

# Somerset West and Taunton

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

### **Issue 83 Week ending 07/11/2021**

#### **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. Local Government Reorganisation**

The draft Structural Change Order has now been shared with the five councils in Somerset in a letter from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The Structural Change Order is essential for Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset and will establish the basic operating and governance principles for the transition from five existing councils (four district councils and the county council) to the new unitary council.

This will be finalised and laid before Parliament around the turn of the year and come into force by the end of March.

The Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing will give the five councils two weeks to respond to the proposals contained in the letter.

They key proposals outlined in the letter are:

- The new Council will be called Somerset Council.
- The first election to the new unitary council will be in either May 2022 or May 2023. If the first election is in May 2022 the elections will use

County Council division boundaries but with 110 members elected rather than 55. This is the fall-back position which is still under review.

- It is proposed that Somerset County Council will be the “continuing authority” for the new Council.

The LGR Joint Committee is due to consider the key elements of the draft SCO at its first meeting today (5 November).

## 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:

- **Tuesday 16 November** – Special Full Council at 6.15pm in the JMR (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Thursday 11 November)
- **Wednesday 17 November** – Executive at 6.15pm in the JMR (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 12 November)

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](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk).

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

## 3. Minehead, Taunton and Wellington receive South West in Bloom accolades

Minehead, Taunton and Wellington have each received awards in this year’s South West in Bloom competition.

The awards were presented to representatives from SWT's Street Scene and Open Spaces team during a ceremony held in October at the Winter Gardens Pavilion, Weston Super Mare.

Both Minehead and Wellington received Silver awards in the Sargent and Portman Cups respectively, and Taunton received a distinguished Silver Gilt in the Tesco Cup.

Although competing previously, both Taunton and Wellington have not been nominated for several years, with Minehead making its first entry in almost twenty years.

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

To see the full 2021 South West in Bloom result please visit <http://www.southwestinbloom.org.uk/news/Presentation-of-Awards-Weston-super-Mare.aspx>.

#### **4. Civic Ceremonies – Festival of Remembrance**

##### **Dates for the diary**

**Thursday 11 November 2021, 9.30am**

Dedication of the Field of Remembrance, St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Taunton.

**Thursday 11 November 2021, from 10.55am**

Two-Minute Silence in Taunton Town Centre

**Sunday 14 November 2021**

Remembrance Sunday Service, Taunton

The Civic Service of Remembrance at St Mary Magdalene Church will commence promptly at 9.30am followed by a Service of Remembrance in Vivary Park at 11.00am.

#### **5. Reminder - SWT Lottery Winter 2021/22 bolt on prize draw**

The Somerset West Lottery is now running the Winter 2021/22 bolt-on prize draw.

Everyone who signs up to purchase one or more tickets between 1 November 2021 and 1 January 2022, will be in with the chance to win £1,000 to spend at international sports retailer, [Decathlon](#).

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

#### **6. Reminder - Town / Parish Council Precepts for 2022/23**

SWT has emailed all parish councils enclosing Parish/Town Precept Forms for the 2022/23 Financial Year. The completed forms and any queries should be emailed to [parishprecepts@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:parishprecepts@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk).

If Parish Councils decide to return their precept demand forms using the post, then extra time should be allowed for processing in the digital mailroom. All submissions should be received by **Friday 7 January 2022**.

If you have not received your email or foresee any difficulties in returning the forms before the deadline, please inform SWT at the earliest opportunity.

## **7. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)**

### **Week One Success for Recycle More in Taunton Deane**

Expanded recycling is up and running across the Taunton Deane area with the first round of Recycle More collections this week.

By the end of today (Friday 5 November) around 55,000 weekly kerbside recycling collections will have been completed and the early signs are looking very positive. It's been a heavy week with some residents stock-piling new materials and Halloween pumpkins making their way into the food waste.

But, crews are reporting that the vast majority of households have been presenting the right materials in the right containers on the correct day. This means bags more recycling – protecting the environment and helping tackle climate change.

By the end of the week some 17,000 of the now three-week rubbish collection will also have taken place across Taunton Deane.

If you live in the area – including Taunton, Wellington and Wiveliscombe - **PLEASE CHECK if you are one of the 7,000 households scheduled to get a one-off extra rubbish collection this Saturday (6 Nov).**

These collections will ensure no-one has more than three weeks between rubbish collections as the area moves over to the new service.

Where an extra collection applies, it will be made clear on the front of the orange and blue "Coming soon!" leaflet and in the collection day calendar inside. Please keep hold of these leaflets and the calendar for future reference – especially now that rubbish collections are three-weekly.

If you live in Taunton Deane do not have a leaflet, please request a replacement using the form on the Somerset West and Taunton website [Recycle More \(somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk\)](https://www.recyclemore.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk) or call 0300 3048000.

All Bright Blue Bags should have been delivered. If for any reason you do not have one, please request a replacement using the same online form or phone number.

You can also use the My Collection Day feature on the SWP homepage to check your collection days or download a printable collection calendar. Better still, download your collection days onto the calendar on your laptop or mobile device.

Recycle More is an important change that's already delivering more than 100 tonnes of extra recycling each week in both Mendip and South Somerset.

As well as the obvious environmental benefits, once it is in place across the county it should cost around £2m less per year.

West Somerset is scheduled to get the new service early in 2022 at the same time as Sedgemoor. More details will be confirmed before the end of the year.

### **Recruitment**

Amid national LGV driver shortage's acute effect in Somerset and COVID's impact, SWP are training their own drivers, recruiting hard - including £1,000 welcome bonus - and using no-LGV vans to collect card so main truck LGV drivers keep collecting other materials for longer.

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](http://www.suez.co.uk/join-our-team-in-somerset).

For more information on kerbside services, recycling sites, and on COVID-19 and waste, visit: [somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk), sign up for the SWP e-newsletter or follow @somersetwaste on Facebook or Twitter.

### **How to report fly-tipping**

Fly-tipping – dumping rubbish - is an environmental crime. If you fly-tip you can be fined or jailed. It's a blot on our landscape and a threat to wildlife. We can all fight fly-tipping by reporting dumped rubbish and, if possible, who dumped it.

Everyone, including businesses, must be responsible for how they get rid of rubbish, even when it's left your home or premises. If you pay someone to remove your rubbish - man-with-a-van, builders, gardeners, carpet-layers or others - ask to see their waste carrier's licence, and make sure you know where your rubbish will go. If you don't you could be fined.

To report fly-tipping use SWT's [report fly-tipping](#) online form or phone 0300 304 8000.

For more information check the 'How we can all fight fly-tipping' section on the [Somerset Waste Partnership](#) website.

## **Partner Engagement – Key messages from other Public Service Areas**

### **Somerset County Council (SCC)**

#### **SCC Highway Maintenance Update**

Following a couple of wet and windy weeks, the weather has now settled down. Of course, at this time of year, this means cold and frosty. The first salt run of the

winter took place on the evening of Thursday 4 November and will be the first of many!

The wet weather did trigger a couple of landslips. The embankment supporting the road on the **B3224 just east of Stone Cross, Exford**, has slipped and temporary traffic signals are now in place. At **Moor Lane, Churchinford**, the same thing has happened but here, with the carriageway being much narrower, the road has been closed for safety reasons. SCC Highways are currently assessing the situation to identify repair works.

Footway resurfacing has been completed at Staunton Road, Minehead and **Tristram Drive, Creech St Michael**. Also completed are drainage works at Brompton Regis (between the church and Mill Cross); footway repairs at Oaken Ground, Wellington; and carriageway repairs at Hammet Street, Taunton.

Comment [DP1]:

In Carhampton, the Somerset River Authority funded drainage improvement works are progressing well. The work on the **B3191 Blue Anchor Road**, continues under temporary traffic signals and the team will then move on to the next phase on Orchard Road.

New works for the week commencing 8 November are footway repairs at **Style Road** (temporary traffic signals) and drainage works at **Hartswell** (temporary road closure), both in **Wiveliscombe**. The temporary road closure at **Exford Road, Winsford**, for drainage works carries on until 12 November.

For more information on highway maintenance works and to stay up to date visit [www.travelsomerset.co.uk](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk) or follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter.

### 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.](#)

### Driver and Vehicles Standards Agency

#### New rules for towing a trailer with a car from 15 November 2021

There will be new rules about towing a trailer or caravan with a car from 15 November 2021. Find out how the changes affect you [here](#).

It's best to take training from a driving instructor if you want to start driving a car and trailer.

The 'National standard for driving cars and light vans' tells you about the [skills, knowledge and understanding you need to tow a trailer or caravan](#).

You can also read about:

- [why learning to tow is important](#)

- [safety checks you should do when you're towing a trailer or caravan with a car](#)

If you do not comply with the new legislation, you can be fined up to £1,000, be banned from driving and get up to 6 penalty points on your driving licence if you tow anything heavier before the law changes.

## **Exmoor National Park (ENP)**

### **Bye Wood Project**

Bye Wood is part of the biggest woodland creation project to have taken place in the National Park in the past 15 years and forms part of ENP commitment to increase tree cover on Exmoor from around 13.5% to at least 17% by 2050 - the amount recommended by the UK government's independent Climate Change Committee.

At Bye Wood, the vision is to create a unique and sustainable woodland in 2021/2 using only the best environmentally friendly practices. Whether new trees are planted from seedlings, or natural colonisation (NC) is used – the natural spread of trees into an area from the seed of local trees – is an important choice.

Please [click here](#) to find out more information on the Bye Wood project.

### **Plant a Tree for COP26**

Exmoor National Park are calling for green-fingered volunteers to help with planting and growing young trees this Autumn. As the UK welcomes world leaders to the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow they are keen to send out the message that Exmoor is doing its bit and remind people that no single person's actions are too small.

Here are three ways you can support tree planting on Exmoor this Autumn:

- Sign up to collect and grow tree seeds on Exmoor towards the new tree nursery.
- **Come to the tree planting weekend at Bye Wood on 6 and 7 November.**
- Dedicate a tree through the CareMoor Woods & Trees Appeal.

Find out how to support the appeal and sign up to tree planting events at: [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/caremoor).

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

### **Farming in Protected Landscapes Fund**

To support farmers and land managers protecting the special and unique places that are our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Defra have launched the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme. The programme will provide funding to farmers and land managers for projects that support nature recovery, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide opportunities for people to engage with the landscape and cultural heritage and support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses.

The programme will run from 1 July 2021 and close on 31 March 2024 and applications can be for single year or across more than one year as long as all works will be completed by 31 March 2024. This funding is open to all farmers and land managers within the Exmoor National Park and projects outside the boundary if they can be shown to bring benefit to the area.

Please [click here](#) for more information, full application guidance and links to the application forms.

## **Quantock Hills AONB Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund**

The Quantock Hills AONB Service is delivering the Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund providing grants of up to £5,000 to local communities, farmers, landowners and individuals and landscape enhancement projects.

The fund has been provided by EDF Energy and is part of the mitigation measures associated with the Hinkley Point C development.

Projects could include tree planting, works to manage hedgerows, orchard planting or restoration, planting of wildflower meadows, management of small woodlands, willow pollarding or pond restoration.

Please [click here](#) to find out more information and download the application form.

## **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS) Bonfire Safety**

DSFRS can give you advice on how to have a bonfire safely, what you shouldn't burn on a bonfire and how to report someone who's having bonfires regularly.

Tell the fire brigade when you're having a bonfire by calling on 0333 399 0014. This is so they can check in with you if they receive any 999 calls reporting a fire in the same area and stops them from sending firefighters out to bonfires when they're not needed.

Please [click here](#) for other bonfire safety information.

## **Firework Safety**

It's always safer to attend a professionally run firework display, instead of one at somebody else's or your own home. Most firework-related injuries happen when people are using fireworks in their gardens. DSFRS [guidance](#) will help keep you safe if you're using fireworks and sparklers at home.

## **Maritime and Coastguard Agency Use fireworks only not flares**

Light up your night with fireworks only. As we approach bonfire night, The Coastguard's message remains the same: they would like to remind everyone that marine flares should only ever be used in distress situations and not for

entertainment, so please don't be tempted to use them as fireworks for bonfire night celebrations.

If the Coastguard receives an alert at or near the coast where a flare has been launched, they will always respond and won't know the difference if you are using them as fireworks. This will tie up resources when it isn't necessary, putting rescue teams at unnecessary risk and potentially diverted from a legitimate emergency.

And remember, please be safe around fireworks, respect your neighbours and the emergency services.

If you're having an organised firework party near the coast this week, please let your local coastguard centre know.

Fireworks can sometimes be mistaken for flares – a universally recognised distress signal – so if the Coastguard knows about your event, it can save vital time and resources.

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

### **Royal British Legion (RBL)**

#### **Annual Poppy Appeal**

For 100 years the Royal British Legion (RBL) has been helping serving and ex-serving personnel and their families. Please [click here](#) to watch a video commemorating the last 100 years RBL100 – Creating a lasting legacy.

Last year collectors were unable to carry out face to face collections, but this year they are returning to local communities. In the RBL's centenary year, 40,000 collectors across the country will be back on the streets raising funds for the Poppy Appeal.

These volunteers help bring together communities and create better futures for the Armed Forces and their families. They share the belief that no-one who has served to protect our freedom should be disadvantaged because of the sacrifices they have made.

Please [click here](#) to find out more and the several ways to donate to the appeal.

### **Somerset Community Foundation (SCF)**

#### **Annual Review Film 2020.21**

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) is a charity that helps passionate people in Somerset change the world on their doorstep by funding local charities and inspiring local giving and philanthropy.

SCF aim to build stronger communities in Somerset where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. They provide rewarding and impactful ways for donors to give through them, to the causes and places they care about most. Together, they fund

amazing organisations and the passionate people that change lives every day.

In this [film](#) you will hear from a small selection of the hundreds of incredible groups they have funded, all of whom have been working tirelessly to support our communities through difficult times. Since SCF were founded in 2002 they've awarded more than £16 million in funding, changing thousands of lives across Somerset.

## Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

### Drop in Talking Cafes are back!

Providing a place for you to find help, advice & support in an informal, relaxed environment. No appointments needed. The Talking Cafes can help you in the following ways:-

- Benefits Paperwork;
- If you are worried about your finances;
- If you are feeling lonely;
- If you are struggling to cook for yourself and your family;
- Can provide support for patients or carers who are leaving hospital;
- In need of support with a health condition and so much more!

Just drop in to meet your local Village Agent at the following venues during the week:-

- **Monday**  
The Beach Hotel, **Minehead** 10am – 12pm.  
Great Western Hotel, Station Approach, **Taunton** 10am – 12pm
- **Tuesday**  
The Williton Pavilion, Killick Way, **Williton** 1pm -3pm  
**NEW Venue** Musgrove Park Hospital **Taunton** (by M&S) 2pm – 4pm
- **Thursday**  
Magna, Fishersmead Community Room, **Dulverton** 10.30am – 12.30pm

Coming up in November's Wednesday [Talking Café Facebook Live](#) sessions. Tune it at 1pm to listen to the discussion.

- **10 November** - [Arthritis Action](#) Group on support for sufferers of the condition.
- **11 November** - [Somerset Waste Partnership](#) Brings news & updates of the Taunton [#RecycleMore](#) roll out.

## Spark Somerset

### Vaccine Inequalities Fund

Grants of up to £500 are now available to support initiatives that aim to help more people in Somerset to access their COVID-19 vaccinations.

The local vaccination programme has been a considerable success with over 90% of adults in Somerset having received both jabs so far. However, some people have

been less enthusiastic about having the vaccine.

This fund aims to enable local charities and community groups to support those people to access their vaccinations. This could involve delivering a community-led event, attending training, or providing practical support with booking appointments and/or transport.

You'll find further information and details of how to apply [here](#).

The Vaccine Inequalities Small Grants Fund closes on **Wednesday 1 December**.

## **Somerset Activities Sports Partnership (SASP) The pandemic's impact on sport and physical activity**

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on activity levels throughout England, but has been most acute across disadvantaged groups and areas of high deprivation.

[Sport England's latest Active Lives Adult Survey](#), published in October covers the period from mid-May 2020 to mid-May 2021, which includes periods of national and tiered restrictions introduced to counter the coronavirus pandemic. The survey period ends before all restrictions were eased in July.

While there are signs of recovery for activity levels as restrictions have eased, not all groups or demographics are affected or recovering at the same rate. Existing inequalities have been widened, with some groups hit much harder by the pandemic than others.

Please [click here](#) to read the full article from Sport England.

## **Life Cycle UK Get Somerset Cycling**

National Charity, [Life Cycle UK](#), has recently launched a new campaign to get people in Somerset cycling.

Through the [Get Somerset Cycling Campaign](#), free tuition and bike vouchers are available to eligible people in Somerset and voluntary sector organisations can apply for up to four bicycle parking stands for their premises free of charge, including delivery and installation.

You can find out more and apply [here](#).

## **Help and support for businesses affected by COVID-19**

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has made available webinars and videos about the support available to businesses to help them deal with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

HMRC cover the following government schemes:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Job Retention Scheme
- Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Rebate Scheme

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

## Health and Welfare COVID-19

### Somerset COVID Cases

The number of cases of COVID-19 in Somerset remains high and the majority of cases continue to be among school and college-age children and also staff within education settings. These infections were contracted prior to half term.

In the week up to 23 October approximately 92,215 tests were carried out across the county with 4,528 new confirmed cases. The rates have increased in the last reporting week to 805.4 per 100,000 which is above the South-West and national average.

Hospitalisation data for Somerset has increased with just over 80 COVID-19 in patients in Somerset hospitals, which is similar to the rates earlier in the pandemic, but most of these patients are not critically unwell.

### Have you had your jabs? Update on COVID-19 Booster Programme

Vaccines are the best way to protect people from COVID-19 and have already saved thousands of lives. Use the link below to find out more about where the local 'Grab a Jab' clinics are taking place this week. [COVID-19 vaccinations in Somerset - Somerset CCG](#).

The NHS are rolling out the [COVID-19 Booster Vaccination Programme](#) across Somerset to those who are eligible. You do not need to contact the NHS to arrange your booster vaccine. Once you have received the national invitation you will be able to go on the **National Booking site**: [nhs.uk/CovidVaccination](https://nhs.uk/CovidVaccination) or call 119.

It is important to note that even if you fall within one of the early cohorts (due to your age or existing health conditions) you will only be eligible for your COVID-19 booster **vaccine at least 6 months after your second vaccine dose**.

The booster programme will be delivered through existing and additional vaccination sites including pharmacies, hospital hubs, some GP practices and vaccine centres. Care home residents and staff will be prioritised ensuring they are offered a vaccine by the beginning of November.

### Clinton's COVID Catch Up

In the latest video Clinton meets with Screwfix to highlight the need for businesses to ensure they are a COVID-19 safe environment for staff. The film can be viewed [here](#).

### Vaccination Programme for 12–15-year-olds

The UK's Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) all agree that while COVID-19 is typically mild or asymptomatic in most young people, 1 dose of the vaccine will provide good

protection against severe illness and hospitalisation and help reduce disruption to education and minimise the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools.

Invitations for the jabs have begun and parental, guardian or carer consent will be sought by vaccination healthcare staff prior to vaccination. This is a well-established process used for all school vaccination programmes.

The Somerset Foundation Trust manage the childhood immunisation programme with SAINT (School Age Immunisation Nursing Team, part of the NHS). SAINT deliver the nasal flu vaccination to all schools in Somerset between October and December every year.

This year, the COVID-19 and flu vaccines are being rolled out together for 12-15-year-olds through the schools' immunisation programme. The role of schools is to facilitate access for those who wish to receive the vaccine.

The vaccine is not mandatory; the decision to have the vaccine is a personal decision. No vaccine will be given to any child without parental consent being sought.

### **Vaccination Centres offer walk in clinics for 12–15-year-olds**

COVID-19 vaccination centres in Somerset are now offering walk-in clinics for those aged 12 to 15. This is part of a local drive to make it as easy as possible for local people to get vaccinated.

Until recently, those in the 12- to 15-year-old age group were being vaccinated in schools or could book a jab at a number of vaccination centres across the county. Now families also have the option of getting their children vaccinated at a walk-in clinic.

You can find out which centres are offering walk in clinics, including those for 12 to 15 year olds on the [“grab-a-jab” website](#).

Children will also continue to be offered the COVID-19 jab through their schools

### **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.

**Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms, should book a PCR and not attend school or work.** Do not take a LFD if symptomatic. PHE advise all parents, staff and pupils to take the supervised PCR testing route where available. Ask for this when you arrive at the test centre and someone will take the swab for you to maximise the quality of the test.

From 1 November there will be a reduction in the opening hours at regional and local testing sites. Instead of opening from 8am until 8pm, they will operate from 8am until 6pm – 2 hours less per day.

Please continue to use LFD and PCR tests as you normally would, the SCC PH advice remains, if you are showing any symptoms of COVID-19 or have a positive LFD test get a PCR test and if this is positive stay at home and self-isolate for ten days to avoid infecting others.

SCC PH advice remains consistent with national guidance:

- Only use twice weekly LFD testing for asymptomatic cases
- Make sure you do an LFD according to the instructions and at least 30 minutes after eating or drinking
- If you get a positive LFD or have symptoms, self-isolate and get a PCR and **use the supervised PCR testing route at test centre to get the best quality test**

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 Lateral Flow 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](http://www.corona-helpers.co.uk).

### **Need to seek help?**

If you, or someone you know are feeling like things are too much, please know that you / they don't have to be alone. Here are some numbers of organisations that can help:

- Samaritans - 116 123
- CALM - 0800 58 58 58
- ChildLine - 0800 1111
- Anxiety UK - 03444 775 774
- Mind - 0300 123 3393
- Somerset Domestic Abuse helpline - 0800 69 49 999

## **FAQ**

**Q I'm really worried about the vaccine. Who can I talk to about this?**

**A** Free 1-2-1 advice is available via Spark Somerset who offer a Vaccination Buddy Service over the telephone. Please [click here](#) to find out more.

**Q How soon can I have a vaccination after having COVID-19?**

**A** Vaccination should be postponed for at least four weeks (28 days) after the onset of symptoms or from the first positive test in those who did not have symptoms.

## Crime / Safeguarding

### Action Fraud

#### Beware of Ticket Fraud

Ticket Fraud is when you buy tickets from a website or agent for a music concert or festival, a sporting contest such as a football match or rugby tournament, or a live comedian or performer, but the tickets either don't arrive or turn out to be fake and you aren't refunded.

You may find a website [advertised via email or social media](#) offering you the chance to buy tickets to a popular event.

Fraudsters create their own bogus ticket retail companies; their websites are easy to make and look genuine. Some even use a name or website address very similar to a legitimate ticket sales website.

This is a form of [phishing](#); fraudsters take advantage of the huge demand for the most popular events. The tickets they're advertising have either already sold out, or haven't officially gone on sale yet, but their website claims to have tickets available. In some instances the event they're promoting doesn't even exist.

You pay for the tickets, but they aren't delivered. In some cases you may be told that a customer representative will meet you at the venue on the day to give you your ticket, but nobody turns up. You may even get the tickets in the post or print off an e-ticket, but when you arrive at the event, the organisers tell you the tickets are fake.

When you try to call the company you bought the tickets from, your calls aren't answered or you're told the company doesn't provide refunds.

If you're buying football tickets, [it's illegal for anyone to re-sell them](#) in most instances.

Please [click here](#) to find out more about how to spot the signs of ticket fraud and what precautions to take to protect yourself.

### Avon and Somerset Police (ASP)

#### Mini Police

Mini Police is part of the National Volunteer Police Cadets (NVPC) programme and is aimed at children aged 8 to 11 years old.

Mini Police is an innovative police engagement programme, which is delivered in schools with the support of local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The scheme provides a fun and interactive way to introduce children to a positive experience of policing and to get them involved in the local community.

The scheme has recently been launched in St Johns Primary School, Wellington and you can read more about that [here](#).

Please [click here](#) to find out more about the scheme and how to register.

### **Deadline approaches for PCC Consultation on draft Police and Crime Plan.**

The draft Police and Crime Plan will be available to view on the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) website until **Monday 8 November**.

Please [click here](#) to read the draft plan and take part in the consultation.

### **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](#)
- [Sedgemoor and Hinkley Point Neighbourhood Policing](#)

## **Finally**

The below link may be useful to you, should there be a requirement to convert files to jpg format: <https://www.adobe.com/uk/acrobat/online/pdf-to-jpg.html>  
It is important to keep up to date with the latest [information and advice from the Government](#).

For quick up to date information regarding SWT services please follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/SWTCouncil/](http://www.facebook.com/SWTCouncil/) or Twitter [@swtcouncil](https://twitter.com/swtcouncil)

Please see our dedicated [webpage](#) for updates.

If you have concerns about your own health and Coronavirus please visit the [NHS](#) website.