

# Somerset West and Taunton

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

### **Issue 113 Weeks ending 10/07/2022**

#### **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. Empowering communities to take action on litter**

Children from the Bouncy Bear nursery in Wellington have received an educational visit from litter enforcement officers who are patrolling Somerset West and Taunton in a Council partnership that aims to crack down on littering.

Enforcement operations across the district are being carried out by EH Commercial Services (EHCS) as part of a 12-month trial to reduce littering in partnership with East Hampshire District Council.

Anyone caught breaking the law by dropping litter will receive an on-the-spot fine of £100. Culprits that fail to pay and are summonsed to court could face a maximum littering penalty of £2,500.

The enforcement scheme supports the Council's recently [published Litter Strategy](#) which aims to reduce litter through public education to encourage positive change, and the roll-out of frequently serviced and strategically sited bins for easy disposal.

As part of the strategy the partners want to involve and empower the community to take ownership of their litter and change behaviour for the future.

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.

- **Taunton Charter Trustees – Tuesday 19 July 2022**, in the JMR at 6pm. Deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 15 July.
- **SWT Executive Committee – Wednesday 20 July 2022**, in the JMR at 6.15pm. Deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 18 July.
- **SWT Phosphates Planning Sub-Committee – Thursday, 21 July 2022**, in the JMR at 10am. Deadline for public questions is 4pm on Tuesday 19 July.
- **SWT Planning Committee – Thursday 21 July 2022**, in the JMR at 1pm. Deadline for public questions is 4pm on Tuesday 19 July.

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](#).

## 3. Reminder - Town and Parish Register of Interest Forms

Thank you to those town and parishes that have already returned their 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.

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 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.

## 4. Engage with local governance consultation at drop-in events

Residents are being encouraged to find out more about proposed changes to local governance arrangements at engagement events taking place during the second stage of public consultation.

- The first drop-in took place at **Comeytrove Community Hall** from 1pm-4pm on **Friday 8 July**,

- followed by **Staplegrove Village Hall** from 9am -12 midday on **Monday 11 July** and
- **Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall** from 3pm -7pm on **Monday 11 July**.

SWT will also have a stand in Taunton town centre on **Saturday 16 July by the Taunton Visitor Centre**. Staff and Councillors will be on hand at all the events to engage with the public.

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

## 5. Platinum Jubilee in Somerset

An official film has been produced to give a flavour of how Somerset celebrated The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The film was commissioned by the county's Lord Lieutenant, Annie Maw CVO – and a copy will be sent to Her Majesty.

Members of the public who want to see it now can log on to the Somerset Lieutenancy website here: <https://somersetlieutenancy.com/platinum-jubilee/on-film-the-platinum-jubilee-in-somerset/>.

## 6. Taunton Live Arts Festival and Pride

To mark the countdown to [Taunton Live Arts Festival](#) and [Taunton Pride 2022](#) on **16 July in Vivary Park**, Executive Member for Culture, Cllr Caroline Ellis and Deputy Mayor of Taunton, Cllr Brenda Weston, raised the Pride Flag at Deane House with event organisers in celebration of creativity and diversity. Please [click here](#) to view the video.

If you are planning on attending, don't forget to register for your Taunton Live & Pride, ticket. It is free but due to capacity in the park it is limited, and you will need an online ticket to exchange for a wristband when you arrive. [Tickets can be booked via Eventbrite here.](#)

## 7. Reminder – Business Innovation event announced

SWT is pleased to announce a new, flagship business event aimed at supporting Somerset's businesses and innovation economy.

The 'Somerset Innovation Exchange' on **Tuesday, 27 September**, will provide a collaborative forum for the county's leading businesses to learn and share the latest technological and industrial innovations, helping them to develop and grow together as part of Somerset's innovation community.

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

## 8. Reminder - Somerset West Lottery bonus prize draw

Sign up to the Somerset West Lottery to support local good causes and not only will you be in with the chance of winning weekly cash prizes, but if you enter before Saturday 27 August, you will be in with the chance of winning a £1,000 Currys voucher as well.

Everyone who signs up to purchase one or more tickets between 1 July and 27 August will automatically have the chance to win a £1,000 voucher to spend at any Currys PC World store courtesy of external lottery management company Gatherwell.

All tickets bought during this timeframe will be entered into the summer bonus prize draw as well as being in with a chance to win up to £25,000 in the weekly lottery run by Somerset West and Taunton Council.

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

## **9. Reminder - SWT Housing Newsletter – Summer 2022**

The summer edition of housing news will be arriving in the post this week. This 24-page newsletter is packed with helpful information for SWT tenants and leaseholders.

Approximately 6000 publications have been printed and will be distributed to all SWT tenants and leaseholders signposting readers to help and support.

Please [click here](#) to view the Summer 2022 Newsletter online.

## **10. Reminder - Council Tax Energy Rebate Payments**

If you are eligible to receive an energy rebate payment and have not yet received it, you can claim now.

SWT will make payment into your bank account. Payments cannot be made by cash or cheque.

For those households who do not submit a claim by the middle of July £150 will be paid direct to their Council Tax account and a revised bill will be issued showing the effect this has made to their account.

Please [click here](#) to find out more information and submit a claim for energy rebate.

Claims can also be made over the telephone on [0300 304 8000](tel:03003048000) Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm. The same details will be required as for online claims.

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

**Too good to waste - recycle batteries and electricals (check reuse-repair first!)**

Binned batteries begin blazes so never put any batteries or electrical items in your rubbish - not only is that a waste of valuable resources that can easily be recycled, reused or repaired but you are risking a fire that could threaten your home, your family and the workers taking away your waste.

Batteries - including those inside many electrical and electronic items - can catch fire or explode when bashed about in your bin or crushed inside the compactor on rubbish trucks.

Almost all Somerset homes can now recycle all household batteries and small electrical items in their weekly collections.

For small electricals, use or reuse an untied carrier-size bag (carrier, compostable or cloth bag but not a black rubbish sack).

For household batteries, use or reuse a tied small bag (bread, freezer or sandwich but not a black rubbish sack).

All of the following can be recycled at any recycle site: batteries, electricals, white goods, wiring, low-energy bulbs and metals.

But, but, but ... must those electrical items be recycled, or could they be repaired or just reused by someone else?

### **Share your Fixy victories and win prizes**

Do you have a great electrical repair and reuse story? Share it with SWP for the chance to win a refurbished laptop or tablet.

As part of its Fixy project, Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) is asking for "Fixy Victories" - examples of electricals or electronics fixed at one of the county's repair cafés or groups.

Whether it's a temperamental toaster, an unreliable radio or a not-so-smart phone – if it takes batteries or has a plug and has been given new life by Somerset's repair network, we want to hear about it.

You can log them using an online [form](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy) available through the SWP website [somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy). Please include a photo of the fixed item, or of you and your fixed item (if you're feeling brave).

You can also submit your Fixy Victory at any of the events attended by the Fixy van - named Fixy McFixface in a public vote - which is travelling the county promoting and helping repair and reuse.

### **This Saturday (9 July) it will be visiting:**

- Bishops Hull Repair Café, 10am to 12noon at the Bishops Hull Hub.
- The top of North Street, Taunton (next to the War Memorial roundabout), 1.30pm to 4.30pm (signposting to the nearby Taunton Repair Café at Moose Hall, Tower Lane).

At the end of each month, anyone who has submitted an entry will be included in a prize draw with the winner given the choice of a 'repaired for reuse' laptop or tablet.

Fixy Victories will be shared through SWP's social media, website and Sorted! e-newsletter to demonstrate just how simple and effective repair and reuse can be.

The Fixy project is helping bring repair and reuse of electricals and electronics to Somerset communities. Recycling is great, but repair and reuse is even better: it is easy, saves money and helps save the planet.

Fixy McFixface also takes donations of broken or unwanted smart tech. These will be repaired if possible and passed on to schools, community groups and people who need them, or recycled.

Check [somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy](https://somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy) for the latest on Fixy's whereabouts as well as details of Somerset's Repair Cafes and how you can volunteer with them. The Fixy project is being delivered by SWP in partnership with [Resource Futures](#) and [Donate-IT](#) with grant funding from [Ecosurety Exploration Fund](#).

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

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

#### **Support for Somerset households with food and energy bills**

Somerset residents who are struggling to pay the bills could be eligible for support with the cost of food, energy, water, and other essentials over the coming months.

SCC has been allocated £3.8m to distribute before September 30 as part of the second round of funding provided through the Government's Household Support Fund.

Just over £1.2m will be used during the school holidays to provide food vouchers worth £10 a week to children eligible for Free School Meals and a further £1.3m will be used for one-off payments of £100 to residents on Pension Credit.

Another £1m will be made available for a range of urgent essentials including fuel, food, and white goods.

A total of £200,000 is put aside to help support people who can't access the internet or online vouchers.

Applications are means-tested and can be made by anyone in urgent need of financial support.

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

### **SCC Highway Maintenance Update**

Excellent weather this week has allowed the Highways Team to complete many safety works, and the planned works have continued well.

The verge maintenance gangs have completed the A and B roads and are now more than halfway through the parish program.

The surface dressing program has continued to schedule.

This week SCC Highways have successfully completed 172 Safety Defect repairs in the SWT Area (100 in Taunton and 72 in West Somerset).

## Works for week commencing 4 July 2022 are: -

- **Continuing:** drainage works at **Weacombe Lane, Bicknoller** (4 weeks temporary road closure, commenced Monday 27 June)
- **Continuing:** installation of 5 new cattle grid gates on **Exmoor**
  
- **Completed:** Drainage works at **Chilcombe Lane, Bicknoller**
- **Completed:** Drainage works at **Peacehay Lane, Sampford Arundel** (10 day temporary road closure, commenced Monday 27 June)
- **Completed:** Replacing post and rail fencing **Cothelstone Hill, Bishops Lydeard**
- **Completed:** Resurfacing works at **Cher and Quirke Street, Minehead**
- **Completed:** Verge Works (concrete channel) at **Blackwater Lane, Wiveliscombe**
- **Completed:** Drainage works at **Holywell Lake, Wellington**
- **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**

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

## Temporary Road Closure: ttro674621TD

### Priory Avenue, Taunton

Somerset County Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, have made an Order prohibiting all traffic from proceeding along; **Priory Avenue - 35 metres from the junction with Cranmer Road, south westwards for a total distance of 40 metres.**

[Please follow this link to view the above road closure.](#)

The works are expected to commence on **14 July 2022** and last for **2 nights (6.30pm- 11.30pm)** to enable **Jurassic Fibre to carry out works to dig down and remove blockages.**

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 **Jurassic Fibre Ltd** on **07881834485** , quoting reference: **ttro674621TD**.

## 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/](http://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.

## **Broadband firm handed hefty fine**

A broadband company has been handed a significant fine after being found guilty of three offences relating to work carried out on a road last month.

Somerset County Council is responsible for managing the road network and prosecuted Jurassic Fibre Ltd as part of its commitment to minimising disruption and keeping the public safe.

The fines against Jurassic Fibre Ltd totalled £8,000.00 with costs of £4,500 and a surcharge of £190.00 awarded against them.

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

Details of approved roadworks can be found on the searchable map at [www.travelsomerset.co.uk/roadworks](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/roadworks). If anyone is concerned about roadworks they can flag this up to the team by contacting @TravelSomerset on Twitter and Facebook

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

### **Top skills demonstrated in Exmoor Young Chef final**

The final of the brand-new Exmoor Young Chef Competition for aspiring young chefs took place on Saturday 2 July 2022 at West Somerset College. The event was filmed, and you'll be able to watch it on the ENP website later this summer.

Through the competition, which ENP hope will become an annual event, the team are hoping to inspire young people and ignite the passion for cooking that can lead a young person onto great things in a rewarding career within the hospitality industry.

Over the past month, seven talented young finalists aged 15-16 years, have been mentored by professional Exmoor chefs to help them devise their menu and improve their cookery skills.

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

## **Minehead RNLI Lifeboat Station**

### **Saving Lives at Sea**

Minehead's volunteer D-Class Lifeboat launched shortly after 10am on July 4 to reports of kayakers in distress in Minehead Bay. One kayak had capsized and filled with water, prompting several 999 calls from the shore.



Upon the crew's attendance the kayakers had managed to get back to the shore safely.

Always make sure that you know your craft and how to right it and ensure that you have a means of calling for help if you get into difficulties.

### **Minehead Lifeboat Day – 23 July**

Minehead's Lifeboat Day is coming and will feature lifesaving demonstrations, stalls and events for the whole family around the harbour. Please [click here](#) to watch a video and find out more about it!

## **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue (DSFRS)**

### **Fire Safety Order Advice**

The number of holiday-let homes has increased by 40% in three years (in particular around the South West).

If you let out a property to guests, you are responsible for fire safety under the Fire Safety Order. Are you complying with the law?

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

## **Community Support – What help is out there?**

### **Voluntary and Community Sector Support**

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

#### **Somerset Fund Impact Report for 2021/22**

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) is proud to publish their annual impact report for The Somerset Fund, which matches donations by 50% thanks to [Somerset County Council](#). Donations are then awarded as grants to a host of small, local charities and community groups across the county, every year.

The report is full of stories from some of the 29 amazing groups supported by the Fund in 2021/22 who are changing lives and making communities stronger every day. SCF are hugely grateful to the wonderful donors for supporting the Fund and to all who shared their stories. SCF look forward to working together to make an even bigger difference over the next 12 months.

Please [click here](#) to read the report.

### **Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP)**

#### **Stronger4Longer**

Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) has announced the launch of Stronger 4 Longer, a new campaign encouraging people aged 50 to 65 to build strength through everyday movement to enable them to stay well, feel younger and protect their future health.

As we age, our muscles naturally get weaker. A sedentary lifestyle can speed this up – and since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the UK working population has never been less active. In 2019, a quarter of UK adults were already classed as inactive (source: ukactive), a number which has since increased, as the pandemic forced millions to work from home and options for exercise were limited. Over time, an inactive lifestyle can dramatically increase the risk of falls and associated injuries later in life.

Certain types of exercise can help to prevent this loss of strength and associated injury risk, by targeting specific muscle groups which are involved in balance and stability. A wide range of exercises are recommended, including sports such as tennis and football, gardening, cycling, dance and yoga, as well as resistance training and lifting weights.

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

### **Bookings for Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset are now open!**

Thousands of children who are eligible for free school meals are set to benefit from free fun activities and food during the upcoming summer holidays – thanks to the Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset (HHHS) project.

The initiative is part of the Government's Holiday, Activities and Food programme which has been designed to help tackle inequalities in holiday hunger, physical inactivity, and social isolation for children eligible for free school meals.

Somerset County Council has teamed up with Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) to deliver the programme across the county.

More than 60 venues across Somerset will be offering face-to-face provision during the summer holidays for children aged 5 to 16, with activities on offer including kayaking, sports, music workshops, and much, much more.

Eligible families receive a code through their school which allows them to book places for their children through an online portal. Bookings for the summer programme have been open since June 22 and have already seen a huge take up.

This year's summer programme is jam-packed with fun activities ranging from sports to crafts, music, theatre, games and more. Follow the link to check out the upcoming activities that will be taking place over the Summer for children on benefits related free school meals <https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays #BeActive>.

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

### **Spark Somerset**

#### **Online - adult mental health awareness training**

Learn how to support others and challenge stigma at Spark's Mental Health Awareness training session, taking place on **Wednesday 20 July**. Tickets are just £5 for small, Somerset-based VCSE staff and volunteers.

Learning will take place through a mixture of presentations, group discussions and workshop activities and everyone who completes the course will receive a manual, a

workbook (including a helpful toolkit to support your own mental health) and a certificate from Mental Health First Aid England. This is an online session, the link to the Zoom meeting will be sent once the place has been confirmed.

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

## **Community Council for Somerset (CCS)**

### **Community Review online event**

**Tuesday 12 July at 2pm – 3.15pm**

Calling all Town and Parish Councils: Smart Communities Ltd still has a few spaces on their Community Review online event. If you missed the event on the 30 June, then you have a second chance to book a place.

Working in partnership with Somerset Association of Local Councils they will support and deliver 14 Parish and Town Council community plans either initiating NEW or reviewing previous plans.

The lucky communities will have the Smart Community team supporting them through the process. For more information about the project visit:

<https://buff.ly/3tmEwBN>

## **Health and Welfare**

### **Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**

#### **Face masks must be worn in NHS buildings**

Last month, the Trust made the decision that mask wearing across most of the NHS hospitals and units would be optional in line with national guidance.

However, once again there is a rise in the number of patients being cared for with COVID-19 across NHS services, along with an increase in colleague sickness.

The safety of patients and colleagues is of the utmost importance, and to minimise the spread of the virus, the Trust took the difficult decision that with effect from Tuesday 5 July everyone (patients, visitors and colleagues) is required to wear a face mask inside all NHS trust buildings, including clinical areas and non-clinical areas such as corridors.

The Trust know this will be disappointing, following the relaxation of the rules last month - but it's very important that this immediate proactive step is taken to respond to the increase in positive COVID-19 cases within the NHS and to help protect patients and colleagues during this time.

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust is sorry that they have had to introduce this change once again and thank you for your continued understanding and support.

### **Healthy Start Vouchers**

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk.

Check if you're eligible by applying today. If you're eligible, you'll be sent a Healthy Start card with money on it that you can use in some UK shops. Pre-payment will be uploaded onto this card every 4 weeks. You can use your card to buy:

- plain liquid cow's milk
- fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables
- fresh, dried, and tinned pulses
- infant formula milk based on cow's milk

You can also use your card to collect:

- Healthy Start vitamins – these support you during pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Vitamin drops for babies and young children – these are suitable from birth to 4 years old

Information on how to apply for the scheme and for anyone who wants to check if they're eligible to apply can be found at [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk).

## **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.

Everyone in Somerset is being asked to get up to date with the [COVID-19 vaccinations they are eligible for](#). These remain the best form of defence against the COVID-19 and influenza viruses. It's not too late to catch up if you or someone you know has missed boosters or even first doses for the COVID-19 vaccine.

## **Vaccinations**

COVID-19 rates are rising across Somerset. If you are not up to date with your jabs you can still get one this summer to protect you for autumn and winter. There are several clinics open in July for walk-ins and appointments offering the Spring Booster and all other jabs.

[Bookings](#) can be made at a wide number of clinics across Somerset.

[Walk-in appointments](#) are additionally being offered at Tower Vaccination Centre in Taunton on specific days.

[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.

## **Clinton's Public Health Catch Up Film A chat with Professor Sir Chris Whitty in West Somerset**

This week, Clinton chats to Professor Sir Chris Whitty who recently visited Somerset, at the invitation of Somerset County Council's (SCC) Public Health Team. SCC provided a West Somerset case study to the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, which focused on the Health and Wellbeing of Coastal Communities.

During his visit, he met a wide variety of people within Cannington, Minehead and Porlock. Clinton talks to Professor Whitty about the importance of checking your blood pressure, steps we can take to recover from the effects of COVID-19 and the Public Health work being done in West Somerset.

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

## **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**

#### **Don't be fooled by ticket fraudsters**

The only way to guarantee tickets for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is via the official FIFA World Cup ticket website: <http://fifa.com/tickets>

Tickets for sale on other platforms may be non-existent or fake and leave you out of pocket

### **Avon and Somerset Police (ASP)**

#### **Operation Scorpion**

This week ASP are playing their part in the second phase of Operation Scorpion, a regional crackdown on drugs.

They will be carrying out enforcement activities with South West policing colleagues, focusing on those who are profiteering from the damage and harm that drugs bring to our communities.

ASP neighbourhood teams will be safeguarding vulnerable people who find themselves caught up in drug use and/or supply, through no fault of their own, working with a number of different partner agencies to help them to access treatment and support.

They will also be continuing ongoing educational and preventative work to ensure that young people are aware of the signs of grooming and exploitation and how to get help if they need it.

You can support [#OpScorpion](#) by looking out for and reporting signs of drug activity in your neighbourhood. Report it to ASP online or via 101. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Signs to look out for include:

- Lots of different people visiting a property
- People coming and going at odd times of the day and night
- Increase in cars pulling up to the property for short periods of time
- Increase in anti-social behaviour near the property
- Curtains or blinds closed all of the time

To pass on information anonymously, the independent charity Crimestoppers is available 24 hours a day on 0800 555 111. Contact will remain 100% anonymous.

## **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**

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).

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

***Attachments:***  
***SWP Briefing Somerset Reuse Week.***