Swanley Gateway Proposal

Work will soon begin to transform Swanley Library into a modern facility called Swanley Gateway. But what does that mean for you and how will it improve public services in Swanley?

Below are some answers to these and many other questions.

What is Gateway and what will it do for Swanley?

Gateway is a Kent County Council scheme that makes it much easier for people to access a range of public and voluntary services, from Town Council services to libraries and affordable housing and benefits advice.

Swanley Gateway is a joint scheme between KCC, Swanley Town Council, and West Kent Housing Association and will see the existing building transformed to provide a refurbished library, Gateway and town council services, and a café.

How will the building change?

The proposal will see the facility completely refurbished with new carpets, doors, ceilings, heating and ventilation systems, light wells and energy efficient lights. Along with this, some major changes are also proposed in terms of layout, particularly downstairs where the proposal is to move the stairs and toilets to try and open up the building. The final outcome will be a more efficient, fit for purpose facility that is better able to meet the needs of our customers.

What services will be provided?

The main tenants will be Kent County Council, West Kent Housing Association and Swanley Town Council. The above will provide a number of services including the library service, registration service, housing services, town council services and some district council services. In addition to these partners we are also working with a number of other possible partners including:

West Kent Extra
Disability Drop In Centre
Health Trainers
Babcock
Royal British Legion
KCC Community Wardens
Victim Support
Independent Mobility Assessments
SAAFA
Home Improvement Agency
Kent Supported Employment
HiKent
Kent Police
Mind
The Volunteer Bureaux
When will the work take place?

Subject to the proposals moving forward we anticipate that the building works could start in 2014 with dates being firmed up as the project progresses; but it is likely that the project would be completed by the end of 2014.

Where do I go whilst the building is closed?

During the works temporary alternative locations will be provided where you can access the following services:

Library and registration services - location to be announced when a decision has been taken on where this will be located.

Swanley Town Council services – Swanley Town Council main offices

Will there still be a café?

Yes - you will see on the plans a space where the café will be located.

Will there be an interim café during the works?

Unfortunately we will be unable to provide the café until the work is complete.

What is the changing place facility?

Changing Places toilets are different to standard disabled toilets with extra features and more space to meet these needs. They can include such items as a height adjustable adult-sized changing benches; specialised toilets; a tracking hoist system, or mobile hoist and shower facilities.

How much is it all costing?

The overall project is anticipated to costs around £1M.

How do I have my say?

Please take time to have a look at the plans and information and fill out one of the feedback forms provided.

I have a question which is not answered here?

Please contact Swanley Library:

Telephone: 01322 662570

Email: swanleylibrary@kent.gov.uk