



# Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service

**STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**

## GENERAL MEETING

**NOVEMBER 29TH 2022**

**@ 10.00am- 12.30**

**REFRESHMENTS  
PROVIDED**

As the rising cost of living continues to affect us all, SCIPS have organised for a number of organisations that can offer advice and support to attend our next General.

Come along on the 29th November and see what assistance you can get and what you can do to save money.

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# SMBC Core Grant

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SCIPS receive a grant from Sandwell MBC that covers a three-year period, our current grant runs out in March 2023.

SCIPS deliver an agreed work programme for and on behalf of Sandwell MBC around tenant engagement and support to the residents of Sandwell.

We are pleased to announce that our core grant has been agreed for the next three years from March 2023 – March 2026.

This means that we can continue to provide our services and support to TRA's, Community groups and Individuals across Sandwell.

## Fab Lab Partnership

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SCIPS are currently exploring a range of opportunities with Sandwell College's Fab Lab. The Fab Lab is a 'maker space' featuring high tech manufacturing and emerging technologies.

Many innovative projects are delivered by the team with one example being their 'Bodyswaps' virtual reality sessions which provide simulated interview scenarios and workplace experience through roleplay and improvisation, something which is potentially beneficial to employment, education and training programmes being delivered for Sandwell residents.

In addition to this Fab Lab are offering SCIPS equipment and support to develop a range of videos to further develop our promotional reach with a view to encouraging new members. Watch this space!



# Hateley Cross Big Local

Things are moving at a pace in Hateley Cross, this week they hosted an Employment and Skills Action Network event for all the stakeholders who were involved in their recent research project. 12 representatives from a number of delivery agents came together to discuss what HCBL could do to help them to help the residents of Hateley Heath and Stone Cross overcome the barriers to employment,. The event was very informative and the findings will be used to ensure that HCBL funds are directed towards solving this issue.

The long awaited sign has now been erected on Somerset Green and The 4Community Hub, sponsored by HCBL, has just celebrated the 1st anniversary of it's opening - onwards and upwards!



## Digi Comm Update

Throughout September, October and November we are running our latest Digi Comm training programme at the Dorothy Parkes Centre in Smethwick. Seven residents are completing the course along with four volunteers / staff that work at Dorothy Parkes and the CAP Centre. An outcome from the programme is that we enable centres to provide their own digital offer and providing training to volunteers and staff is one way we can achieve this.

Feedback from participants has been very positive and it has been wonderful to see confidence and expertise developing over the first half of the course, with sessions covering 'Using a Tablet', 'Using and Downloading Apps' and 'Internet Safety'.



Early 2023 we will continue delivery in Smethwick and West Bromwich. Further details will follow in coming weeks.

If you are interested in digital training and you would like to book on to a course, please contact Sarah or Dean on 0121 544 1230, or via email [sarah@scips.org.uk](mailto:sarah@scips.org.uk) or [dean@scips.org.uk](mailto:dean@scips.org.uk)

# Black History Month & Civil Rights in Smethwick

# B: M2022

DIG DEEP, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

During October the UK Celebrates Black History Month. The main aims of Black History Month are to celebrate the achievements and contributions of black people.

A visit by Civil Rights activist, Malcolm X, to Marshall Street in Smethwick on 12th February 1965, just before his death, ensured that the struggles centred around this Street went global and Smethwick was thrust into the international spotlight. An invitation from the Indian Workers Association, a group formed to mobilise and represent migrants from the Indian subcontinent in the late 1930s, had brought him here.

Most notably, Malcolm X made a point of walking down Marshall Street. The ordinary rows of terraced housing, caught up in an attempt to introduce social segregation, stood by as one of the most notable Civil Rights activists in the world strode past them.

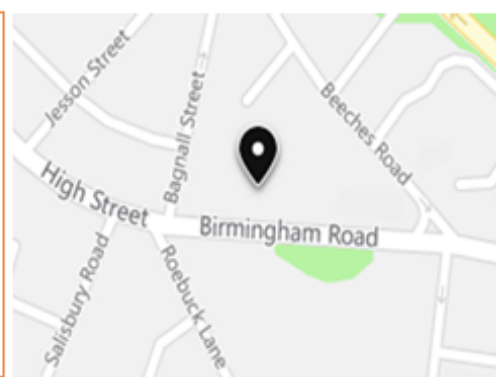
His visit was met with fierce criticism and derision, yet for the Community of Colour in Smethwick, Malcolm X's visit had put their daily struggles and ongoing fight against racism into the spotlight.

Two weeks later in Harlem, New York, Malcolm X was shot dead. His actions in the last few weeks of his life spanned countries and continents, linking Smethwick with the likes of Harlem. His visit here, while brief, was of insurmountable importance in pushing back against racist culture and highlighting the importance of solidarity and cooperation. *[Source: Black History Month Magazine 2021]*

## Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service



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*SCIPS is a registered charity no 1097702. If you would like to find out more about us and the work we are involved in, please visit our website at [www.scips.org.uk](http://www.scips.org.uk).*

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