

Somerset West and Taunton

Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils

Issue 75 Week ending 12/09/2021

SWT Council's priority strategic themes and outcomes

Somerset West and Taunton Council's four strategic themes are as follows:

- Our Environment and Economy
- A Transparent and Customer Focused Council
- Homes and Communities
- An Enterprising Council

[Click here](#) to view SWT's expected outcomes.

Key Messages this week

1. Vaccination centre to move to Firepool site

Plans are now in place to move the vaccination centre from the existing location at Taunton Racecourse to a new site at Firepool in Taunton in early October. Pre-booked vaccination appointments and walk-ins will continue to run, seven days a week until the new site is ready to open.

Over the next few weeks, work will take place to prepare the new centre, using specially designed portacabins at the Firepool site. When the new site is ready, the existing site will close to enable the racecourse team to return to business as usual.

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

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:

- Monday 13 September – Audit and Governance Committee, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Wednesday 8 September)
- Wednesday 15 September – Executive, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 10 September)
- Thursday 23 September – Planning Committee, 1pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 20 September)

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 governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk.

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

3. SWT marked National Emergency Services Day

SWT marked national Emergency Services Day with a flag raising ceremony at Deane House, Taunton. The 999 Flag was raised on Thursday 9 September. A flag was also flown at West Somerset House in Williton.

National Emergency Services Day takes place on 9 September every year. Two minutes silence is held at 9am (the 9th hour of the 9th day of the 9th month) to remember emergency services personnel killed as a result of their duties. The day gives an opportunity to promote the work of the emergency services, educate the public and promote volunteering opportunities.

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

4. Official Opening at Rainbow Way for Snazaroo

The Chair of SWT attended the official opening of a new Snazaroo facility in Minehead along with the Mayor of Minehead and the CEO of Colart International who owns the Snazaroo brand and business.

The company which produces professional face paint kits and is one of the major employers in West Somerset, moved to its new home in March this year but celebrations were put on hold during the COVID-19 lockdown.

SWT delivered the two new light industrial units on the land off Seaward Way, now officially known as Rainbow Way. The other unit has been let to national company, Toolstation.

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

5. Future secured for Sandhill Park

SWT is working with the new owners of Sandhill Park, the Akkeron Group, trading under Blackdown Hills Living Ltd, to ensure the historic Grade II* listed building is preserved after years of neglect.

The house was badly damaged by fire in 2011 and is included in the Heritage at Risk Register produced by Historic England. The emergency works to the house will be addressed as a priority with a longer-term plan for residential use to be presented by the owner in due course.

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

6. Somerset West Lottery Autumn 2021

The Somerset West Lottery is taking part in the Autumn 2021 bolt-on prize draw. Everyone who signs up to purchase one or more tickets between 1 September and 30 October 2021 will be in with the chance to win a £1,000 John Lewis gift voucher, courtesy of Gatherwell the external lottery management company (ELM).

If you know of a good cause wishing to raise funds or would like to buy a ticket contact the Somerset West Lottery on **0300 30 20 666**; support@somersetwestlottery.co.uk or visit www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk

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

7. SWT shortlisted in national award for neurodiversity work

SWT has been shortlisted for this year's Municipal Journal Achievement Awards in recognition for its work to support neurodiversity in the workplace. SWT's People Business Partner team will attend a live awards ceremony along with five other nominees for the 'Innovation in Building Diversity and Inclusion' category, taking place at the London Hilton on **Friday 17 September**.

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

8. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP) Recycle More Update

The latest phase of Recycle More is set to roll out within the former Taunton Deane Borough district at the beginning of November and this will include expanded weekly recycling collections in **Taunton, Wellington and Wiveliscombe**. West Somerset and Sedgemoor are scheduled to get the new service together early in 2022.

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

Garden waste collections set to restart

As promised by SWP, garden waste collections will restart on your usual collection day in the fortnight that begins **Monday 13 September**. Check all your garden waste collection days from Monday 13 September (not before - those are the pre-suspension dates) via My Collection Day at somersetwaste.gov.uk (tip: postcode gap AB1 2CD).

Eight weeks have been automatically added to subscriptions, taking most customers through to mid-July next year. For all details of the garden waste suspension, visit: somersetwaste.gov.uk/gardenwaste-suspension/

Until new collections are reinstated, please continue to minimise garden waste. Consider mowing and pruning less, and mulching grass cuttings to retain moisture and reduce weeds. You can drop off garden waste at any recycle site, and compost more – advice and a bargain bin offer here: somersetwaste.gov.uk/home-composting.

SWP are recruiting HGV drivers

If you know anyone who may be interested in a career with SUEZ (Somerset Waste Partnership's collections contractor) as a driver, supervisor or loader, please sign-post them to www.suez.co.uk/join-our-team-in-somerset

Following on from previous successes, there is now the chance to learn about job opportunities with SUEZ. This is being offered by way of a free virtual event. Organised by Under Construction, the Employment and Skills Team at Sedgemoor District Council and SWT's Community Employment Hubs, the session will give an overview of current vacancies, a behind the scenes look at SUEZ and the benefits they offer followed by a Question & Answer session. The event will take place online via Microsoft Teams on the **15 September** offering two sessions and anyone interested in attending should register online.

Register [here](#) for the first session that will take place between 11am – 12pm.

Register [here](#) for the evening session that will take place between 7pm – 8pm.

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

A return to summer for a few days, with some very hot conditions, but it now seems like we have returned to more typical weather. The **A396 Wheddon Cross to Bridgetown Road, between Thorne Lane and Quarme Lane**, is now closed until

20 September to allow for structural repairs to the damaged verge and embankment supporting the road.

Carriageway resurfacing will be taking place at:

- **B3187 Sand Street, Milverton** (Saturday 11 September, daytime)
- **Parkhouse Road and Post Office Lane, Minehead** (Sunday 12 September, daytime)
- **Magdalen Street and Duke Street, Taunton** (Monday 20, Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22, evenings, 6.30pm to 11.30pm).

These will all be temporary road closures.

Repairs to post and steel tube pedestrian fencing is programmed for **B3227 New Road, Waterrow** (13 - 17 September, temporary traffic signals) and **Langford Lane, Staplegrove** (24 - 27 September, temporary road closure).

There will also be temporary traffic signals on the **A38 Wellington Relief Road at Bagley Green** on 17 September for the installation of a concrete base for a new winter weather station.

A temporary lane closure of the **A38 Exeter Road, Sampford Arundel** from 15 September to 8 October will allow for drainage improvements along this section of road.

Footway resurfacing is scheduled for the week commencing 20 September for **Wooldridge Mead, Oxlease and Snathe Lea**, all in **Bishops Lydeard**.

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

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](#)

[Report noxious weeds here](#)

[Street light not working](#)

[Blocked surface water drain on the highway.](#)

Concessionary travel update

Restrictions on the use of Concessionary Bus Passes in Somerset returned to normal on Monday 6 September.

As bus services in Somerset return to pre-COVID-19 levels and with students returning to schools and colleges, Concessionary Bus Pass holders can no longer travel free of charge on local routes before 9.30am.

The restriction, which was temporarily lifted during the pandemic, only applies to journeys on the local bus network before 9.30am on Mondays to Fridays. Travel will be free for pass holders at weekends and on Bank Holidays.

Reminder - Student Bus Tickets

Due to the on-going uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic, Somerset County Council will not be offering the County Ticket scheme for the 2021/22 academic year. The potential for the re-introduction of additional restrictions/ lockdowns, or the continuation of social distancing measures and possible changes to the level of College attendance required from September 2021, mean an annual pre-paid ticket is not the most viable option

Buses of Somerset offer various ticket options including ticket bundles, a weekly ticket and an mticket (which can be purchased through the mobile phone [mticket App](#)). Please visit the [Buses of Somerset](#) website for more information on ticket options and fares or contact the operator.

To explore the options available and find out more information about school transport please [click here](#).

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 Career Opportunities

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 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) - 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](#)

West Coast 360

Training Opportunities for West Somerset Businesses

To support local businesses after COVID restrictions are lifted, SWT, West Coast 360 and Skill Up West Somerset are pleased to offer free training to employers, their staff and anyone interested in working in the hospitality and leisure industry.

These courses are for West Somerset residents who are returning to work after furlough, wishing to gain more skills or looking to start a career in this sector.

To find out more and register for the available courses please [click here](#).

Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP)

Kit out the Nation – Donate your unwanted sports kit!

In partnership with BBC Radio Somerset, SASP are taking part in Kit Out The Nation.

What is this campaign about?

Kit Out the Nation' is a BBC month long Make a Difference campaign aimed at taking in and distributing unwanted, good condition sports kit and getting it to children and teenagers who need it.

Why are SASP doing this?

SASP has long known of the issue around access to sport and exercise because of the affordability of kit. The situation has been compounded by the pandemic and this is a chance to help to improve that situation.

How can you support?

If you have any old or unused sports kit in good condition that can be passed on to a child in need please donate to the SASP offices at:

Castle Business Centre, Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington, Somerset TA21 9JQ. (Open - Monday - Wednesdays, 1.30pm – 4.30pm).

SASP will then work with local schools and children in their programmes to distribute to local children in need of a little extra support.

How can you get involved?

SASP are looking for donations as well as companies, charities, sports clubs and community groups willing to offer their premises for donation collection of clean kit in good condition at specified times and/or for distribution to schools and clubs who may need them, [please contact the BBC using this online form](#) to register your premises as a donation point.

Community Sport and Leisure Providers Workshop

Join the conversation – what would make it easier and more appealing to be physically active, whatever your age in Somerset? SASP and partners have launched the big on-line conversation to find out. They are also holding 3 virtual workshop sessions to capture your discussions and give you an opportunity to share your thoughts, ideas and opinions.

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

Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme (QLPS)

Archaeological dig in Bicknoller

Ever fancied becoming an archaeologist? Now you can in your own back garden! On the 16/17 October Past Participate are visiting Bicknoller to conduct archaeological excavations. 400-500 years ago the people who lived in the village worked in the cloth and clothing industries, as weavers, dyers, tanners, glovers, and clothiers. Help learn more about them during the excavations.

Get in touch with the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme at qlps@somerset.gov.uk or info@pastparticipate.co.uk to find out more.

Exmoor National Park (ENP)

Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 2021

A night-time adventure on board open top bus 'the Exmoor Coaster' with an expert astronomer is just one of the brand-new experiences on offer for those lucky enough to secure tickets at this year's [Exmoor Dark Skies Festival](#), running from **22 October to 7 November 2021**.

The full programme has just been announced, with printed copies available free from National Park Centres at Dunster, Dulverton and Lynmouth and online at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival.

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

Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS)

Business Safety Week

This week is the National Fire Chiefs Council's Business Safety Week (6-12 September) which aims to make businesses aware of their fire safety responsibilities, so they comply with legislation to keep both premises and occupants safe from fire.

This week, DSFRS remind businesses to:

1. **Update your fire risk assessment** to reflect any changes your business has made in response to the pandemic in the workplace. Read about how to write a [fire risk assessment](#).
2. **Ensure staff fire safety training is in place**. Staff must be suitably trained and your fire equipment checked and maintained. Ensure any Covid-secure measures do not compromise the fire safety of your staff members or premises.
3. **Lower the risk of arson**. Most arson attacks are unplanned and opportunistic. Follow [DSFRS top tips](#) to protect your premises.
4. **Reduce false alarms in your workplace**. Any unwanted alarm will have an impact on business productivity and increases pressure on the fire service. Make sure you [prevent false alarms](#) from happening.

The DSFRS Business Safety team can provide free help, advice and guidance to any business in Devon and Somerset. You can make contact by phone on 01392 872567 or email: firesafetyhelpdesk@dsfire.gov.uk.

Learn 2 Live (L2L)

Reminder - Driving safely – Parents Event

This year's event is free to attend and takes place on **Monday 13 September at 7pm - 8pm**. The event will be live streamed online via the [Learn2Live](#) website and social media platforms due to COVID-19 and in the hope of attracting a national audience helping to educate and save more lives.

Please [click here](#) to read more about Learn 2 Live.

HM Coastguard Watchet Update

Multi-Agency Search

HM Coastguard Watchet & HM Coastguard Minehead were tasked jointly alongside Exmoor Search & Rescue Team to assist Avon and Somerset Police with a search for a missing male in the Hopcott Area of Minehead. Shortly after arriving at the station and being deployed to scene the Police confirmed they had located the male and the multi-agency assistance was stood down. This is another example of where HM Coastguard work not only on the coasts but also inland as required to assist the other emergency services utilising the L&MPS (Lost and missing persons search) training.

Rescue for first-time paddleboarders

This week the team was tasked alongside [HM Coastguard Minehead](#) and [Minehead RNLI Lifeboat Station](#) to a report of 2 stand up paddle boarders in difficulty near Hurlstone Point Bossington Beach, Somerset. With numerous witnesses reporting on 999 the pair were in difficulty the lifeboats immediately launched whilst the shore based search teams deployed to the clifftops and beaches to try and locate the pair. It was not long before the 2 adults were located on the shoreline beneath the cliffs having been pushed around by the strong current and unable to get back around the headland. They were recovered into the lifeboats and were taken ashore at Bossington Beach safe and well.

Both HM Coastguard and The [RNLI](#) remind anyone going afloat to check the tides and weather, wear personal floatation devices (buoyancy aids), wetsuits (sea temperature is always cold around the UK waters) and have a means to call for help, ideally a VHF radio or mobile phone for coastal use in a waterproof bag. The 2 rescued paddlers had only just purchased their stand-up paddle boards earlier in the day.

For full details please refer to the RNLI Lifeboat Station, Minehead [press release](#).

Community Support – What help is out there?

Voluntary and Community Sector Support

Universal Credit

Personal Allowance Uplift to End

In April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Universal Credit increased all Personal Allowances by £20 per week. **This will end on the 30 September.**

As the monthly bills such as rent and council tax will be unchanged, now is the time to plan and readjust household budgets and expenses before the winter bills start to arrive.

It may also be a good time to review other bills like Energy, Broadband and Mobile phone contracts. Check out www.uswitch.com for up to date offers and deals.

Don't forget about "The Warm Home Discount "

This is a government scheme which helps with a one-off payment of up to £140 discount towards electricity bills that energy suppliers provide between October and March.

There are 2 ways to qualify:

1. You are already in receipt of the Guarantee element of Pension Credit
2. You are on a low income and meet your energy suppliers' criteria for the scheme.

Contact the helpline on **0800 731 0214** or go to the website: www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme.

Spark Somerset

Life Cycle UK

Last week, [Life Cycle UK](#) launched a new campaign to get people in Somerset cycling!

Get Somerset Cycling is offering tuition and bike vouchers to eligible people in Somerset, and community organisations and local business can apply for funding to install cycle parking on their premises.

Visit <https://www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/get-somerset-cycling> to find out more.

Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

Facebook Live every Wednesday

Due to the reopening of so many Talking Cafes venues across the county, the Village Agents are reducing the Live Facebook sessions to once a week.

These will now take place on Wednesdays at 1pm.

You can also watch all past Talking Cafes on The Talking Cafe YouTube channel [here](#).

Talking Café in-person events are currently at limited venues, and it is advisable to book an appointment before attending. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF)

Opportunity to make a real difference in 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.

To find out more about this exciting voluntary role, [click here](#) 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, **Monday 11 October**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

If you run a local community project in Somerset and would like to find out more about grant funding from the HPC Community Fund please visit: www.hpcfunds.co.uk or call Somerset Community Foundation on: **01749 344949**.

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

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.

Somerset Business Agency

Future Farming Resilience

Free, tailored one to one advice, webinars and business skills development workshops to help farmers and land managers navigate the changes brought about by the Agricultural Transition. Get in touch to learn more and register Future Farming Resilience at somersetbusinessagency.org or by phoning **01458 254 331**.

Health and Welfare

Have you had your jabs? Book now for first and second doses

Vaccines are the best way to protect people from COVID-19 and have already saved thousands of lives. Anyone eligible, especially those 16 and 17 year olds heading back into education or training, can now book a COVID-19 vaccine online.

Alternatively, use the link below to find out more about where the local 'Grab a Job'

clinics are taking place this week. [Covid-19 vaccinations in Somerset - Somerset CCG](#)

For the latest information about the Somerset vaccination programme, vaccination centres and walk-in centres follow this [link](#).

Stay safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19

Coronavirus remains a serious health risk. You should stay cautious to help protect yourself and others.

- Meet outside, or open windows and doors for indoor visitors
- If you think you have symptoms stay at home and [take a PCR test](#)
- Wear face coverings in crowded places and on public transport
- Check in to venues when you go out
- Wash your hands with soap regularly, and for at least 20 seconds
- [Get vaccinated](#).

Twice weekly testing

For people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, it remains very important to participate in twice weekly asymptomatic testing if you are out and about and meeting up with people. Please make sure that you take a test **before** you travel anywhere and if it is positive, stay at home and arrange a PCR test.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 it is important that you take a PCR test, which can be done by phoning 119 or ordering a test here: [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Clinton's COVID Catch Up

Back to School

In the latest COVID Catch Up, Clinton Rogers has lots more detail about what students and parents can expect, now the autumn term has started. Please [click here](#) to watch the video.

New type of lateral flow test

A few weeks ago, Public Health stated that there would be two different lateral flow device kits in circulation - the Orient Gene kit and the Acon Flowflex kit – both nasal only kits that provide a result in 15 minutes. Due to stock availability issues, the Innova nose and throat kits will be returning until at least mid-September. This kit requires swabbing of both the tonsils and nostrils and the result takes 30 minutes.

Please be aware of this change, and make sure that you always read the kit instructions before you do your test, as they will differ slightly.

You are reminded that if you have previously received a positive Covid PCR test result, you should not re-test yourself by either using a rapid lateral flow kit or by having another PCR test within 90 days of the first positive result **unless** you develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

If you'd like to know more, a video which shows you how to use the new kit can be viewed [here](#). By testing yourself regularly you are helping to reduce the spread of the infection.

All COVID-19 Restrictions in England now lifted

Please refer to the links below for the latest Coronavirus-related advice, help and guidance, should you need any help in the future.

- [Order your lateral flow tests online](#)
- [How to do a COVID-19 lateral flow test](#)
- [Log your lateral flow results here](#)
- [Book or request a PCR test online](#)
- [List of local pharmacies offering lateral flow testing](#)
- [Somerset COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan Dashboard](#)
- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- [NHS – Help and Advice](#)

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.

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.

World Suicide Prevention Awareness Day

World Suicide Prevention Day is an awareness day observed on **10 September** every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world since 2003.

In the UK, men are three times as likely to die by suicide than women. While there has been a reduction in the number of people completing suicide over the last ten years, the numbers are still worryingly high. World Suicide Prevention Day aims to start the conversation about suicide and to show that recovery is possible.

World Suicide Prevention day is hosted by IASP. For more information, [click here](#).

Cancer Research UK Breast Cancer Awareness

Breast cancer it's a scary thought and all too many women assume that it won't happen to them. Fact is though, every ten minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK. So, don't be ignorant, during October (breast cancer awareness month 2021) go for a medical check-up, it might save your life. For more information about breast cancer, please [click here](#).

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
- Somerset Domestic Abuse helpline - 0800 69 49 999

FAQS

Q. I have a health condition which means my immune system is severely weakened. Will I need to have a booster COVID-19 vaccination?

A. Adults and children aged 12 and over with a severely weakened immune system will be offered a third COVID-19 vaccine dose. The NHS will contact you directly to arrange an appointment. Please [click here](#) to keep up to date with the latest Government announcements.

Q. I've been asked to show my NHS Covid Pass. What is this and what does it mean?

A. An NHS COVID Pass shows your Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination details or test results. This is your COVID-19 status. You may be asked to show your pass to travel abroad, or at events and venues in England asking for proof of your COVID-19 status. Please [click here](#) for further information.

Crime / Safeguarding

National Crime Agency

Do you know what an unexplained wealth order is?

They require individuals to provide a statement explaining how they obtained their assets and can be applied to serious criminals who have unexplained wealth of over £50k in the UK. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking

Some people are forced to undertake sex work against their will. This is modern slavery. Across the next two weeks, the National Crime Agency will be raising awareness of the threat of sexual exploitation, how offenders operate, how to spot the signs and how you can help us to combat this crime.

[Click here](#) to watch a short video that addresses these crimes.

Avon & Somerset Police (A&SP)

Appeal for information following discovery of cannabis factory

Officers investigating a cannabis factory in Minehead are appealing for help from local residents. More than 1,000 plants were found inside 71a and 71b Alcombe Road on Tuesday 31 August.

While the majority of the properties were taken up by the plants, there was evidence someone was living at them.

Officers are concerned someone may have been forced to look after the plants and are keen to hear from anyone who saw any suspicious activity, including details of any vehicles that may have visited.

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

Call 999 for an ambulance in a medical emergency

The police would like to highlight that their colleagues in the ambulance service [South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust](#) are asking for everyone's help to make sure they can help those who need them most at this busy time. Please only call 999 for an ambulance in a medical emergency. They are currently experiencing a very high demand on their 999 emergency service across the South West area.

PCC, Mark Shelford visits West Somerset

The day began in Minehead to discuss policing issues in the local area such as speeding and neighbourhood policing. The PCC then met with a number of parish and district councillors where similar issues were raised. In the afternoon, the PCC met with representatives from a local Neighbourhood Watch group to share ideas and discuss concerns raised by local residents.

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

Police Facebook Followers Survey

What would you like to see from the police on Facebook?

Take part in a quick online anonymous survey to help shape the way the police use social media. Please [click here](#) to take part in the short survey.

National Service Dog Bravery and Achievement Awards

Huge congratulations are in order for PD Bandit and PC Lee Fairman who were awarded for their outstanding achievement for their work in the field of drugs and cash detection at the National Service Dog Bravery and Achievement Awards earlier this week.

PD Bandit came to A&SP as an abandoned dog who had been rejected by previous owners because of a number of personality issues that made him unsuitable as a family pet. But, with the expert training from PC Lee Fairman and A&SP's dog section Chief Instructor Sergeant Dennis McCoy, Bandit became a specialist police search dog and an invaluable member of the police family.

In the short time Bandit has been in service, he has consistently shown great success in search work, finding copious amounts of Class A and Class B drugs along with large amounts of cash obtained due to criminal activity.

Please [click here](#) to see a photograph and read the comments.

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.