

# Somerset West and Taunton

## **Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils**

### **Issue 58 Week ending 16/05/2021**

**#Hands      #Face      #Space and Fresh Air**

#### **SWT Council priorities**

Somerset West and Taunton Council's updated priorities during the Coronavirus pandemic 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. Restrictions are easing across the UK from 17 May 2021**

From **Monday 17 May** the [rules for entering England](#) change depending on where you have travelled from outside the UK. There will be different rules to follow if you're [entering Scotland](#), [entering Wales](#) or [entering Northern Ireland](#). You are strongly discouraged from all unnecessary travel to red or amber list countries or territories, for example for leisure purposes. People who live in England who have had a full vaccine course (2 doses), will be able to [demonstrate their COVID-19 vaccination status](#) for outbound international travel to countries where this is recognised.

In England from 17 May, you can socialise indoors in a group of up to 6 people or 2 households, including for overnight stays. Up to 30 people can meet outside. Pubs, theatres and other venues can open indoors. Hotels, hostels and B&Bs can open for people on holiday. Please [click here](#) for the full guidance on what you can do.

## 2. 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 couple of weeks, which are as follows:

- Wednesday 19 May – **Corporate Scrutiny Committee**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 14 May)
- Thursday 20 May – **Planning Committee**, 1pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 17 May)
- Wednesday 26 May – **Executive**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 21 May)

From 7 May 2021, meetings can no longer be held virtually.

These meetings will take place in the Chamber at Deane House following the Government COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Information on speaking at public meetings is available on the SWT website.

The meetings will still 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.

Contact the Governance Team via [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk).

Please see the dates listed above re deadlines for submitting questions or statements.

## 3. Notice of Vacancies

A notice of vacancy has been published for the North Curry and Ruishton ward at Somerset West and Taunton Council following the resignation of Councillor Philip Stone.

To read the full press release please [click here](#).

A notice of vacancy has been published for the Old Cleeve and District ward at Somerset West and Taunton Council following the resignation of Councillor Peter Pilkington.

To read the full press release please [click here](#)

#### **4. Mental Health Awareness Week**

This year Mental Health Awareness Week is centred around immersing yourself in the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' through reconnecting with nature. The '5 Ways to Wellbeing' are:

- Connect - Connection is about relating to one another and feeling understood. Speak to friends, family, neighbours, colleagues
- Take notice - Take stock of your surroundings, be curious, catch sight of the beautiful. 'Mindfulness' has been shown to be associated with a positive mental state
- Give – Giving, through “presents” or “presence” has been shown to promote wellbeing for all ages
- Be active - Engaging in regular physical activity is known to reduce negative or anxious thoughts across all age groups
- Keep learning - Learning something new can be exciting and is good for your brain.

#### **5. Multi-agency task force deployed to curtail redundancies**

SWT has mobilised a reactive task force to help businesses and employees impacted by successive lockdown restrictions. The support is provided by multiple agencies with the aim of reducing or avoiding redundancies through strategic advice offered to businesses and assistance towards finding alternative employment for employees already facing redundancy.

Specific support for businesses aimed at minimising redundancies and encouraging growth begins with performance analysis, looking at restructuring options, reviewing working practices and identifying skills gaps. This is followed with referrals for financial and legal services, including access to grants and business loans.

Measures like the furlough scheme have helped to protect jobs but as the UK emerges from lockdown, the Economic Development team is mindful that the number of people out of work is expected to grow.

Business that are considering making redundancies may not think to contact their Local Authority in the first instance, so it is vital they are aware that SWT and its partners can provide a tailored package of support free of charge. Establishing contact early will ensure the best possible outcome for businesses and their staff.

[Click here](#) to read the full press release and request a resource pack.

#### **6. Debt Advice - Breathing Space**

Breathing Space is a government initiative that came into force on 4 May 2021. It aims to provide people struggling with debt (and wider vulnerabilities) a period of protection from debt collection activities, temporarily freezing interest, fees, and enforcement, pausing contact from creditors (in relation to eligible debts), preventing seizure and sale of goods, and preventing some third party deductions. The scheme aims to help people in problem debt to better manage

their finances, seek professional debt advice and reach long term sustainable solutions.

Please [click here](#) for more information about managing debt.

## **7. SWT Housing – Housing Repairs Update**

SWT's priority is to keep our residents and staff safe. During the COVID-19 period, we have not been able to complete all reported non-emergency housing repairs. As we come out of lockdown, please continue to bear with us as we catch up. The SWT repairs team will be working alongside M D Group (an established repairs contractor), to progress outstanding works as quickly as possible. If a tenant has raised a housing repair with SWT during COVID-19, M D Group will call them directly to book a convenient time to complete the repair.

Rest assured, staff from M D Group will arrive in a branded vehicle and will introduce themselves, showing ID when they arrive at the property. If the tenant has any doubts as to who is visiting their home, please contact SWT before granting them access. M D Group will be happy to wait whilst the tenant confirms with our contact centre that they are working on our behalf. Please call **0300 304 8000** if you are concerned.

## **8. Group exercise set to return to leisure centres**

Leisure centres in Taunton and Wellington are set to re-launch group exercise classes in what has been called "a huge boost" for the mental health of the community.

Blackbrook Leisure Centre and Spa, Taunton Swimming Pool, Wellsprings Leisure Centre, and Wellington Sports Centre, run by Everyone Active in partnership with Somerset West and Taunton Council, reopened on Monday, April 12 after three months of closure due to the third lockdown. Now group exercise has been given the green light to resume from **Monday 17 May** in the penultimate stage of the Government's four-step roadmap.

Please [click here](#) to read the full SWT press release.

## **9. Reminder- 97 per cent of households respond to Census**

For those who haven't yet completed the simple Census 2021 online form, time is running out. The online questionnaire will close on **17 May 2021**.

Please [click here](#) to read the full SWT press release.

## **10. Reminder- COVID-19 Business Support Grants**

To date, SWT has been able to issue [Restart Grants](#) totalling £9.1m to eligible businesses within the District. The Government requires the Council to undertake certain checks through 3rd Party companies in order to identify any potential fraud or irregularities before making payment. Staff are undertaking manual reviews on a large number of cases prior to approving payments hence the delay in some businesses receiving their grant.

SWT fully appreciate how important these grants are to businesses and are working to provide this much needed support. SWT will always notify the business once a grant has been approved for payment or if it has been declined, together with the reasons.

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

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

### **Reminder- Garden Waste Collections**

Subscriptions for garden waste collections 2021-22 will run from **10 May 2021**. SWT will no longer send a subscription sticker. Subscription details will be held electronically and loaded onto collection crews in-cab devices. It is therefore important that the subscription address details are correct. Once payment is received, the subscription will be active from the next working day. Collections will only be made from 2021-22 subscribers using bins with lids closed or in paid-for garden waste bags.

You can check your [collection day](#) online at Somerset Waste Partnership's website.

For more information on kerbside services, recycling sites, and on COVID-19 and waste, visit: [somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk), sign up for the SWP e-newsletter or follow @somersetwaste on Facebook or Twitter.

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

### **Somerset County Council (SCC)**

#### **SCC Highway Maintenance Update**

The long dry spell has well and truly ended, and we are now into a damp period, with frequent, sometime heavy showers. Between 4pm on Wednesday 12 May and 4pm on Thursday 13 May, 43mm of rain fell on Taunton - more than the whole of April! There were numerous localised flooding issues across Somerset West and Taunton but no major highway problems.

The rural verge cutting programme enters its second week and the central reservations of the dual carriageways have been cut. SCC Highways are now continuing with the verges on the outsides of the "A" and "B" Class networks.

The Somerset Rivers Authority / SCC Highways' joint venture to reduce the risk and impacts of flooding in Kingston St Mary by improving the drainage on Lodes Lane has now been completed and performed well during its first real test on 12/13 May. The carriageway resurfacing of the upper end of Irnham Road, Minehead has been completed. Also, completed is drainage work in Parklands Road, Wellington.

In **Minehead** the installation of the new puffin crossing on the **A39 Bircham Road**, outside **West Somerset College**, continues. Temporary traffic signals will control traffic during this operation.

New schemes for the week of **17 – 21 May** are:

- Drainage works on **Millbridge Road, Minehead** (temporary road closure)
- Drainage works on **Mill Lane, Exebridge** (temporary road closure)
- Carriageway resurfacing (**Slade Lane, Nettlecombe** (temporary road closure)
- Drainage works in **Ash Priors village**, near the church (temporary road closure)
- Carriageway patching on **School Road, Monkton Heathfield** (temporary road closure)

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

### **Reminder- Environmental Maintenance, Verge Maintenance**

SCC Highway's "Environmental Maintenance, Verge Maintenance Sheet 2021" has been attached to this newsletter and this document contains more information about grass cutting, hedge trimming, weed killing and environmental conservation.

### **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.](#)

## **Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP)**

### **Applications open for Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

From July, Somerset County Council (SCC) and Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership (SASP) will once again join forces to deliver healthy food alongside sport and physical activity, under the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF).

The programme is open to children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals and aims to tackle the triple inequalities of holiday hunger, physical inactivity and social isolation.

Thanks to funding by the Department for Education, which continues this initiative across England in 2021, existing or prospective organisers of holiday activity programmes can now access this funding to deliver daily programmes for young people. In Somerset, the HAF programme will look to offer 5000 free activity places during the summer, for a four-week period. Programmes can be led by a range of organisations from public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

Grant applications for summer delivery open on 10 May, and close on **Friday 22 May**. SASP look forward to receiving some exciting and innovative proposals for the expanded delivery of this much needed scheme. [Click here](#) for more information and how to apply.

## **Somerset Community Foundation (SCF)**

### **Coronavirus Impact Report**

When COVID-19 struck it was evident there were going to be a great many people and organisations very adversely affected by the pandemic. Somerset Community Foundation's (SCF) Somerset Coronavirus Appeal was an excellent response to this increased need.

SCF have produced a Coronavirus Impact Report highlighting the work that has taken place in the past year and how the Voluntary and Community Sector has played a huge role in supporting local communities.

Please [click here](#) to access this publication.

## **Exmoor National Park (ENP)**

### **Exford at heart of new “Dark Skies Hub” for Exmoor**

The central Exmoor village of Exford is hosting the National Park's very first 'Dark Sky Discovery Hub', whilst nearby work has started on a new Dark Sky Discovery Trail.

Following a successful grant application to the Exmoor National Park Authority, local businesses are collaborating to create a focal point for visitors interested in experiencing the area's incredibly dark skies. Together they will be hosting regular guided stargazing sessions and expert talks throughout the year, along with advice and an array of star charts, books and guides.

Meanwhile signage for a new Dark Sky Discovery Trail due to launch this summer has begun to be installed near Exford. Once finished the 2-mile way-marked route will take visitors on a mini night time adventure out over open moorland.

[Click here](#) to find out more about the Dark Skies Initiative and see the range of activities being planned.

## **Forestry England**

### **Mindful ways to move in the forest**

It is Mental Health Awareness Week and this year's theme is one that is close to our hearts... 'Nature'. 50% of UK adults who have experienced stress because of the pandemic said visiting green spaces such as parks, helped them cope. Nature connection is central to our psychological and emotional health. Actions as simple as touching the bark of a tree or listening to birdsong can make a real difference.

Join Forestry England to experience nature; share nature and talk about nature this week through the five ways to wellbeing.

Please [click here](#) for mindful ways to move in the forest.

## **Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Reminder- Spring 2021 Newsletter**

The latest newsletter containing articles on conservation, fundraising and competitions is now available. To view the online magazine please [click here](#).

## **Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS) Short Survey**

Do you live in Devon or Somerset?

What are the risks in your area?

How can Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service make you feel safer?

Take part in DSFRS's [short survey](#) to help them shape the next five years. Know someone who is not online and who would like to get involved? Ask them to call **01392 261287** – DSFRS would like to hear from them too.

## **Maritime and Coastguard Agency Incident update**

Please don't get involved in in pranks for social media involving swimming and alcohol. For a few seconds on social media, you risk losing your life. Every year, the Coastguard deals with fatal incidents, where alcohol is a causal factor. Please don't drink and drown.

Earlier this week a girl and boy were recovered from the water at Alfred Dock, Seacombe; the girl, a non-swimmer, had gone into the water with a bottle of alcohol. The boy intended to swim out to her, drink the bottle, and then attempt to rescue her. The prank was being filmed by another friend for social media.

As the prank started to go horribly wrong, the Police received a 999 call. The police then contacted the Coastguard who sent the New Brighton and Crosby Coastguard Rescue Teams and the New Brighton RNLI Inshore Lifeboat. Mersey Fire and Rescue, Mersey Police and the North West Ambulance Service also attended. The male self-recovered and Police threw a line to the female and recovered her from the water.

Please [click here](#) for more updates for news from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

## **HM Coastguard Watchet Take care on the coastline**

Stay aware, stay back, stay safe. Slips, trips and falls take split seconds and happen shockingly fast on and around cliffs. Don't let it happen to you!

- Avoid that 'selfie' – it's not worth risking your life for a picture
- Mobile phone: make sure it's fully charged
- Cliffs along the UK coastline are continually eroding, with pieces falling from them that can be just a few small rocks or as large as a car.
- Make sure you're fully equipped and wearing appropriate clothes for walking at the coast

- Dogs: keep them on leads. If they slip or fall, don't compound the danger by trying to rescue them, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard
- At the bottom of a cliff, don't stand any closer than the height of the cliff. That means that if the cliff is 25 metres high, don't go closer than 25 metres
- Stick to the designated paths and follow all safety warnings
- Climbing: Don't risk that shortcut and only climb up or down cliffs if you are properly equipped and trained

If you see anyone in difficulties around the coast, always call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. They are on call 24/7.

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

### **Step up Somerset**

#### **Aged 15-18 and unsure what career to path to take?**

Making career decisions can be intimidating and challenging, but there are lots of people and resources to help you. Get help transitioning from education to work with Step up Somerset. Please [click here](#) for further information.

### **Somerset West and Taunton (SWT) Employment Hubs**

#### **Hinkley Point C Virtual Drop-In**

Somerset West and Taunton (SWT) are teaming up with Under Construction Sedgemoor for the next virtual Drop-In which will be taking place on **Wednesday 26 May between 10.30am – 11.30am**

This is a free event but you must [register for a ticket](#).

After a quick introduction from the Under Construction team and SWT's Community Employment Hub leads, the HPC Jobs Service will be starting with a short presentation providing an overview of the HPC project and how people can get involved.

After the presentation there will be a Q&A session, for those participants needing more information and an opportunity for a 1:1 from the HPC Jobs Service in a private breakout room.

Once registered, links to join the Microsoft Teams Event will be sent out a couple days ahead of the Virtual Drop-In along with information and guidance.

For more information please contact:

Sedgemoor area: [Outreach@Sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:Outreach@Sedgemoor.gov.uk)

Somerset West and Taunton area:

[employmentsupport@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsupport@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

#### **Need help with getting back into employment?**

Newly unemployed or out of work for a while? At risk of redundancy? Looking for new skills, career progression or starting your own business?

The Employment Hubs focus on offering one to one practical support such as CV writing, searching and applying for work, how to deal with online application forms, help with interviews and signposting to other agencies for further help and support.

For support, a chat and a virtual cup of tea, please [click here](#) or you can email: [employmentsupport@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsupport@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk).

You can also find out more information on the [SWT website](#).

## **Community Council for Somerset (CCS) Meetings and AGMS for Community Buildings**

Is your AGM on the horizon? Do you know how to run your general meetings and annual general meetings? Could you do with some support or advice?

Discussing the practical aspects of committee meetings, such how to get the most done in a short space of time, conduct of trustees and keeping order. The CCS' online webinar will also consider the AGM, rules and regulations, voting procedures and how to get the public to attend.

[Book your space](#) on the online webinar - **Tuesday 18 May, 10am - 12pm.**

## **Young Somerset Somerset Big Tent Festival (for professionals)**

Somerset Big Tent is a Voluntary Community Social Enterprise alliance helping children and young people build their wellbeing, facilitated by Young Somerset.

An online event is being held on **Thursday 27 May at 2pm – 5pm.**

This event is aimed at professionals and is open for anyone to attend. [Click here](#) to book a place.

From this event you can expect to find out more about the Somerset Big Tent Alliance and its journey to support children and young people's wellbeing in Somerset. You will gain knowledge and have an opportunity to ask questions from leading experts in the field of Children and Young People's Wellbeing.

Young Somerset are also running an evening event which will be aimed at young people, if you are interested in this you can [book on here](#).

[Click here](#) to find out more about the work of the Somerset Big Tent.

## **Help and support for businesses affected by COVID-19**

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has made available webinars and videos about the support available to businesses to help them deal with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

HMRC cover the following government schemes:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Job Retention Scheme
- Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)
- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Rebate Scheme

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

## Health and Welfare

### Brace Dementia Research

#### Dementia Action Week 2021

Dementia Action Week is taking place **Monday 17 May - Sunday 23 May**

Brace Dementia Research would like to invite you to take action to help defeat dementia by:

- Attending one of our [online information events](#)
- Following BRACE on social media, such as [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), sharing and liking posts to help raise awareness
- [Celebrate with a Facebook Fundraiser](#)
- Sign up to a [challenge event](#)
- Leave a [legacy](#) to BRACE
- Sign up to BRACE's [monthly email](#) so you can stay up-to-date with all the news and events
- [Make a one off donation](#) to support dementia research

For more information, please [click here](#).

### People aged 38 or over can now book their COVID-19 vaccination

Everybody in cohorts 1 to 9 has been offered a vaccine, with people aged 38 and over now invited to book their appointments. Use this service to book a Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination or manage your appointments.

#### Who can use this service?

You can only use this service if any of the following apply:

- you are aged 38 or over
- you are at [high risk from coronavirus](#) (clinically extremely vulnerable)
- you have a condition that puts you at higher risk (clinically vulnerable)
- you have a learning disability
- you get a Carer's Allowance, get support following an assessment by your local authority or your GP record shows you are a carer

Please [click here](#) for further information and to book your vaccination.

### People under 40 to be offered alternative to AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

The Government's statement following updated advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) sets out that, as a precaution, it is preferable for people under the age of 40 with no underlying health conditions to be offered an

alternative vaccine to AstraZeneca, where possible once they are eligible, and only if doing so does not cause a substantial delay in accessing a vaccination.

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

### **Lateral Flow Testing Available in Local Pharmacies**

Everyone in England who is not currently displaying symptoms of COVID-19 infection, can access free Lateral Flow tests to enable them to test twice weekly. Test kits can be collected from the following pharmacies and test centres in the SWT district:

- Alcombe Pharmacy, 65 Alcombe Road, **Minehead**, TA24 6BD
- Porlock Pharmacy, High St, **Porlock**, TA24 8PT
- Quantock Pharmacy, 11 Swain Street, **Watchet**, TA23 0AB
- Creech Medical Centre, Hyde Lane, **Taunton**, TA2 5QW
- Staplegrove Pharmacy, Unit 1&2 Livingstone Way, Staplegrove, **Taunton**, TA2 5QW
- Broughton House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, **Taunton**, TA1 2PP
- Jhoots Blackbrook, Blackbrook Medical Centre, Lisieux Way, **Taunton**, TA1 2LB

A full list of participating pharmacies can be found [here](#). If you are unable to get to a pharmacy or test centre to collect a test kit, you can order a home testing kit to be sent to your home [here](#).

If you are taking a Lateral Flow test, please report to your managers how often you are testing.

### **How to do a lateral flow test at home**

Everyone in Somerset over the age of 16 can now get free rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) COVID-19 tests and should be using them twice a week. These tests are important to do regularly because they detect people who are carrying Coronavirus but haven't got any symptoms, so could be spreading it unknowingly. The tests are quick and easy, and the results are usually back within an hour.

Please [click here](#) to view a video that provides a great demonstration of the correct testing technique.

A box contains 7 test packets. You can order one box per household each day. [Please click here to order your rapid lateral flow tests.](#) **Please remember** – if you are taking the tests at home it is very important for you to [log your results here](#). Please make sure that if you are symptomatic in any way take a confirmatory PCR test as quickly as possible.

### **Do you need to book a PCR test?**

Somerset residents are being reminded that they need to book a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive using a 'lateral flow' (rapid) test kit.

While the 'lateral flow' tests are a useful screening tool, the PCR test is considered the 'Gold Standard' and should be taken by anyone who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, including a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell.

You can [book or request a PCR test online](#) or by calling 119.

### **Vaccinated? You still need to take care**

Vaccination is a vital part of moving out of the Coronavirus pandemic, so getting your vaccine when offered is something to celebrate. Although the COVID-19 vaccine gives the best protection against becoming seriously ill if you catch Coronavirus, it's important to remember that it doesn't make you invincible.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective, but it doesn't take full effect immediately. The first dose should give you good protection from three or four weeks after you've had it. But you need to have the two doses to give you longer lasting protection.

Remember, there's a chance you might still get or spread COVID-19 even if you have the vaccine. So, even when you've been vaccinated, don't ditch the soap and fling your mask in the bin – you still need to stick with the important things you've been doing for the past year, like keeping your distance from others, wearing a face covering when required and washing your hands regularly and well.

### **Latest Vaccination data for Somerset**

You can check Somerset's vaccination data on the Coronavirus dashboard. The information provided by the NHS will be added every Friday. Please [click here](#) to view the latest figures relating to doses that have been administered in Somerset. The dashboard provides an overview of Coronavirus cases, a map, the R number and more detailed district-level information.

### **The Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline**

This 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 including vaccinations
- 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 visit [www.corona-helpers.co.uk](http://www.corona-helpers.co.uk)

## **Need to seek help?**

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 are some numbers of organisations that can help:

- 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

**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**

[Somerset COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan Dashboard](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

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

[Public Health England](#)

[NHS – Help and Advice](#)

## **FAQS**

### **Q. What should I do if a member of my household is sick with Coronavirus?**

**A.** The World Health Organisation has made these recommendations for people to follow in the event of a member of your household testing positive for Coronavirus.

#### **ISOLATE THE SICK PERSON**

Prepare a separate room or isolate space and keep distance from others. Keep the room well ventilated and open windows frequently.

#### **REDUCE CONTACT WITH THE VIRUS**

Identify one household member to be the contact person who is not at high risk and has the fewest contacts with people outside. Wear a medical mask if in the same room as the sick person. Use separate dishes, cups, eating utensils and bedding from the sick person. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

#### **TAKE CARE OF THE SICK PERSON**

Monitor the sick person's symptoms regularly. Pay special attention if the person is at high risk of serious illness. Ensure the sick person rests and stays hydrated.

#### **DANGER SIGNS**

Call your healthcare provider immediately if you see any of these danger signs:

- Difficulty breathing
- Confusion
- Loss of speech or mobility
- Chest pain

**Always remember to call 999 in an emergency.**

**Q. I can't go to work because NHS Track and Trace have advised my young child to self-isolate. Is there any financial support available to me?**

**A.** You can apply to Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) for a Track and Trace Support Payment if you are a parent or guardian who can't work because you have to stay at home and look after a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Please [click here](#) for full details of eligibility and how to apply.

The scheme is due to close on **30 June 2021**. You must apply within 42 days of the start of your / your child's self-isolation period. Backdated claims will not apply.

## **Crime / Safeguarding**

### **New Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner elected**

Local people have elected Mark Shelford as the new Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Conservative candidate Mark Shelford won with 161,319 votes (34.4% of the vote) after second preference votes were counted. Mark's priorities include more visible policing, strengthening specialist teams, refocusing the police on fighting crime and increased partnership working with NHS and other agencies.

Please [click here](#) to view the PCC website.

### **Action Fraud**

#### **Doorstep Scams**

Fraudsters may use the fact restrictions are easing as an opportunity to target vulnerable victims and commit doorstep scams. Please [click here](#) to watch Action Fraud's video with Age UK that explains how you can protect yourself.

Remember, always ask for identification before letting anyone you don't know into your house. If in any doubt, ask the person to leave. If you think you've been a victim of fraud, report it to [Action Fraud online](#) or by calling **0300 123 2040**.

### **Reminder- The Crime Prevention Through Sport Fund – Phase 2**

The Crime Prevention Through Sport Fund aims to support projects that use sport and physical activity to reduce violence, crime and anti-social behaviour. This fund is for projects that focus on using activity as a tool to engage and support young people up to the age of 25. More information can be found [here](#).

Deadline for applications is **17 May 2021**.

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

### **National week of action tackling knife crime**

Recently, Avon and Somerset Police took part in Operation Sceptre, a national week of action, with the aim of reducing the number of people carrying knives. The operation, co-ordinated and led by the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC), brings police forces across the country together in a period of intensification to concentrate efforts on enforcement, education and engagement.

82 knife sweeps were carried out by teams across Avon and Somerset with 26 knives taken off the streets through arrest and surrenders. Officers delivered 35 lessons to young people about the dangers of carrying a knife and visited a total of 36 shops to ensure retailers understand the law in respect to the sale of knives to under 18s.

Please [click here](#) to read more about the range of activities A&SP officers carried out during their campaign and their full press release.

### **Road Safety Initiative**

#### **It's time to Raise your Ride!**

Somerset County Council's road safety team, along with Avon and Somerset Police have launched Raise your Ride, an exciting new initiative for motorcyclists. Somerset Road Safety want to raise awareness of advanced riding techniques across the West of England; motorcyclists make up only c. 1-2% of traffic, but they represent c. 21-23% of all road casualties in the UK.

Raise your Ride will be carried out in the form of public events in various locations, delivering the necessary knowledge and theory for attendees who can then apply what they have learned to their commute or their leisure on their bikes.

The next event to sign up for is in **Wellington on Sunday 23 May**.

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

### **BikeRegister**

With over 1 million bikes registered, [BikeRegister](#) is the UK's leading online bicycle identification and registration initiative aiming to reduce cycle theft, identify stolen bikes and assist recoveries.

Registering and marking your bike achieves two major objectives:

- By marking the frame of your bike with a Police Preferred product it will make your bike less attractive as a theft target.
- It assists the Police in quickly tracing the ownership of recovered bikes through the Bikeregister permanent ID mark.

The Bikeregister ownership document is your Log Book and provides proof of ownership for you and any potential buyer. Bikeregister also provides protection for buyers and sellers of second hand bikes as it allows prospective purchases to check the bike's ID mark or frame number on the site to see if it is flagged as stolen.

### **Free BikeRegister Bike Marking event at Wimbleball Lake**

A&SP will be at Wimbleball Lake, Brompton Regis to mark your bikes using BikeRegister, all they need is your bike, your email address and your bike frame number and about 5 minutes of your time. This will be held on **Sunday 30 May 2021 at 11am**. Please [click here](#) to sign up to this event.

Other neighbourhood policing teams will be bike marking in the future. Please keep an eye on the relevant policing Facebook pages detailed below:

- [Minehead and West Somerset Neighbourhood Policing](#)
- [Taunton Neighbourhood Policing](#)
- [Wellington Neighbourhood Policing](#)

### **Finally**

The below link may be useful to you, should there be a requirement to convert files to jpg format: <https://www.adobe.com/uk/acrobat/online/pdf-to-jpg.html>

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.

**#Hands      #Face      #Space and Fresh Air**

***Attachment:***

*Word Doc:    SCC Highways verge information*