

As in the whole of Cambridgeshire, the lack of tree cover is recognised as an environmental problem.

Amenity areas and access

The Green and Market Street Green are the principal amenity areas, providing space for play and community events. The Green playground was extended and refurbished after a campaign by parents. There are two other play areas, one in Moat Way and another in Priory Avenue and Carters Way. Whitton Close also has amenity space.

The Ouse provides opportunities for fishing and boating, and Fen Drayton Lakes are managed for fishing, walking and bird watching. Horses are kept on the grassland, and footpaths, bridleways and byways give riders and walkers access to Fen Drayton Lakes and the Ouse.

Recycling

Householders sort domestic refuse into recyclable material and waste for collection. The recycling site accepts various materials, including textiles and shoes.

1.11 Health and community support

Swavesey Surgery

The surgery has two doctors, four part-time nurses, two dispensers and management staff, catering for around 2800 patients. The local Primary Care Trust is considering how the planned health centre at Northstowe might develop. Swavesey Surgery and Over Day Centre have volunteers to drive patients to appointments at the surgeries, local hospitals and clinics.

Community support

In the parish, two charities provide help and support. Frere Cottages, built after the 1913 fire, provide accommodation for four single people. The Thomas Galon Charity is a sixteenth-century bequest giving support to parishioners in need.

Twenty-five bungalows at Thistle Green, run by South Cambridgeshire District Council, provide sheltered housing for elderly people and those with mobility problems. A Sheltered Housing Officer helps promote the independence of residents. Its Community Centre, supported by local volunteers, is a venue for meetings and activities.

Voluntary groups

The Bethel Baptist congregation organises regular lunches, meetings and visits for the retired and those with restricted mobility, and activities, films and discos for young people. The Parish Church is active in many organisations, including the Frere Cottages charity.

Swavesey Kids Club looks after children from 32 families aged between four and twelve years through breakfast and after-school clubs. It operates under Ofsted supervision, organised by an unpaid committee.

The Over 50s club meets regularly for talks, activities and quizzes, and organises days out for about thirty people.

The Library service at the Village College is staffed by volunteers, providing access to books, internet, CDs and DVDs, and a doorstep service for the house-bound.

1.12 Businesses and farmers

Recent years have seen the replacement of industry and manufacturing (Barwells, Warmex) with new businesses (Aqua, MG Owners Club), and local people find employment in a variety of small and medium businesses.

Of these businesses, 48 employ between one and 20 people, eight employ 21–100 people and two each employ over 100 people.

Agriculture in Swavesey is experiencing the same forces as the rest of the country. Fewer, larger farms with increasingly sophisticated farm machinery are replacing small family units. Cattle are becoming rarer – there are now no milking cows in Swavesey.

