

Somerset West and Taunton

Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils

Issue 95 Week ending 20/02/2022

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. SWT secures funding to deliver social housing upgrades

SWT has secured a share of Government funding to improve the energy efficiency of its social housing, lowering bills and making homes warmer.

SWT has been allocated £385,000 of the £4.8 million awarded to the [West of England Combined Authority](#) (WECA) through the Government's [Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund](#) (SHDF).

The [South West Energy Hub](#), hosted by WECA, will work with SWT to deliver the improvements which include extensive works to a number of SWT homes in Oake and Taunton.

The investments will follow a 'fabric first' approach which creates a well-insulated property. Insulation works will include wall, roof and floor insulation and triple glazing.

These measures will reduce the power used in the homes by around 40% and the overall energy performance will improve from an Energy Performance Certificate level 'D' or 'E' to EPC of 'C' or higher.

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:

- **Wednesday 23 February**, SWT Community Scrutiny Committee in the JMR at 6.15pm. The agenda and report packs can be viewed on the [website](#).
- **Thursday 24 February** – SWT Planning Committee in the JMR at 10am. The agenda and report packs can be viewed on the [website](#). (Deadline for public questions is 4pm Monday 21 February).
- **Thursday 24 February** – SWT Special Full Council for Budget Setting in the JMR at 6.15pm. The agenda and report packs can be viewed on the [website](#). (Deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 21 February).
- **Wednesday 2 March** – SWT Corporate Scrutiny Committee in the JMR at 6.15pm. (Deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 25 February).
- **Thursday 3 March** – SWT Special Full Council in the JMR at 6.15pm. (Deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 28 February).

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 play areas undergo £100k+ makeover

SWT Council has invested close to £112,000 upgrading its play areas across Taunton and Wellington.

Contract work to replace existing play equipment, soft tarmac and grass safety matting which has become outworn or reached its OEM-prescribed end-of-life commenced mid-January, completing this week (commencing 14 February).

Funded by the Council's Capital budget, the refurbishments were scheduled as part of a rolling replacement programme covering junior play spots in Wellington at Burrough Way and Wellington Park; and in Taunton at Blenheim Road, Farriers Green, Streamside, Vivary Park, Showell Park including the Kindergarten play area, and the Kindergarten area at Lyngford Park.

The new play equipment includes variations of swings, slides, seesaws, roundabouts, bridges, balance walkways and multi-play units.

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

4. Specialist grants available to drive business growth

Small and medium-sized businesses in Somerset have the opportunity to apply for grant funding worth up to £6,000 to help them grow and develop.

The Business Growth Support Programme is the latest initiative to launch as part of Somerset's work funded by Community Renewal Funding from the UK Government.

The Business Growth Support Programme will support 30 small and medium-sized businesses to boost the pace and scale of their development. The initiative will prioritise businesses working in the Clean Growth, Aerospace, Digital, and Agri-Tech sectors, including their supply chains.

There is only a short window to apply for these grants, with the call for applications closing on **25 February**.

More information on how to apply to the Community Renewal Fund 2021 – 2022 can be found [here](#).

5. Reminder - Online calendar launched

SWT Council has commissioned Visit Exmoor and Visit Somerset to develop and host a searchable online 'Events & Things to Do' platform for the area.

The platform, which has been funded by SWT's ERDF *Welcome Back Fund*, is hosted on [Visit Exmoor](#)'s website and enables event organisers and representatives from towns and villages across the district to submit information about local events via an online form.

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

6. Reminder - Grant Funding available for business groups, clusters and networks

Business groups in Somerset that have been negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic are being given the opportunity to apply for grant funding this month.

There is only a short window to apply for these grants, with the call for applications opening on 11 February and closing on **25 February**.

Information on how to apply can be found at [Community Renewal Fund 2021 – 2022 \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/community-renewal-fund-2021-2022) under the section on 'Local Network and Cluster Support'.

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

7. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

Changes to service due to Storm Eunice

Friday 18 February: collections suspended and recycle sites closed
Recycling, rubbish and other waste collections have been suspended and all recycling sites will close across Somerset on Friday 18 February in response to Storm Eunice.

The Met Office has issued a red weather warning for parts of the county and an amber warning across the rest. In light of the potential risk to the public, collection crews and recycle site staff, Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) has decided to suspend all services for the day.

Residents scheduled to have a collection are asked not to present their recycling, rubbish or garden waste for collection on Friday.

Missed rubbish collections will be returned for on Saturday 19 February.

Missed recycling collections and clinical waste collections will be returned for on their next scheduled collection day.

Garden waste collections scheduled for Friday 18 February will be suspended until subscribers' next scheduled collection day.

Bulky waste collections are being rescheduled and customers contacted.

Deliveries of Bright Blue Bags due on Friday for the new Recycle More service in Sedgemoor and West Somerset will take place on Saturday 19 February.

The 10 recycle sites due to be open tomorrow will be closed: Bridgwater, Chard, Frome, Highbridge, Minehead, Somerton, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, Yeovil.

All 16 recycle sites are expected to open on Saturday and Sunday 9am-4pm as usual, though this will be continually reviewed.

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

Recycle More: Bide your time with the bags

Around 35,000 Bright Blue Bags have been delivered across Sedgemoor and West Somerset ahead of the launch of Recycle More at the end of the month.

A similar number are scheduled for delivery this week as Somerset Waste Partnership prepares to introduce the expanded recycling collections.

If your bag has not arrived yet, please be patient as our teams work their way across the area following recycling crews.

Bags will be delivered throughout this week and into next week if needed, with stickers applied to recycling boxes at the same time to show what goes where with the new service.

Recycle More launches from **Monday 28 February**, adding extra items to weekly recycling collections with rubbish collections moving to once every three weeks.

Please **DO NOT** put the Bright Blue Bags out for collection until your first new collection day. This is made clear in residents' "Recycle More is coming soon" leaflet – on the cover and in the all-important collection day calendar.

The calendar shows your recycling and rubbish collections for the next 12 months. Two-thirds of homes will have a change of day, so it is important to check and hold on to it for future reference.

Some households will have a one-off, extra Saturday rubbish collection on 26 February or 5 March, to make sure they do not go more than three weeks between rubbish collections.

Where this applies, it will be made clear on the cover of the leaflet and on the calendar.

Recycle More adds the following to weekly collections: plastic pots, tubs and trays; food and drink cartons, small household electrical items and batteries.

What goes into which container will change:

- Green box – glass bottles and jars, and cartons (including Tetra Pak)
- Black box – paper and card
- Brown food waste bin – all food waste

The Bright Blue Bag should be used for:

- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays (rinsed and squashed/nested)
- Tins and cans (rinsed and crushed if safe to do so)
- Aerosols (empty)
- Foil (rinsed)

With Recycle More, SWP will also improve recycling for homes with shared or communal collections, for example blocks of flats and homes of multiple occupancy.

These improvements are scheduled for late June or early July, though what is possible will depend on space and access at each site.

You can find lots more information about Recycle More online at somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more Extra guidance and support can be requested using a form on this page, or by calling SWT.

Partner Engagement – Key messages from other Public Service Areas

Somerset County Council (SCC)

SCC Highway Maintenance Update

After a peaceful period of weather over the last few weeks, we are now back in a spell of more wintry conditions. “Storm Dudley” on 16 February passed to the north and did not cause too many issues for the highways of Somerset. However, two days later on Friday 18 February, the much more severe “Storm Eunice” hit. This was the first Met Office “Red” weather warning (meaning danger to life) in Somerset since the “Beast from the East/Storm Emma” snow event of March 2018. There will be more details in next week’s newsletter.

The county-wide footway surfacing programme continues and is currently in **Taunton**. Broomfield Close is complete and the team are currently working at **Broughton Close**.

The next schemes in the area will be:

The Parks, Minehead, commencing on 21 February (temporary traffic signals); and **Harvey’s Court, Taunton**, commencing on 7 March (temporary closure of the path).

Drainage works at **A39 Bratton Straight, between Minehead and Selworthy**, continue under temporary traffic signals.

New drainage schemes are at **Greenway, North Curry** (commencing on 23 February, temporary traffic signals); **Farm View, Taunton** (commencing on 28 February, temporary road closure); and **Alexandra Road, Wellington** (commencing on 28 February, temporary road closure).

A programme of drainage grip (small channels cut across verges for highway drainage purposes) cleansing is also underway on our network of rural lanes.

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

Reporting a problem on the road

Alerting SCC to potholes or a host of other problems on the road is now easier and quicker – and you can track its progress after you've reported it.

Gone is the need to make phone calls or send emails - thanks to a new upgraded online system with an improved interactive map, members of the public can report a problem 24/7 and the Highways team will get on the case. From potholes, blocked drains and broken manhole covers, to overgrown vegetation, damaged pavements or cycle paths, faulty traffic lights or missing markings - they can all be reported in just minutes from a smartphone, tablet or computer.

The full range and how to report is available here www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/.

The new development means that if you're reporting a fault, you can now track its progress. If it's safe to pull over, all you need to do is take a quick picture of the fault, then visit the Report It site on your phone, answer a few simple questions and upload your picture. You'll be sent a link which enables you to track its progress.

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

Exmoor National Park (ENP) Public Path Diversion Order 2022

Public Bridleway WL17/3 (Part) Parish of Oare.

The above order, made on 11 February under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert part of public bridleway WL17/3 from a line running between points A-B-C-D-E to a line running between points F-G-H-C-J-K-L-M-E (Upgrading part of public footpath WL17/2 between C-J) as shown on the order plan.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Lynmouth National Park Centre, The Esplanade, Lynmouth, Devon EX35 6EQ from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, seven days a week or viewed on the Exmoor National Park Authority website [here](#).

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Exmoor National Park Authority may confirm the order as an unopposed order.

Quantock Hill AONB Swaling taking place

Over the next month and a half you may see some flames on the hills as part of the controlled burns, or 'Swales'. This is a management technique of keeping the heathland at different stages of growth to provide a variety of habitats available for different bird species and allowing some of the heath plants to grow. It also ensures there are fire breaks at various points in case of summer fires.

If concerned please ring the Fire Service; as they are aware of any swales being undertaken by the Quantock Management Team and can respond accordingly.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Stay safe at the coast

With rainfalls and stormy weather forecast in some parts of the UK this weekend, eroding edges, rock falls and landslides are likely to happen without warning.

If you're heading to the coast, please stay safe - cliffs can be unpredictable and may not be as sturdy or stable as they look.

Follow the safety tips below:

- Always pay attention to warning signs
- Keep a safe distance from cliff edges and cliff bases – never risk your life for a selfie or a picture
- Stay on designated paths and keep your dog on a lead

Check the weather forecast, warnings from [Met Office](#) and tide times before you head out

And remember, in a coastal emergency call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS)

Adverse Weather Warning

Serious disruption and dangerous conditions are expected on Friday 18 February as the Met Office issues a rare red warning for the southwest. Please [click here](#) for Met Office safety advice.

If you're out and about in your car, please don't drive through flood water. Choose an alternative route. It only takes a few inches of water to float a car.

Please [click here](#) for advice and information about safety in severe weather conditions.

Exmoor Search and Rescue

Lost on the Moor

Exmoor Search and Rescue were tasked by Avon and Somerset Police on 15 February at 18:50hrs to assist a misplaced walker within Exmoor National Park who had phoned 999 for assistance.

Guided by a [what3words](#)* location from the misplaced walker, 13 team members and 3 team vehicles deployed to [Exmoor](#). As team members were arriving at the meeting point, the misplaced walker was located safe and well by the Police and the Team was stood down.

Injured, ill or lost on the hill or moorland? Dial 999 and ask the Police for [#MountainRescue!](#)

*what3words is the simplest way to talk about location. It has divided the world into 3m x 3m squares, each with a unique 3-word address. Now people can refer to any precise location, from a delivery entrance to a picnic spot, using three simple words.

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

Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP)

‘In It Together Somerset’ – Charity launches new women’s project

SASP launched the ‘In It Together’ women’s project in January 2022 covering the whole of Somerset, offering exercise and sports activities for women. The project aims to increase activity levels in women of any age (16+), background or area in Somerset through community-based exercise and sports activities such as Pilates, fit steps, badminton, tennis, netball, running, cycling and more.

All the sessions are led by coaches and instructors who have the same goal; to help break down the barriers that women face, empower them to move in their own way, remove self-doubt, and most importantly, to enjoy it! The programmes motto is all about fun, friends and feeling good!

To launch this new programme and in line with International Women’s Day in March, SASP are holding an exciting event for local women to come and try new activities.

Saturday 5 March, 10am – 5pm

**Centre for Outdoor Education & Community Hub (C.O.A.C.H),
French Weir Park, Taunton, TA1 1AW.**

The centre is adjacent to the River Tone and the beautiful Longrun Meadow Country Park. There will be taster sessions in an array of activities from Zumba to exercise classes in the parkroom, to different activities on the outdoor space opposite The Weir Cafe.

This is a free event and no booking is required for the outdoor activities. The friendly instructors will put you at ease, so bring a friend and come along. SASP will also have local businesses showcasing what’s on offer and a special celebratory parkrun at 9am to celebrate International Women’s Day. Families and friends are welcome for support.

Please [click here](#) to register for this free event and book onto the indoor activities.

Spark Somerset

Velocity Somerset – Free Online Workshop

Boost your Productivity with Microsoft 365

Monday 28 February 2022, 2pm – 4pm.

This workshop is delivered as part of Velocity Somerset - a programme of support for all voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Somerset funded by the Government’s Community Renewal Fund.

Please [click here](#) to find out more information and register for this free online event.

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) Southwest Enterprise Fund is open to applications Enterprise Grants

For individuals aged 18 - 30, currently living in the county of Somerset (but not North Somerset, Bristol or BANES), who are not in education, employment or training, and want to start their own business, know what products or services they want to provide or have been trading for under 2 years.

Grants up to £1,000 available. Click [here](#) for more information and how to apply.

Training and Employment Support Grants

For individuals aged 16 - 30, currently living in the county of Somerset (but not North Somerset, Bristol or BANES), either entering or are currently in training or an apprenticeship, or starting work after a period of unemployment, and need some help with the cost of essential things such as travel, work clothing, laptop or equipment.

Grants up to £500 available. Click [here](#) for more information and how to apply.

To receive a decision in March 2022, applications need to be submitted by **Friday 25 February 2022**.

If you have any questions please contact Kirsty Campbell on 07928 485337 or email kirsty.campbell@somersetcf.org.uk.

Let's Create Jubilee Fund

SCF will be one of the network of community foundations distributing the Arts Council England Let's Create Jubilee Fund, a £5 million programme that will support community and voluntary organisations in England to develop creative and cultural activities as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022.

The programme is made possible with funding from the National Lottery, whose players raise £30 million for good causes every week. The fund's distribution will be managed by UK Community Foundations on behalf of their community foundation members across England.

Applicants will be able to apply for grants of up to £10,000, and are encouraged to partner with established artists, creatives and cultural organisations to develop their activities, ensuring that The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations give people throughout England the chance to experience the best of the country's culture while also celebrating an important milestone in our national history.

The application deadline is **28 February 2022** and must be made through the Somerset Community Foundation website [here](#).

Full guidance on the fund can be found on the UK Community Foundations website [here](#).

Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

Talking Café returns to Musgrove

The Musgrove Talking Café returned on the 15 February. Providing a place to access help, advice and support in an informal, relaxed environment.

- Support for patients or carers who are leaving hospital.
- Somerset Carers advice if you look after someone else (partner, child, friend).

The local Village Agent can help with:

- benefit paperwork,
- if you are worried about your finances,
- are feeling lonely,
- are struggling to cook for yourself and your family, and or
- need support with a health condition and so much more!

If you can't make your local Talking Cafe, you can still request support by calling: **01823 331 222** or via this online form <https://somersetagents.org/agent-call-back/>

Community Employment Hubs

Somerset Recovery Fund – Opportunity Boost Scheme

As part of the Somerset Recovery Fund, the Opportunity Boost Scheme project, is now open for applications.

To qualify you must be a resident in Somerset and over 16. Not be entitled to any other financial assistance for job seeking activities via your local Job Centre, and if you are working you should have a pre-covid salary of less than £25,000.

The purpose of the Opportunity Boost Scheme is to assist with, accessing work training or learning. To improve the employment opportunities of applicants the grant can cover travel, work equipment, workwear, childcare, or learning materials.

To see if you qualify and to apply for the grant please [click 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

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Government has announced that the measures put in place under plan B in England are lifted. You should continue to follow safer behaviours to protect yourself and others:

- If you haven't yet had a vaccination, you should step forward, whether it's a first dose, second dose or booster. Please check [here](#) for full booking details.
- Please continue to take regular lateral flow tests – particularly before meeting others. These can be ordered [here](#). Also, remember to report your test results [here](#).
- Wear a well-fitting face-covering when in enclosed spaces such as supermarkets and try to meet others outside or ensure there is good ventilation when meeting inside.
- If you have any Covid-19 symptoms you need to take a [PCR test](#). If you test positive, you must self-isolate.
- Keep your hands clean by washing often with soap and water or using an antibacterial handwash, this protects against a lot of infectious diseases.

[Find out how to stay safe and help prevent the spread.](#)

You can find full coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance and support on the [GOV.UK website](#)

Somerset COVID Cases

In the week ending 13 February approximately 111,644 tests were carried out across the county. There were 4,325 new confirmed cases identified by these tests. The rates of COVID-19 remain very high but have decreased slightly in the last reporting week 769.3 per 100,000. This is above both the South-West average and the national average.

Hospitalisation data for Somerset is around 58 COVID-19 in patients in Somerset hospitals.

Rates are particularly high in the school age population, and the highest rates are amongst primary age students. Most children and young people who are infected with Omicron will have mild symptoms or are asymptomatic. Hospitalisation for severe COVID-19 illness remains highest in older age groups and the unvaccinated.

Clintons COVID Catch Up

In this week's Covid Catch Up, Clinton discusses the need for regular health checks and in particular the need to keep a look out for heart health during heart health month and beyond. Please [click here](#) to watch the latest video.

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

Over 80% of eligible residents have received two doses of the vaccination. The Vaccination Programme is working with health and community partners to identify locations for mobile vaccination pop-up clinics. By localising the offer, the

programme aims to reduce the barriers to access and better understand community needs.

The boosters are very important as they significantly reduce the likelihood of serious illness or hospitalisation should you catch COVID-19 so, if offered, please make a booking without delay.

Over 60% of Somerset's young people aged 12 to 15 have had their first COVID-19 vaccine since rollout began in September. The second vaccination for 12–15-year-olds is now available to [book via the national booking service](#) and is also available at many [walk-in local](#) vaccination centres [COVID-19 vaccinations in Somerset - Somerset CCG](#). Please continue to ensure that all eligible groups are aware of the vaccination offer available to them, including those that may be contacted by their GP as part of the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable cohort.

The in-school offer for the second COVID-19 vaccination for 12-15 years olds has also begun, alongside the HPV vaccination. Parents and carers may find their local vaccination centre is able to administer the second COVID-19 jab to 12-15 year olds sooner than the school appointments.

Once you have received the national invitation you will be able to go on the **National Booking site**: nhs.uk/CovidVaccination or call 119. Vaccination centres across Somerset remain busy, but with slots becoming available all the time, please remember to check the National Booking Service regularly.

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](#).

It has been noted recently that a high proportion of cases are now defined as being reinfections – the figure nationally is around one in ten. This means if you have caught COVID-19 before, you can still catch it again. Of course, this makes it additionally important to continue to follow the advice to protect yourself and others from the virus.

COVID-19 – latest advice

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](#)
- <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.

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

Crime / Safeguarding

Action Fraud

COVID-19 Booster Vaccine Fraud

Beware of Financial Requests for COVID-19 Booster Vaccines. The Booster Vaccine is free.

The NHS will never ask for payment or any financial details relating to the Booster Vaccine.

Please [click here](#) for more information about the Vaccination Scheme.

Fake Amazon Emails

Action Fraud has received over 2,000 reports in one week about fake emails purporting to be from Amazon. The emails claim that the recipient's Amazon account has been "locked" and that they need to complete an "identity verification" process to unlock it. The links in the emails lead to genuine-looking phishing websites that are designed to steal Amazon login credentials, as well as personal and financial information.

Your bank, or any other official organisation, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you need to check that it's a genuine message, contact them directly.

If you have spotted or received a suspicious email, forward to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) – report@phishing.gov.uk.

Avon and Somerset Police (ASP)

Rural Affairs Unit

Gamekeepers and the farming community are often those most affected by or are witness to rural crime. They provide the eyes and ears of the countryside and often suffer the consequences of rural crime. Hare coursing / poaching can lead to a number of animal welfare issues, serious loss of income from the illegal taking of game and the damage which many offenders carry out to farmland in the process of carrying out these crimes.

The importance of reporting

ASP urge members of the public to report any incidents of coursing / poaching by calling 999 if in progress or reporting via 101 or on-line after the event.

You can pass on Important Intelligence via 101 alternatively if you wish to remain anonymous you can call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

Please do not approach those taking part in this activity but please try to obtain as much information as possible:

- Location (consider WHAT3WORDS)
- Vehicle involved (type/colour)
- How many person/s involved descriptions.

- Dogs / weapons involved.
- Photos /video evidence can be helpful.

PLEASE REMEMBER DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT ANY RISK!

Please [click here](#) for further details on the Farm watch scheme, and how to join.

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/ or Twitter [@swtcouncil](https://twitter.com/swtcouncil).

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