide modern facilities that better reflect today's leisure needs
- 100 station modern gym
- A six lane, 25 metre swimming pool
- A learner pool
- Tag Active and Parkour facilities
- Parking for 153 cars
- Residential properties on part of the site

? How do I find out more

View the details online at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/whiteoak

Come along to our drop-in events to view our plans. Our staff will be on hand to answer your questions.

(The sessions will also provide information about our proposals for a new gateway to Swanley).

- Wednesday 6 March – Swanley Market, 10am to 3pm
- Thursday 7 March – White Oak Leisure Centre, 10am to 8pm
- Friday 8 March – White Oak Leisure Centre, 10am to 8pm
- Saturday 9 March – Swanley Link, 10am to 3pm

A friendly place for those in need...

Swanley has a new Mental Health Crisis Drop-In service based in the town centre.

Approximately one in four people experience a mental health problem during their lifetime but, all too often, they don't know where to turn for help. The new service is designed to be a safe place where people can discuss their mental health concerns and, if necessary, be referred to others for support.

Walk in sessions will take place at the Citizens Advice building in Swanley town centre (next to Wilko). There will be two sessions held a week, one for 14 to 17 year olds every Thursday from 4pm to 6pm and the other for over 18s on Saturday evenings from 7pm to

9pm. The service will open its doors to residents from Saturday 23 February.

Mental health experts North Kent Mind are running the service with funding from Sevenoaks District Council, Cllr Michael Horwood from Kent County Council and Matthew Scott, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Kent.

The service came about after Sevenoaks District Council and the Community Safety Partnership, which includes the Police, Fire Service, Housing and KCC Community Wardens, heard residents' concerns that there was limited visible support for people facing a mental health crisis.



Launch of the drop-in mental health service earlier this year

Hundreds of thousands of pounds secured for Swanley projects

Over recent months, we have secured more than three-quarters of a million pounds to support exciting local community projects in Swanley.

We collect the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from developers on larger projects and we make sure the money is ploughed back into the District for the benefit of our residents.

Around six months ago, £750,000 was secured to improve Swanley railway station, with money earmarked for cycle parking, improved signage and new footpaths giving better access to the station.

In January, a further £10,000 was secured for Swanley Town Council as part of its ongoing project to install play equipment for people with disabilities at Swanley Park.

Due to the increasing popularity of the park, a new wheelchair accessible swing and roundabout is set to be installed, together with a new ramp providing access to the paddling pool.

Blueprint for a new Swanley gateway

Plans are gathering pace to transform the southern access to Swanley town centre.

In 2016, we asked local people for their views on improving the important gateway sites that are made up of Bevan Place (the former Working Men's Club and car park) and 27 to 37 High Street (formerly the Meeting Point) all owned by Sevenoaks District Council.

We wanted to hear what residents thought about creating a more welcoming entrance to the town, new commercial property to support the economic growth of Swanley, creating new employment opportunities, and much-needed new homes.

These ideas received the support of more than 70% of residents who took part in our surveys.

We have now commissioned architects to draw up proposals taking into account residents' wishes.

Our architects have been asked to produce plans that create good-quality buildings leading to the town centre.

On the Bevan Place site we want to provide homes together with commercial space, including restaurants and cafés.

On the Meeting Point site we want to provide new business space for start-ups on the ground floor, again with new homes above.

You will have an opportunity to comment on the ideas when we submit a planning application.

In the meantime, you can find out more about our early ideas by coming to our drop-in sessions taking place from 6 to 9 March. Turn to page 2 for details of the sessions.

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This publication is available in large print and can be explained in other languages by calling 01732 227000.

New you with **ONE YOU**



OneYou is our personally tailored service to help improve your health, with lots of support provided in Swanley town centre.

Sometimes small lifestyle changes can make a big difference to your overall wellbeing and the good news is you do not have to make these changes alone – our friendly staff are on hand to help you every step of the way. Best of all, the service is FREE.

SO, WHAT IS **ONE YOU** ?

We can help you lose weight, get fit, quit smoking, improve your mental wellbeing and even help you become more involved in your community.

Local OneYou services are available throughout the week, simply get in touch and we will book you on the right course, subject to availability.

As part of OneYou, we also run one-hour Health Walks, starting from the White Oak Leisure Centre café on Tuesdays at 2pm, and Every Step Counts half hour walks, starting from Swanley Park opposite the café on Thursdays at 10am. No need to book, simply turn up with suitable footwear and head off!

To find out more, call **01732 227000** or visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/oneyou