

Somerset West and Taunton

Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils

Issue 66 Week ending 11/07/2021

#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. Prime Minister sets out plan to ease COVID-19 restrictions

COVID-19 restrictions are set to end in England from step 4 of the Roadmap after the Prime Minister set out how life will soon return close to normal. The decision to open up will be made in a balanced and careful way, with the Prime Minister being clear that people's personal judgement will now be key in learning to live with the virus. Subject to a final review of the data next week, legal restrictions will end on **Monday 19 July**.

Please [click here](#) for up to date information.

2. Democracy and Governance

Committee Meetings

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

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

- Wednesday 7 July – Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 2 July)
- Monday 19 July – Strategic Tenant Group, 6pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Wednesday 14 July)
- Tuesday 20 July – Special Meeting of the Taunton Charter Trustees, 6pm (deadline for public questions is 10am on Thursday 15 July)
- Wednesday 21 July – Executive, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 16 July)
- Thursday 22 July – Planning Committee, 1pm (deadline for public questions is 4 pm on Monday 19 July)

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.

3. SWT consulting on more zero carbon homes

SWT is encouraging members of the public to have their say on plans for 26 new council rented homes off Wheatley Crescent in Taunton. The council owned site at Snedden Grove is currently occupied by 12 prefabricated homes used for short term accommodation.

The council intends to redevelop the site to provide 26 new homes built to an ambitious zero carbon standard in line with its commitment to address climate change.

The new homes will be a mix of houses and flats all for affordable rent, and are part of the Council's drive to build 1,000 council homes across the district over the next 30 years, providing more social housing to suit different members of the community.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release and participate in the survey.

4. SWT announces further design guide consultations

SWT is seeking the public's views on the latest additions to its draft design guides for Taunton and the wider district. Draft documents for a Districtwide Design Guide and a Public Realm Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town were previously produced in line with the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), to encourage a higher standard of design in the applications it receives from developers, the Highway Authority, utility companies and their agents and contractors.

The Council is now re-consulting on both documents following amendments made in response to feedback from earlier consultations, updated government guidance in relation to active travel and standards in conservation areas, and the Council's continued commitment to achieving a zero-carbon district by 2030.

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

5. SWT enabling rural housing

SWT is committed to offering a choice of good quality homes for residents, whatever their age and income, in communities where support is available for those who need it. As the country marks Rural Housing Week this week the Council is highlighting its work with partners and communities to deliver affordable housing in rural areas.

Rural Housing Week run by the National Housing Federation, the Rural Housing Alliance and Rural Services Network, is an annual celebration of rural housing which reinforces the message that housing is vital for the survival of our rural communities and services.

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

6. SWT Summer Housing News

The latest housing newsletter produced for all SWT tenants and leaseholders is available to view now on the [website](#). Printed copies will be sent directly to tenants' homes.

7. Reminder - Recycle on the go

SWT is making it easier for people to help keep our parks and open spaces clean and green. As part of its drive to tackle litter the Council will be introducing new replacement waste bins in public spaces which also have compartments for recycling in line with its environmental priorities.

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

8. Reminder - SWT COVID-19 Business Support Grants

The business support grant schemes have all now closed for applications. SWT cannot accept any new applications. During the month of July SWT will be issuing final payments to businesses that applied before 30 June and who have not yet been paid. SWT is unable to make payment after 31 July 2021.

No new mandatory business support grant schemes have been introduced, or existing ones extended, to deal with the extension of COVID-19 restrictions beyond 21 June to 19 July 2021.

For those who have received business support grant payments from the Council, please remember the grants are treated as income, whether the business is within the scope of either Income Tax or Corporation Tax, and should be recorded in your accounts / HMRC returns as such. If in doubt please talk with your tax advisor. The Council cannot provide tax advice.

9. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

Apologies for missed collections

SWP would like to apologise for the disruption to waste collections in parts of Somerset in recent weeks. The issues are largely down to a national shortage of LGV drivers and SWP are working hard with their collections contractor to get services back on track. Unfortunately, further delayed collections are likely in the coming days.

Can masks be recycled by SWP?

The answer is no. No masks, gloves, wipes, tissues should be put in the kerbside recycling boxes - SWP cannot recycle these, and it can put others at risk. Do you have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms in your family? Please [click here](#) to read the Government's advice on waste disposal.

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

Following the major flooding incident in the Chard and Combe St Nicholas areas of South Somerset the previous week, last week was Somerset West and Taunton's turn. A series of severe thunderstorms hit the area and the volume of water in places was so great that localised flooding occurred on some roads. Thankfully, though, there wasn't the significant carriageway damage issues seen in South Somerset.

Temporary road closures carry on until **16 July** on the road running along the top of the **Blackdown Hills**, in the **Otterford** and **Castle Neroche** area, for carriageway patching works and also at **Holywell Lake Road** in **Langford Budville** for highway drainage improvements. SCC Highways are working on the **B3187 Station Road, Wellington**, under temporary traffic signals, where they are repairing kerbs and drains until **14 July**. A small drainage improvement has also been completed at **Brompton Ralph**, near the church.

The preparatory work on the **B3187 Station Road, Wellington** will then lead on to the resurfacing of the carriageway and this will be carried out under a series of evening road closures between **Monday 19 and Thursday 22 July**. On these evenings the road will be closed between 6.30pm and 11.30pm. Another road closure commencing on the **19 July** is at **Hartford Road, Brompton Regis** where SCC Highways will be repairing the verge and embankment which support the road. This will be in force for two weeks until **30 July**.

The carriageway surface dressing programme in Somerset is scheduled to commence on **19 July** in the **Bishops Hull** and **West Buckland** area. The programme will run until mid-August. Needless to say, SCC Highways are hoping for a change in the weather: dry and warm would be ideal!

For more information on highway maintenance works and to stay up to date visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter.

Temporary Road Closure: Coal Orchard, Taunton

The order becomes effective on 8 July 2021 and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to commence on **12 July 2021** and last for 33 days to enable Wales & West Utilities to carry out works to upgrade gas main.

Please follow the [link](#) to view the above road closure and the [Notice 2](#). For any further information about this closure please contact Wales & West Utilities on **0800 9122 999**, quoting reference: ttro446242.

Please note that should you require to view a closure which is more than two weeks ahead you will need to register for free with www.One.Network

Extension of Temporary Road Closure: Yallands Hill, Cheddon Fitzpaine

Here is a notification of an **extension of dates** to a temporary road closure at **Yallands Hill, Cheddon Fitzpaine** for approximately 656.00 metres. The date for the works is now: 5 May to **25 July** (24hrs) - 11 weeks.

These works are for CJL Construction Ltd to carry out all construction and associated works in connection with the Western Relief Road, their works reference is LG111PD01409-001. For any further information about this closure please contact CJL Construction Ltd on **(01934) 853227** quoting reference: ttro431060TD - S50 - Yallands Hill, Cheddon.

Reminder- Emergency One Way Order

Maidenbrook Lane, Taunton

Please be aware that SCC Highways have received notification on the 18 June 2021 of a continuation of works to the emergency one way order at Maidenbrook Lane, Taunton. This work is now expected to continue until **16 July 2021** (24hrs), and the restrictions will only apply when indicated by traffic signs.

A copy of the draft Traffic Regulation Order and the associated plans can be examined at www.somerset.gov.uk/TRO. There is no alternative route for this. The works promoter will contact residents and business directly to discuss access arrangements.

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.](#)

£500k fund to help Somerset's communities open up safely

A new £500,000 fund is being launched by SCC to help towns and parishes reopen community facilities safely and bring people back together. As national Coronavirus restrictions ease, SCC is working in partnership with Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) to help towns and parishes open up village halls, meeting rooms and other facilities in a Covid-secure way.

The safe reopening will reassure people that they can reconnect with their communities after long months of isolation and remove some of the anxieties they may have around social mixing. The money is being allocated by SCC from Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF), provided by the Department for Health and Social Care to support public health activities directly related to the COVID-19 response.

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

Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP)

Beat the Street – Join the fun, free game!

Taunton transformed into A Giant Physical Activity Game

This is a fun competition about getting moving around the Taunton area – you can walk, run, cycle, rollerskate, scoot or skip. The team behind the game want you to enjoy the competition and get the most out of it you can, so please don't try to cheat the system – you've nothing to gain from doing so.

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. Primary Schools in Taunton are participating, and an impressive 5010 registered players have managed to travel 52,541 miles since the game started. The aim is to get to 5000 players before the final day of the game on **14 July 2021**.

Please [click here](#) to watch a video which explains the project in more detail.

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](#).

Reminder- Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset

The Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset Programme Activity Finder will be available to use from **Monday 5 July**. To book an activity, you will need to have received your unique Booking Code from your child's school. You will not be able to make a booking without it, so please ensure you have done this first.

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

Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS)

New Training Medium Rescue Pumps

Two new training Medium Rescue Pumps (MRPs) have arrived with DSFRS to mark the start of their 10-year replacement plan for MRPs throughout Devon and Somerset. They will ensure DSFRS can give the right response, at the right time to communities across the two counties.

DSFRS Celebrating Partnership Working

DSFRS have highlighted the success of their partnership work during the pandemic and are celebrating the efforts of their volunteers. Please [click here](#) to take a look at the stats showing what DSFRS have achieved so far.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

How to break the grip of a Rip Current

Rip currents can be difficult to spot, but have the power to sweep even the strongest and experienced beachgoer out to sea – some reaching speeds 3 times faster than an Olympic swimmer!

If you can, always choose a lifeguarded beach, swim between the yellow and red flags and take advice from the lifeguards

How to break the grip of a rip:

- Don't try to swim against it or you'll get exhausted
- If you can stand, wade don't swim
- If you can, swim parallel to the shore until free of the rip and then head for shore
- Raise your hand, shout for help

If you see anyone else in trouble, alert the lifeguards or call 999 Coastguard

Please [click here](#) for more tips on rips and safety advice on tides, read the latest safety spotlight.

The Woodland Trust

Record your first ripe fruit sighting

Have you spotted any ripe blackberries yet? Last year the Woodland Trust received records in early July. Be sure to record your first ripe fruit sighting with the Woodland Trust on Nature's Calendar at found [here](#). You'll be contributing to a long biological record that dates back as far as 1736!

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

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.](#)

Somerset West and Taunton (SWT) Employment Hubs Need help with getting back into employment?

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

For support, a chat and a virtual cup of tea, please [click here](#) or you can email: employmentsupport@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk. You can also find out more information on the [SWT website](#) or refer to the poster attached to this newsletter.

Step up Somerset

Reminder- Aged 15-18 and unsure what career to path to take? Making career decisions can be intimidating and challenging, but there are lots of people and resources to help you. Get help transitioning from education to work with Step up Somerset. Please [click here](#) for further information.

Minehead Eye Youth Employment Hub

SWT has recently launched the Youth Employment Hub – a free employment service for those aged between 16 and 24 in the Taunton, Wellington and West Somerset area. The Hub can support with creating a CV, filling in job application forms, finding work and training opportunities and exploring any funding available as well as links to volunteering.

The Hub will be at the **Minehead Eye every Thursday between 1pm and 3pm**. At the moment the Employment Hub is by appointment only, but it is hoped to open it to

a drop-in service as soon as possible. To make an appointment please contact employmentsupport@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

The **Access to Employment and Learning Fund** is still available to help remove any barriers preventing Somerset West and Taunton residents accessing training or work. The fund is very flexible and can be used to cover transport to and from work or training, work equipment, childcare costs even the cost of the training itself. Please [click here](#) to find out more information and apply.

Hinkley Point C (HPC) Jobs Service Drop-In Event

Under Construction in collaboration with SWT Community Employment Hubs is holding a Virtual Drop-In with the HPC Jobs Service team, on

Wednesday 14 July between 11am - 12pm.

The HPC Jobs Service will be starting with a short presentation providing an overview of the HPC project. After the presentation there will be a Q&A session, but should you still have any questions there will be an opportunity to chat with someone 1:1 from the HPC Jobs Service in a private breakout room.

This is a free event but attendees must register for a ticket. Once registered, links to join the Microsoft Teams Event will be sent out a couple days ahead of the Virtual Drop-In along with information and guidance. For more information please contact employmentsupport@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Young Somerset

Reminder - Bold & Brave

[Young Somerset](#), in partnership with [sen.se](#), are on the search for talented, young producers and designers in Somerset, to give them the opportunity to showcase and sell their products at a new social enterprise shop in Taunton.

From creating cards to designing websites, this unique opportunity allows young people to develop their skills and confidence, network with other like-minded people and be mentored by Young Somerset staff and partners.

Anyone aged 14-25 can apply by sending the following details to retail manager Carol by **Friday 16 July 2021.**

Please [click here](#) for full details.

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.

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.

Community Council for Somerset (CCS) Covid Confident Communities Booklet

The end of lockdown is finally in sight and lots of people are very excited about getting back together; CCS know that many groups have questions and concerns about how to do so safely. So Spark Somerset have produced the Covid Confident Communities Booklet, which CCS are proud to be featured in.

Whether you're running a community building, community group, managing volunteers, or are a volunteer working directly with the public, this booklet has been designed to help you get out and about and gather safely again.

It's full of useful information, including:

- How to re-open safely
- Support for your group
- Getting active outdoors
- How to help others
- Looking after your own wellbeing
- Managing post-lockdown anxiety

For any ethnic minority groups, please contact the SDC team for help, support, and advice about groups meeting and opening up safely. Call **01823 331222** or email info@somersetccc.org.uk

For any bespoke Community Buildings advice please contact CCS's specialist advisor Sally Sargent. Email sallys@somersetccc.org.uk

You can download a free copy of the Covid Confident Communities [here](#) (in English & multiple language)

Recent Talking Cafe Live

Village Agent, Jane Wood spoke with two guests - Autism Somerset who shared information about an important consultation they have, and Debbi Sutton from Art for Everyone, dementia-friendly art sessions - for the Carer and the cared for. Please [click here](#) to watch a replay of the LIVE.

Incorporation for Community Buildings Workshop

This workshop will look at reasons for incorporation, the different types of CIO and other incorporated options, what the change means and how the process works. This workshop will look at the support that is available to help trustees wishing to make the change and the costs and benefits to the charity.

This will be an interactive meeting, part presentation, part discussion. All attendees are asked to participate using both sound and camera so that everyone can see who is speaking.

Please [click here](#) to book your space. **Tuesday, 13 July, 10am – 12pm.**

Free networking event for Social Enterprises in Somerset

Somerset Social Enterprise Network (SSEN) - part of the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) are offering a free networking event for social enterprises in Somerset. Secure your space on these brilliant opportunities to learn from each other and thrive!

Please [click here](#) to book your place at the online event scheduled for **Wednesday, 14 July, 1pm – 2pm.**

Meal and food boxes

Meal and food boxes are available in your community. Anyone can request a meal or food box, regardless of your financial situation. You can access these free meals by contacting your local Village Agent call – **01823 331222**. Please [click here](#) for further information.

Do you need an emergency delivery of fuel?

The CCS Oil Scheme partners AF Affinity have a great scheme where they can deliver a fast, emergency parcel of fuel to tide you over until you can get a full delivery! Call them on **01603 881888** between 9am – 4.30pm to order or email somersetbuying@af-affinity.co.uk. For more information, [click here](#).

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF)

HPC Community Fund supports environmental projects

Access to natural environments and wildlife is well documented as having positive benefits for people's health and wellbeing, and never has this been more important than during the past 15 months. The Hinkley Point C (HPC) Community Fund, managed by Somerset Community Foundation, is committed to improving the environment as a catalyst for change in people's lives in the communities impacted by the construction project.

Over £167,000 has been awarded to environmental projects from the HPC Community Fund since 2017, which builds on over £370,000 that was previously awarded from the Community Impact Mitigation Fund, both of which are funded by EDF. Environmental projects supported by the Fund range from building bat boxes to redeveloping park land, enriching many local people's lives and their communities.

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

If you run a local community project in the area, please visit: www.hpcfunds.co.uk or call **01749 344949** to find out more about how to apply.

HPC Community Awards – Panel Member Needed

Are you passionate about Somerset? Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) is looking for an individual to volunteer on the Hinkley Point C (HPC) Community Fund Awards Panel - and applications from people with knowledge of West Somerset are particularly welcome.

The HPC Community Fund - managed by Somerset Community Foundation - awards grants to those seeking support for projects and initiatives that will help to mitigate the impacts and increase the opportunities of the Hinkley Point C build in their community. The Awards Panel, which includes members of the local community, makes the decisions about which local projects will be awarded grants. To date they have helped to award over £4.5 million to local organisations, with grants ranging from £200 to £370,000.

To find out more about this exciting voluntary role, visit: www.somersetcf.org.uk/about-us/vacancies or apply by sending your CV and a covering letter to: info@somersetcf.org.uk or post to Carolyn Phimister, Somerset Community Foundation, Yeoman House, Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN, to arrive by noon, **Friday 30 July**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Trustees Wanted

SCF currently has vacancies on the Board of Trustees for up to three people, who share a commitment and passion for Somerset, and who can give time and support to their philanthropic services and grant making programmes. For more information please visit [Somerset Community Foundation - Vacancies \(somersetcf.org.uk\)](http://Somerset Community Foundation - Vacancies (somersetcf.org.uk))

The deadline to apply is by **5pm Monday 26 July 2021**.

Reminder - Glastonbury Festival Solidarity Fund

The Glastonbury Festival Solidarity Fund is now open to applications. If your group raised money at previous Glastonbury Festivals, usually runs on less than £100k per annum and is based in Somerset (or just over the border) you may be able to apply.

Organisations can apply for £250 - £2,500 which can be spent on revenue costs such as insurance, rent, utility bills etc. You must submit your application by **5pm Friday 23 July 2021**.

Please [click here](#) to view the eligibility criteria and find out more information.

Spark Somerset

Open Mental Health Grants – Deadline 14 July 2021

Spark Somerset is a proud member of Open Mental Health, an alliance of local voluntary organisations and the NHS. They are working in partnership to ensure that residents of Somerset get the support they need, when they need it.

Open Mental Health supports people to live a full life by enabling access to specialist mental health support, debt and employment advice, volunteering opportunities, community activities and exercise.

The service is available to adults in Somerset who are suffering from mental health problems. The organisations in the alliance form part of a wider ecosystem of mental health and wellbeing support across Somerset. By working in partnership, they want to ensure that there is 'no wrong door' for anyone who needs help.

Open Mental Health are looking to expand the provision of support in Somerset by inviting local organisations to apply for a grant of up to £15,000.

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

Reminder- Advice and Support for Voluntary Groups

Spark Somerset is the local infrastructure charity providing free support and advice to voluntary sector groups and organisations across the county. They also run the Volunteer Service, [Spark a Change](#), helping hundreds of people in Somerset to volunteer each year.

If you are a voluntary group or organisation and you'd like to talk about how Spark Somerset could support you then please get in touch with your advisor for the Taunton and West Somerset area, Jenny Hannis on jenny.hannis@sparksomerset.org.uk or **07971 912452**.

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

Clinton's Covid catch-up

In a recent Covid Catch-Up, Clinton visited the vaccination centre at Taunton Racecourse. The COVID-19 jab is now being offered to all adults over the age of 18 and the vaccine is the key to unlocking a return to a normal way of life.

Clinton chats to Caroline Upton, NHS lead at the site, and to Alison Bell, public health consultant with SCC, about the importance of getting your second jab. There is also a mention of the importance of continuing regular testing and also isolating and requesting a PCR test should you be notified or develop symptoms.

Please [click here](#) to watch the video.

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.

How to do a COVID-19 Self-Test

Rapid lateral flow tests are for people who do not have symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19). You can see the result on a device similar to a pregnancy test, usually in 30 minutes. Please [click here](#) to watch a video on how to test yourself for Coronavirus using a self-test kit, as well as how to read your result and report it to the NHS. Actual test kits may vary slightly from the version used here, so please always check the instruction leaflet in your kit.

The importance of regular testing

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

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.

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>

[Public Health England](#)

[NHS – Help and Advice](#)

FAQS

Q. My son/daughter is due to return home from University, however, they have been told to self-isolate. They are unable to remain in their student accommodation. What options are available to handle this situation?

A. Students have started returning home from University and there's an important point to note if they have been told to self-isolate. Ideally, they should self-isolate for 10 days where they are currently living. However, if a student has to return home (for example, because a landlord insists they vacate their property) then they must complete the self-isolation period at home, and the rest of the household must also self-isolate with them.

People are being reminded to be especially careful if there is someone who is clinically vulnerable in the household, and see if it's possible to make other arrangements. What's important is that wherever the student self-isolates, the rest of the household must self-isolate too.

Q. I've heard I may need a booster vaccination for COVID-19 in the autumn. Where can I find out more information?

A. Millions of people most vulnerable to COVID-19 may be offered a booster vaccination from September to ensure the protection they have from first and second doses is maintained ahead of the winter and against new variants, following interim advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

The JCVI's interim advice is to plan to offer COVID-19 booster vaccines from September 2021, in order to prolong the protection that vaccines provide in those who are most vulnerable to serious COVID-19 ahead of the winter months. The 2-stage programme would take place alongside the annual flu vaccination programme. Further details of the flu vaccination programme will be set out in due course. Please [click here](#) to keep up to date with the latest Government announcements.

Crime / Safeguarding

Action Fraud

Vaccine Passport Scam

Action Fraud have received over 370 reports from members of the public who have been sent emails purporting to be from the NHS, offering them a vaccine passport. The fake emails claim that the passport will allow you to travel safely and freely around the world without having to self-isolate. The emails ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases the online form has looked very similar to the real NHS website.

Please [click here](#) to read more on how you can protect yourself.

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge. If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling **0300 123 2040** or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Avon & Somerset Police (A&SP)

Watching the football this weekend?

Please remember to take care and look after each other. A&SP want everyone to enjoy the game safely. Read some of our tips below:

- Leave plenty of time to reach your destination safely, without speeding. Check your vehicle is in working order before setting off. Keep supplies on board in case you are caught in traffic.
- If you're drinking alcohol, drink responsibly and let someone else do the driving.
- Please remember to stick to the rules of six people or two households indoors and up to 30 people outdoors.
- Don't let emotions spill into violence. Hate crime will also not be tolerated, whether it's in-person or online.

A&SP will be out and about doing extra patrols to keep our communities safe too. If you need them, call 999 in an emergency. Otherwise call 101 or report to us [online](#).

Is your vehicle taxed and insured?

Wellington Neighbourhood Policing Team Officers have removed another 2 vehicles from the roads. A dark 4x4 was seized following a stop check during which the male driver was reported for driving other than in accordance with a licence and for driving without insurance. A red Nissan Micra was removed from a road in Wiveliscombe, due to it not being taxed.

Please [click here](#) if you wish to report a vehicle in your community that's not taxed or that's being driven without insurance or an MOT.

For further 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](#)
- [Wellington Neighbourhood Policing](#)
- [Taunton 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

Attachments

Youth Employment Hub PDF