



## Champions Day!

### Celebrate the Local Service Champions where you work!

Do you know colleagues that go above and beyond to provide an excellent service to the public?

If you do, why not nominate them to be a winner of Sandwell UNISON's first ever celebration of a public service champion.

On 7 December Sandwell UNISON will recognise a Sandwell service champion to highlight some of the essential and vital work we do across local government for our communities.

If you know a colleague who deserves recognition, then please nominate them by completing the nomination form and emailing it to [sandwellunison@btconnect.com](mailto:sandwellunison@btconnect.com) by 30 November. Nomination forms are available at [Champions Day! – Sandwell General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](https://sandwellunison.co.uk)

On Friday 25 November 2022, and during that week, Sandwell UNISON will hold our annual Stars in our Schools celebration day for support staff.

We would love you to get involved!

It takes a whole team to make a school a happy and a safe place for children to learn. All nominees will be recognised, and an overall winner selected for a special prize. Details and nomination forms have now been emailed to your Head Teacher to be circulated. We look forward to receiving your nomination for that extra special person.

Details and nomination form also available on our website. Click on [Stars in Our Schools – Sandwell General UNISON Branch \(sandwellunison.co.uk\)](https://sandwellunison.co.uk)

## Mileage Rates Need to Increase

The Joint Trade Unions in Sandwell Council have submitted a formal request for an increase in the mileage rate from 45p per mile to 80p per mile to reflect the significantly increased costs of running a car. Sandwell UNISON is aware that numerous Councils and Health Authorities have begun to increase their mileage rates.

In addition, unions have also requested that the rules around where you can claim from be changed to reflect the post-pandemic world of office-based staff largely working from home.

The same claim has also been lodged with Sandwell Children's Trust.

## Car Parking Charges set to Rocket?

Sandwell Council launched a formal public consultation on proposals to increase car parking charges across the Borough, and then doubling that new charge for parking in West Bromwich.

Until challenged there was no consultation with the trade unions.

The proposed charges manage to even surpass the % increase in gas prices! A full annual parking pass for West Bromwich increases from it's current £240 to £800 (a 333% increase) and then to £1200 (a 500% increase) by 2027. Elsewhere in Sandwell prices *only* increase to £400 next year and then to £600 by 2027!

UNISON has submitted objections in writing to both the consultation and Cabinet Members. Click [UNISON Objects to Proposed Dramatic Rise in Car Parking Charges – Sandwell General UNISON Branch](https://sandwellunison.co.uk)