

Somerset West and Taunton

Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils

Issue 62 Week ending 13/06/2021

#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. Local Poll on Options for Change in Local Government in Somerset: Announcement of Results

The voters of Somerset have shown their support for Stronger Somerset – the plan for two councils, an Eastern Somerset and a Western Somerset council, to replace Somerset's existing five county and district councils.

The result of the local poll, which closed on Friday 4 June, was delivered on Monday, 7 June by Civica Electoral Services, who independently ran and verified the poll, and announced publicly by the District Council Leaders.

The result from Civica is attached.

The Leaders have written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to ask that he now takes the result into account in his decision-making.

The Secretary of State's decision is expected sometime before the Parliamentary recess on **22 July 2021**.

2. Community Call for Action on Litter

SWT has been making sure our streets and open spaces are clean and welcoming for residents and visitors, targeting problem areas and supporting community groups and individuals taking the initiative and joining us in the fight against litter. It is also supporting [Keep Britain Tidy](#) and the Great British Spring Clean which is currently running until **13 June 2021**.

The Council can help anyone who takes part in or co-ordinates litter clearing efforts across the district by supplying equipment and disposing bags of litter that have been collected.

Find out how you can play a role in keeping our streets and green spaces free of litter - [Community litter picks \(somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk\)](http://somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

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:

- 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)
- Thursday 24 June – **Special Planning Committee**, 1pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 21 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. District Elections

The election of one District Councillor for the Old Cleeve & District Ward will take place on **Thursday 17 June 2021**.

In addition, the election of one District Councillor for the North Curry & Ruishton Ward will take place on **Thursday 24 June 2021**.

Please [click here](#) to view a statement of persons nominated.

5. Remembrance bench dedicated in Vivary Park

A new remembrance bench has been installed in Vivary Park, Taunton. The bench was purchased by the Charter Trustees at the request of Cllr Francesca Smith during her year as Mayor of Taunton in 2020/21 when several commemorative events were restricted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

It was dedicated following a small ceremony at the weekend to mark the anniversary of D-Day on 6 June. Please [click here](#) to read the full SWT press release.

6. Beach safety cameras coming to Minehead

Three overhead panoramic cameras were installed at Minehead beach on Thursday, 10 June as part of a nation-wide Covid-safety scheme being adopted by coastal authorities.

The scheme has been set up in response to overcrowding of the nation's beaches seen at the end of last year's initial lockdown and aims to help beach operators manage visitor numbers. The cameras are not for CCTV purposes. Instead, they will send periodic images of Minehead's beachfront to an administrator to monitor congestion levels.

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

7. Coal Orchard residential properties on sale

SWT is working with trusted local estate agent Connells to market the residential apartments at the Council's flagship Coal Orchard development. Properties on the market will range from one to two bedrooms with views over the river or the independent retail area, with various options for customers such as help to buy schemes and a discounted open market scheme for qualifying applicants.

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

8. Planned works to East Quay Wall, Watchet to commence

SWT will commence work on **Monday 14 June** to replace the central section of the East Quay Wall, Watchet. This work is essential and urgent following professional surveys of the entire wall last year. The works are expected to continue for a duration of 8 weeks.

There will be varying levels of noise disruption throughout the works, however this will be kept within the core working hours of 8am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

The contractor carrying out the works is TMS Maritime Ltd, a well-regarded & established Marine piling company with years of experience in similar projects.

East Quay will be closed to all pedestrians and vehicles throughout the duration of the works. Appropriate signage will be put in place and access to the Boatyard/Beach will be via the steps at the far end of East Quay.

SWT appreciates the patience of residents and business owners whilst this essential work is undertaken.

9. Register now for Somerset Resilience Event

The registration service was launched to coincide with Volunteers Week 2021 which celebrates the contribution volunteers make and the huge positive impact they have, with many of these volunteers key to their community's emergency preparedness.

The 'Somerset Prepared' partnership is organising the resilience event which will run across October. Throughout the month, there will live online talks, videos, toolkits and training which aims to help communities become better prepared for emergency situations, as well as looking at wider preparedness measures that anyone can take.

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

10. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

Apologies for Missed Collections

SWP has issued a short update following severe service issues this week, for which they sincerely apologise. SWP and its contractor, SUEZ, are taking steps to address the severe disruption that some residents, especially but not limited to the Taunton area, have experienced.

The current pressures are primarily down to an ongoing nationwide shortage of HGV drivers, a situation made worse by Coronavirus (which has meant a backlog of HGV driving tests) and Brexit which has seen some drivers move back to EU countries. Locally there is also a more general shortage of agency staff which, combined with recent heavy holiday traffic and continued heavy loads, has seen an increase in missed collections in various parts of the county in recent weeks.

To get collections back on track SWP are rescheduling Sedgemoor's Tuesday recycling collections to Saturday. Together with extra resources from other depots they will tackle all missed collections – recycling, rubbish and garden waste. Their expectation is that by the end of this week the backlog of collections across Somerset West and Taunton will be cleared. SWP will highlight any delays to the service, where possible, on local Facebook groups.

Suez's staffing forecast should mean there isn't a repeat of the scale of issues seen last week, but clearly the challenging underlying conditions remain in place. SWP are working closely with Suez to ensure that they address these underlying issues and improve service resilience and service quality.

SWP would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the disruption and will be working hard to maintain the level of service that you and your residents expect.

Reminder- 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

It looks like we are now in a settled spell of weather. However, the wet May and the warm June have resulted in an explosion of growth in roadside vegetation. The rural verge cutting programme on the "A" and "B" Class network is now approaching completion and SCC Highways is moving on to the "C" and "D" Class network. There will also be some reactive work were the growth is causing visibility problems at junctions or obstructions on footways etc.

SCC Highways major scheme for the next two weeks is the carriageway resurfacing of **A358 Williton Road, Combe Florey**. This has been scheduled 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.

On the minor works programme, SCC Highways have completed carriageway patching on the B3224 along the Brendon Hills; drainage work at Wiveliscombe Road, Milverton and drainage work at Gerbstone Lane, West Buckland. A temporary road closure has been booked for 14 – 18 June at **Bradford-on-Tone, Taunton** to carry out repairs to the damaged bollards on the approaches to the bridge across the River Tone.

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. Meanwhile, looking forward, the carriageway surface dressing team will be in Somerset in July.

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 work is now expected to continue until **27 June 2021** (24hrs). Traffic will travel in a southwards direction.

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

Reminder- Temporary Road Closure: Galmington Road, Taunton

SCC 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 works commenced on 1 June 2021 and are expected to end on **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.](#)

Education Business Partnership

Become a youth friendly employer and connect with young people in Somerset

Education Business Partnership have teamed up with Youth Employment UK to launch a new online platform to showcase Somerset as a Youth Friendly Place. This online platform supports young people to find out about the jobs, apprenticeships and training options available in their area. It will also include career ideas, job hunting tips, travel information, wellbeing support and access to youth groups.

Young people can connect to employers signed up to [Youth Employment UK's free Good Youth Employment charter](#). As well as recognising businesses as a Youth Friendly Employer, it also provides free resources and support to businesses to explore how to engage with young people to effectively meet your business needs.

[Find out more here.](#)

Schools and Colleges- Guide young people to their next step

You want to help your learners achieve the best possible life outcomes. The Education Business Partnership can help you to guide young people to their next step in education, training or employment.

The Education Business Partnership's resources will help you offer the best possible advice to your learners as they consider their futures.

- Understand how to meet your [statutory duties](#), as set out by the Government's careers strategy
- [Tools and training](#) available for career leads and teachers
- Explore the [support available for SEND learners](#)
- Key tips for [engaging with employers](#).

Check the [vacancies](#) page for Somerset employers offering work experience, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities for your learners.

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.

Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP)

Beat the Street

Taunton to be transformed into A Giant Physical Activity Game

Beat the Street is an active travel project that has been very popular in towns and cities across the UK, including Bridgwater last year. Managed by Intelligent Health and delivered by Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP), the project aims

to increase physical activity levels in a community through walking, running, and cycling. The game works by turning the town into a real-life game and residents will soon start to see special sensors called Beat Boxes appearing on lampposts.

The game is running in Taunton with 37 Beat Boxes spread across the [map](#); so mainly Priorswood, Holway, Halcon, Town Centre, the canal, green spaces and parks. Twelve primary schools in Taunton have been invited to take part in the game. Please [click here](#) to watch a video which explains the project in more detail:

Play from **16 June - 14 July**. Beat the Street is the perfect way to get you and your children safely back into action. [Sign up today](#) and follow the [Facebook page](#).

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) You can help to prevent wildfires

This week, fire control received reports of a fire in Irnham Road, Minehead recreation ground. On arrival crews investigated and discovered a section of rubber safety flooring had been removed from a children's play area and set alight. Without stating the obvious with regards to the danger now left on the play area, the matting was set alight next to a wooden bench that was itself covered by a wooden roof / shelter that was directly against a building and its soffit boards.

Please remember - ALL fires start small. The cause was clearly a deliberate act and fortunately on this occasion remained small.

As dry weather continues, please take care in the countryside. It only takes a spark to start a wildfire. Don't pull over in your car onto grass verges and dry heathland. The car exhaust pipe can get really hot and could easily ignite areas of dry vegetation. Take all your litter home and prepare picnics with sandwiches rather than use a disposable barbecue. These are difficult to dispose of when hot and should not be left unattended.

Incidents like these tie up valuable resources from multiple stations that cannot be used for life risk incidents such as road traffic collisions or property fires. At the present time it also means having to use valuable PPE items such as nitrile medical gloves in order to protect the crews whilst clearing the scene.

DSFRS would like to thank you for helping to protect our countryside and for keeping communities and firefighters safe.

NTWP team working with the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme

Over the last few months the North Taunton Woolaway Project ([NTWP](#)) team have been working with Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme (QLPS) who kindly offered to deliver some community artwork on the site hoardings in the project area, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend more than 45 people paint 30 metres of hoarding. It was an overwhelmingly positive response from this fantastic community and really showed the depth of generosity, kindness and imagination within the neighbourhood, with many people pledging to stay for only 30 minutes but ending up staying for over three hours.

The mural painting will continue across consecutive weekends, with the next painting this weekend (June 5 and 6) further down Dorchester Road, near The Waggon pub.

The final painting days will take place on **12 – 13 June 2021**. Please [click here](#) to learn more about the project and the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme.

HM Coastguard Watchet

During this year's Volunteers' Week HM Coastguard thanked not only their own Volunteer Coastguard Rescue Officers in Watchet but also those in the other services they work alongside to ensure the safety of the public, friends, families and visitors to West Somerset and our beautiful coastline.

Special thanks goes to:

- Minehead RNLI Lifeboat Station
- Exmoor Search & Rescue Team
- Avon and Somerset Police Special Constables
- South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust Community First Responders

All of these volunteers hold full time jobs and at a moment's notice drop everything or give up their time to respond to 999 calls or safety patrols.

Please [click here](#) to keep up to date with the latest news from HM Coastguard Watchet.

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT)

Bodycams to boost ambulance crews' safety

All frontline ambulance crews in Somerset will now be equipped with body-worn cameras in a bid to reduce violence and aggression against crews. This follows a significant increase in verbal abuse and physical assaults from patients and other members of the public. The devices will be used from this summer for three years, and could provide crucial evidence for prosecution cases against offenders.

The project is part of a national rollout of body-worn cameras intended to prevent attacks on ambulance staff. SWASFT has reported 1,917 incidents of violence and aggression from patients and other members of the public during the 12 months until 23 May 2021.

The figures included 588 verbal abuse incidents, 474 aggressive behaviour incidents, and 345 physical assaults. They represent a 38% increase compared to 1,387 incidents reported during the previous year.

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

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

Somerset Carers

Carers Week 2021

The theme of Carers Week 2021 is to make carers visible and valued. At Somerset Carers, Village Agents are ready to support you at any and every stage of your caring journey. Support isn't intervention. Support is a listening ear, advice to help you see the wood for the trees, connecting you to the right services, respite help, an occasional supply of food to give you a break and more.

- Support is making your life easier.
- Please raise your hand and be seen and be heard.

Community Council for Somerset's Talking Café Live

Lauren Giddins was joined by Val Tullett, an unpaid carer who talked about her experiences looking after her husband Peter, who has dementia. Lauren also discussed how Village Agents offer support to Carers and their families through their service Somerset Carers.

If you want to find out more, and missed the Talking Café Live, please [click here](#) to watch a replay.

If you are a carer, and would like to chat about how [Somerset Carers](#) can support you, please do get in touch via the free phone Carers Advice line **0800 31 68 600** or text CARER to 78070 or visit www.somersetcarers.org.

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

Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

Talking Cafe's have reopened in venues across Somerset

The CCS are opening slowly and due to COVID-19 restrictions all Talking Cafes are strictly by appointment only. Book an appointment by calling **01823 331 222** or by completing this [online form](#).

Bridgwater: The Hub at Angel Place, Thursday 11am – 1pm

Minehead: The Beach Hotel Minehead, Monday 10am – 12pm

Taunton: The Great Western Hotel Station Approach, Monday 10am – 12pm

Williton: Williton Pavillion, Killick Way, Tuesday 1pm - 3pm

The CCS will be continuing their Facebook Live Talking Cafes, so keep tuning in Tuesday - Thursday at 1pm.

Reminder - 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.

Reminder - Free networking event for Social Enterprises in Somerset

Wednesday 16 June 2021 7pm – 8pm

This is a free online event for Somerset Social Enterprise Network members. Non-members are also welcome. Connect with other social enterprises who can inspire you. This is a great chance to meet like-minded people and share ideas, successes and challenges.

Although the event is free, booking is required. The Zoom link will be sent to you once your booking is confirmed.

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

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.

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

Grow for Good Forum – Online Event

Tuesday 22 June 2021 6pm – 7.30pm

A free forum for voluntary groups and individuals in Somerset who use growing and gardening to support positive change in their communities. Recent events have highlighted the important role that community growing projects can play in promoting health and wellbeing and protecting our natural environment.

This meeting will bring together Somerset-based social enterprises, voluntary organisations and individuals who ‘grow for good’. Whether you’re involved with a community allotment, therapeutic garden, or any other initiative which uses growing and gardening to support positive change, come along to network and share ideas with others who are involved in similar projects.

This is the first in an ongoing series of meetings so there’s no formal agenda – just an open, friendly discussion to establish the aims of the forum and explore how Spark can support you.

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

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

The second vaccine jab is vital

The vaccine is our best defence against the virus and returning to a more normal way of life. And while the first dose gives some level of immunity against Coronavirus, it is vital that everyone goes on to receive a second dose – regardless of which vaccine you receive.

A single jab will not give you maximum protection against the virus – the best protection comes after the second. All three vaccines, Pfizer, Oxford AstraZeneca and Moderna are up to 90 per cent effective after two doses. Getting the second dose will send a powerful reminder for your immune system to attack when necessary. Please [click here](#) for further information.

The importance of regular testing

Regular testing is for those without symptoms of COVID-19 and is very important in our fight against the virus as it helps break the chain of transmission, which might otherwise have gone unidentified.

Testing regularly, even when you do not have symptoms, means we can keep infection levels low and our country safe.

There are five good reasons for regular testing:

- It finds and isolates people early who have Coronavirus but don't have symptoms (asymptomatic), helping to stop the spread of the virus
- Alongside the vaccine rollout and social distancing, it is key to reducing infection and transmission, helping the country to keep moving
- It helps to identify and suppress new variants of concern, playing a vital role in limiting the spread of Coronavirus
- It protects you and your loved ones
- When done correctly, the tests are at least 99.9 per cent specific, which means that the risk of false positives is extremely low – less than one in a thousand

In short, it's a simple and effective way for everybody to do their bit in stopping the spread of the virus.

Reminder- People aged 25 or over can now book their COVID-19 vaccination

Everybody in cohorts 1 to 9 has been offered a vaccine, with people aged 25 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 25 or over
- you'll turn 25 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.

Reminder- 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](#). 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

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

Diabetes Week

Diabetes Week is organised by Diabetes UK and this annual event will take place between **Monday - Sunday, 14 - 20 June 2021**. Please [click here](#) for further information and to find out how you can get involved.

Men's Mental Health Week

From the 14 - 20 June, it is [Men's Health Week](#). As we start to emerge from the pandemic many men will have anxieties and worries about how their lives will move forward. Please don't suffer in silence, let's keep working hard to break the stigma around asking for help.

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 tested positive for COVID-19 but feel well in myself. Do I need to self-isolate? Can I pop to the shop wearing my face covering?

A. If you are unwell with COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for the virus you **must self-isolate** – it's the best way to stop spreading the infection to others. Isolating is more important than ever, to make sure the virus does not spread in our communities.

Self-isolating means staying in your home and not leaving to collect food shopping, walk the dog or exercise. The only reason you should be leaving home during this period is to get a test for COVID-19. You can find out more about when you should self-isolate and how long for on the [NHS website](#).

Q. I booked my family holiday to Portugal when it was in the green travel corridor, but now it's changed to amber. What does this mean and where can I find out more information?

A. If you decide to continue with your holiday, you will need to do the following upon your return to England.

On arrival in England you must:

- quarantine at home or in the place you are staying for 10 days
- take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8

Read about [quarantine and taking COVID-19 tests](#).

Children aged 4 and under do not need to take the day 2 or day 8 test.

You may be able to end quarantine early if you pay for a private COVID-19 test through the [Test to Release scheme](#).

Please be aware the travel corridor to Portugal could change again either to green or to red and restrictions will change accordingly.

Crime / Safeguarding

ZIPP e-scooters and privately owned e-Scooters

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the launch of ZIPP e-scooters in Minehead this week. ZIPP and SWT held an information session on Saturday 5 June to try and answer your questions and queries.

To try and clarify a few points...

- The new yellow ZIPP scooters can be hired via an app, to use a ZIPP scooter, you need to be 16 or over and hold a current provisional driving license, and upload a selfie via the app at time of hire.
- If parents or persons with a provisional or full licence are allowing others to use the e-scooters under their license please be aware this is not allowed and you are committing an offence.
- ZIPP scooters must be ridden on the road, or a cycle path and are for sole use only.
- It is illegal to operate an e-Scooter whilst using a mobile phone and not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- ZIPP riders are covered by insurance. ZIPP have local Facebook pages: Zipp-Minehead / Zipp-Taunton and are happy to answer any questions.

If you see a ZIPP scooter user not complying with these rules, please try to record the time, date, location and unique number of the e-scooter and pass the details direct to ZIPP, as they can block repeat offenders from hiring the scooters.

In relation to privately owned e-Scooters - these are illegal to use on pavements or the highway. They can only be used on privately owned land and you would need insurance. However, these privately owned scooters cannot be insured to ride on the roads as this is illegal.

The police can issue on the spot fines to anyone committing offences and will seize any scooters if they see them being ridden illegally. Due to the legislation surrounding this; if they are seized, you will not get them back.

Avon & Somerset Police (A&SP)

Fans urged to keep safe ahead of Euro 2020 kick-off

Football supporters are being urged to not fall foul of COVID-19 regulations during the upcoming Euro 2020 tournament. Home Nations England, Scotland and Wales are among the 24 teams taking part in the competition, which kicks off on **Friday, 11 June**.

Regulations outlined by the Government in step three of the COVID-19 roadmap remain in place at the start of the tournament, meaning there are restrictions on meeting people indoors. People are therefore being encouraged to familiarise themselves with the rules and public health advice that are in place to keep everyone safe.

Euro 2020 was postponed by 12 months due to COVID-19 and will see games played in 12 different cities. The final will be staged in the UK at Wembley Stadium on **Sunday 11 July 2021**.

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

Do not leave dogs in hot cars

After being stuck inside for over a year, it's inevitable that this summer many of us will be wanting to get outdoors and seek the perfect staycations with our four legged friends. A&SP are reminding the public carefully to plan outings, especially when travelling with a dog.

Please do not leave your dog alone in a car on a warm day. Even if the windows are left slightly open or you're parked in the shade, this can still be very dangerous for a dog. If you see a dog in distress in a hot car, dial 999.

Did you know that if it's 22 degrees outside, in a car it can reach an unbearable 47 degrees within the hour

Please [click here](#) for further advice and remember to remind your friends and family.

Do not fall foul of an opportunist burglar

A&SP hope you all enjoyed the sunshine over the long weekend and made the most of being out and about. The opportunist burglar also enjoys the summer months as they can easily gain access into a property through open doors and windows.

Take simple precautions such as locking windows and doors when you go out, even if just stepping next door or out in the garden. If your doors and windows are not secure, neither is your property. Please also remember to keep vehicle and house keys out of view. A significant amount of vehicle crime is committed when car keys are stolen during burglaries. Whilst we're on the subject of burglaries, remember it is not just the house itself you have to think about. Reports of thefts from gardens, outbuildings, sheds and garages, are an issue too – particularly in rural areas. The value of property stored in sheds and outbuildings is often much greater than you may realise.

Please [click here](#) for further crime prevention advice.

Bike Marking Event

The Minehead and West Somerset Neighbourhood Police team will be offering a free bike marking event on **Saturday 12 June** between 3-5pm on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Sandpiper Close, Alcombe, Minehead. If you would like your bike marked please pop along and see the attending PCSOs. You will need to know your email address in order to successfully register your bike.

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

Attachment:

Local Poll on Options for Change in Local Government in Somerset Results