

people's spiritual needs. St Andrew's, the Anglican church, is part of a combined parish. It is a popular venue for weddings, funerals and events such as concerts. The Bethel Baptist Church and the Strict & Particular Chapel have active congregations and all hold regular services, meetings and fundraising activities. St Andrew's and Bethel produce regular newsletters.

Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall provides facilities for meetings and is well used. Currently it is run by a subcommittee of the Parish Council, but the Charity Commissioners require it to be transferred to an independent trust.



Pub, shops and Post Office

The White Horse pub provides a social venue and promotes events including live music, fireworks and a beer festival. There are two general stores, a Post Office, an optician and a hairdresser, a carpet saleroom and a tool-hire shop in the village.

Stakeholders

The parish has a Parish Council with 11 Parish Councillors, and is represented by a District and a County Councillor at higher levels of government.

1.9 Young people and the over 60s

Children and young people form about a quarter of the village population, and most are educated at the Primary School and Swavesey Village College.

The Village College has a purpose-built Youth Centre, used for an after-school club. In 2006, residents formed Swavesey Action for Youth, and in 2007 a full-time youth worker serving Swavesey and Cottenham began regular youth club activity at the college, working with Swavesey's arts development manager to coordinate out-of-school and youth leadership activities. The Village College provides extra-curricular activity in sports and the arts, and local clubs run activities there, including scouts, dance, sport, holiday music and drama. The Connexions Bus provides young people with regular access to a range of help and advice. The Primary School has pre-school facilities.

The over 60s play an important part in village clubs and organisations, including the Over 50s and the Women's Institute. Many retired residents are active in promoting and supporting village activities. The elongated shape of the village means that some older residents are remote from services and facilities.

1.10 Environment, amenity space and recycling

Natural environment

The parish divides into agricultural land and grassland liable to seasonal flooding. A wildlife conservation area known as Fen Drayton Lakes has been acquired by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). To the north, in Over, a reedbed area is being developed on former gravel pits, also managed by the RSPB, who provide educational and recreational facilities.

The focal points for wildlife conservation in Swavesey are shown on Map 3. They include:

- Mare Fen Local Nature Reserve, once famous for skating, hosts flocks of migrant wildfowl and waders in winter, and in summer a herd of rare British White cattle.
- The River Great Ouse, its banks and flood plain, with ancient fields and hedgerows, are home to many wild flowers and insects, particularly dragonflies.
- Fen Drayton Lakes provide winter feeding grounds for many migrant birds.
- The village ponds have a variety of flora, and ducks and moorhens.
- Constable's Rood, originally an allotment for the village constable, was reclaimed by volunteers to form a wildlife garden. The quality of this project was recognised by a National Heritage Award.