

Somerset West and Taunton

Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils

Issue 61 Week ending 06/06/2021

#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. New Mayor of Taunton

Cllr Sue Lees is delighted to have been installed as the new Mayor of Taunton for 2021-2022 alongside the newly appointed Deputy Mayor, Cllr Brenda Weston. One of the first duties the Mayor performed was to give thanks to all the volunteers who have dedicated time and effort throughout an exceptionally difficult year and continue to make a real difference to our local communities.

2. Local poll to close

The local poll on options for change in local government in Somerset closes on **Friday, 4 June 2021 at 5pm.**

[Click here](#) to find out more about the Stronger Somerset proposal and to find out more about the One Somerset proposal, [click here](#).

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:

- Thursday 10 June – **Planning Committee**, 1pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 7 June)
- Monday 14 June – **Audit and Governance Committee**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Wednesday 9 June)
- Wednesday 16 June – **Executive**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 11 June)
- Monday 21 June – **Licensing Committee**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Wednesday 16 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.

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

4. Launch Minehead e-scooter trial goes live 5 June 2021

Minehead's e-scooter trial will be going live on Saturday 5 June providing a zero carbon green alternative to get around the town for both residents and visitors to the area.

SWT was given approval from the Department for Transport (DfT) to extend the e-scooter trial into Minehead in line with its commitment to working towards achieving carbon neutrality and climate resilience by 2030. The Council previously appointed Zipp Mobility to run the Taunton trial which went live at the end of October 2020 creating new jobs within the district, including an area-wide operations manager based at the Zipp warehouse in Taunton.

The Zipp operations team will be on Warren Road, Minehead (opposite the junction with Seaward Way) from 12pm until 4pm this **Saturday, 5 June**. They will be on hand to speak to interested users all about the trial including how to register and use an e-scooter for the first time. They will also be giving away free safety helmets for anyone who comes by to say hello.

The DfT has stipulated that only the rental e-scooters involved in the trials can be used in public areas. The trial will start gradually with 25 e-scooters and can scale up based on demand. The e-scooters will operate from 6.30am until 10.30pm, seven days a week, and can only be used by people over 16 with a provisional or full driving licence.

[Click here](#) to read the full press release.

5. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Improving Broadband for Very Hard to Reach Premises

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport currently has an open call for evidence on improving broadband for very hard to reach areas. They would like to receive information on both the known benefits of broadband services and the current barriers to deployment and take-up.

Here is the link to the consultation - [Improving broadband for Very Hard to Reach premises - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) - please complete and share as appropriate.

This consultation closes at 11.45pm on 11 June 2021.

6. Somerset West Lottery

The Somerset West Lottery is a local lottery run by SWT. The lottery offers registered good causes the opportunity to raise income for their organisation from the sale of tickets to supporters and the wider public.

Another lucky Taunton resident matched four numbers and won £250 in the Saturday 29 May Somerset West Lottery prize draw.

Everyone who signs up to purchase one or more tickets between 03 May and **26 June 2021** will be in with the chance to win a year's supply of fresh fruit and vegetables delivered weekly to the doorstep of each of three lucky winners.

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 draw.

[Click here](#) to visit the website and find out more information.

7. Reminder- 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.

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.

8. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

Park Smart

Parked at home? If emergency service crews cannot get through to save your life ... your rubbish and recycling could be delayed. SWP ask you to park smart. Please.

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

- 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.

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, 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

We have just had the hottest two days of 2021 so far (including a Bank Holiday Monday!) They were not, however, hot enough or last long enough to cause SCC any highway problems of the sort that were experienced last summer.

Recent works completed are: carriageway resurfacing on Kingdom Lane, Norton Fitzwarren; and drainage work at A38 Exeter Road, Whiteball near Wellington.

New schemes for the week of 7 – 11 June are:

- carriageway patching on the **B3224** along the Brendon Hills **between Beulah Chapel and Heathpoult Cross, Withiel Flory** (temporary road closure);
- drainage work at **Wiveliscombe Road, Milverton** (temporary traffic signals);
- and drainage work at **Gerbstone Lane, West Buckland** (temporary road closure)

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 or follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter.

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

Please be aware that SCC Highways have received notification of a continuation of works to the emergency one way order at Maidenbrook Lane, Taunton.

This commenced on **17 May 2021 and is now expected to continue until 27 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 follow the link to view the additional 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

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.

Sharing is caring during Child Safety Week

Parents, carers and grandparents are urged to 'share because you care' during Child Safety Week (Monday 7 to Sunday 13 June) and beyond. Over 1000 Somerset children are admitted to hospital due to preventable incidents, occurring mainly in their own homes, every year. such as falls, burns and scolds and poisoning through eating inedible items – with almost half these injuries (46%) a result of falls, down the stairs, onto hard things, off high surfaces and out of windows. Sharing knowledge about home safety and sources of information supports the prevention of risks in the home – and while out and about.

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

BREXIT

EU Settlement Scheme

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](#).

EU Settlement Scheme Deadline – have all your staff and service users applied?

Most EU citizens living in the UK (as well as those from the EEA and Switzerland) need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to gain Settled Status so they can continue to live and work in the UK after **30 June 2021**. The pandemic is having an impact on application times to the EU Settlement Scheme, so it's vital that people apply as soon as possible.

You can apply for settled status at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

You should consider the impact on your organisation if staff do not have Settled Status, as they will not be able to work after **June 2021**. You can also play an important role by sign posting your service users to the scheme, as some people and children in our community may not be aware of the need to apply or may need help.

Local charity **Diversity Voice**, in partnership with SCC are working with the Home Office to provide help from regulated advisors for those who need it, including vulnerable people and employers. They can provide posters, hand-outs for service users and 1:1 help for applicants in any language. **There's no charge for this service.** Contact euss@diversityvoice.org.uk, **0300 075 0105**.

Skill Up Somerset

Business Apprenticeship Scheme

Government Incentive - £3,000 for Businesses offering Apprenticeship Opportunities

The UK Government announced in the recent budget that they are extending and increasing the payments made to employers who hire new apprentices. Employers in England who hire a new apprentice between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021 will receive £3,000 per new hire, compared with £1,500 per new apprentice hire (or £2,000 for those aged 24 and under) under the previous scheme. This is in addition to the existing £1,000 payment the Government provides for all new 16 to 18 year old apprentices and those aged under 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan, where that applies.

To find out more about Apprenticeships and the incentives available please refer to the [Skill Up Somerset website](#).

Somerset Business Education Partnership

Somerset Education Business Partnership connects employers with education providers so that young people are aware of local career opportunities and develop the skills needed to thrive at work.

Research has shown that young people who have contact with employers whilst at school are significantly less likely to become NEET - not in education, employment or training - and can expect to earn more money once they are in full-time employment.

To find out more please visit the [Somerset Business Education Partnership website](#).

Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP)

Bike Month

Bike Month has arrived and SASP will be sharing a series of cycling-themed initiatives in the coming weeks to get you on your bike. Stay tuned at www.sasp.co.uk to keep up to date with news.

The Woodland Trust

REMINDER- 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)

Road Safety Campaigns

Keeping you safe on the county's roads is a challenge for the Fire Service. Devon and Somerset has one of the largest networks of rural roads in the UK and these are used by thousands of visitors every year, as well as our resident communities.

Attending road traffic collisions accounts for 7% of the work Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS) undertakes. Not only do they manage incidents when they happen, but they pride themselves on being at the forefront of road safety campaigning, in an effort to prevent Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), from happening in the first place.

The "fatal four" reasons for RTCs are:

- Speeding
- Mobile Phones
- Intoxication (Drink and Drugs)
- Seatbelts

[Click here](#) to find a list of the most up-to-date campaigns, partnerships and engagement, including websites, videos and leaflets.

Fire Safety Arrangements

People are out and about enjoying everything the South West has to offer. For holiday accommodation owners (including informal lets), please make sure you have reviewed your fire safety arrangements.

The DSFRS will be providing support for small premises, as well as carrying out some sample inspections over the next few months to help make everyone safer. Please [click here](#) for support and tools as well as access to advice.

HM Coastguard Watchet Update

The HM Coastguard team were recently tasked to a report of a possible Hot Air Balloon in distress. An informant reported seeing a balloon dropping in height down into the sea between Hinkley Point C nuclear power station and Kilve Beach.

Due to the seriousness of the report and potential for lives in immediate danger; the Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at Milford Haven tasked immediately the RNLi Lifeboats at Burnham-on-Sea and the Coastguard Rescue Helicopter from St Athan to attend.

Whilst the helicopter began a shoreline search from the Hinkley Point end, the Coastguard began a visual search from the cliff tops between Kilve and the Lilstock Range Tower, when they sighted the reflection of something in the water close to the shoreline.

This was communicated to the helicopter and lifeboat which were closing in on the area, and was soon confirmed by the helicopter as being the potential target, but instead of being a hot air balloon was a series of birthday helium balloons. These balloons were recovered by the Lifeboat crew to ensure no further reports, whilst the team undertook a continued visual search from the cliff tops using the height advantage.

This was a call with good intent, as from a distance the informant could easily have thought they had seen a hot air balloon falling from the sky. The informant did exactly the right thing as within seconds of calling 999 and asking for the coastguard: Rescue teams, lifeboats and a helicopter were being despatched to the area.

Remember in a coastal emergency to dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT)

Critical Incident declared

The Ambulance Service has declared a critical incident due to extreme pressures on the service.

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT) is expecting a recent demand surge to continue – and is asking people to ‘make the right call’.

SWASFT has dealt with almost 300 additional emergency incidents a day since the government eased lockdown restrictions to allow the reopening of outdoor hospitality and retail on 12 April and indoor hospitality on 17 May.

It responded to an average of 2,913 incidents a day in the week before the bank holiday weekend, compared with 2,816 incidents a day between 12 April and 16 May, and 2,627 incidents a day before any of those changes took effect. As a result, some patients may wait longer for an ambulance while others could be advised to access alternative services if their call is not life-threatening.

Only call 999 in a genuine, life-threatening emergency so that an ambulance can help those most in need. If you have a non-life-threatening but urgent medical problem, contact NHS 111. For example, broken or fractured bones, sprains, or burns.

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

Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

Community Buildings Webinar

The CCS have plenty of Community Buildings webinars coming and an informal meet up. Have you got your space booked?

The next Community Buildings Meet Up is scheduled for **Wednesday, 9 June 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.

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.

Trustee Roles and Responsibilities Webinar

A Trustee Roles and Responsibilities Webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, 15 June 10am - 12pm**. This event will examine the different types of trustee, duties and liabilities, charity law, good practice and advice on recruiting new trustees.

Please [click here](#) to book your ticket.

Free Bikes

Thank you Somerset you are changing lives!

The CCS have adult bikes at the ready for new owners who live in Taunton or West Somerset. Do you need help getting to work, training or education? Then get in touch with the CCS.

Somerset has been donating its unwanted adult bikes that need a little TLC and the CCS have bikes ready and waiting new owners. Refurbished, ready to go and if you need a helmet, lock and light kit – the CCS have it covered. Get it all for FREE.

Contact Izzy@Somersetcc.org.uk or phone **07931 018 045**.

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF)

Funding available for Somerset grassroots sports clubs and organisations

Grassroots sports clubs and organisations in Somerset who have been affected by the pandemic - whether financially or operationally - can apply for grants to help them continue invaluable community work through Made By Sport's *Clubs in Crisis* fund.

Made By Sport, a charity which champions the power of sport to tackle social issues, is distributing over £4 million of grants to support the important role that grassroots sports clubs and organisations play in communities. Applications for the grants are being managed by SCF.

Recent research indicates that 25% of community clubs may never reopen due to the devastating impact of COVID-19. In an attempt to prevent this becoming a reality, Made By Sport are offering unrestricted grants of £2021 to those groups who do so much in communities to use sport as a vehicle for social good.

The pandemic has exacerbated many health and social issues. Research from mental health charity YoungMinds found that 83% of young people said the pandemic had affected their mental health, reporting issues with sleep, panic attacks and urges to self-harm.

In order to be eligible, clubs must provide clear evidence of how they use sport to help young people develop life skills, employment opportunities, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour or tackle mental health issues.

To apply for funding for your club, visit www.madebysport.com/clubsincrisis.

Grants Available

West Somerset Youth Trust

You can apply if you are aged 14 to 25, live in West Somerset (this excludes Taunton or the former area of Taunton Deane), and need help to pay for course or event fees, travel costs, or equipment that enriches your education.

Apply for up to £300. Ask for money by **Wednesday 16 June 2021** and SCF will let you know if they can help you by early July 2021.

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

Enterprise Grants

You can apply if you are aged 18 to 30, currently live in the county of Somerset (but not North Somerset or BANES), are not in education, employment or training, want to start your own business and know what products or services you want to provide. Apply for up to £1,000. Ask for money by **Wednesday 30 June 2021** and SCF will let you know if they can help you by the end of July 2021.

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

Training and Employment Support Grants

You can apply if you are aged 16 to 30, currently live in the county of Somerset (but not North Somerset or BANES), are not in education, employment or training, and need some help with the cost of essential things for training or employment, an apprenticeship or job.

Apply for up to £500. Ask for money by **Wednesday 30 June 2021** and SCF will let you know if they can help you by the end of July 2021.

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

Spark Somerset

Digital Champion Volunteers wanted

There's double the excitement at Spark HQ this week. Not only is Volunteers' Week, but the launch of Spark iT, a brand-new project aimed at promoting digital inclusion in Somerset. Spark Somerset are now looking for Digital Champion volunteers to get involved. Currently, over 11 million people in the UK are digitally excluded. Together, we can help reduce that number.

You don't need to be an IT whizz to be a Digital Champion. If you have an interest in technology and a passion for helping others to embrace the benefits of getting online, then Spark Somerset would love to hear from you. You'll receive full training from the Barclays Digital Eagles and support people with a range of simple activities, including; using IT equipment, browsing the internet safely, staying connected via email or social media, accessing local health and wellbeing support.

Please [click here](#) to find out more about being a Digital Champion and to submit an application.

Busting the myths around COVID-19 vaccination

Free training is available to anyone in Somerset to help them spread the word and bust any myths about Coronavirus vaccinations. Spark Somerset has been working with SCC to help local people access information about COVID-19 in a way that makes sense to them through the [Covid Community Champion](#) Network.

Vaccination Myth Buster Training is now on offer to anyone who is in a position to have conversations about the vaccine. This will be on Zoom on **Wednesday 9 June, 7-9pm.**

Please [click here](#) to find out more and to book your place.

Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

***Important update* NHS vaccination support roles**

There has been a fantastic response from hundreds of local volunteers offering their support to the NHS vaccination program as support marshals in Taunton and Shepton Mallet. Spark Somerset and the NHS would like to thank you all for your kind offers of help for this important service.

Contact details are now being collected to create a 'volunteer bank' of people wanting to offer their support at the vaccination sites. If you would like to be added to the volunteer bank please [click here](#) and complete the short form.

Young Somerset Big Tent – Virtual Hub

The Somerset Big Tent website provides an online space for children and young people and their parents and guardians to know what wellbeing support is available for them in their area. They can navigate the support based on their feelings, type of support, location, age and level of Quality Assurance to ensure that they can discover support options which are suitable for them.

The Somerset Big Tent website also offers a professional area with details of upcoming training events, wellbeing campaigns and more to support professionals about how best to support children and young people.

Please [click here](#) to visit the Somerset Big Tent website.

Big Tent Festival

The Somerset Big Tent virtual event for young people has been postponed in the hope that it can be held as a face-to-face event later in the year.

If you missed the Somerset Big Tent Festival for professionals, please take a look at this amazing [video](#). This moving documentary was made by the incredibly talented, Jack Turner and focuses on key workers in Somerset during the pandemic.

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

New labels for virus variants

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced labels for COVID-19 variants which are often named after the places where they are first detected. The B.1.1.7 variant – known as the UK/Kent variant – has now labelled by the WHO as Alpha. The B.1.617.2 variant, first identified in India, has been labelled Delta, while B.1.351, often referred to as the South African variant, has been named Beta. The P.1 Brazilian variant has been labelled Gamma. Public Health England has said it is considering whether to adopt the WHO's new naming system for variants designed to avoid stigma.

One-dose Janssen COVID-19 vaccine approved

The COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen has been given regulatory approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The vaccine has been approved after meeting the required safety, quality and effectiveness standards.

This is the fourth COVID-19 vaccine to be authorised by the UK's independent regulator and is the first to be approved for protection against COVID-19 with a single dose.

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

Reminder- 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.

Stay safe and well

COVID-19 infection rates in Somerset are low, but the virus is still with us. It's very important to remember we are still in Step 3 of the lockdown and we keep following government [guidance](#).

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

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

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](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

[NHS – Help and Advice](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

FAQS

Q. What should I consider before booking a break in the UK?

A. For those considering a staycation, please remember to travel safely and plan ahead – things like insurance, checking on accommodation, what to do if you develop symptoms or test positive during your stay and ensuring you have your testing kits.

Travelling internationally from England: There are no longer any restrictions on leaving England to travel internationally, however to protect public health in

the UK and the vaccine rollout, you should not travel to [countries or territories on the red or amber lists](#).

If you need to get tested while you're travelling, there are options:

- If you have symptoms and need a test, book [here](#) or call 119
- If you do not have symptoms, please continue with your lateral flow test routine.

Q. What do I do if I test positive for Coronavirus while away on holiday?

A. If you test positive whilst on holiday, you should make your own assessment about where to self-isolate for 10 days based on your health and safety. The options are:

- Remaining in the accommodation you occupy if the provider has capacity and is willing to host you, and you have funds to cover the additional cost,
- Seeking alternative local accommodation you and your travel party could move into and safely self-isolate if your current accommodation cannot extend
- Driving home in your own vehicle without stopping anywhere on route if you are well enough to travel and have the means to do so.

Crime / Safeguarding

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)

NCSC launches online game to give children a head start with staying cyber secure

CyberSprinters is an educational cyber security game that has been launched by the NCSC. [CyberSprinters is a free interactive game](#) is developed by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) – a part of GCHQ, aimed at 7 to 11-year-olds to help primary schools, clubs and other youth groups teach children about cyber security from an early age.

The online game sees a player become a 'cybersprinter' racing against their own depleting battery power. Users can win battery power by correctly answering questions about cyber security but face losing it if they bump into 'cybervillains'. The game comes as part of a pack of educational resources which illustrate what good cyber security practice looks like, from creating strong passwords to being vigilant about receiving messages from unknown senders.

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

Cyber Aware: Improve your online security

Due to Coronavirus, people are spending more time online this year. This means more opportunities for hackers to carry out cyber-attacks. They often do this by targeting people and businesses using:

- email and website scams
- malware - software that can damage your device or let a hacker in

If hackers get into your device or accounts, they could access your money, your personal information, or information about your business.

Please [click here](#) to find out how you can improve your cyber security by taking six actions.

Avon & Somerset Police (A&SP)

Avon and Somerset Police celebrate National Volunteers' Week

Avon and Somerset Police is marking National Volunteers' Week by celebrating the incredible contribution made by its volunteers during the Coronavirus pandemic. Over the last year, volunteers have played a vital part in helping to keep people safe in Avon and Somerset. From April 2020 to March 2021, the force's 310 special constables contributed 81,572 duty hours which is equal to an additional 45 full-time PCs, while police support volunteers contributed 8,579 hours. Overall the special constabulary has sustained a 15% increase in duty hours throughout 2020-1.

A&SP would like to thank all their volunteers for their exceptional commitment to Policing. This year A&SP are marking Volunteers' Week 2021 by showcasing the contribution of some their volunteers throughout the week on their website and social media. Please [click here](#) for further information.

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.

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/ 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