

# Somerset West and Taunton

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

### **Issue 60 Week ending 30/05/2021**

**#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. Community Call for Action on Litter**

A staggering three skips have been filled with litter collected from residential streets, highway verges and open spaces across the district in just two months. SWT has been targeting problem areas throughout April and May making sure our streets and open spaces are clean and welcoming for residents and visitors as we come out of lockdown.

A team of three litter pickers have visited around 60 open spaces and estates in Taunton, Wellington and West Somerset so far and will be continuing their rounds over the coming weeks. This is on top of the normal work done by the Council's street cleansing contractor. They have also been busy linking up with the grass cutting teams to litter pick the day before the verges are cut in problem areas such as the main routes into Taunton and Wellington, minimising the amount of rubbish that is shredded.

The Open Spaces team have also been working to remove litter, overgrown vegetation and dead and damaged trees to improve the light which will help maintain the health of the existing tree stock. SWT has also reinstated old paths which have been lost under thick mud over the years, as well as creating mounds which have been sown with wildflower seeds.

If you or a community group are interested in organising a litter pick, please [click here](#) to find out how to get involved.

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

## 2. Restart Grants Scheme Update

Restart grants are available to businesses occupying business rated premises in the non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care or gym sectors. These grants are not loans. They are non-repayable payments of between £2,667 and £18,000 (depending on the rateable value of the business premises concerned).

SWT has contacted businesses who have previously registered to receive COVID-19 business support grants, inviting them to apply for the Restart scheme. Some businesses are yet to take up the offer, therefore if you have received an email from the Council, please respond as soon as possible. The Government has set a final payment deadline of **31 July 2021** for the Restart scheme.

If you have not previously applied for COVID business grant support, but believe you may be eligible, please read the [guidance](#) to check your eligibility. If you believe you fit the eligibility criteria please complete a [Register of Interest form](#). The deadline is **30 June 2021**.

## 3. 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 2 June – **Corporate Scrutiny Committee**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 28 May)
- Thursday 3 June – **Community Scrutiny Committee**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 28 May – due to 31 May being a Bank Holiday)
- Thursday 10 June – **Planning Committee**, 1pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 7 June)

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. As we are very limited to the number of people we can safely get into the Chamber, we are asking people to register if they wish to attend in person.

Information on speaking at public meetings is available on the SWT website. This also gives alternatives to participating without attending in person.

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.

#### **4. Local Government Voter Packs**

SWT is aware of a minor error in the recent voter packs issued with regards to Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset. The independently drafted leaflet accompanying the ballot paper omitted the last two letters of the web address for One Somerset.

Full information on both the options for change for local government in Somerset has been and is still readily available at the official websites, and these have been well publicised in the last six months. The poll will continue so that all Somerset voters have their opportunity to be heard.

Voters can find information on the options for change in local government in Somerset under consideration at [www.onesomerset.org.uk](http://www.onesomerset.org.uk) and [www.strongersomerset.co.uk](http://www.strongersomerset.co.uk)

All votes must be received by **4pm on Friday 4 June**.

#### **5. SWT to extend electric vehicle charging in its car parks**

SWT has entered into a contract with electric vehicle charge point supplier [Swarco eVolt](#), to expand the number of electric vehicle (EV) charge points planned for its car parks.

A number of 22kW fast EV charge points are due to be installed in the coming months in Minehead, Porlock, Taunton, Watchet, Wellington, Williton and Wiveliscombe. The project supplements the work already underway to install charging points at Deane House and Blackbrook Sports Centre in Taunton, Exmoor House in Dulverton, and Alexandra Road in Minehead.

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

## 6. East Reach in Taunton reopened

Taunton's East Street was reopened to allow two way traffic on Monday 24 May. This is after nearly a year of the road serving as a pedestrianised zone as part of a Government initiative to support social distancing.

## 7. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

All collections, including kerbside services in the week of the Spring Bank Holiday on **Monday 31 May** will be one day later than usual. Friday's pick up will be collected on **Saturday 5 June**.

Recycle sites are unchanged:

- Minehead, Taunton and Wellington
- All 16 sites will open 9am-4pm on Saturday and **Sunday 29 May and 30 May**.
- Monday **31 May**, 12 sites will open and will include: Minehead, Taunton and Williton.

Residents are urged to help crews work more efficiently to complete rounds:

- Park carefully during holiday times when many are at home so waste trucks – and fire engines and ambulances – can get through.
- Sort materials without using carrier bags in recycling containers.
- Get containers out by 7am on their one-day-later collection day and leave them out late so crews can reach as many homes as possible.

To keep in touch with Somerset waste news, sign up for the SORTED! e-newsletter or follow @somersetwaste on Facebook or Twitter.

### Garden Waste Collections

All restarted and new subscriptions will get 25 fortnightly collections over 12 months (no collection Christmas/New Year).

For all garden waste tasks, go online to the "Garden Waste Bin and Sacks" tab on the My Waste Services menu at [somersetwaste.gov.uk](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk).

NB: Remember to put a gap in postcode (AB1 2CD).

For more information on kerbside services, recycling sites, and on COVID-19 and waste, visit: [somersetwaste.gov.uk](https://www.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

Finally, the weather seems to have settled down and we have a good forecast for the next week or so. Recent works completed are: carriageway resurfacing on Mill Lane, Exebridge; drainage works on Peacehay Lane, Sampford Arundel; drainage works in

Bagley Road, Wellington; carriageway resurfacing on Peacehay Lane, Sampford Arundel; and drainage improvements on the A396 between Dunster and Timberscombe.

New schemes for the short week of 1 – 4 June are:

- Carriageway resurfacing on **Kingdom Lane, Norton Fitzwarren** (temporary road closure on 1 June)
- Jetting of highway drainage systems and follow-up cctv surveys at a number of locations. The highest profile of these will be on **A3065 Silk Mills Road, Bishops Hull**, where temporary traffic signals will be deployed to cover the operation between 9.30am and 3.30pm

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.

The rural verge cutting programme on the “A” and “B” Class network is now approaching completion. SCC Highways will then move on to the “C” and “D” Class network in early June.

Looking to the forward works programme, the carriageway resurfacing of **A358 Williton Road, Combe Florey**, has been rescheduled for 14 – 18 June (5 days) and 21 – 25 June (5 days). During this two-week period, the **A358 will be closed to through traffic between Williton and Bishops Lydeard** between 9.30am and 3.30pm each day, Monday to Friday.

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- End date amended - Emergency One Way Order Maidenbrook Lane, Taunton**

Please be aware that SCC Highways have received notification of an emergency one way order at Maidenbrook Lane, Taunton, which commenced on **17 May 2021 and is expected to last until 6 June 2021** (24hrs). Traffic will travel in a southwards direction.

These works are for CJL Construction Ltd to carry out all construction and associated works in connection with the Western Relief Road.

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

### **Reminder- Temporary Road Closure: Galmington Road, Taunton**

Somerset County Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, have made an Order prohibiting all traffic from proceeding along Galmington Road for a distance of 502m. This Order will enable Western Power Distribution to replace high voltage cable that feeds Musgrove Park Hospital.

Please [click here](#) to view the map of the above road closure; with further information of the alternative route.

The order becomes effective on 27 May 2021 and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to commence on **1 June 2021 until 2 July 2021 between the hours of 12 midnight to 11.59pm for a total of 32 days.**

For information about the works being carried out please contact Western Power Distribution on **01823 348592** quoting the reference number ttro448106.

### **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.](#)

### **Somersetworks Summer Holiday Activity Programme**

Year 11 leavers are being given the opportunity to take part in some interesting, informative and supportive events this summer. There are a mixture of virtual and face-to-face events to choose from, taking place from June until August in different locations across Somerset. All of the events are free and at many, free food will be provided. Please [click here](#) for further information and to register to access the Summer Programme virtual platform.

### **Lendology CIC**

#### **Home Improvement Loans**

As we are gradually coming out of the pandemic and meeting up with friends and family, we may find that households could be struggling financially. With so many hours spent at home, it is easy to spot all those 'little' jobs that need doing around the house, but money could be tight. That is where Lendology and Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) could help. Lendology CIC provide low interest loans to help homeowners to undertake essential repairs to their home.

Whilst the summer is in front of us, it pays to plan ahead. Keeping homes safe, warm and ready for the colder months is key to good health across SWT. A loan from Lendology can ensure homes are fully prepared cold and wet weather – be it repairing a leaky roof, funding an efficient heating system, fitting good insulation to keep bills down, or ensuring electrics are safe and up-to-date. There are a variety of home repairs and improvements covered under the scheme.

If you need to repair your home, it couldn't be simpler to apply for a home improvement loan. Just contact the team at Lendology direct on **01823 461099** or visit their website [www.lendology.org.uk](http://www.lendology.org.uk).

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

### **Active Partnerships commitment to tackling racism and racial inequality**

Active Partnerships are committed to being anti-racist organisations and proactively tackling the racial inequalities that prevent or discourage people from leading active lives and enjoying the benefits of sport and physical activity, whether as participants, volunteers or by working in the sector.

Tackling inequalities has always been at the heart of the work of Active Partnerships. But when the shocking death of George Floyd caught on video in the US last summer sparked protests and a national debate, SASP recognised they must do much more to address racism and racial inequalities within sport and physical activity. Please [click here](#) for further information.

## **Minehead Coastal Development Trust (MCDT)**

### **Community Survey Launched**

The MCDT is working with local partners to shape a fresh plan for People and Place that will drive a programme of activity (subject to funding) to enhance and grow the economic and social wellbeing of Minehead.

They are seeking your views and contributions via a short survey, which will close on the **10 June**. Please [click here](#) to take part.

## **The Woodland Trust**

### **Free Tree Packs**

The Woodland Trust want to make sure everyone in the UK has the chance to plant a tree. So they are giving away thousands of free trees to schools and communities! Please [click here](#) to apply for a free tree pack for delivery in November 2021 and help create a green oasis in your local area.

Don't have a lot of space? The Woodland Trust have hedge packs too, to provide much-needed habitats for wildlife. They are able to supply these trees for free due to generous funding from their partners.

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

### **Free Home Safety Checks**

People with dementia are more likely to have a fire and less likely to be able to escape. DSFRS offer free home safety visits to residents of Devon and Somerset. They provide practical fire safety advice and install free specialist equipment to keep you and your family members safe in their homes.

If you know someone who would benefit, take action now and book a home safety visit today. To request a free home safety visit, please call **0800 05 02 999** or click here to complete the online [referral](#) form. The form takes just three minutes to complete.

## **Reminder- 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**

### **Stay Safe when visiting the Coastline**

A new [RNLI](#) survey has revealed that 30 million of us plan to visit our UK coasts this summer. In a normal year, more than half of those who lose their life accidentally at the coast, didn't even plan to enter the water.

So, to help keep yourself and your family safe, The Maritime and Coastguard Agency are launching a joint beach safety campaign in partnership with the [RNLI](#), ahead of the Bank Holiday Weekend and Half Term break.

If you're heading to the beach this summer, make it a trip to remember for all the right reasons:

- Visit a lifeguarded beach
- Swim between the red and yellow flags
- If you get in trouble in the water [#FloatToLive](#)
- If you or someone else is in trouble, always call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

Follow the joint safety advice [bit.ly/3yBrmCa](https://bit.ly/3yBrmCa)

## **HM Coastguard Watchet Update**

### **Ordnance found at Kilve Beach**

The Coastguard Team was tasked this week to Kilve Beach following a report of a visiting school pupil finding a suspected piece of military ordnance.

On arrival at the scene the Coastguard was briefed by the Police on scene that the child had carried the item off the beach and it was now on the grass by the beach access next to the river.

It did not take long to confirm that the item was indeed ex World War II ordnance, probably from the wartime tank firing range that used to be in the fields between Kilve and Lilstock.

Photos were taken of the item and forwarded to the Royal Navy Fleet Diving Unit who often deal with found ordnance on our coastline. They confirmed they would be attending to deal and requested a minimum 50m cordon around the item until their arrival. The Coastguard then assisted the Police in placing the cordon and clearing the beach of visitors. As the item was no longer on the beach, command was returned to the Police and the Coastguard left the scene.

It is important to remind anyone who visits the beaches and shoreline not to pick up items that you don't recognise, especially where it is suspected to be a bomb. Action to take is:-

- leave in situ,
- record the location with a grid reference or using a location app such as [what3words](#) so it can be found again,
- report to the Coastguard on 999.

Those with children should remind them before visiting the beach not to pick up anything suspicious, especially on Kilve and Lilstock beaches where there is not only an active firing range out at sea, but also the historic ranges on the cliff tops.

To view the photographs and read the full report please [click here](#).

Remember in any coastal emergency dial 999 and ask for the coastguard.

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

### **Skill Up Somerset**

#### **Virtual Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair**

**Wednesday 2 June 2021**

Amazing exhibitors and some of the biggest employers in the region will be promoting their vacancies at this virtual apprenticeship and jobs fair.

Visit virtual exhibitor stands and find out about the different Apprenticeships and current job opportunities available and apply for vacancies online. Speak to employers via live chat about what they can offer and get advice on your next steps.

Please [click here](#) to register for the event.

### **Community Council for Somerset (CCS)**

#### **National Bike Week**

**30 May – 5 June is Bike Week!**

Bike Week, delivered [by Cycling UK](#), is an annual celebration to showcase cycling and how good it is for our health and the planet! Cycling is a great solution to various challenges we face such as air pollution, obesity, and traffic congestion.

- Cycling to work can mean you have a 45% lower risk of developing cancer, and a 46% lower risk of cardiovascular disease.
- If you cycle regularly in adulthood, you will enjoy a level of fitness equivalent to someone 10 years younger.

For more information [read here](#).

## **Community Buildings Meet up and Meet the Funder**

An informal online networking event will be held on **Wednesday, 9 June 2021 10am – 11.30am**. This session is aimed at community building trustees in Somerset. This is an opportunity to get together and to share ideas, experiences or concerns.

Liz Rabone, Somerset Funding Officer for the National Lottery Community Fund, will be providing an update on funding priorities and answering any questions you may have about applying to this fund.

Please [click here](#) to book your place at the event. Spaces are limited so book early (max. of two places per hall). This is a free event but registration is needed. The link will be sent to you after booking to join the Zoom webinar.

## **Spark Somerset**

**Volunteers urgently needed to support the NHS vaccination centre at Taunton Racecourse.**

Help get life back to normal. Become a volunteer marshall for the Somerset COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, and be part of an amazing team working to protect our community.

Local charity, Spark Somerset, and the Somerset NHS are calling on members of the public to support COVID-19 vaccinations at Taunton Racecourse. An amazing team of volunteers have been helping since January and as the lockdown restrictions have eased many volunteers have had to return to work.

More volunteers are now urgently needed to assist with welcoming and directing people attending their appointments for vaccination.

Steward volunteers provide crucial support to the programme by marshalling in car parks and guiding people on site, ensuring social distancing is followed, and identifying people who need additional support. In a recent survey over 97% of those who volunteered said they enjoyed the experience, and say the team working and sense of contribution to the overall effort to beat COVID-19 is very rewarding.

Find more information and [sign up here](#) on Spark a Change, Somerset's online volunteering platform or email [volunteer@sparksomerset.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@sparksomerset.org.uk).

## **Grants of up to £15,000 available to support projects to improve mental health and wellbeing in Somerset**

Open Mental Health Community Grants are being delivered by the Somerset Mental Health Alliance, which is a group of charities working alongside the NHS to ensure that people in Somerset get the support they need, when they need it. They deliver the Open Mental Health service, and are looking to expand the provision of support in Somerset by inviting local organisations to apply for a grant of up to £15,000.

Applications for grants of over £2,000 will be reviewed and awarded at regular intervals. The next deadline date for applications to be submitted is **Monday 14 June 2021**.

To find out more about this service and how to apply, please [click here](#).

## **Young Somerset**

### **Webinar – reflection of Mental Health Awareness Week**

Two Wellbeing Practitioners - Ed & Laura - talk and reflect on Mental Health Awareness Week 2021 which was last week.

Please [click here](#) to watch a replay of the webinar. There's some information on why nature can be useful and some ideas that Ed and Laura make use of themselves as well as things that you can do for yourself and with your children too.

For more information and lots more ideas on things to do, please [click here](#).

### **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**

### **People aged 30 or over can now book their COVID-19 vaccination**

Everybody in cohorts 1 to 9 has been offered a vaccine, with people aged 30 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 30 or over
- you'll turn 30 before 1 July 2021
- 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.

## **When you let friends in, let the fresh air in too**

As restrictions ease and people are now mixing more indoors, it's important to keep the fresh air flowing to help reduce risk.

Fresh air helps disperse infected COVID-19 droplets in the air that may carry the virus, helping prevent the spread of the disease. The public are being encouraged to open windows when socialising at home and businesses are asked to ensure adequate ventilation at indoor venues. Please [click here](#) for further information.

## **Reminder- 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 pharmacies and test centres in the SWT district.

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.

## **Order your lateral flow tests online**

You can order one box of lateral flow tests per household each day. A box contains 7 test packets. [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 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test as quickly as possible.

## **Your step-by-step guide for COVID-19 self-testing**

Many people with COVID-19 have mild, or even no symptoms, but can still spread the virus. With regular self-testing we can slow the spread and help protect the most vulnerable in our families and communities

Please [click here](#) for a step by step guide on how to use your lateral flow tests at home. You will also find a hard copy of the guide attached to this newsletter. You can also [click here](#) to view a video that provides a great demonstration of the correct testing technique.

## **More help in Somerset for COVID-19 testing**

SCC is receiving funding for a 12-week pilot programme which started on 26 May targeting hard-to-reach communities to provide translated support and information to highlight the importance of community testing. As well as testing these groups will be signposted to local support services to enable them to stay home should they need to self-isolate, such as prescription collections, shopping and dog-walking, as well as providing information that is available in their first language.

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

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

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.

## **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>

[Public Health England](#)

[NHS – Help and Advice](#)

## **FAQS**

**Q. I've had 2 COVID-19 vaccinations. I would like to book a holiday abroad. How can I prove my vaccination status?**

**A.** The 'stay in the UK' order was lifted just over a week ago, meaning people can now travel abroad for leisure. But strict border control measures, including testing and quarantine, remain in place.

Different levels of restriction apply to those returning to England from countries based on the traffic light system, which will be regularly reviewed and informed by public health advice. [Click here](#) for further information.

Demonstrating your COVID-19 vaccination status allows you to show others that you've had a full course of the COVID-19 vaccine when travelling abroad to some countries or territories. A full course is currently 2 doses of any approved vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccination status is available to people who live in England and are registered with a GP. You can get your vaccination status in digital or paper format. **Your NHS appointment card from vaccination centres cannot be used to demonstrate your vaccine status.**

You can access your COVID-19 vaccination status through the free [NHS App](#). Proof of your COVID-19 vaccination status will be shown within the NHS App. To access the service, you'll need to register for an [NHS login](#) if you do not have one already. NHS login registrations may take longer than usual when there are high numbers of requests. Access your COVID-19 vaccination status by clicking [here](#).

**Q. Where can I get foreign travel advice that's up to date?**

**A.** Please [click here](#) for advice about travelling abroad, including the latest information on Coronavirus, safety and security, entry requirements and travel warnings. Children cannot get COVID-19 vaccination status, as children are not currently being vaccinated against COVID-19.

If you're travelling abroad, you and any children you're travelling with may need to show proof of a COVID-19 test, with or without a completed vaccination course.

See the [GOV.UK foreign travel advice pages](#) for guidance on the entry requirements of your intended destination country.

## **Crime / Safeguarding**

### **Action Fraud**

#### **Beware of holiday fraud as travel restrictions ease**

Action Fraud, the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime is warning the public to remain vigilant against holiday fraud, as travel restrictions begin to ease. Action Fraud received 1,907 reports of holiday and travel related fraud in 2020/21 financial year – a decrease of over 70 per cent when compared to the previous financial year.

However, although a decline in reporting was predicted due to the fact travel was banned for large periods of the year, losses by victims still totalled £2,205,251 during this time – an average loss of £1,242 per victim. Action Fraud has launched a national awareness campaign to remind the public to think twice before handing over their money and personal information when booking holidays, following the Government's recent announcement on international travel resuming.

Please [click here](#) for further information and to find out tips and advice on how to avoid travel related fraud.

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

### **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

Local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes enable you and your neighbours to come together to have a say in the issues which matter to you in your community.

A&SP have been committed to supporting Neighbourhood Watch throughout the force since its introduction in 1982.

What are the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch?

There are benefits to joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:

- It shows that members of a community are looking out for each other
- It keeps you up-to-date with what is going on in your area
- It can help to prevent and tackle crime in your community
- It may save you money on your home insurance

### **Join your local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

To find out how you can become involved in Neighbourhood Watch, fill A&SP's online [general enquiry form](#).

## Community SpeedWatch

Community SpeedWatch is a partnership between the Community, the Police and Local Authorities. It gives local people the ability to actively get involved in road safety. The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians. This is something we are working with communities to address.

Please [click here](#) to watch the video to find out more about Community SpeedWatch.

## Join Community SpeedWatch

To find out if there is a Community SpeedWatch Scheme in your area, or request to set one up, email [CommunitySpeedWatch@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:CommunitySpeedWatch@avonandsomerset.police.uk).

## Farm Watch

### Rural crimes can be reduced by the use of Watch schemes

By using your knowledge and awareness of what is happening on and around your land, you can help to reduce crime and deter criminals.

Aims of the Farm Watch Scheme:

- To reduce local opportunities for rural crime.
- To reinforce the community spirit so that everyone can contribute towards the protection of their property by mutual co-operation and communication.
- To introduce early warning systems in farming and countryside areas.
- To improve the intelligence flow between the agricultural communities and the police.

## Join the Farm Watch Scheme

To join the Farm Watch Scheme or to find out more information, email [ruralandwildlifeunit@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:ruralandwildlifeunit@avonandsomerset.police.uk).

## Neighbourhood Policing Updates

For regular updates on events/campaigns and what is happening in your area, 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:***

*Step by step guide on how to use your lateral flow tests doc*