

Somerset West and Taunton

Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils

Issue 121 Weeks ending 18/09/2022

Cabinet Office

National Mourning Guidance

Buckingham Palace has announced the demise of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be preceded by a period of Lying-in-State. Dates and further details of these events will be announced by the Royal Household in due course.

A period of National Mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has now started. The period of National Mourning will continue until the end of the day of the State Funeral. The Royal Family will undertake a separate period of Royal Mourning, subject to the wishes of The King.

Further information is available from the website [here](#).

Key Messages this week

1. Her Majesty The Queen

In line with [guidance from the Government](#), SWT committee meetings scheduled during the National Mourning period will go ahead. A minute's silence will be held at the start of each Committee meeting as a mark of respect to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Licensing Committee scheduled for 6.15pm on Monday, 19 September, the day of the state funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, has been cancelled.

Our offices at Deane House, Taunton, and West Somerset House, Williton, will be closed on **Monday 19 September** to observe the national bank holiday marking the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our services can still be accessed online at www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk.

SWT has agreed with our operator, Everyone Active, that our leisure centres, pools and sports facilities will be closed on Monday 19 September.

A [Moment of National Reflection](#) will take place at **8pm on Sunday 18 September**. This has been suggested by the Government as a time to reflect and pause.

Flowers and Books of condolence

Floral tributes to HM Queen Elizabeth II can be laid at [Taunton Minster, St Mary Magdalene Church](#). Please be mindful of the environment and remove wrapping or choose biodegradable items. Flowers will be respectfully removed from 5pm the day after the funeral on Tuesday 20 September.

Books of Condolence have been opened at our offices in Deane House, Taunton, and West Somerset House, Williton. There are also Books of Condolence at Taunton Minster, County Hall, and in libraries across Somerset. Buckingham Palace has an official [Book of Condolence](#) for people to leave tributes online. Books of condolence are to be closed at 5pm the day after funeral and kept in local archives.

Please visit the [SWT website](#) for more information.

2. The Local Proclamation

The Local Proclamation for Somerset, the official local announcement of Her Majesty's death and acknowledgement of the commencement of the King's new reign, took place on Sunday 11 September in Taunton.

The Local Proclamation was read out by the High Sheriff of Somerset, Jennifer Duke, in front of the Market House in Taunton town centre.

Please [click here](#) to watch the ceremony.

3. Democracy and Governance Committee Meetings

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

- **POSTPONED - SWT Licensing Committee – Monday 19 September.** Please note in agreement with the Chair, the Licensing Committee meeting has been postponed. A new date will follow shortly.
- **SWT Executive – Wednesday, 21 September** in the JMR at 6.15pm. Deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Friday 16 September. The agenda and report packs are available to view on the [website](#).
- **SWT Tenants Strategic Group – Monday 26 September** in the JMR at 6.00pm. The agenda and report packs are available to view on the [website](#)
- **CANCELLED – Tuesday 27 September - SWT Special Statement of Accounts Meeting, SWT Audit and Governance.**

- **SWT Community Scrutiny Committee – Wednesday 28 September**, in the JMR at 6.15pm. Deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Monday 26 September.
- **Special Full Council – Thursday 29 September**, in the JMR at 6.15pm. Item of Business is the Community Governance Review for the Unparished Area of Taunton. Deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Tuesday 27 September. The agenda and report packs are available to view on the [website](#).

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 - Business Innovation event for Somerset

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.

The event has been organised by SWT with support from Somerset County Council, The Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (HoTSWLEP), SWT Innovation Leadership Group, Tech South West, Innovate UK and Barclays Eagle Labs, and is open to businesses at all stages of growth including entrepreneurs, designers, rising stars, inspirational founders and civic innovators.

To find out more visit somersetinnovationexchange.co.uk or follow SWT's promotional partner, One Voice Media, via their [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) channels.

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

5. Reminder - Public invited to shape local democracy in Somerset

A public consultation on the development of Local Community Networks (LCNs) has been launched.

Check out the interactive map, to see where your parish fits in relation to the three boundary proposals [HERE](#).

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

6. Reminder - Climate News Issue 5

The Climate Change Team has published its latest 'Climate News' which gets sent to SWT residents and businesses who sign up to receive a copy.

The newsletter aims to showcase all the great work that is happening across Somerset West and Taunton to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2030.

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

7. Reminder - SWT launches new fund for low-income households

This week, SWT launched a short-term Hardship Fund for low-income families struggling to afford household essentials.

This means-tested benefit fund will be administered by [Citizens' Advice Taunton](#) and [West Somerset Advice](#) to provide financial assistance of up to £200 to eligible households across the district.

This fund is not available for emergency food, fuel or energy payments, as this support is available via foodbanks and Central Government support.

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

8. Reminder - Have your say on Minehead's e-scooter trial

SWT is seeking the views of residents, businesses and visitors to Minehead in response to the town's e-scooter trial.

Any residents, businesses, and visitors to Minehead are welcome to complete the survey using the following link:

<https://yoursay.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/climate-emergency/fd6608b5/>

The survey will stay open until **30 September** and the information obtained will help inform SWT and [Zipp Mobility](#) on how the scheme can be enhanced.

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

9. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

The Queen's funeral – changes to waste services

There will be no waste collection or recycling site opening on Monday 19 September, the day of Her Majesty The Queen's funeral.

All collections – of recycling, rubbish or garden waste – will take place a day later than scheduled for the rest of the week, as is usual practice for a Bank Holiday week.

Collections scheduled for Friday 23 September take place on Saturday 24 September.

Available crews will do their very best to complete all rounds on the Saturday. Any refuse or garden waste collections missed will be returned for as soon as possible. Any missed recycling will be returned for on Friday 30 September.

As an unplanned Bank Holiday, this change to the usual pattern is not be reflected in the printed collection days calendars. However, the "My Collection Day" online calendar at somersetwaste.gov.uk will show the one-day-later pick-ups.

Please make sure your boxes, bags and bins are presented on the correct collection day, or the night before.

All 16 of Somerset's recycling sites will also close on 19 September - including the 12 that usually open on a Monday (Bridgwater, Castle Cary/Dimmer, Chard, Cheddar, Crewkerne, Frome, Minehead, Street, Taunton/Priorswood, Wells/Dulcote, Williton and Yeovil).

Collection of Floral Tributes

Floral tributes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be collected from designated sites across the county on Wednesday 21 September.

Staff from district councils will begin respectfully removing tributes on Wednesday morning following the funeral of Her Majesty The Queen on Monday 19 September, as set out in Palace guidance.

Residents are encouraged to use designated sites for tributes and remove wrapping and decorations so flowers and foliage can be composted. Please also avoid leaving non-recyclable items, such as plastic tributes.

New Somerset Council

Latest news

Local Community Network (LCN) Consultation

Local Community Networks (LCNs) will be part of the new Somerset Unitary Council, with formal power as 'Committees of the council', that listen to and are influenced by local communities.

LCNs bring Somerset Unitary Councillors and Officers together with key partners such as Town, City and Parish Councils, Health, Police, the Voluntary Sector and local groups,

The consultation on LCN boundaries went live on the 5 of September and will run for 6 weeks (**17 October**). In-person and online engagement events are taking place across the county.

- Thursday 22 September – 10am-4pm, Mendip District Council, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BT

- Thursday 29 September – 10am-4pm, South Somerset District Council, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT
- Friday 7 October – 10am-4pm, Sedgemoor District Council, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater TA6 3AR
- **Monday 10 October – 10am-4pm, West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton, Somerset, TA4 4QA**

The team will be consulting City, Town and Parishes, key stakeholders and the staff at all five councils, throughout the six-week period too.

The public consultation is about gathering views from the public and key stakeholders about how LCNs should develop and work in practice. It will explore how many LCNs the new Somerset Council will have, the role they will undertake and their name; exploring whether Local Community Networks is the right title for this Committee.

You can find out more information about the consultation [here](#).

City, Town and Parish Conference – Tuesday 4 October 2022

The Local Community Network (LCN) Project Team are inviting Parish Clerks and Chairs to join them at the City, Town and Parish Conference on **Tuesday 4 October at Westlands in Yeovil**.

It promises to be a day packed with inspiration, information and opportunities to inform the way we work together over the coming months.

There will be a particular focus on the development of Local Community Networks (LCNs), and discussion on how Parishes can influence and support the delivery of place-based services in Somerset. Full agenda to follow.

To find out more and book your place, please visit Eventbrite here:

[City, Town and Parish conference Tickets, Tue 4 Oct 2022 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

The project team look forward to seeing you there.

Partner Engagement – Key messages from other Public Service Areas

Somerset County Council (SCC)

SCC Highway Maintenance Update

More good weather this week has meant that the gangs have been able to make good progress with safety and scheduled works.

The Toneway at Creech Castle in Taunton is now fully open and running smoothly with only minor works outstanding to complete the scheme

The new gates have now been installed at Cleeve Hill in Watchet and will be deployed to close the road if there is a risk to the Public due to a landslide or potential landslide.

Reported defects are still low recently which has enabled the gangs to push the planned works forward, however, if you spot any issues on the roads this week please don't hesitate to report it to SCC on www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/ or call **0300 123 2224**.

This week SCC Highways have successfully completed 151 Safety Defect repairs in SWT (71 in Taunton and 80 in West Somerset).

The bird nesting season has now come to an end so we can expect to see the farmers and other hedge owners begin to cut their roadside hedges.

The surface dressing program is now completed for this Financial Year.

Works for week commencing 19 September 2022 are: -

- **Continuing:** installation of new cattle grid at **Staple Plain, West Quantoxhead** (Road closure with pedestrian access via the bridleway. Emergency vehicle access will be maintained)
- **Continuing:** resurfacing of urban footway at **Crufts Meadow/Tristram Drive/Arundells Way Creech St Michael, Taunton**
- **Completed:** drainage works at **Weacombe Lane, Bicknoller** (Carriageway open – just some minor lining works to complete)
- **Completed:** 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 and 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 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

Parish of Trull – Temporary closure of Honiton Road

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;

Honiton Road - from the junction with Dipford Road in a southerly direction for 670 metres. This Order will enable Splicetek on behalf of Jurassic Fibre to access BT poles and FW chambers to install new cables.

The works are expected to commence on **20 September 2022 and last until 23 September 2022 between the hours of 9:30am – 3.00pm for a total of 4 days.**

Please visit <https://one.network/?tm=130528254f> or further information on the alternative route.

The contractor has indicated that access for Emergency Services through the site is **permitted** on this occasion.

The Buses of Somerset

Changes to scheduled services due to Bank Holiday

Please be advised that following the announcement that Monday 19 September 2022 will be a Bank Holiday, the core network will be running to a Sunday timetable. This is to ensure that essential journeys can still be made.

The following routes will not run on Monday 19 September, and will resume normal service from Tuesday 20:

- Exmoor Coaster
- Exmoor Sunseeker

As well as the above, the following will also not be running on Monday 19, but will resume normal service from Tuesday 20:

- Taunton Park & Ride
- Buses to schools and colleges

Please [click here](#) to visit the website for timetable information.

Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) Changes to Event Schedule

ENPA feel it would be inappropriate to run larger events during the period of national mourning for her Majesty the Queen and have therefore decided not to go ahead with the “North Hill on the Radar” event that was planned for 17 September as part of Heritage Open Days.

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

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) Discovery Community Fund reopens

Discovery, the organisation supporting autistic adults and people with learning disabilities in Somerset, has reopened applications for its Community Fund. Grants are available for a wide range of projects intended to help make community spaces and services more accessible for autistic adults and people with learning disabilities. Applications through Somerset Community Foundation (SCF), who are administering the fund, are welcomed for grants ranging from £500 to £10,000.

The fund reopens following the Discovery Community Fund Report which surveyed individuals with learning disabilities and/or autism. 22% of respondents reported that they didn't always have control of what they did in their free time, whilst only 30% were able to choose when they went out.

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

Community Council for Somerset (CCS) September's Talking Café Facebook Live Events

Watch LIVE every Wednesday at 1.00pm and ask questions in the comments for instant answers.

21 September [Somerset Waste Partnership](#)
Somerset Recycling Week – Get involved.

28 September [Somerset Carers](#)
What to expect from going to a Carers Group and how to find them in Somerset.

Don't forget you can search for previous live recordings by subject here:

<https://somersetagents.org/talking-cafes-live> - just select the topic that interests you from the drop-down menu and all relevant Talking Cafe recordings will be available!

Somerset Jobs

Taunton Jobs Fair

Wednesday 28 September 10.30am – 4.00pm

Somerset County Cricket Club

In partnership with Somerset Jobs, SWT and JobCentre Plus:

There will be a wide range of employers and job opportunities, along with training and support offers for everyone to explore. All welcome.

Health and Welfare

SCC Public Health

Preparing for Winter

This Autumn and Winter we expect to see both flu and Covid viruses circulating. With the UK experiencing its first flu season since 2019, the population will have less immunity than previous flu seasons. Preparations for the potential impact of this on the population's health and well-being, centre on vaccination for both flu and COVID-19, targeted to at risk groups.

The best way to protect ourselves our friends and our families, is by taking up all the vaccinations that we are eligible for.

Vaccinations

COVID-19

The COVID-19 Autumn Booster vaccination programme started on the 5 September and all clinics are likely to become very busy. If you have yet to have your 1st, 2nd or initial booster, please consider getting it now.

[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](#).

Influenza

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have widened the offer of the [free flu vaccine](#) to more eligible groups.

These additional groups will only be eligible once the most vulnerable, including previously announced pre-school and primary school children, those aged 65 years and over and those in clinical risk groups, have been offered the jab.

The additional groups set to be offered the free flu vaccine in England will be:

- all adults aged 50 to 64 years (including those who turn 50 by 31 March 2023)
- secondary school children in years 7, 8 and 9, who will be offered the vaccine in order of school year (starting with the youngest first)

[If you're eligible for a free flu vaccine](#), you can book an appointment at your GP surgery or a pharmacy that offers it on the NHS. You may also get an invitation to get the vaccine, but you do not have to wait for this before booking an appointment. Everyone who is eligible for the free flu vaccine will be able to get it. If you have an appointment for a Covid-19 booster vaccine at a GP surgery or pharmacy, you may also be offered a flu vaccine at the same time.

Do not delay booking your flu vaccine appointment so that you can get both vaccines together. Only some people will be offered both vaccines at the same time.

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.

Mental and Emotional Support

The death of Queen Elizabeth II may bring up feelings of personal loss and it is understood that TV and media coverage may feel overwhelming at the moment. News and pictures may act as a reminder of your own grief and cause emotions to resurface

[Here is a short guide that you may find helpful when talking about death, dying and grief.](#)

Mindline Emotional support and mental health helpline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Mindline 01823 276 892 or 0800 138 1692

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

Avon and Somerset Police (ASP)

Memories of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

During HM Queen Elizabeth's 70-year long reign, she made many visits to the West Country.

As the official Lying-in-State takes place in London, ASP want to share some archive photos taken during these official visits.

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

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