

# Somerset West and Taunton

## Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils.

### Issue 40. Week ending 10/01/21

**#StayAtHome    #ProtectTheNHS    #SaveLives**

It is also important to remember the coronavirus basics

- **Hands** – Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds
- **Face** – Cover your face in enclosed spaces
- **Space** – Keep 2m apart where possible

### **SWT Council priorities**

Somerset West and Taunton Council's updated priorities during the coronavirus outbreak are as follows:

- Preserve critical services;
- Safeguard the public;
- Ensure our most vulnerable residents are supported; and
- Planning economic resilience and recovery

The situation is being reviewed on a daily basis to ensure that the Council follows the [latest advice from Public Health England](#).

[Click here](#) to read up to date information on how SWT continues to respond to Coronavirus.

## **Key Messages this week**

### **1. National Lockdown: Stay at Home**

The Prime Minister has announced a national lockdown and instructed people to stay at home to control the virus, protect the NHS and save lives. From 00:01 on 5 January you must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home

- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

Colleges, primary and secondary schools will remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of [critical workers](#). All other children will learn remotely until February half term. Early Years settings remain open.

Higher Education provision will remain online until mid February for all except future critical worker courses.

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live. You may leave your local area for a legally permitted reason, such as for work.

Please [click here](#) to view the summary: what you can and cannot do during the national lockdown. This guidance is for people who are fit and well. There is additional advice for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to coronavirus and households with a possible or confirmed coronavirus infection.

#### **If you are clinically extremely vulnerable...**

If you are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) you should not attend work, school, college or university, and limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

Guidance for everyone who has been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable can be found [here](#). If you are in this group, you will previously have received a letter from the NHS or from your GP telling you this. You may have been advised to shield in the past.

### **SWT Health & Safety during COVID Lockdown**

- **SWT Buildings Access** – SWT buildings will close with access only for the following activities with **masks worn at all times**, buildings access approval processes will continue and ultimate approval will still be required:-
  - Essential Operational Delivery – ICT, Facilities, Contractors to conduct essential compliancy services, support to Depot Operations to deliver essential services
  - Governance Activities and Council Meetings (where remote access is not possible)
  - Key employees – for completion of essential documentation
  - HR – to maintain continuity of essential hearings/staff meetings/welfare support

- New Starter Induction – controlled by Risk Assessment and co-ordinated by People Business Partners/HR
  - Emergency Response Team – for rest/welfare facilities (Moorland House)
  - PPE for ICT team – if dealing with face-to-face practical work it is also advisable that a disposal apron is worn, these are available from Facilities.
- The use of meeting rooms will not be permitted unless an exceptional circumstance has been assessed/approved and the activity falls within an essential service. Safe Working Risk Assessments must be followed when travelling to and accessing corporate buildings
  - **Inspections/Site Visits** – if the essential service delivery involves an inspection or site visit, these are only permitted in external environments. Sites should not be accessed by passing through an internal area/premises and all activities must be risk assessed.
  - **Customer Face-to-Face contact** – must be avoided whenever possible and alternative methods of communication adopted.
  - **Training Arrangements** – training should be delivered remotely whenever possible, all other situations should be postponed if not absolutely essential (H&S Team to advise and support when required). The use of the training room at Wellington Depot will not be permitted.

## 2. The Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline

A single phone number is available for anyone in Somerset who needs coronavirus-related support from their councils. The **0300 790 6275** number is available seven days per week 8am – 6pm.

Anyone who can't find help within their own local networks and volunteers, can use this number to get help and advice around:

- Personal care and support including food and delivery of prescriptions
- Support for the homeless
- Emotional support if you're feeling worried or anxious
- Transport to medical appointments
- Waste collection and disposal
- Financial support

This number won't cover medical advice, for which people will need to continue to use the 111 NHS phone number if they cannot get help online. If you would like to find out more about the Corona helpers, offer assistance, or need support please [click here](#).

### 3. Chancellor extends furlough and loan schemes

The furlough scheme has been extended until the end of April 2021 with the Government continuing to contribute 80% towards wages.

The Chancellor confirmed he would be extending the Government-guaranteed Covid-19 business loan schemes until the end of March. These changes come ahead of the Budget, which the Chancellor has confirmed will take place on **3 March 2021**. Please [click here](#) to find out more information.

### 4. Grants if your Business has a Business Rate account

For the period of the 3rd national lockdown, (from 6 January 2021 onwards) if your business was required to close there will be a grant scheme available.

SWT is waiting to receive details from the Government about this as well as funding (indications are that this will be around mid-January).

Once received, SWT will create an application process to implement the new claims process as quickly as possible. The new system will allow businesses to register their details with SWT enabling the Council to identify their potential entitlement to the various schemes and invite them to submit applications via a simple e-mail process.

Please continue to keep an eye on the [SWT website](#) for further information.

If you have not already done so SWT would advise you to sign up for the [business newsletter](#) so you can be kept informed when further grant schemes become available.

### 5. Democracy and Governance

#### Committee Meetings

You can search by Committee or by the monthly calendar for details of all [Committee meetings](#). Here you can find the agendas and minutes of all meetings, as well as which Councillors sit on each Committee.

A number of Committee meetings are scheduled to take place over the next few weeks, which are as follows:

- Thursday 14 January – **Planning**, 1pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 11 January)
- Monday 18 January – **Licensing Committee**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Wednesday 13 January)
- Wednesday 20 January – **Executive**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 15 January)
- Wednesday 27 January – **Scrutiny Committee (budget setting)**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 22 January)

The meetings will all be live streamed so that members of the public can watch at home. To watch the live stream when the meeting commences please visit the SWT website by [clicking here](#). If you are not able to watch the meeting live, you can also watch it after the meeting.

**Members of the public are still able to participate in the meeting by submitting their questions or statement to the Governance Team via [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk) and these will be read out by an officer at the meeting. Please see the dates listed above re deadlines for submitting questions or statements.**

## **6. Consultation underway for new development in Minehead**

SWT is encouraging members of the public to have their say on the first new council housing being built in Minehead for over 30 years. A budget for the 54 zero carbon rented homes at Rainbow Way (off Seaward Way) was recently approved by Full Council and work is now progressing on the plans. Local residents are being asked to give their opinions on the proposals in a survey that started on 4 January 2021, and runs until **15 January**.

Once the planning application is submitted all plans will be available on the SWT planning website and you will also be able to comment formally through the planning process.

The consultation can be found on the [consultations page](#) of the SWT website.

There will be further opportunity to comment through the usual planning process when the planning application is submitted. Please [click here](#) to read the full SWT press release.

## **7. SWT secures provisional Future High Streets funding**

SWT is working with the Government to finalise ambitious proposals to transform SWT high streets into vibrant hubs for future generations. The Council has been provisionally offered just under £14m from the Future High Streets Fund towards projects including town centre cycle and pedestrian improvements, and contributions towards the redevelopment of Firepool and Coal Orchard. It had bid for £20.2m of funding in total so will now need to review and prioritise the projects with further guidance from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The Council is one of 57 areas across the country to receive provisional funding offers totalling up to £576m. A further fifteen areas across England have been awarded a confirmed £255 million from the Future High Streets Fund. Please [click here](#) to read the full SWT press release.

## **8. Deane House Hub Closed**

SWT has closed the Deane House Hub in line with Government guidance during the latest national lockdown. All customers that have appointments booked will be contacted shortly and assistance will be provided either by telephone or through our web-based services.

Many of SWT services can be accessed [online](#). If you need to speak to someone you can call the customer services team on **0300 304 8000** between 8am – 6pm. If you have a homeless emergency please call the free phone number **0808 164 5186**.

The Avon and Somerset Police enquiries desk in the Deane House Hub is also currently closed. Please [click here](#) to read the full SWT press release.

## **9. SWT Leisure Provider, Everyone Active now Closed**

Leisure centres are now closed until further notice in line with national lockdown restrictions. SWT leisure provider, Everyone Active will be contacting members directly. Further information and the latest updates can be found on their [website](#).

## **10. SWT supporting our communities throughout Covid-19**

SWT has been supporting residents and businesses throughout the Covid-19 crisis. Although offices have been closed to protect our community and staff the Council has been delivering critical services and ensuring our most vulnerable residents are supported. In many cases this has meant re-organising working arrangements, boosting resources in some areas and setting up completely new services.

Please [click here](#) to read the SWT press release that outlines the many services and measures implemented since restrictions were announced to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

## **11. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)**

### **O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree**

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) is asking people to plan ahead and say a green goodbye to their real Christmas trees and other festive waste. Compost your tree at home if you can, or turn it into a garden wildlife corner if you have the space. If you are a subscriber to SWP Garden Waste Service, leave your tree, decoration-free, next to your garden waste bin for collection – as long as it is no taller than 6ft and its trunk is no wider than 4 inches.

SWP's garden waste collections restart on **Saturday 9 January** when crews will be making the collections they would usually have made on **Friday, 8 January**. Normal garden waste collections resume from **Monday 11 January**.

Trees will not be collected from the kerbside unless you subscribe to the Garden Waste Service. If you are not subscribed, or your tree is too big for collection, please take your tree to one of SWP's 16 recycling sites and put in the garden waste skip. The sites are open on their full winter schedule and are a good way to clear the decks of large loads of other festive recycling like paper gift wrap and cardboard. For full details of site opening times [click here](#).

Local organisations and groups may also be running tree collection or drop-off services, sometimes raising money for charity. Check local press and online for details. However, if you recycle it, make sure your tree is completely decoration free before leaving it out or dropping it off.

Langford Lakes Christmas Tree Farm in Langford Budville is offering to take trees and shred them for mulch – but only if their farm near Wellington is closer than your nearest recycling centre. An allocated drop-off area will be in place at the farm from **4 - 22 January**, and visitors will also be able to pick up mulch created from previous year's Christmas tree recycling for use on their own home gardens.

### **Recycling sites stay open for essential use**

Somerset Waste Partnership plans to keep the county's 16 recycling sites open on standard winter hours for essential use during the latest Covid-19 national lockdown.

[Government guidance](#) has clarified that people can visit recycling sites as they are an essential service. SWP is asking people to only visit sites if the trip is really necessary, for example because waste cannot be safely kept home or disposed of through kerbside recycling and rubbish collections.

Recycling sites already have measures in place to protect the public and staff, including:

- Do not visit if you have Covid-19 symptoms or have been asked to shield
- Maintain social distance
- Wear gloves and consider wearing a mask
- Maximum two people per vehicle from the same household
- Site staff cannot assist with unloading
- Vehicle and trailer permits continue – [somersetwaste.gov.uk/apply-for-a-permit](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/apply-for-a-permit)

Staff will monitor site user numbers and control vehicle flow if necessary; visitors are asked for their understanding and patience.

**The Reuse Shop at Taunton Recycling Centre will be closed during the lockdown.**

To keep up to date with recycling sites, sign up for the SWP e-newsletter at [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) and follow @Somersetwaste on Facebook or Twitter

## **12. Voting safely at next year's elections**

On Thursday **6 May 2021** residents in Somerset West and Taunton will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at the postponed Police Crime Commissioner Election, County Council Elections and various Parish/Town Council elections.

While the elections are not until May, the Council is already making plans to help you stay safe while casting your vote.

There are a number of ways to have your say in the elections in May - you can vote in a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on

your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote. Please [click here](#) to read the full SWT press release.

### **13. Somerset West Lottery New Year Bolt-on Prize**

SWT is hoping people will start 2021 by continuing to support local good causes while giving themselves a chance to win in the Somerset West Lottery New Year bolt-on prize draw.

Everyone who signs up to purchase one or more tickets between **4 January** and **27 February 2021** will be in with the chance to win one of five £100 Etsy gift vouchers plus £100 for their good cause courtesy of the external lottery management company Gatherwell.

All tickets bought during this timeframe will automatically be entered in to the bonus prize draw as well as being in with a chance to win up to £25,000 in the weekly lottery run by Somerset West and Taunton Council. Please [click here](#) to read the full SWT press release.

## **Partner Engagement – Key messages from other Public Service Areas**

### **Somerset County Council (SCC) Highway Maintenance Report**

Welcome back after the Christmas and New Year break to 2021! The holiday period was a busy time for SCC Highways and they seemed to have every type of weather effect apart from the melting roads!

We all went into the break with some wet weather which caused quite a bit of flooding, especially in West Somerset, where there was significant field run-off and many rivers burst their banks, closing the roads. A few days later, all the extra water had worked its way downstream and the roads across Curry Moor on the Somerset Levels & Moors were closed due to deep flooding.

Christmas was cold and this resulted in icing-up problems in places. Boxing Day introduced “Storm Bella” and, with the winds being mainly north-westerlies, Somerset West and Taunton bore the brunt of fallen trees and more flooding. Conditions reverted to cold after that and SCC Highways now has had a run of two weeks of generally two salting actions per day to keep on top of potential ice problems on the main roads. They have also had to contend with snow at times on the higher routes.

We all exited the holiday period straight into Lockdown 3. As previously, SCC Highways are focusing on safety defect (e.g. potholes) repairs, winter service and out-of-hours emergencies. At the moment, planned works (such as carriageway resurfacing, drainage schemes etc) are continuing as programmed, with appropriate additional safety measures in place.

For more information on highway maintenance works and to stay up to date visit the website [www.travelsomerset.co.uk](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk) or follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter.

### **Steer clear of fake news**

False information, when shared, can take on a life of its own and have serious consequences. Recently there has been a lot of false information about Coronavirus and the new vaccines designed to tackle it. It's not always easy to spot. The Government has developed a useful online tool to help you know what to look out for before you like, comment or share information you come across online: [Home - SHARE checklist](#)

### **Wessex Water**

#### **REMINDER- Temporary Road Closure: ttro416994TD - Burton Place, Taunton**

The works are expected to commence on **11 January 2021** and last for 5 days to enable Wessex Water to carry out supply separation works.

For any further information about this closure please contact Wessex Water on **0345 600 4 600** quoting reference: ttro416994TD - Burton Place, Taunton.

Please [click here](#) to view the road closure.

Please note that should you require to view a closure which is more than two weeks ahead you will need to register for free with [www.One.Network](http://www.One.Network)

#### **Temporary Road Closure: ttro419289TD - Silk Mills Road and Silk Mills Lane, Bishop's Hull**

The order becomes effective on **14 January 2021** and will remain in force for eighteen months.

The works are expected to commence on **18 January 2021** and last for 2 nights to enable Somerset Highways to carry out patching works.

For any further information about this closure please contact Somerset Highways on **0300 123 2224**, quoting reference: ttro419289TD - Silk Mills Road and Silk Mills Lane, Bishop's Hull. Please [click here](#) to view the above road closure.

#### **Temporary Road Closure: ttro419295TD- Priorswood Road, Cheddon Fitzpaine**

The order becomes effective on **14 January 2021** and will remain in force for eighteen months.

The works are expected to commence on **18 January 2021** and last for 2 nights to enable Somerset Highways to carry out patching works.

For any further information about this closure please contact Somerset highways on **0300 123 2224**, quoting reference: ttro419295TD - Priorswood Road, Cheddon Fitzpaine. Please [click here](#) to view the above road closure.

## **Useful links to report faults**

Throughout winter, there are more queries about overgrown trees, verges or hedges, blocked drains and street lights that don't work. To report faults in the following areas, please click on the relevant link:-

[Dangerous/Overgrown Tree alongside the public highway](#)

[Report an overgrown verge or hedge on the road](#)

[Street light not working](#)

[Blocked surface water drain on the highway.](#)

## **Grant boost to help Somerset's foodbanks meet Winter demand**

Somerset's foodbanks have been playing a vital role in supporting people in need throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. This work is part of the Somerset Food Resilience Programme being implemented by Somerset's Local Authorities and partner organisations.

The Food Resilience Programme is investing in a number of projects that will help communities cope with the immediate impacts of the pandemic, and projects that will enable them to respond to future incidents and support people in need in their communities.

In order to provide extra support this winter, grants of between £2,000 and £3,000 have been awarded to a number of foodbanks across the county. The funding will help them cope with increased demand and enable them to increase their food capacity should there be Covid-19 outbreaks in their local area. The grants are being administered by Somerset's district councils with more than 25 foodbanks in receipt of funds so far.

As well as the Food Banks grants initiative, some funding has also been directed to the Citizens Advice services in Somerset. Using this funding Citizens Advice will pilot providing a team of Somerset caseworkers to work with four organisations including Taunton Foodbank, the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) Village Agents, Yeovil 4 Families and the new pantry schemes being developed. This service will prioritise helping people who find themselves in need to access support and overcome underlying issues.

## **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service**

### **Chimney Safety**

Drowning in wrapping paper after Christmas? Please don't dispose of it through burning in your fire or wood burner. It can cause sparks and embers, which increase your risk of a chimney fire. Why not reuse the paper next year?

Please [click here](#) to read more information relating to chimney safety.

## **BREXIT**

### **EU citizens protect your rights by applying to the EU Settlement Scheme**

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you and your family can protect your rights by applying to the EU Settlement Scheme to stay in the UK. You do not need to

apply if you are a British or Irish citizen, or you have indefinite leave to remain or enter. **The deadline to apply is 30 June 2021.**

The [EU Settlement Scheme](#) allows you and your family to get the immigration status you need to:

- continue to live, work and study in the UK
- access public services like the NHS

You need to complete a short online application form using a computer, tablet or mobile phone. The application will ask you to:

- prove your identity
- prove that you live in the UK
- declare any criminal convictions

Successful applicants will receive settled status or pre-settled status, depending on how long you have lived in the UK. You will get digital proof of your status through an online service. Please [click here](#) to apply and find out more information. A guide on EU Settlement Scheme Important Information can be found [here](#).

## **Exmoor National Park (ENP) Proposed Diversion WL26-27 (Old Stowey)**

The ENP Authority is proposing to divert part of public footpath WL6/27 in the parish of Cutcombe. Prior to making a Diversion Order, ENP would like to hear your views on this proposal.

Please find an attached summary, schedule and plan. If you could return any comments on the proposal by **29 January 2021** to [cerirapsey@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:cerirapsey@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk) or to Ceri Rapsey, Rights of Way Support Officer, Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton, TA22 9HL.

## **Blackdown Hills AONB Discover, Explore and Create- Virtually!**

The Blackdown Hills AONB is offering a series of videos to give you some fun ways to explore the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and get creative!

[Click here](#) to take a look and get started!

## **Community Support – What help is out there? Voluntary and Community Sector Support**

### **Community Council for Somerset (CCS) Talking Café- Debt Advice**

As part of their new year 'Shape Up' specials, the Talking Café held on 6 January focused on debt advice - how and where to seek help from and setting up healthy money habits. You can watch the replay [here](#).

All Talking Cafes can also be watched after they have aired via YouTube - just visit [www.somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/](http://www.somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/) to see the full back catalogue covering everything from fuel debt to cooking on a budget!

## **Need to seek help during these tough times?**

If you, or someone you know are feeling like things are too much, please know that you/ they don't have to be alone. Here's some numbers of organisations that can help in these tough times:

- Samaritans - 116 123
- CALM - 0800 58 58 58
- ChildLine - 0800 1111
- Anxiety UK - 03444 775 774
- Mind - 0300 123 3393
- National Domestic Abuse helpline - 0808 2000 247

## **Health and Welfare**

### **Teams prepare to vaccinate care home residents as vaccinations also begin at two further community sites**

Teams of vaccinators are preparing to begin vaccinating care home residents and staff between Christmas and New Year. At the same time two more GP-led community sites will begin vaccinating people aged over 80 and health and care staff. Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

### **Volunteers needed to support Somerset vaccination programme**

Health services in Somerset are encouraging people to volunteer to support the county's vaccination programme. They are looking for people to help greet residents as they come to be vaccinated, marshal, and help with administration. They are also looking for retired or former nurses who are willing to step forward as vaccinators. All necessary training will be provided.

If you think you can help, please email [mvp.recruitment@somersetft.nhs.uk](mailto:mvp.recruitment@somersetft.nhs.uk) to register your interest. The vaccination programme is currently focusing on those aged 80 and over and health and care staff in line with the priorities identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. Please [click here](#) for more information regarding the priority groups.

You can also [click here](#) for more information about the Covid-19 vaccinations in Somerset.

### **SCC Appeal for equipment**

Due to significant global issues affecting stock availability, SCC is making an urgent appeal to request the return any of their community healthcare equipment you no longer need. The priority is hospital beds, mattresses, bed rails and bumpers, hoists, over-bed tables and 4-wheeled walkers which are in very short supply both locally and nationally.

Millbrook, SCC's community equipment provider, will collect the equipment for free and pick up from outside homes to ensure everybody stays safe. If you have any of this equipment currently not required please contact Millbrook urgently [somersetcontactus@millbrookhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:somersetcontactus@millbrookhealthcare.co.uk) or phone **0333 003 2407**.

Millbrook will take the equipment to the SCC service centres to be deep cleaned, tested and refurbished if necessary, ready to be issued to others on behalf of the NHS and local social care teams.

### **Somerset Covid-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan Dashboard**

Please [click here](#) to read the latest national and local information relating to Covid-19. Scroll down until you find the Covid-19 Dashboard. Here, you can view the latest statistics and trends for Covid-19 cases in Somerset. This site is updated daily.

### **Please Download the NHS Test and Trace app**

You can now [download the NHS Test and Trace app](#) and help control the spread of coronavirus and protect yourself and your loved ones as case numbers rise.

The more people who download the app and contribute to the data will assist with monitoring and tracking the spread of the virus; this will enable Public Health England to allocate resources accordingly. The app will also advise you to self-isolate if you have been in close contact with a confirmed case. It will also enable you to check symptoms, book a free test if needed and get your test results.

### **Covid-19 Travel Guidance**

International travel is increasingly restricted. In the UK, different rules apply in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. For example, in England you must not leave home including to travel abroad, unless you have a legally permitted reason to do so, such as for essential work purposes.

If you are legally permitted to travel, [check the advice](#) for the country you are visiting. Other countries have closed borders, and may further restrict movement or bring in new rules including testing requirements with little warning. Before you return to the UK you must [provide your journey and contact details](#). Also check if you need to [self isolate](#).

If you are travelling abroad and wish to return to the UK, contact your airline or travel provider. Please [click here](#) for more information.

### **Please refer to the websites below for the latest advice, help and guidance:**

**Links to the most up to date Covid-19 guidance can be found here**

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

[Public Health England](#)

[NHS – Help and Advice](#)

## **FAQS**

**Q. Who will receive the Coronavirus vaccine as a priority?**

**A.** In his address to the nation on Monday 4 January 2021, the Prime Minister confirmed that by the middle of February there is an expectation that the first vaccine dose will have been offered to everyone in the four top priority

groups identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI):

All residents in a care home for older adults and their carers;  
Everyone over the age of 70;  
All frontline health and social care workers; and  
Everyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable.

Please [click here](#) for more information regarding the priority groups.

Somerset NHS are looking at how they manage the programme to these groups, considering the requirements of the vaccine and how much is available in the early stages of the vaccination programme.

**Q. What should people do to book in for their Coronavirus vaccine?**

- A.** As plans progress across Somerset, the public have an important part to play to help:
- please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, they will contact you;
  - when they do contact you, please attend your booked appointments;
  - and please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives

**Please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine.**  
**The NHS will contact you when it is your turn.**

For more information about the Covid-19 vaccinations in Somerset please [click here](#).

## **Crime / Safeguarding**

### **Fake NHS Covid-19 vaccination messages target vulnerable public**

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) has received evidence of fraudulent messages sent to the public informing them that a dose of the new Covid-19 vaccine is available to them.

People are being sent a text message claiming to be from the NHS which informs the recipient that, "we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine." The message ends with a link to a bogus website mocked up to look like a legitimate NHS platform. The website requests personal details, including name and address. Most concerning is it asks for banking details, supposedly for verification.

This is the latest in a series of scams themed around the pandemic in circulation since last March. With the UK vaccine rollout underway, scammers have modified their scam to consider this new development.

This scam is by no means limited to a particular region, and people throughout the UK are warned that they may receive similar messages. Please [click here](#) for further information.

## **What to do if you need urgent police help through the 999 service, but can't speak**

If you're in an emergency situation and need police help, but can't speak, Make Yourself Heard and let the 999 operator know your call is genuine. If making a sound would put you or someone else in danger and the BT operator cannot decide whether an emergency service is needed, your call will be transferred to the Silent Solution system.

The Silent Solution is a police system used to filter out large numbers of accidental or hoax 999 calls. It also exists to help people who are unable to speak, but who genuinely need police assistance. You will hear an automated police message, which lasts for 20 seconds and begins with 'you are through to the police'. It will ask you to press 55 to be put through to police call management. The BT operator will remain on the line and listen. If you press 55, they will be notified and transfer the call to the police. If you don't press 55, the call will be terminated. Pressing 55 does not allow police to track your location.

Please [click here](#) for more information relating to The Silent Solution. You will also find this document attached as a PDF.

## **Avon & Somerset Police (A&SP)**

### **National lockdown: Stay at Home**

As Coronavirus cases are rising rapidly across the country, a third national lockdown has been announced. People are now requested to stay at home, except where necessary, to protect the NHS and save lives. You must not leave or be outside of your home except where you have a 'reasonable excuse'.

Police are continuing to work with communities to help limit the spread of Coronavirus and protect the public. They will continue to engage, explain and encourage people to comply with the regulations, working alongside Covid marshals and partner agencies. As a last resort, police will enforce, whether it is by directing people to leave an area, or issuing a fine (Fixed Penalty Notice).

Please [click here](#) for further information.

### **The Police Enquiries Desk, Deane House, Taunton - CLOSED**

In line with Government guidance and the restrictions that have been introduced to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, The Police Enquiries Desk, Deane House, Taunton is currently closed until further notice.

### **Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Call for Evidence Survey**

Tackling violence against women and girls is everyone's problem and Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens is encouraging everyone to complete the Home Office's survey to share your views, which will help shape Government's strategy.

This call for evidence is seeking to collect views from those with lived experience of, or views on, crimes considered as violence against women and girls. It will run for a period of 10 weeks. This consultation closes on **19 February 2021**.

Please [click here](#) to take the survey.

## Finally

It is important to keep up to date with the latest [information and advice from the government](#).

For quick up to date information regarding SWT services please follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/SWTCouncil/](http://www.facebook.com/SWTCouncil/) or Twitter [@swtcouncil](https://twitter.com/swtcouncil)  
Please see our dedicated [webpage](#) for updates.

If you have concerns about your own health and coronavirus please visit the [NHS](#) website.

**#StayAtHome      #ProtectTheNHS    #SaveLives**

***Attachments:***

*Summary, Schedule & Plan of Proposed Diversion WL26-27 (Old Stowey) PDF*  
*Silent Solution Guide PDF*