

# Somerset West and Taunton

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

### **Issue 129 Weeks ending 13/11/2022**

#### **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. Small business grants to save energy**

SWT and Sedgemoor District (SDC) councils are launching a new grant scheme to help small and micro businesses become greener as part of their commitment to reaching net zero emissions by 2030.

Carbon cutting grants worth up to £2,500 will be made available to businesses with up to nine employees to help fund energy reduction and net-zero transition projects.

There are many ways in which businesses can reduce their carbon footprint, from reducing waste by re-using and recycling to limiting energy use at night and replacing fuel-powered vehicles with electric cars and bikes.

Businesses will need to undertake eligible projects to claim back what they have spent, capped at £2,500.

As the scheme is being made available through the Hinkley Point C developer contributions for business support funding, applications from businesses within the West Somerset locality of Somerset West and Taunton will be prioritised.

**Applications open Wednesday, 16 November and will close 8 December.**

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 SWT [Committee meetings](#). Here you can find the agendas and minutes of all meetings, as well as which Councillors sit on each Committee.

- **SWT Executive – Wednesday 16 November** at 6.15pm in the JMR. The agenda and report packs are available to view on the [website](#). The deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Monday 14 November.
- **LGR Implementation Board – Monday 14 November** at 2.00pm in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton. 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](#).

## 3. Taunton Shadow Town Council Chair elected

Members of the Taunton Shadow Town Council have appointed Councillor Tom Deakin as Chair with Councillor Brian Larcombe as Vice Chair.

The first meeting of the shadow council which has been set up to lead and oversee work to establish the new Taunton Town Council, also resolved to adopt Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules which will guide councillors and allow them to carry out business efficiently.

The shadow council consists of 26 members who will monitor delivery of the Implementation Plan drawn up to ensure that a functioning town council comes into being on 1 April 2023 - the same day as the new unitary Somerset Council.

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

## 4. Mayor to lead Taunton's Remembrance events

On Remembrance Sunday, 13 November, a service led by Revd Tobie Osmond (Taunton Minster), Revd Simon D'Albertanson (40 Commando Padre) and the Rt Revd Dr Michael Beasley (Bishop of Bath and Wells) will be held at Taunton Minster from 9.30am, which will also be livestreamed via the Minster's [Facebook page](#).

Following the church service, a parade of veterans, scouts, guides and cadets will march through the town where a civic party will take the salute at 10.30am on the steps of the Old Municipal Buildings in Corporation Street.

The civic party will then process into [Vivary Park](#) where the Service of Remembrance and wreath placing ceremony will take place in front of the War Memorial at 11am. This short service will be livestreamed via SWT's [Facebook page](#).

Temporary road closures will be in place throughout the commemorations.

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

## **5. SWT Climate News – Issue 7 now available**

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.

View all editions of the SWT Climate Newsletter [here](#). Each new edition is circulated to all subscribers at the beginning of every month, and the November issue is available to read now

## **6. Reminder - Somerset West Lottery Christmas 2022 bolt-on prize**

The Somerset West Lottery is now running the Christmas 2022 bolt-on prize draw.

Anyone purchasing one or more tickets between Monday, 1 November and Saturday, 17 December, could win a £1,000 voucher to spend at [John Lewis](#), courtesy of external lottery management company [Gatherwell](#).

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

## **7. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP) Fixy Events coming soon...**

The Fixy reuse van visited Williton on Tuesday 8 November to encourage residents to cut waste and save money by getting items repaired, rather than throwing them away.

The big blue van was outside the free Cost of Living Crisis event at the West Somerset House, Williton to highlight reuse and repair, promote Somerset's network of repair cafés - including Chard, Shepton Mallet and Taunton on **Saturday 12 November** - encourage volunteers to get involved, and (while no repairs were undertaken) accept donations of smart tech.

A range of organisations were at the free Cost of Living Crisis event to discuss the support they offer, covering financial, health and wellbeing, employment and advice. Between gaining advice and information, people were encouraged to

donate any broken or unwanted smart tech, such as laptops, tablets, smartphones, smart watches, digital cameras, game consoles, routers, hard drives, external disk drives, leads and chargers to Fixy.

The donations will be data-wiped and repaired as necessary by Somerset specialists DonateIT, and passed onto schools, community groups and families who need them.

Fixing electricals is often easier than people think and as well as environmental benefits – it saves money and means you can keep hold of loved items for longer. Each year, millions of tonnes of electrical and electronic waste are thrown away and it is estimated that the average UK household has 20 unwanted electrical items.

For more on repair cafés and Fixy reuse van, see: [somersetwaste.gov.uk/share-and-repair](https://somersetwaste.gov.uk/share-and-repair).

### Upcoming events in SWT

- **Saturday 12 November** 10:30am-12:30pm – **Taunton Repair Café**, Moose Hall, Tower Lane, Taunton, TA1 4AR.
- **Saturday 19 November** 10:00am -12:00pm – **Wivey Repair Café**, Wiveliscombe Community Centre, West Street, Wiveliscombe TA4 2JP.
- **Saturday 26 November** 10:00am -4:00pm – **Eat Taunton festival**. Fixy will be there to signpost future events, promote reuse, encourage volunteers, and take smart tech donations (no repairers available).
- **Saturday 26 November** 10:00am -1:00pm – Repair Café in the **Blackdown Hills**, Hemyock Parish Hall, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3QW.
- **Saturday 3 December** 10:00am-12:00pm – **Porlock Vale Repair Café**, Porlock Village Hall, Toll Road, Porlock TA24 8QD.
- **Saturday 17 December** 10:00am – 12:00pm – **Wivey Repair Café**, Community Centre, West Street, Wiveliscombe, Taunton TA4 2JP.

## New Somerset Council

### Latest news

#### **Somerset Councils launch countywide Business Survey 2022**

Somerset's five Local Authorities are jointly undertaking a survey to better understand and support local businesses, now and in the future.

The Somerset Business Survey 2022 is live and can be completed [here](#).

Businesses are encouraged to take part and share the link with their networks. The more responses there are, the more accurate the data.

Now in its third year, the survey has been developed with input from respected representative business organisations such as the Somerset Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses. It will give valuable insight into current business challenges, such as inflationary pressures, supply chain issues, higher borrowing costs, ongoing recruitment and skills concerns, and the journey to net zero carbon emissions.

In addition to providing much-needed intelligence about the position of the Somerset economy, the responses will be used to inform future targeted business support programmes.

The 2022 launch is a shared initiative between Somerset County Council, Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset West & Taunton Council, and South Somerset District Council.

If you have questions or wish to provide additional feedback, please email: [somerseteconomicdevelopment@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:somerseteconomicdevelopment@somerset.gov.uk).

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

## **City, Town and Parish Council Working Group – You are welcome to attend!**

Did you know that the LCN Team hold fortnightly catchups exclusively for Clerks and Chairs from across Somerset?

The next online meeting will take place on **Wednesday 23 November** on MS Teams at 10.30am until 11am.

Each session features an update on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Programme, plus there's news about Local Community Networks (LCNs), occasional guest speakers, and a question-and-answer session.

LGR Programme Director, Alyn Jones, attends the Working Group, alongside colleagues from the LCN workstream.

Register today, and the LCN Team will send you the Teams invitation.

Simply drop an email to [LCN@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:LCN@somerset.gov.uk) with your name and contact details, placing 'C, T&PC Working Group' in the subject title.

The team understand the timing won't suit everyone all the time, so they will distribute the meeting minutes to you once you are signed-up.

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

### **National Association of Local Councils (NALC)**

#### **Civility and Respect Pledge**

Throughout the sector, there are growing concerns about the impact bullying, harassment, and intimidation are having on local (parish and town) councils, councillors, clerks and council staff and the resulting effectiveness of local councils. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), One Voice Wales, the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and county associations have responded to this by setting up a Civility and Respect Working Group to oversee the Civility and Respect Project.

NALC, SLCC, and OVW believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

The Civility and Respect Pledge is being introduced because there is no place for bullying, harassment and intimidation within our sector. The pledge is easy for councils to sign up for and it will enable councils to demonstrate that they are committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector and to driving through positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

Please [click here](#) to find out more about Civility and Respect Project.

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

#### **SCC Highways maintenance update**

Work has continued well on our major schemes this week such as the resurfacing of the A38 Wellington Rd at Compass Hill, in Taunton which is now complete. SCC Highways thank you for your patience and forbearance during these essential works.

The contractor's gangs have successfully completed works to repair 128 Safety Defects this week, with 93 in the Taunton Area and 35 in the West Somerset Area.

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/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/) or call **0300 123 2224**.

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.

The following is a list of SCC works in the SWT area starting week commencing 14 November 2022:

#### **Monday 14 November**

- **South Molton Road, Chipstable** – 15 days - Removal of dangerous dead ash trees with ash dieback.

- **Station Road, Dulverton** – 5 days – Depot patching.
- **Westowe Hill, Lydeard St Lawrence** – 5 days - 11 meters of new 225mm pipe. Connect to existing chamber at top and construct new gully at the bottom.
- **Bridgwater Road, Bathpool** – 2 days - Replacement of defective traffic signal pole in splitter island.
- **Washford Cross to Smithyard Cottage, Williton** – 1 day – Jetting works continued. Unable to complete across concurrent days.
- **Porlock Hill, Porlock** – 5 days – Existing grip clearance.

## **Tuesday 15 November**

- **Capton Lane, Stogumber** – 4 days – Jetting works.

## **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.

## **Somerset Prepared**

### **Preparing for Winter flooding – guidance for residents and businesses**

While drought conditions may have dominated headlines this year, we all know how quickly the weather can change.

As we head into the winter months and with rainfall levels increasing, there is no better time to start planning for adverse weather. We are issuing the following advice and guidance to help you reduce the impacts of flooding.

#### **What can I do?**

Thinking ahead and preparing for what the weather may bring especially at this time of year can make a real difference in your home, business and community.

One of the first things to check is whether your property is at [risk of flooding](#).

We also recommend taking precautionary measures and purchasing your own sandbags in case of flooding emergencies. If sandbags are not available, you can use:

- rolled-up mats or carpets
- bags of garden compost
- pillowcases filled with soil (don't overfill them)
- timber boards (possibly screwed to door frames and sealed with mastic)

### **What to do during a flood**

There is information to help you on what to do during a flood on [the Somerset Prepared website](#). The key point is to always stay safe, in an immediate flood emergency or where there is a risk to life, follow the advice of the emergency services.

### **Protect yourself from future flooding**

It is advisable to plan how you'll respond to a flood. Information and plans are available to help you [plan ahead](#).

We also encourage you to download the ['Prepare. Act. Survive.' flood plan](#) to help reduce the impact of flooding.

You can find up to date information on flood warnings by visiting the [flood warnings page](#) on the Government's website.

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

### **Section 119, Highways Act 1980**

#### **Proposed diversion of public bridleway DU4/5 (Part) Parish of Exford**

The ENPA is proposing to divert part of public bridleway DU4/5 in the parish of Exford. Prior to making an Order they would like to hear your views on the proposal.

[Click here](#) to find a summary of the proposal, schedule and proposal plan.

Please return any comments on the proposal by **18 November 2022** to [sapplegate@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:sapplegate@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk) or by post to Sue Applegate, Public Rights of Way and Access 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 make contact on 01398 322292.

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

### **Firefighter tips for staying warm safely**

Temperatures are starting to drop. DSFRS understands it's going to be an expensive winter and people are going to resist putting on the heating too much. They have

some tips for you to think about, which may help you to keep your home warmer for less.

Please [click here](#) to visit the website and hear Crew Manager, Liam's tips.

## **Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)**

### **Stay in "Beast Mode" around the coast**

No matter how strong or fast you are, no one is a match for the coast. Just ask Akinfenwa...

Every year thousands of incidents happen along clifftops and cliff bases or where people have been cut off by the tide.

The MCA want to communicate coastal dangers to everyone, but especially young men aged 18–30 and dads aged 30-50 who are more likely to be involved in accidents at the coast. If the MCA can connect with new audiences and remind them of ways to stay safe, it could help save lives.

- Why is checking tide times so important?  
Incoming tides don't just come in from out at sea – they can also sneak up behind you and cut off your exit route, leaving you stranded and in danger. By knowing when it's high and low tide, you can make sure you'll get back in plenty of time without putting yourself at risk.
- How can I tell if cliffs are stable?  
Cliffs are often more unstable than they look, and rockslides or cliff falls can happen at any time. Stay safe, keep well back from cliff edges and a good distance from the bases of cliffs.
- Why mud?  
NEVER cross mud or quicksand as a shortcut – you can easily get stuck. Combine a sticky situation with an incoming tide, and the results could be disastrous...

Stay [coast clever like 'world's strongest footballer' Adebayo Akinfenwa](#). Check tide times, stay clear of cliff edges and bases, avoid mud and take a fully charged mobile so you can call 999 and ask for the Coastguard in an emergency.

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

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

#### **Community Employment Hubs**

#### **Hinkley Point C (HPC) Recruitment Evening**

**Thursday 17 November 2022, 5:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Somerset Energy Innovation Centre, Woodlands Business Park, Bristol Road, Bridgwater TA6 4FJ**

A recruitment evening is being held to meet with HPC Project contractors and find out about all the exciting opportunities on the project.

There are roles available in construction, catering and hospitality, security, facilities management, logistics, warehousing, driving and many more!

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

### **Hinkley Point C (HPC) – Drop In Events**

Hinkley Point Drop ins are coming to the [Somerset West and Taunton Community Employment Hubs](#) in Wellington, Taunton, Stogursey and Minehead on various dates. If you would like to find out more information on the opportunities available at Hinkley Point C then drop in to one of these events.

The first drop in will take place on **Tuesday 22 November**, between 10:00am and 12:00pm, at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Alcombe, Minehead TA24 6DJ.

Please [click here](#) to find out more about Hinkley Point C current vacancies, training offers and how to register for job alerts.

### **Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) Festive Fund for Somerset – last chance to apply! Deadline for applications is Friday 18 November.**

The festive season can be difficult for some, and this year many of our neighbours are facing extremely tough times ahead. Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) want to support groups that can help to reduce loneliness and spread warmth and cheer through food and activities around the festive period with grants of up to £400.

You will need to think about how you can safely prepare and deliver food and gifts or think creatively about how you can bring people together to create happy festive memories. Your work can support people of all ages who may experience loneliness or disadvantage.

The money can be used towards the cost of providing food and/or activities for isolated people between December and January.

Please [click here](#) to find out more about the Festive Fund.

### **Donate your Winter Fuel Payment**

SCF has launched this year's Surviving Winter appeal, which encourages people who can afford it to donate some or all of their Winter Fuel Payment to help vulnerable older people in Somerset who are unable to afford to heat their homes to stay warm and well.

The cost-of-living crisis means that this winter will be one of the toughest we have faced for decades. Many older people are already extremely anxious about rising bills and around 11,000 Somerset pensioners will find themselves living in fuel poverty this year, double the number in the same situation last year. The team at SCF know, from many years' experience of running their Surviving Winter appeal, that many of the poorest pensioners may not turn their heating on at all, or will cut back on food to save money as they are forced to choose between heating and

eating. And with everyday costs like food and fuel rapidly increasing, this winter will see many of our most vulnerable older neighbours struggling to cope. Many will stay at home to save money and will find themselves cut off from family and friends.

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

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

### **Talking Cafés Live**

Coming up on November's Talking Cafe live-streamed sessions: -

- **16 November** - Interfaith Week - celebrating Somerset's Faith communities with [Somerset Diverse Communities](#).
- **23 November** - Reduce Week with [Somerset Waste Partnership](#).
- **30 November** - [NHS Somerset](#) Flu Vaccinations in Somerset - everything you need to know.

Please [click here](#) to watch LIVE every Wednesday at 1pm and ask questions in the comments for instant answers.

Want to take part and SHOUT about the organisation or community project you are passionate about? Contact [hannah@somersetcc.org.uk](mailto:hannah@somersetcc.org.uk) or message the Talking Cafe page.

Don't forget you can search for previous live recordings by subject here: <https://somersetagents.org/talking-cafe-live/> . Just select the topic that interests you from the drop-down menu.

### **Community Buildings - Become a warm space this winter!**

If your facility or group would like to host a warm space for anyone who will struggle to keep their heating on this Winter. Please [click here](#) to view the new Warm Spaces funding list.

## **Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)**

### **Urgent Energy advice for village halls this winter**

The current energy crisis is having a profound impact on many individuals and organisations in society. Many people are unfortunately at risk of finding themselves in fuel poverty this winter. In this context, ACRE is committed to helping village halls stay open for the benefit of their local community as they are often the only place in rural areas where people can socialise and stay warm.

Please [click here](#) to read the Utility Aid Briefing.

## **Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)**

### **Safe and Warm Somerset**

Everyone deserves a home which is warm, comfortable and affordable to heat. Safe and Warm Somerset supports anyone in Somerset who may need help with energy bills or keeping warm at home.

If you live in Somerset and any of the following apply to you, the CSE can help with free, impartial advice and support:

- Struggling with energy bills.
- A cold home.
- Broken heating system or boiler.
- Damp and mould in the home.
- Unsure about how to use your heating system.
- No gas central heating and high electricity bills.

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

## **Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) A Coastal Communities Multi-Disadvantage Group The End of the Line? – Online Event Tuesday 15 November 2022 (12:30pm-3.30pm)**

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) is a coalition of national charities – Clinks, Homeless Link, Mind and associate member Collective Voice. Together MEAM represents over 1,300 frontline organisations across England.

A core group of MEAM and Fulfilling Lives Leads from coastal communities have been meeting to discuss how the lives of people with multiple disadvantage are further impacted by the interconnected and often overlooked issues their communities face. Often located at 'the end of the line', these communities share commonalities, such as:

- Seasonal leisure and industry pressures that affect service provisions and the system
- Deprivation and health inequalities
- Accommodation challenges, particularly around bedsits/houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs)
- Low rates of unemployment and limited job opportunities
- Community safety issues such as crime, gang-related activity and county lines.

Please [click here](#) to go to the Eventbrite page and reserve a space.

## **Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP) Getting outside Photo Competition 2022 and Calendar 2023**

The Photo Competition that will eventually result in next year's Getting Outside in Somerset Calendar is now open! Entry is open to all, pictures taken on your walks with smartphones are perfect and photos taken earlier in the year are welcome. The only rules are:

- Photos must feature Somerset and its outdoor environment
- The photo must be yours
- Any person identifiable in the photo must have given permission for its entry and possible publication.

Happy snapping, and most importantly enjoy your walks and encourage others to come with you!

Deadline for entries: **Midnight Sunday 20 November.**

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

## **Spark**

### **Call out for festive volunteering opportunities**

It may seem a bit early to talk about Christmas, but the season of good will is just around the corner and Spark have already been approached by people looking for opportunities to volunteer on and around the big day.

So, if you have any suitable roles, be sure to advertise them on Spark's volunteering website, [Spark a Change](#). As the saying goes, volunteering is not just for Christmas. Once your new volunteer realises how good it feels, they might just make it a life-long habit!

Please [click here](#) or email [info@sparkachange.org.uk](mailto:info@sparkachange.org.uk) to get started.

## **Health and Welfare**

### **Clinton's Public Health Catch Up**

#### **International Stress Awareness Week (7 – 11 November)**

This week is [#StressAwarenessWeek](#) (7-11 November) so Clinton headed to the Quantock Hills for the latest '[Public Health Catch Up' video](#) to join activities put on by the [Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme](#).

The scheme, funded by the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#), runs a series of projects that help to improve the health and wellbeing benefits of local communities by providing greater access to nature.

He also speaks to Amy Hardwick, SCC's Health Promotion Manager for Mental Health about how to spot the signs of overwhelming stress and how to take good care of your mind.

### **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

People aged 50 and over are now able to book their autumn booster and flu vaccines, as the NHS Covid-19 and flu programmes continue to protect the country ahead of winter. Appointments are available to people aged 50 and over, pregnant women, clinically vulnerable / immunosuppressed individuals, health and social care workers and paid and unpaid carers.

Anyone who falls into these groups are able to book now [online](#) or by calling 119. Calls to 119 are **free** from mobiles and landlines. 119 provides support in 200 languages.

Please look out for older relatives, friends and neighbours who may need help and support to book their vaccination appointments.

[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

Cases of flu have climbed quickly in the past week, indicating that the season has started earlier than normal.

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.

Please [click here](#) for more information about the Flu vaccination.

## **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.

## **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
- Mindline Somerset – 01823 276892
- Somerset Domestic Abuse helpline - 0800 69 49 999

## **Crime / Safeguarding**

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

#### **World Cup passport surrender deadline looms for fans with football banning orders**

Thirty-seven people in Avon and Somerset have been sent letters telling them they are required to surrender their passport ahead of the FIFA World Cup starting next week.

Recipients of a football banning order (FBO) will be prohibited to travel to Qatar to stop them from being able to attend England's matches.

Anyone that has fails to surrender their passport during the 11-14 November period – unless they have applied for an exemption – can expect a visit from us, where failure to comply could result in their arrest.

A common misconception is that FBOs are issued purely as a result of incidents committed at matches. However, they can also be provided as a result of other types of football-related disorder. For instance, anyone going to watch a match on a television at a public showing, such as a pub, who becomes embroiled in any form of antisocial or violent behaviour, could receive a FBO.

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

#### **For further Neighbourhood Policing Updates...**

For regular updates on events/campaigns and what is happening in your area, please keep an eye on the relevant policing Facebook pages detailed below:

- [Minehead and West Somerset Neighbourhood Policing](#)
- [Wellington Neighbourhood Policing](#)
- [Taunton Neighbourhood Policing](#)
- [Sedgemoor and Hinkley Point Neighbourhood Policing](#)
- [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).