

Somerset West and Taunton

Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils

Issue 107/108 Weeks ending 08/06/2022

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. Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with SWT

A party to mark the [Queen's Platinum Jubilee](#) is being held in Taunton's Vivary Park on **Sunday 5 June**.

SWT is putting on the free event in the award-winning park fittingly referred to as the town's Jewel in the Crown.

The Big Jubilee Lunch will run from 11am to 4.30pm with everyone invited to bring their own picnic, rugs, chairs and flags.

The event will be officially opened at midday by the Mayor of Taunton, Cllr Sue Lees, with outside broadcast support from Tone FM.

Further information on the Big Jubilee Lunch with updates on activities and attractions can be found on the SWT [website](#) and social media - search Taunton Jubilee or use the hashtag #TauntonJubilee.

There are a host of commemorative events being planned during the Jubilee celebrations when SWT will be decorating the district with red, white and blue planters and hanging baskets filled with plants from its own nursery.

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

2. SWT makes final year appointments at Annual Council

The Annual Meeting of SWT was held on Tuesday, 24 May, when Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey was elected as Chair of the Council for its final year, with Cllr Richard Lees as Vice-Chair.

Cllr Sue Buller was elected Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and Cllr Libby Lisgo as Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts, announced some changes to the Executive: -

- Cllr Derek Perry – Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Sports, Parks and Leisure, and Phosphates.
- Cllr Benet Allen – Portfolio Holder for Communications and Corporate Resources.
- Cllr Chris Booth – Portfolio Holder for Community.
- Cllr Dixie Darch – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change.
- Cllr Caroline Ellis – Portfolio Holder for Culture.
- Cllr Mike Rigby – Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Assets, Planning and Transportation.
- Cllr Fran Smith – Portfolio Holder for Housing.
- Cllr Andy Sully – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services.
- Cllr Sarah Wakefield – Portfolio Holder for Local Government Reorganisation.

SWT will remain a sovereign council until 31 March 2023. From 1 April 2023, a single unitary council will be responsible for services that are currently delivered by the county and four district councils.

3. Democracy and Governance

Committee Meetings

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

- **SWT Tenants Strategic Group – Monday 30 May 2022**, in the JMR at 6.00pm. The agenda and report packs are available to view on the [website](#).
- **SWT Corporate Scrutiny Committee – Wednesday 1 June 2022**, in the JMR at 6.15pm. The agenda and report packs are available to view on the [website](#). Deadline for public questions is 4pm Monday 30 May.
- **SWT Audit and Governance Committee – Monday 13 June 2022**, in the JMR at 6.15pm. Deadline for public questions is 4pm on Thursday 9 June 2022.

- **SWT Executive Committee – Wednesday 15 June 2022**, in the JMR at 6.15pm. Deadline for public questions is 4pm Monday 13 June 2022.

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.

Please see the dates listed above re deadlines for submitting questions or statements. Information on speaking at public meetings is available on the SWT [website](#).

4. Reminder - Town and Parish Register of Interest Forms

All Town and Parish Councillors are required to fill in a new Register of Interest (ROI) form. A form will need to be completed irrespective of whether they have been a Councillor before. SWT delete and securely destroy any previous ROI forms.

They will have 28 days to return their form following their declaration of acceptance of office. The email address to send the forms to is governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk. If any Councillors decide to print and send the forms in the post, please ensure that they are addressed as:

Governance Team
Somerset West and Taunton Council
Deane House,
Belvedere Road,
Taunton,
TA1 1HE

Once the forms arrive with the SWT Governance Team they will have signatures redacted, be scanned and uploaded to the website. It is a legal requirement that the Monitoring Officer publishes all Register of Interest forms on the SWT website. If any Councillors are concerned about this, please ask them to contact the Monitoring Officer to discuss.

Traditionally, some Town and Parish Councils have been better at returning their ROIs than others. This year the Monitoring Officer will give an update to each Ward Member (in mid to late June) on the returns that are missing so that this can be raised when they are attending the next Town or Parish Council meeting. Updates will also be regularly given to the Standards Committee.

5. Reminder - Training available to Councillors and Parish Clerks

Now that you have your new Councils/Councillors in place it is worth thinking about training, as it is always good to get your new Councils off to a good start

The [Somerset Association of Local Councils](#) (SALC) run a number of courses that are designed for new Councillors (or are a useful refresher), which include:

- Councillor essentials – P1 Roles and Responsibilities

- Councillor essentials – P2 Governance and Finance
- Responding to Planning Applications
- Successful chairing
- The Council as an employer

They also offer training on the Code of Conduct.

However, in previous years SWT has also offered several sessions on the Code of Conduct, Register of Interests, meeting etiquette and the pitfalls of social media. As well as offering several virtual sessions that any Councillor or Clerk can attend, the Monitoring Officer is also willing to undertake training for any Town and Parish Council, if they would like it.

Please email A.Tregellas@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk if your Council would like to attend a SWT training session.

6. Housing Recruitment Event – Tuesday 31 May

Are you resilient, customer-focused and able to inspire others? Would you like to work in a role where no two days look the same? Could you help support vulnerable customers with complex needs and enable them to access and sustain their accommodation safely, whilst supporting them to contribute and thrive in their local community?

SWT in partnership with YMCA Dulverton Group, is hosting a recruitment open morning at the **Great Western Hotel in Taunton on Tuesday 31 May from 10am until 1pm.**

There's no need to register for this event but if you have any queries please contact Lindsay Megson, L.Megson@SomersetWestandTaunton.gov.uk .

7. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

Changes to waste collection due to Jubilee Celebrations

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations are fast approaching and with them an extra bank holiday which means changes to Somerset Waste Partnership's usual recycling and rubbish collection schedule.

This always happens over bank holidays, but the Jubilee is a little more complicated because of the extra bank holiday on Thursday 2 June and there will be collections on two consecutive Saturdays.

- No collections on Thursday 2 June. **These collections will happen on Saturday 4 June.**
- No collections on Friday 3 June. **These collections will happen on Monday 6 June.**
- All collections for the week beginning 6 June will take place one day later, **including Friday 10 June collections happening on Saturday 11 June.**

Please make sure you know your revised collection day and put your recycling and/or rubbish out on the right day before 7am.

This is the perfect excuse to use the My Collection Day feature on the SWP homepage somersetwaste.gov.uk

You can use it to download your collection days into the calendar on your laptop or mobile device - it works for Apple and Android devices and sets up automatic reminders, so you need never miss a collection again.

Or you can use the same feature to just check your days online or download a printable copy of your collection day calendar.

You can also check the 12-month calendar that was sent to all homes as part of the roll-out of the new Recycle More service. In some parts of the county, the calendar will cover the Jubilee changes.

If you are celebrating, please **minimise the waste and maximise recycling.**

- Avoid plastic decorations - use paper or cloth instead. Flowers and foliage also make great decorations and can be composted.
- Avoid plastic bunting - use reusable fabric bunting or make your own.
- Avoid plastic drinking straws, balloons releases and Chinese lanterns – these are wasteful and a risk to wildlife.
- Share chairs, tables, tablecloths and catering equipment/tools - rather than buy new items that may not be used again.
- If catering for others, know your numbers and preferred dishes to avoid waste.
- Let people serve themselves to control portion sizes - calculate how much to make using this helpful tool lovefoodhatewaste.com/portion-planner.
- Avoid plastic cutlery, plates and cups – use washable items or get guests to bring their own.
- Buy food with less packaging – use low waste shops if possible or make from scratch.
- Have a shopping list - so you only buy what you need and eat all you buy.
- Have empty recycling boxes and bags ready and labelled. Only bring out black sacks for rubbish once all the recycling has been identified.
- Have food bins ready to use and lined with compostable liners or newspaper.

Anyone organising a street party on Saturday 4 June, should check if they are due a recycling and/or rubbish collection on that day and ensure crews can still get access to collect their waste - remember, collections usually due on Thursday 2 June will happen on Saturday 4 June.

You can help our crews by squashing, flattening and crushing your recycling if you can. It saves space in your boxes and bags and helps crews complete rounds quickly.

- Squash plastic bottles and cartons and put the lids back on.
- Crush tins and cans if it is safe to do so.
- Flatten cardboard boxes and tear up larger pieces.

Enjoy the celebrations!

Somerset Waste Partnership

New Council for Somerset New Leader and Executive confirmed at Somerset County Council (SCC)

A new Leader and Executive have been announced at SCC's Annual General Meeting – the first since May's elections.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Bill Revans was confirmed as Leader of the Council and announced that Cllr Liz Leyshon will take on the role of Deputy Leader.

Cllr Mike Best was elected to the post of Chair of the Council and Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey to the Vice-Chair role. The appointments were proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group and unanimously supported by councillors at the meeting.

The Council's Cabinet will be replaced by an Executive, with Cabinet Members now known as Lead Executive Members and Junior Cabinet Members known as Associate Lead Members.

The Executive will be responsible for all County Council services and oversee the Local Government Reorganisation programme to establish the new single unitary council on 1 April next year. Then from 1 April 2023, they will be responsible for all services that are currently delivered by the county and four district councils, ranging from adults' and children's social care to highways and housing, and from libraries to planning and licensing.

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

On 1 April 2023, Somerset will become a unitary authority, replacing the current County Council and four District Councils with a single council governing the whole area. Find out more [here](#).

Partner Engagement – Key messages from other Public Service Areas

Somerset County Council (SCC)

SCC Highway Maintenance Update

Very good weather this week has allowed the Highways Team to complete a large number of safety works and the planned works have continued well. There will be a planned work shutdown over the Jubilee Holiday period, but any safety works will, of course, be attended to by the out of hours crews.

This week SCC Highways have successfully completed 175 Safety Defect repairs in the SWT Area (77 in Taunton and 98 in West Somerset).

New works for week commencing 30 May 2022 are:

- **New Works:** Verge Works (concrete channel) at **Blackwater Lane, Wiveliscombe** 30 May to 1 June.
- **Continuing:** Drainage works at **Holywell Lake, Wellington**
- **Continuing:** Drainage works at **Chilcombe Lane, Bicknoller**
- Completed: Footway works at **Grange Drive Taunton**
- Completed: Works at **Chip Lane & Outer Circle Taunton**
- Completed: Footway resurfacing in at **Bradford on Tone Rd, Taunton**
- Completed: Carriageway patching at **A396 Bridgetown**
- Completed: Pedestrian safety barrier repairs: **Hamilton Road, Hurdle Way and A38 Musgrove entrance – Taunton**
- Completed: Footway resurfacing: **Oaken Ground, Wellington**
- Completed: Carriageway resurfacing preparation works **Cher, Minehead**
- Completed: Repair of sinkhole in **Duke Street Taunton**
- Completed: Changing of speed limit signs **Stoke St Gregory Taunton**
- Completed: footway resurfacing works in **Bishops Lydeard at Darby Way** and at **King George Road, Minehead.**

For 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.

Temporary Road Closure Blackdown Hill Road, Wellington

Please follow this [link](#) to view the above road closure; and the link for the [Notice 2](#). The order becomes effective on 2nd June 2022 and will remain in force for eighteen months.

Blackdown Hill Road - from the junction with Road Past Higher Hill Farm, eastwards for 123 metres. The works are expected to commence on **6 June 2022** and last for **3 days** to enable Kier to carry out works to provide a new water service on behalf of South West Water.

The contractor has indicated that access for Emergency Services through the site **is not permitted** on this occasion.

For any further information about this closure please contact **Kier** on **01726 224 400**, quoting reference: **ttro167095TD**.

National Highways

Supplementary Consultation launched on A358 Dualling Project

National Highways is consulting on design changes for the proposed upgrade to the A358 between Taunton and Southfields roundabout. The consultation will run until **11.59pm on Sunday 26 June 2022**.

Your feedback will help National Highways develop the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO), the type of planning permission needed for the scheme.

You can find out more about the proposals and have your say, by visiting National Highways' online exhibition or one of the consultation events. The project team will be on hand at face-to-face events and webinars to answer your questions.

Consultation Events in Person (from 11.00am – 8.00pm)

- **Wednesday 8 June** Somerset County Cricket Club (TA1 1JT)
- **Saturday 11 June** Taunton Racecourse, (TA3 7BL)

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

Falcon Rural Housing Meadowlands, Washford Development

Meadowlands is a new housing scheme situated on the old allotment site in Washford. It has been developed by local Social Housing provider, Falcon Rural

Housing, in response to housing needs in the area. It will provide five social rented properties, comprising two 2-bedroom and three 3-bedroom homes, located just a short walk from the school and local amenities. The target completion date is the end of May 2022.

Falcon Rural Housing is looking for local people who are in housing need and may be interested in applying for one of these homes. For more information regarding the development and an application form for housing, please contact Falcon Rural Housing Ltd. on **01823 667343** or via email info@falconhousing.co.uk.

The properties will also be advertised on Homefinder Somerset, a choice-based lettings scheme that allows people to apply for social and affordable housing in Somerset. If you are registered, please apply online at www.homefindersomerset.co.uk. If you are not already registered online, please contact Falcon Rural Housing direct.

Exmoor National Park Authority (ENP) Bye Wood Bluebells hint at ancient, wooded past

A sea of bluebells has sprung up at 'Bye Wood' in Exmoor National Park, where a major new 12-hectare woodland is more than halfway through being planted. Although an open hilltop for many centuries, the beautiful display suggests the site may once have been tree covered for thousands of years.

The planting of Bye Wood has received major support from the National Park's CareMoor Woods and Trees Appeal, including substantial donations from SWT, Exmoor Charitable Trust and a highly popular exhibition of artworks by 'The Arborealists', hosted by Lanacre Barn Gallery.

Planting for the project began last winter, with a total of 8,000 trees already in the ground, including species such as sessile oak, mountain ash, Scots pine and Devon service tree. Among them are also a special grove of 70 locally grown sessile oaks, planted by volunteers as part of the Queens Green Canopy to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. The final 5,000 trees will be planted this winter, with the help of volunteers and contractors. Deer fencing will be used until the young trees establish.

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

Section 119, Highways Act 1980

Proposed diversion of Public Bridleway WL18/49 (Part): Parish of Old Cleeve.

Exmoor National Park Authority (ENP) is proposing to divert public bridleway [WL18/49](#) in the parish of Old Cleeve. Prior to making an Order ENP would like to hear your views on the proposal. Please [click here](#) to view a summary of the proposal, schedule and proposal plan.

Please return any comments on the proposal by **6 June 2022** to cerirapsey@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or to Ceri Rapsey, Rights of Way Support Officer, Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton, TA22 9HL. If you would like to meet on site to discuss the proposal prior to making your comments,

please do not hesitate to contact the Public Rights of Way and Access Officer, Sue Applegate on 01398 322292.

Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme (QLPS) Reminder - Community Archaeology at Crowcombe Court

Remember last summer when archaeology volunteers helped to identify a previously unknown Bronze Age enclosure on top of Cothelstone Hill? Well, this year the team will be back out on the hills, and once again need your help, this time on the hunt for the lost medieval manor house of Crowcombe.

The manor house is believed to have originated in the 13th century but was pulled down in 1724 and its exact location is uncertain. Together with archaeologists from [Context One Heritage & Archaeology](#), QLPS will be excavating in the grounds of Crowcombe Court between **29 June and 15 July** in an attempt to pin down the manor site and understand its development.

No experience is necessary; there are varied roles for volunteers of all abilities and levels of experience. So if you would like to be involved, [click this link](#) for more details.

HM Coastguard Watchet Civil Emergency Exercise at Watchet Harbour

This week [HM Coastguard Watchet](#) tested and exercised alongside [HM Coastguard Minehead](#) and partner agencies of [Williton Fire Station](#), [Avon and Somerset Police](#), [South Western Ambulance Service](#), [NHS Foundation Trust](#), [Somerset West and Taunton](#) and [Watchet Marina](#), responding to a fictitious fire and explosion on board fishing vessel Scooby Doo Too at Watchet Harbour.

Students from the public services course at [Bridgwater and Taunton College](#) played the roles of casualties and displaced berth holders alongside adult members of [1st Watchet Sea Scout Group RN 63](#).

Following 999 calls being made the teams were tasked to the scene liaising with police on scene. On arrival they deployed into the water to rescue casualties as well as the evacuation of others; whilst also applying critical care on scene before handing over to the ambulance service on land.

Casualty and survivor centres were set up and a rest centre for displaced persons staffed by the local authority and voluntary agencies.

Thanks to all those involved in this exercise including the Watchet Phoenix Centre, Steve Yeandle from Scooby Doo Too, fishing boat Seren Y Mor and the Watchet Methodist Church.

Please [click here](#) to view photographs taken on the day.

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

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Are you eligible for the Boiler Upgrade Scheme?

From 23 May 2022 a new grant scheme for homeowners upgrading from gas boilers to either an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) or a biomass boiler may be eligible for a grant of £5,000, or £6,000 if upgrading to a Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP).

The government is providing grants to encourage property owners to install low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps, through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS). These grants will help property owners overcome the upfront cost of low carbon heating technologies.

The scheme is open to domestic and small non-domestic properties in England and Wales. It is running from 2022 to 2025.

Please [click here](#) to find out more.

Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP) Reminder - Crime Prevention through Sport Fund

The Crime Prevention Through Sport Fund aims to support projects that use sport and physical activity to reduce violence, crime and anti-social behaviour. This fund is for projects that focus on using activity as a tool to engage and support young people up to the age of 25. Applications that use sport in its widest sense including traditional, informal sports and activities will be considered and encouraged to apply.

SASP are keen to receive applications from the following areas this year: Bridgwater, Yeovil, Taunton, Wellington and Minehead.

SASP are proud to be working in partnership with [Wesport](#) to deliver the Crime Prevention through Sport Fund commissioned by Avon & Somerset Constabulary. Together this partnership will endeavour to support projects that have a considered approach to supporting young people who are involved or are at risk of being involved in criminal activity.

Deadline for applications is noon on **Monday 6 June 2022**. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Somerset Community Foundation Grants from the Somerset Fund available for local charities

Grants up to £2,500 are now available for smaller charities, community groups, sports clubs and social enterprises based in Somerset.

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) manages [The Somerset Fund](#) and is encouraging groups that run on less than £100,000 a year to apply now for funding.

The grants from The Somerset Fund can be used to pay for essential running costs, like rent, utilities, insurance, or staff time – sometimes known as core costs. The money can also be used for the costs of delivering a project or service in or for your community.

Applications to the fund must be made by **5.00pm, Friday 3 June 2022**.

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

Reminder - Growing Grants

Somerset County Council (SCC) has set up Growing Grants to support community-led food projects that make healthier food affordable for everyone.

Growing Grants will support projects that involve:

- growing food as a community effort
- educating local people about healthy food and nutrition
- teaching and supporting people in your community how to shop and cook healthier
- serving balanced and nutritious communal meals
- using food and growing projects to help connect local people to each other
- building networks of community-led food projects.

Groups can usually apply for a grant of between £500 and £5,000, which would need to be spent within 12 months.

You must submit your application by **5pm Friday 10 June 2022**. SCF will not consider any applications submitted after that date.

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

Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

Another chance to apply for the Somerset Food Resilience Grant

A new Food Resilience grant fund is being provided to help Somerset communities that support or directly work to develop food resilience. Any community group, charity, organisation, and agency in Somerset can apply for a maximum of £2,000.

The deadline for applications has been extended to the **31 May 2022** - or when the fund runs out. The grant is funded by Somerset County Council and provided by Smart Communities Ltd.

Please [click here](#) to find out more and make an application.

Way to Work

Employment Advice

Way to Work is a new partnership between government and employers to get 500,000 jobseekers into work by the end of June 2022.

This partnership will help fill record numbers of vacancies, supporting job-ready people into the labour market and helping them progress into a career.

Whether you're a jobseeker finding your way back into work, or an employer who's looking for a way to get the right person to help their business, Jobcentre Plus and Way to Work can help.

Please [click here](#) to visit the website and find out more.

Spark Somerset

Could you offer a team building activity with a difference?

Due to an increase in interest from local businesses, Spark are looking for organisations who could offer fun and rewarding team volunteering activities.

Often, Spark are asked to help find practical projects such as tidying a garden, helping at an animal shelter or taking part in a beach clean. So, if you have a one-off task or activity that would be suitable for a group of willing volunteers, they would love to hear from you!

You can read about how Employee Supported Volunteering benefits those who take part, [here](#).

If you would like to offer a group volunteering activity or find out how Spark can support you to accommodate a group of volunteers, email volunteer@sparksomerset.org.uk.

Health and Welfare

World No Tobacco Day, May 31

Mothers who smoke during pregnancy will be given incentives to "kick the habit" as part of a package of increased support being launched by Somerset County Council to mark World No Tobacco Day, May 31.

Let's Kick It Together, a campaign from the [Mums2Be Smokefree Service](#) and the NHS, aims to reduce smoking before, during and after pregnancy.

It provides expectant parents and their significant others with support and financial incentives to kick the habit, including a personal Stop Smoking Practitioner, free support and treatment when needed, and a new [My Quit Route App](#) in a drive to reduce the percentage of people who smoke during pregnancy in the county.

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

New COVID-19 Dashboard

As a result of recent changes to policy, the number of detected cases alone no longer provides an accurate or consistent indication of the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community.

As a result of this, detailed cases data such as the map and district level figures have been removed from the SCC and NHS in Somerset Dashboard. Cases are still

shown on the chart; however, it now includes additional information (ONS Prevalence*) that may give a better indication of the actual number of people with COVID. Testing data has also been added to provide further context.

The hospital admissions data also now includes mechanical ventilation bed patients who are positive as a better indicator of serious illness being treated. The OPEL level on this page provides a snapshot of how the health and care system overall is managing.

[The vaccination page](#) now provides more overall strategic vision of how the vaccination programme has been implemented and provides an indication of the effective level of immunity provided to our community by boosters and third doses. The current version of the dashboard can be accessed at any time [here](#).

Living safely with respiratory infections including COVID-19

The [Government has published important advice](#) for people with symptoms of respiratory infections, such as COVID-19; people with a positive COVID-19 test result and their contacts; and advice on safer behaviours for everyone.

There are simple things you can do in your daily life that will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections, such as flu and protect those at highest risk.

Things you can choose to do are:

- Get vaccinated.
- Wear a face covering or a face mask.
- Let fresh air in if meeting others indoors.
- Stay at home if you have [symptoms](#)
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Practise good hygiene:

If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Please [click here](#) to read the guidance on what to do if you have symptoms but have not taken a test.

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Advisory Network Impact of the Pandemic Survey

Your experience of living through the pandemic is important, as the pandemic has changed many aspects of life and has impacted us all in different ways. This survey aims to find out your experiences of the impact of COVID-19 and adjusting back to “normal” life now that there are no longer any restrictions.

The results of this survey will help inform the public health schemes that will support groups of people in this next phase of the pandemic. There are no right or wrong answers. Your responses to this survey will be completely confidential and securely

stored, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). No information that will identify you as an individual will be recorded in any reports.

Please [click here](#) to take part in the survey.

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

Payment Diversion Fraud

Payment Diversion Fraud (PDF), also known as Business Email Compromise (BEC) or Mandate Fraud, affects businesses and customers where electronic financial transactions are taking place.

Criminals will contact businesses or customers via email, usually claiming to be from a company that the business or customer has been dealing with. They will request a payment to be made often or inform the recipient of a change of bank account details.

Criminals will often create fake e-mail addresses which are very similar to genuine business or customer addressees and send over fake invoices to make it more believable. All of this leads to payments from businesses and customers directly into bank accounts controlled by the criminals.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, businesses and the police. They spend hours researching your business for their scams, hoping you will let your guard down for just a moment.

STOP: If you receive a request to make an urgent payment, change supplier bank details or provide financial information, take a moment to stop and think.

CHALLENGE: Could it be fake? Verify all payments and supplier details directly with the company on a known phone number or in person first.

PROTECT: Contact your business' bank **immediately** if you think you've been scammed and report it to [Action Fraud](#).

Avon and Somerset Police (ASP)

Protect your belongings from thieves

Did you know most reports of lost or stolen phones come from people who have been out at bars and clubs at the weekend?

If you put your phone down on a table or hang your bag on the back of a chair think... a thief sees easy money.

All it takes is a few seconds and you could lose your phone with all your contacts, music, photos and personal information or your purse with all your money, cards and identification.

To help you beat the thieves, ASP have provided advice and a [video](#) which shows you how easy it can be to lose your belongings.

Please [click here](#) to visit the website and find out more information.

For 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](#)
- [Rural Affairs Unit – Avon and Somerset Police.](#)

Finally

There won't be a newsletter next week because it's a short week, but for those celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, have a wonderful time.

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.