

LET'S TALK TRAVEL

Wichelstowe



Dear Resident, Welcome to the Wichelstowe Travel Plan Newsletter. Here you'll find information regarding exploring your local area in sustainable ways, including:

- Offers for free bus and rail travel
- Tips to get active this summer
- New maps and publications



SUMMER TRAILS RUN UNTIL SEPTEMBER

The **Swindon Active Trails** are short walking trails around Swindon for you to explore all year round. There are three trails launched each "season" and for each trail you complete, you can collect a badge and enter the prize draw. Perfect for the kids and those sunny summer days.

The summer trails include a new Wichelstowe Trail utilising newly opened stretches of the canal, plus a Deer Trail around Stanton Park

and a lovely walk through an urban Forest in Pinehurst.

The trail leaflet can be downloaded from www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/home/activeswindonchallenge or you can collect hard copies at the main libraries in Swindon as well as at Hall and Woodhouse. We can post you a copy if you email us.

AND OUR SURVEY SAID...

Thank you to everyone that completed a resident travel survey in April. We had a response rate of 14.5%. Congratulations to Arjun from Shippery Lane who won the prize draw of £100 Waitrose voucher.

The percentage of journeys by car has declined, with only 54.9% of driving trips undertaken by car. It was encouraging to see good levels of public transport use – the bus trips have risen to nearly 14% and trips on foot make up nearly 12% of journeys. We have been busy sending information out to residents who said they would be interested in various initiatives.

Take a look at the Swindon Travel Choices link below to access information and services that are available to you as a new resident in Wichelstowe.

www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk

WALKING AND WHEELING THE AREA



WICHELSTOWE EXPLORER DAY GUIDED WALK

Come along and explore the local Wichelstowe area with Keystone – specialists in ecology & habitats – on an evening guided walk. It's on Tuesday 25th August at 6.45pm. Led by Swindon Travel Choices, we will start from The Orchards off Scott Way, and head on a leisurely 3-mile stroll out exploring the varied green spaces of West, Middle and East Wichel. The whole route is around 3 miles but anyone wanting to curtail the walk can do so at various points. There's no need to book, just turn up.



MONEY OFF AT MITCHELLS

Residents in Wichelstowe can get **10% discount** at Swindon's oldest family-run bike shop, Mitchell Cycles. This gives you 10% off any full price bikes, clothing or accessories. There should have been a flyer in the pack when you first moved in, but if you didn't get one, you can print it from www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/newdevelopments/wichelstowe or we can post you a copy if you email us.



ORIENTEERING FOR ALL

Did you know there is an outdoor orienteering course across Swindon?

There are 36 stickers across the lamp posts in Swindon for people to track down - on foot, on cycle or even by bus! There are new map booklets available and you can use the app "Huntly" to photograph the points and submit the challenge when you've found them all.

The orienteering course is split into 6 smaller areas, so you can challenge yourself one quest at a time...

See www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/getting-around/cycling/cycleorienteering for details.

BORROW A BIKE

Whether it's taking the kids to school, getting to work or just riding for leisure, there's no better time to give cycling a go! In conjunction with your developer, Swindon Travel Choices are offering your household a chance to try cycling for FREE for 6 weeks.

You can choose between a hybrid bike, electric bike or folding bike.

For more details, see www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/borrow-a-bike-scheme

Try cycling for FREE with the Borrow a Bike Scheme



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CO WHEELS CAR?

This electric car is part of Swindon's Co-wheels Car Club family and is parked on Shippery Lane, Wichelstowe, ready for residents and the neighbouring community to use.

It's part of the Swindon car club, which allows you to access pay-as-you-go cars so you have a vehicle when you need it, but not the expense of owning it. The car can be hired for just £5.95 an hour.

If you're not yet a member, visit www.co-wheels.org.uk/swindon and use code **WICHELSTOWE** for great joining offers.

WILL YOU GO JAUNTLY?

Whether you stomp, roam, ramble, hike or wander, the "Go Jauntly" app has unlimited walking trails for you to enjoy.

The mission is to help you get out and about, every day.

Swindon Travel Choices has been curating walks on the app, so simply download the free walking app, search for "Swindon" and enjoy a pocket-sized encyclopaedia of urban walks in the area.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

FREE BUS AND RAIL TRAVEL

Residents at Wichelstowe are eligible to apply for bus taster tickets to try the bus service for free.

This gives a code to redeem a week's travelpass on the Swindon Bus Company app. There's also the option to get a voucher code worth £20 to spend on a GWR rail journey.

Each household can claim one bus code and one rail code.

See more details and apply at www.swindontravelchoices.co.uk/newdevelopments/wichelstowe



KIDS TRAVEL FREE THIS SUMMER

Families in Swindon are set to benefit from free bus travel for children throughout August under a new Government scheme.

The initiative will allow children aged 5 to 15 to travel free on participating local bus services between 1st and 31st August, with no registration required. The August offer forms part of a broader "**Great British Summer Savings**" package.

This includes a temporary VAT cut on selected family attractions, children's cinema and theatre tickets, and kids' meals during the summer period.

If you would like any more information about travelling in your local area, please contact Swindon Travel Choices on swindontravelchoices@swindon.gov.uk.

 **@swindontravelchoices**

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HOT OFF THE PRESS!



Lower Price Cap

You may have heard that the Government is re-introducing a bus fare cap of just **£2 from 1 January 2027** for at least a year. The scheme will replace the existing £3 fare cap and ensure that eligible single bus fares on participating services cost no more than £2.

Excellent customer service from a bus driver?

It's Catch the Bus Month in September and to celebrate we're helping our local bus drivers get the praise they deserve. If your driver has gone the extra mile, nominate them at www.swindonbus.co.uk/best-in-town

