

# Somerset West and Taunton

## Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils.

### Issue 31. Week ending 25/10/20

#### **Please remember: #Hands #Face #Space**

It is so important to remember the coronavirus basics as we enter autumn and winter:

- **Hands** - Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds
- **Face** - Cover your face in enclosed spaces
- **Space** - Keep 2m apart where possible

#### **SWT Council priorities**

Somerset West and Taunton Council's updated priorities during the coronavirus outbreak are as follows:

- Preserve critical services;
- Safeguard the public;
- Ensure our most vulnerable residents are supported; and
- Planning economic resilience and recovery

The situation is being reviewed on a daily basis to ensure that the Council follows the [latest advice from Public Health England](#).

[Click here](#) to read up to date information on how SWT continues to respond to coronavirus.

## **Key Messages this week**

### **1. Measures in response to East Street consultation**

SWT will be introducing more dedicated off street parking for Blue Badge holders in the town centre following a public consultation on the temporary closure of East Street, Taunton.

The current temporary closure to all vehicles except cycles was initiated as a joint response from SWT and Somerset County Council (SCC) working with the police and other partners, to enable social distancing and encourage walking and cycling in line with the first round of Active Travel funding to support the re-opening of high streets.

The impact on East Street and traffic flow around the town has been monitored with several mitigation measures already considered such as installing more crossing points with ramps to support those with low mobility.

The consultation gave SWT an opportunity to seek wider views while awaiting the outcome of a bid for Active Travel phase two funding which would enable an extension of the scheme. The results showed 53% of respondents thought the closure had been a success and were in favour of it being extended whereas 37% felt it had not been a success and 10% were undecided.

All on street parking on East Street will be removed but Blue Badge holders can continue to parking on double yellow lines anywhere in the town. The new barrier controlling the closure of East Street will be used to restrict access between 10am - 4pm daily and will remain lifted outside of these times.

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

The consultation results can be found on our [consultation portal](#).

## 2. Democracy and Governance

### Committee Meetings

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

A number of Committee meetings are scheduled to take place over the next few weeks, which are as follows:

- Monday 26 October - **Special Full Council**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Wednesday 21 October). Agenda items include Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy & SWT Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Action Plan
- Wednesday 28 October - **Special Executive**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Friday 23 October). Agenda items include Corporate Performance report, 2020/21 Financial Monitoring and in year Covid budget changes, Financial Monitoring - outturn position 2019/20 and Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23
- Thursday 29 October - **Planning Committee**, **CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF AGENDA ITEMS**
- Tuesday 3 November - **Special Full Council**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Thursday 29 October)

- Wednesday 4 November - **Scrutiny Committee**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Friday 30 October)

The meetings will 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.

**Members of the public are still able to participate in the meeting by submitting their questions or statement to the Governance Team via [governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk) and these will be read out by an officer at the meeting. Please see the dates listed above re deadlines for submitting questions or statements.**

SWT Councillors are reminded that if they do not wish to receive paper copies of agendas to please let the Governance Team know.

### **3. E-scooter trial goes live**

Taunton's e-scooter trial will be going live on **Tuesday 27 October** providing a zero carbon green alternative to get around town and allow for social distancing.

SWT was given approval from the Department for Transport (DfT) to operate an e-scooter trial in line with its commitment to working towards achieving carbon neutrality and climate resilience by 2030.

The Council has appointed Zipp Mobility to run the 12-month trial which has created four full-time jobs including a local operations manager based at the new Zipp warehouse in Taunton. The trial will start gradually with 20 e-scooters and can scale up to 70 based on demand. e-scooters will operate between 5am and 11pm, seven days a week, and can only be used by people over 16 with a provisional or full driving licence. It will cost £1 to unlock the e-scooter and 10p per minute thereafter using the Zipp Mobility [App](#).

The trial in Taunton will be geofenced which means the e-scooters will only work inside permitted areas. The maximum legal speed is limited to 15.5mph, but there will be slower zones within the trial area. There will be virtual parking bays at strategic locations around Taunton although the Council welcomes suggestions from members of the public on where they would like to see virtual parking bays and from businesses or landowners who would welcome a virtual bay on their land. To make a comment or suggestion contact [info@zippmobility.com](mailto:info@zippmobility.com)

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

### **4. SWT gifts ShopAppy platform to support local businesses**

SWT is gifting the e-commerce platform ShopAppy to local businesses in Minehead, Wellington and Taunton for 12 months, providing another way to

boost trade. The scheme will give people who usually shop online a chance to support the local business community and buy local this festive season. To find out more about the scheme, ShopAppy.com and SWT are offering FREE zoom webinars on:

- Wednesday 28 October - 6:30pm
- Monday 2 November - 10:30am
- Tuesday 3 November - 2pm
- Wednesday 4 November - 6:30pm

Orders on [ShopAppy.com](https://shopappy.com) can be home delivered, picked up from the shop itself, or from a collection point such as visitor centres, local pubs or cafés which allow customers to get their items outside normal business hours.

The hospitality and events sector as well as community organisations can also use the platform to take bookings or stage online activities, sales or virtual events. Businesses registered will be allocated a community officer to assist and support with loading products and promotion.

To book onto a business webinar please [click here](#).

To sign up to the scheme visit <https://shopappy.com/vendor/>

## **5. Splash Point permanent repairs underway**

Work to replace the Splash Point sea defence wall damaged in the winter storms of 2019/20 is progressing at pace. SWT worked swiftly on temporary repairs to make the wall safe and prevent further material from being washed out to sea while it worked on designs for a permanent solution.

The main contractors, Kier, set up the site and cleared the rock armour from the base of the void in September. Large circular cores were then taken from the concrete base in order that holes could be drilled into the bedrock below the foundations of the previous wall.

It's expected that the work will be completed by the end of November 2020. To read the full press release please [click here](#).

## **6. Work to start on Watchet Harbour dredging**

SWT has commissioned Cardiff Marine to undertake a dredging regime in Watchet Harbour. Work will start next week (**27 October**) and is expected to last for nine days.

Cardiff Marine have the most up to date Water Injection Dredging vessels available and will work either side of high tides to lift the silt into suspension for it to be carried from the harbour on the outgoing tide.

The work will ensure a safer channel to the Marina entrance and from the harbour mouth to the refuge and slipway. The overall level of silt will be

reduced and the results measured using hydrographic ‘before and after’ surveys.

The Harbour is owned by SWT which has responsibility for safe navigation of the outer harbour. The operation of the Marina is assigned through a long term lease to a private company, Watchet Harbour Marina Ltd. Dredging activity within the Marina is the responsibility of the company as a requirement within their lease.

To read the press release in full please [click here](#).

## **7. Flagship Hinkley Point C community project complete**

One of the flagship projects funded by Hinkley Point C’s multi-million pound Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) Fund is ready to open its doors to the community. Replacing the old hall built in the 1950’s, Stogursey’s brand new Victory Hall has been made possible thanks to a £1.55m grant from the CIM Fund, administered by SWT.

The project also attracted grants from Sport England, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Fairfield Trust, Viridor Credits and Stogursey Parish Council. The hall will be managed by the Stogursey and District Victory Hall Committee who hope to hold an official opening ceremony in early 2021 if Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed.

The new hall has been designed for community use and will serve the local and wider area with modern, fit for purpose facilities including a large multi-use hall, state-of-the-art changing facilities for home and away football teams, and a new high specification kitchen which can function as a small café or for large events such as weddings. It also has rooms available for private meetings and course bookings, an extended car parking area and planting.

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

## **8. Local Plan Consultation Report published**

SWT has published a summary of the Local Plan Issues and Options consultation including a map of suggested sites for development. The Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Report Stage 1 explains how the Council undertook consultation on the SWT Local Plan 2040 - Issues and Options Document.

The Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Report Stage 2 summarises the more detailed comments received from communities and stakeholders during the consultation between 13 January and 16 March 2020.

The Council’s current Local Plans were adopted between 2008 and 2017 and cover the period up to 2032. The new district wide plan will cover the time period up to 2040 setting out objectives and the key issues around development needs over the next 20 years.

The Local Plan will detail where new development should go and how it should be designed. It covers spatial strategy and policies to address issues such as climate change, housing, jobs, infrastructure, the environment and community facilities. It also details the policies that planning applications will be assessed against.

All documents and information associated with the SWT Local Plan review 2040 including the latest position on the timetable, are available here on the Council's webpage [Local Plan 2040](#) and copies of the representations we received are on our consultation portal [yoursay.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/local-plan/issues-and-options/](https://yoursay.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/local-plan/issues-and-options/)

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

## **9. Self-isolation payment scheme launched**

SWT and Sedgemoor District Council are working together to ensure that people are not out of pocket if they are told to self-isolate and cannot work from home. The two councils have collaborated on a system to administer the Government's Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme where eligible residents can claim self-isolation payments of £500.

The legal duty to self-isolate came into force on 28 September for people who test positive for Covid-19 or are contacted by NHS Test and Trace app and are required to self-isolate.

The payment scheme opened on Monday 12 October and is due to run until **Friday 31 January 2021**. Applications must be made within 14 days of the end of your self-isolation period. Please [click here](#) for more information on eligibility and how to apply.

## **10. Reminder of SWT Community Chest Fund**

SWT has started to assess applications made to help communities recover from the effects of Covid-19. The Community Chest of £250,000 is open to support one-off initiatives run by the voluntary and community sector, and wider community groups who have been unable to secure mainstream funding from the Council or other sources.

Grants of up to £7,500 can be awarded to supplement activities and projects, covering up to 75% of the total cost with applicants needing to find at least 25% from their own or other sources.

To apply and find out more information on eligibility, please click [here](#).

## **11. Closure of Covid-19 Business Grant Schemes**

In accordance with Government guidelines, all Covid-19 related business grant schemes that were administered by SWT closed prior to the Government's cut-off date of 28 August. No further applications were accepted after this date and all applications were processed by the

Government deadline of 30 September. Any unclaimed amounts for both schemes will be returned to Central Government.

**Small Business Grant/Retail Leisure and Hospitality Grants** (related to businesses paying business rates on premises). SWT has processed 3,545 claims amounting to £41,837,500. This equates to 90.8% of those eligible.

#### **Discretionary Grant Scheme**

A further 353 businesses were assisted through the Discretionary Grant Scheme which paid out a total of £2,110,000 across the District. This equates to 99.14% of the funds that were available for this scheme

SWT remains alert to the possibility of future local lockdowns. Outline guidance has been issued by Government to provide for local lockdown business grants (both mandatory & discretionary). SWT is working to ensure plans are in place for implementing these should the need arise.

SWT would like to thank you all for your help in disseminating information and encouraging businesses to apply to the schemes.

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

### **Stay safe with less waste this autumn half-term**

With recipes galore, almost every part of a carved pumpkin can become tasty meals and snacks, from soup to pies. Parts of the pumpkin not eaten should be added to the food waste bin - not your rubbish - or composted at home. Seeds not toasted as a snack can be planted to grow free future pumpkins.

Build your bonfire with care from the right materials, such as garden waste, natural wood, cardboard boxes and paper wastes. Do not use furniture, plastic, tyres, rubber, foam, paints, oil or other potentially hazardous materials.

Watch for wildlife by checking the bonfire for hedgehogs or other creatures hiding within the pile. And protect pets by warning local people about any fireworks or fire that could disturb animals.

To keep up to date with recycling sites, sign up for the SWP e-newsletter at [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) and follow @Somersetwaste on Facebook or Twitter

## **13.Stronger Somerset**

If you haven't had a chance to read through the Stronger Somerset campaign [microsite](#), please do make the time. You'll find it contains recently updated information, as well as the proposal and executive summary, and you can also sign up to receive the Stronger Somerset newsletter by [clicking here](#).

## Partner Engagement - Key messages from other Public Service Areas

### Somerset County Council (SCC)

#### Highway Maintenance Update

SCC Highways are currently focusing on the routine tasks of gully emptying, safety defect repairs and patching. It is the schools' half term this week so SCC Highways will be taking advantage of the reduced traffic levels to carry out highway improvement work on some of the busier parts of the road network in Somerset West and Taunton.

Last week SCC Highways talked about the new road gully that will be installed on the junction of **Station Road** and **Belvedere Road** in Taunton. There will be lane closures on Station Road between 9.30am and 3.30pm each day, Monday to Friday. The section of Belvedere Road close to the junction will also be closed between these times.

Meanwhile, at the other side of the town centre, we will be upgrading the pedestrian facilities and traffic signals on the **A38 Wellington Road/Castle Street** junction, near Tesco. There will be some changes to signal priorities and a new left-hand filter signal will be installed to improve the capacity of the junction. The signals will remain on most of the time, however, when they need to be turned off, this will be done outside of peak hours.

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

#### **Reminder of Emergency Road Closure:- Kingston Road, Taunton**

An emergency road closure at Kingston Road, Taunton will commence on **25 October 2020** and is expected to last until **26 October 2020** (the closure is between the hours of 8am on 25 October 2020 - 6am on 26 October 2020).

For any further information about this closure please contact Wessex Water on **(0345) 600 4 600**, quoting reference: ttro397859TD - Kingston Road, Taunton. A map of the affected area (in red), together with the recommended diversion route (in purple) can be found by [clicking here](#).

### Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue

#### Fire & Gas Safety

Lighting a fire this weekend? Don't get it started with all your discarded paperwork, and definitely not wrapping paper!

Why? Not only can it release toxic fumes, but it can cause sparks that could result in a chimney fire (or for a thatched property, a major fire).



Please [click here](#) for further information about chimney safety.

## **Carbon monoxide advice**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is the most common form of household poison. You can't see it, taste it or smell it. CO poisoning can be fatal or cause permanent damage to your health.

Causes of carbon monoxide poisoning

Poisoning occurs when any fuel burning appliance has not been properly installed, maintained or is poorly ventilated. Sources can include boilers, gas fires, central heating systems, water heaters, cookers and open fires. If the fuel in these appliances does not burn fully, carbon monoxide (CO) gas is produced.

The build-up of carbon monoxide can also be as a result of any of the following:

- Indoor use of a barbecue grill or outdoor heater
- Using cooking appliances for heating purposes
- Enclosed or unventilated spaces - burning fuel in an enclosed or unventilated space, where there are no air vents, windows or doors left open or ajar
- Faulty or damaged appliances - heating or cooking
- Heating appliance not maintained or serviced
- Badly ventilated rooms - sealed windows, no air bricks
- Blocked chimneys or flues - birds nests, fallen bricks, growing vegetation, bad DIY

Please [click here](#) to read more about the preventative measures you can take to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and the importance of installing a carbon monoxide alarm in your home.

## **Exmoor National Park**

### **New Film - A Woodside Story**

On #ExmoorDay which was celebrated on 19 October, Exmoor National Park Authority and [Lyn Community Development Trust](#) released a new film on social media celebrating the reinstatement of Woodside Bridge in the East Lyn Valley earlier this spring following a successful community-led campaign to raise £65K.

[The video](#) tells the story of Woodside Bridge, thought to date back to the 1850's, in the words of those involved in securing its future. With plans for a public celebration cancelled due to coronavirus, it acts as a virtual opening and heartfelt thank you to the community and all those involved in raising and contributing to the £65K needed.

The bridge is located at the entrance to the East Lyn Valley just a short walk upstream from the main car park within Lynmouth. It features in one of 10 new Exmoor Explorer walks due to be launched later this year.

To read the full press release please [click here](#).

## **Maritime and Coastguard Agency**

Spring tides this week mean you could very easily get cut off by the incoming tide, even in places where the water doesn't normally reach. So please:

- Check the local tide times and if possible have them to hand
- If you're unsure about whether you can get back in time, please don't go
- Let someone know where you are and when you're expected back
- Carry a mobile phone or means of calling for help

If you see anyone in trouble at the coast, call 999 immediately and ask for the Coastguard.

To warn of coastal dangers at this time of year the Coastguard has produced a video which can be viewed [here](#).

### **Minehead RNLI featured in Saving Lives at Sea**

This week's BBC1 episode of Saving Lives at Sea featured the Minehead RNLI Crew carrying out an unusual animal rescue. Skip the puppy, had unfortunately swallowed a commercial fishing hook and needed emergency treatment ashore. The episode is now streaming on [BBC iPlayer](#): or the video extract can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

### **Reminder of Climate Change Virtual Event**

Saturday 24 October 2020 11am to 2pm

Virtual Climate Emergency Event for City, Town and Parish Councils

Zoom contact [Somerset Association of Local Councils \(SALC\)](#)

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

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

#### **Covid-19 Champions Webinar**

Somerset Public Health, Spark Somerset and Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership will be working together over the coming weeks to develop a network of Covid-19 Community Champions.

This vital network is being set up to help local people get the latest advice about Covid-19, in a way that makes sense to them. The Community Champions will help their family, friends and the wider community to understand the latest information about Covid-19, to help ensure we all stay safe and alert to the risks of the virus.

[Click here](#) to watch an introduction webinar that provides a brief overview of the programme and why the scheme is being launched.

### **Grants of £250 to reduce loneliness at Christmas by spreading festive cheer**

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) would like to support community groups that can help to reduce loneliness and spread Christmas cheer through food and festive activities.

Christmas can be a difficult time for some of our neighbours, and this year will be a tough Christmas for many more in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. Many people who would normally come together for a community Christmas meal will be unable to this year, due to the coronavirus restrictions, so SCF wants to fund groups who can help to bring festive food - and the spirit of Christmas - to people at home.

The Festive Fund for Somerset offers a £250 grant to groups if they can tell SCF how their work can combat the isolation and loneliness that many people can feel in the winter months. Groups will need to think about how they can safely prepare and deliver food and gifts, or think creatively about how they can bring people together virtually to create happy Christmas memories. Grants will be awarded for work that supports people of all ages who may experience loneliness or disadvantage at Christmas.

To apply, you will need to complete a short application form by **Friday 13 November**. SCF will let applicants know if they have been successful by the end of November at the latest, so they will have plenty of time to plan their activities. For information on how to apply for a Festive Fund grant, visit: [www.somersetcf.org.uk/festivefund](http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/festivefund)

## **Health and Welfare**

### **Guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection**

The Government has updated the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection to include information on actions to take in case of a negative test result, enforcement of self-isolation, and aerosol transmission.

[Click here](#) for further information.

### **Be a flu fighter**

Somerset County Council (SCC) is calling all parents and carers of school aged children in Somerset: Please return the flu consent form and help children become 'flu fighters' this winter.

All schools should have issued information about the flu vaccination to parents and carers of eligible children and young people asking them to fill in an online form to give their consent.

If parents/carers haven't already completed the form, SCC's Public Health teams urge them to complete it - and give their consent.

With Covid-19 also circulating in communities this winter, catching flu and coronavirus together is even more likely to lead to severe illness and hospitalisation. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Breast Cancer Now - October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Breast Cancer Now is a UK charity providing world-class research and life changing care for people affected by breast cancer. Right now in the UK, around 1,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer every single week. The earlier breast cancer is diagnosed, the earlier it is spotted, the better chance of effective treatment, so [Breast Cancer Now](#) have teamed up with [Cath Kidston](#) to help you

spot the signs and symptoms and help create a brighter, more hopeful future for anyone affected.

In the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, Breast Cancer Now's nurses, scientists, and hundreds of thousands of families urgently need our support more than ever. The coronavirus outbreak represents an unprecedented situation for all of us, but this is an extremely difficult and uncertain time for so many people living with breast cancer. Breast Cancer Now are determined to make sure that everyone affected by breast cancer gets the support they need, the whole way through this crisis and beyond. Their goal remains the same - to make sure that, by 2050, everyone given a diagnosis is supported to live well.

Throughout October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month - [Cath Kidston and Breast Cancer Now are sharing the stories of incredible women to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer.](#)

Because of the coronavirus outbreak and in line with national guidance due to the large backlog of women needing screening, Somerset NHS have decided that for now, they will only screen women in the routine screening age (50 to their 71st birthday). This situation is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. There will be a small number of women outside of this group who will receive an invitation as services recommence, as they would have received an appointment shortly after the suspension and these appointments will be honoured.

If you have any concerns about unusual changes to your breasts, please speak with your GP as soon as possible. They will be able to refer you for tests if necessary.

### **Please Download the NHS Test and Trace app**

You can now [download the NHS Test and Trace app](#) and help control the spread of coronavirus and protect yourself and your loved ones as case numbers rise. The more people who download the app and contribute to the data will assist with monitoring and tracking the spread of the virus; this will enable Public Health England to allocate resources accordingly. The app will also advise you to self-isolate if you have been in close contact with a confirmed case. It will also enable you to check symptoms, book a free test if needed and get your test results.

### **Travel Restrictions**

The guidance for travelling abroad is constantly being updated by Government. Please [click here](#) to read the latest information relating to the travel corridors.

### **The Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline**

A single phone number is available for anyone in Somerset who needs coronavirus-related support from their councils. The **0300 790 6275** number is available seven days per week 8am - 6pm.

Anyone who can't find help within their own local networks and volunteers, can use this number to get help and advice around:

- Personal care and support including food and delivery of prescriptions

- Support for the homeless
- Emotional support if you're feeling worried or anxious
- Transport to medical appointments
- Waste collection and disposal
- Financial support

This number won't cover medical advice, for which people will need to continue to use the 111 NHS phone number if they cannot get help online.

**Please refer to the websites below for the latest advice, help and guidance:**

Links to the most up to date Covid-19 guidance can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

[Public Health England](#)

[NHS - Help and Advice](#)

## **FAQS**

**Q. How do I find out what tier my parish ward is in?**

**A.** Please find attached a copy of the Government poster for your ease of reference. Here's what you need to know about the 3 Local Covid Alert Levels in England - Medium, High and Very High. Please [click here](#) to use the postcode checker to see the rules in your area.

**Q. I have read there has been an increase in break-ins and thefts from outbuildings and garages across the district. What steps can I take to protect my property?**

**A.** Reports of thefts from gardens, outbuildings, sheds and garages, are an issue - particularly in rural areas. [Click here](#) to read more about crime prevention and how to increase your chances of having stolen property returned to you. You can mark your power tools and other items with your postcode and house number or the first two letters of your house name by [registering the details on the Immobilise website](#).

## **Crime / Safeguarding**

### **New hotline launched to report fraud**

The Government launched a new hotline to report, anonymously and free of charge, suspected fraudulent activity by people illegally targeting support schemes that have been introduced to help those struggling financially.

[You can read more on GOV.UK](#)

### **Safe Driving For Life - How to Drive at Night**

Shorter days and longer nights mean you can't see as far ahead when you're out and about:

- Watch your speed - driving fast means you have less time to react to hazards, which is particularly dangerous in conditions where it's difficult to see and judge distances.
- Keep windows clean - dirty windscreen increases glare and dazzle.
- Windscreen wipers - check to make sure they're in good condition.
- Headlights - essential part of your ability to see and be seen.
- Pedestrians - some street lights cause patches of shadows where pedestrians can be hidden (especially if they are wearing non-reflective clothes).
- Cyclists - similarly cyclists may also not be wearing reflective clothing. They also behave unpredictably (swerving to avoid hazards).
- Be cautious about overtaking.
- Don't forget to dip headlights when you meet another vehicle to avoid dazzling the approaching driver.

## **Avon & Somerset Police (A&SP)**

### **Protect yourself and others from Knife Crime**

Knife crime is a high profile topic, with cases reported online and in the news regularly. Many of these incidents have involved young people, and you could be forgiven for thinking that carrying a knife is now the norm. Thankfully that's not the case - in reality 99% of young people do not carry knives, and the cases you read about are usually isolated incidents between people who know each other.

However knife crime is a real concern within many communities; it may be something that affects you directly, or something you are worried about. A&SP take knife crime extremely seriously and are working with education and intervention organisations across the Avon and Somerset area to highlight the impact of knife crime. They have launched a new campaign called 'Knife crime: A new way forward' to help educate young people to stay away from knife crime.

As part of this campaign, young people from local schools have produced short videos which explore the impact of knife crime:

#### [Eye for an Eye video - Taunton Academy](#)

This video explores how bullying can make a victim want to get revenge; but the philosophy of An Eye for An Eye makes the whole world blind.

To find out more about how A&SP are working with young people to tackle and prevent knife crime please [click here](#).

## **Finally**

### **Clocks set to go back this weekend**

The clocks go back this weekend on **25 October 2020 at 2am** giving us all an extra hour in bed! Changing the clocks signifies the official end of British Summer Time, so get ready for earlier sunsets and darker evenings as we head into winter.

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)  
Please see our dedicated [webpage](#) for updates.

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

**#Hands #Face #Space**

**Attachment:**

*HM Government Tier Poster*