

# Somerset West and Taunton

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

### **Issue 54 Week ending 18/04/2021**

**#Hands      #Face      #Space and Fresh Air**

#### **SWT Council priorities**

Somerset West and Taunton Council's updated priorities during the Coronavirus pandemic 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. SWT Official Communications**

As a mark of respect following the news that HRH Prince Philip had passed away, SWT halted official communications until after the funeral. This was with the exception of important public health messaging. To reflect the National Mourning, SWT updated the website with black banners, which linked to a message of condolence. As a result, you are receiving this newsletter later than usual.

### **2. HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh**

Following the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, flags were lowered to half-mast at Deane House and West Somerset House. If you wish to express your condolences, please send a message to the Royal Family via the online Book of Condolence on the Royal website: [Send a message of condolence | The Royal Family](#)

### 3. SWT welcomes safe return of visitors to its town centres

On Monday 12 April, step two of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown commenced with the reopening of non-essential retail, personal care premises and hospitality venues. Some restrictions remain in place limiting outdoor gatherings to groups of six or from two households.

On visiting the town centres, shoppers can expect to see the familiar social distancing and directional signage introduced last summer. New additions include lamp post banners, reiterating the Government's latest 'Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air' advice; and the installation of hand sanitiser stations in the town centres of Minehead and Taunton.

SWT is asking visitors to help keep its high streets clean and attractive by disposing of any litter using the bins provided or by taking it home with them. Visitors are also encouraged to follow the Government guidance by practicing social distancing, wearing face coverings in enclosed spaces and washing their hands regularly.

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

### 4. 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 couple of weeks, which are as follows:

- Wednesday 21 April – **Executive**, POSTPONED (due to not being able to convene meetings and publish agendas during the national period of mourning). This meeting will now take place on 27 April
- Tuesday 27 April – **Executive**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Thursday 22 April)
- Wednesday 28 April – **Special Scrutiny Committee**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 23 April)
- Thursday 29 April – **Planning Committee**, 10am (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 26 April)
- Thursday 29 April – **Special Full Council**, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Monday 26 April)

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.

## 5. Purdah – Pre Election Period

The Pre-Election Period commenced on Monday 22 March and runs until the elections on 6 May.

From the start of the pre-election period, the council must comply with restrictions outlined in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986. In addition a Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity published in 2011 makes clear that particular care should be taken in periods of heightened sensitivity, such as in the run up to an election. The Act defines publicity as “**any communication, in whatever form, addressed to the public at large or to a section of the public.**”

Generally, the Act says that we should “**not publish any material which, in whole, or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party.**” The Code of Practice recommends that authorities should generally not issue any publicity which seeks to influence voters and that publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published unless expressly authorised by statute.

**Decision making** - In relation to decision making within the council, the position remains that it is ‘business as usual’ unless there are very good reasons why this should not be the case. In the vast majority of cases, the pre-election period will have no impact on normal council business, including the approval of planning decisions.

### What this means

- The primary restriction is on proactive publicity by the council which particularly relates to candidates and other politicians involved directly in the election.
- The council can still issue media releases on factual matters provided that these do not identify individual councillors or groups of councillors.
- Councillors are still free to respond to enquiries received from the media in a personal capacity.
- Individual councillors can issue their own statements, write letters to the local newspaper(s) for publication, contact the media directly or say what they like in a personal capacity, but must not use council resources to do so.

It is still possible for the council to issue statements on behalf of a councillor holding a key political or civic position provided it relates to important events

which are outside the council's control and can be shown to justify a member response. These occasions are likely to be rare and to be the exception, rather than the rule.

## **6. Last chance to enter Somerset West Lottery spring prize draw**

Following on from the success of previous initiatives, the Somerset West Lottery is taking part in the spring 2021 bolt-on prize draw. Everyone who signs up to purchase one or more tickets between 1 March and **24 April 2021** will be in with the chance to win a £1000 Curry's PC World Gift Voucher.

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

If you know of a good cause wishing to raise funds or would like to buy a ticket contact the Somerset West Lottery on **0300 30 20666**; [support@somersetwestlottery.co.uk](mailto:support@somersetwestlottery.co.uk) or visit the [Somerset West Lottery website](#).

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

## **7. REMINDER- Deane House Hub open for appointments**

The Deane House Hub re-opened for appointments only on **Monday 12 April** as we enter step two of the Government's Roadmap out of lockdown. SWT offices will remain closed to protect the community and staff while still delivering critical services and ensuring residents are fully supported.

The customer services team are continuing to answer calls between 8am – 6pm, and people are being encouraged to access services online. However, when a face to face meeting is required appointments can be made at the Deane House Hub in Belvedere Road by calling 0300 304 8000.

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

## **8. How to report fly-tipping**

Fly-tipping – dumping rubbish - is an environmental crime. If you fly-tip you can be fined or jailed. It's a blot on our landscape and a threat to wildlife. We can all fight fly-tipping by reporting dumped rubbish and, if possible, who dumped it.

Everyone, including businesses, must be responsible for how they get rid of rubbish, even when it's left your home or premises. If you pay someone to remove your rubbish - man-with-a-van, builders, gardeners, carpet-layers or others - ask to see their waste carrier's licence, and make sure you know where your rubbish will go. If you don't you could be fined.

To report fly-tipping use SWT's [report fly-tipping](#) online form or phone **0300 304 8000**

For more information check the 'How we can all fight fly-tipping' section on the [Somerset Waste Partnership](#) website.

## 9. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

### SWP welcomes National Pet Month

Whether they are furry, feathered or scaly we are a nation of pet lovers. As well as being great companions, pets can pose a few questions when it comes to waste and recycling.

This month is National Pet Month (1 April – 3 May) [National Pet Month – promoting responsible pet ownership across the UK](#).

SWP has brought together some common questions and top tips for pet owners across the county. Whether it is what to do with pet poo or how to dispose of pet pill bottles, please [click here](#) to check out the answers.

If you have any pet-related waste questions or great ideas for how to reduce, reuse or recycle when it comes to pets, now is the time share them. Post your messages to [SWP's Facebook page](#) @somersetwaste – and feel free to add a photo of your beloved pet for them to share.

### Remember to wash your hands

SWP would like to remind you to wash or sanitise hands before and after handling waste containers, disinfect container handles, and maintain social distance from all waste staff.

More on COVID-19 and waste: [somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus/](https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus/)

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

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

### Somerset County Council (SCC)

#### SCC Highway Maintenance Update

The weather continues its run of being fine and warm during the day but with some nights still being chilly. SCC Highways has continued to carry out salting operations on some routes on some evenings to guard against risks from frost and ice in the early hours.

Unfortunately, SCC Highways have had to postpone the resurfacing the **A358 Williton to Taunton road at Combe Florey**. They are in the process of identifying a new date for the temporary road closure necessary to carry out this work.

Another carriageway resurfacing scheme that is coming up is on the **A3065 Silk Mills Road in Taunton**. SCC Highways will plane off the old surface and will be laying a new one at the junction with **Mountway Road** and **Bishops Hull Hill**. In order to do this work there will be a temporary road closure for three evenings, **Monday 26 April - Wednesday 28 April** between 6.30pm and 11.30pm.

The Somerset Rivers Authority/ SCC Highways joint venture to reduce the risk and impacts of flooding in **Kingston St Mary** continues, with **Lodes Lane** remaining closed until **30 April** to facilitate the improvement of the drainage system there.

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

### **Temporary Road Closure: Castle Street, Taunton**

The order becomes effective on **15 April 2021** and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to commence on **25 April 2021** and last for 8 hours (7pm – 3am) to enable Wessex Water to carry out critical maintenance to the foul sewer.

For any further information about this closure please contact Wessex Water on **0345 600 4600** quoting reference: ttro427681TD - WW - Castle Street, Taunton.

Please note that should you require to view a closure which is more than two weeks ahead you will need to register for free with [www.One.Network](http://www.One.Network).

### **Useful links to report faults**

Throughout winter, there are more queries about overgrown trees, verges or hedges, blocked drains and street lights that don't work. To report faults in the following areas, please click on the relevant link:-

[Dangerous/Overgrown Tree alongside the public highway](#)

[Report an overgrown verge or hedge on the road](#)

[Street light not working](#)

[Blocked surface water drain on the highway.](#)

## **Somerset Library Service**

### **Libraries ready to open up again**

Somerset Libraries welcomed customers back into library buildings again on Monday 12 April. Shelves are crammed with an array of brand-new books with something for everyone. Library members can borrow up to 20 books at a time, all for free! COVID secure measures will still be in place, and charges will still apply to some other items including DVDs and Talking Books.

For some members, this will be the first time they have used their local library in a while. To check if memberships are still active: use the simple 'membership checker' form on [www.somersetlibraries.co.uk](http://www.somersetlibraries.co.uk) or pop into your local branch where staff will be happy to help.

You can still [join and use the library online](#), it's quicker and easier than ever. Library membership gives you access to a huge [range of online content](#), 1000s of downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers and comics – free of charge.

All Somerset County Council Libraries are operating NHS Test and Trace, following government legislation. When visiting a library, if you have a smart phone you will need to scan the NHS QR posters located at the entrance.



## **Somerset Libraries iPad loaning scheme**

Jobseekers and anyone looking to develop new skills for employment can borrow an iPad for free from Bridgwater, Minehead or Taunton Library for up to 6 weeks. The tablets are pre-loaded with links, information and support for anyone in Somerset currently looking for employment, or if you think you may need to be looking soon. These are 'data-enabled' iPads which means you don't even need to have internet access at home to use them.

There's a simple step-by-step 'How to Use' video which shows you how to use the iPad and what sort of information you will be able to access, including how to develop an effective CV, tips for successful interviews, how to search for local jobs and some useful health and wellbeing information and links.

Additional free 'wrap-around' support is available from the Positive People Programme, including a 24/7 helpline, one-to-one digital support, virtual job clubs and workshops. To register your interest and find out more please [click here](#).

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

### **West Somerset working to become a plastic free hotspot**

West Somerset is tackling the plastic pollution problem head-on. Watchet and Minehead have become the 130<sup>th</sup> and 131<sup>st</sup> areas in the UK to gain Plastic Free Community status, with Porlock Vale and Exmoor hot on their heels. Over 700 communities across the UK are working to tackle single-use plastic as part of the Plastic Free Community campaign by marine conservation charity, Surfers Against Sewage (SAS). This work in West Somerset and Exmoor is aimed at giving local people and visitors a cleaner, more enjoyable experience as they visit our towns, villages, beaches and moors.

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

### **REMINDER- Proposed Diversion WL26-27 (Old Stowey)**

As the Government has lifted the stay at home order, Exmoor National Park Authority are looking to start Public Path Orders again and are therefore, hoping that the public will be in a position to respond to consultations. In particular, ENP started a consultation back in December 2020 for a proposal to divert part of the public footpath WL6/27 in the parish of Cutcombe. Prior to making a Diversion Order, ENP would like to hear your views on this proposal.

If you could return any comments on the proposal by **23 April 2021** to [cerirapsey@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:cerirapsey@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk) or to Ceri Rapsey, Rights of Way Support Officer, Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton, TA22 9HL. If you would like to discuss the proposal prior to making your comments, please do not hesitate to contact the Public Rights of Way and Access Officer, Sue Applegate on **01398 322292**.

## **Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (D&SFRS)**

### **COVID-19: Re-opening your business premises safely**

As the country moves into the planned recovery phase and social distancing measures continue, businesses will be making changes to ensure a safe

environment for staff and customers. One of the challenges is around reducing the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) by limiting the number of people on the premises. This may include:

- introducing shift patterns for staff;
- creating one-way systems for staff or shoppers; and
- preventing access to parts of the premises which remain unoccupied

**Any changes to your premises to limit the spread of Covid-19 must not impact on fire safety.**

It is important that persons identified as having a responsibility for fire safety under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 make sure any measures implemented to limit the spread of COVID-19 do not inadvertently impact fire safety.

Where there are new or temporary measures, the premises' fire safety arrangements must remain suitable and sufficient to protect people in the event of fire.

The fire service cannot do this for you but, to help businesses and business owners meet their statutory duties under fire safety law, we have produced the following advice - [alternatively, download our leaflet Covid-19: Fire safety for businesses](#) (PDF).

Please [click here](#) for further information on what to consider before re-opening your business.

## **Maritime and Coastguard Agency Safety advice for coastal visitors**

A joint safety campaign in partnership with the RNLI reminds everyone to [#BeCoastSafe](#) and [#RespectTheWater](#).

If you're going to the beach or coast to enjoy water activities, in line with COVID-19 restrictions in your area, follow the Maritime and Coastguard Agency code below for a safe day out:

- Take a fully charged phone with you and let someone know when you'll be back
- Take notice of warning signs and don't climb up cliffs, they could be unstable
- Always keep your dog on a lead at the coast, especially near cliff edges
- Check the tide times and weather forecast before you head out, to avoid getting caught out by the tide
- If you do decide to go into the water, choose a lifeguarded beach where possible
- If you get into trouble in the water, stick your hand in the air, shout for help and [#FloatToLive](#).

If the worst happens, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. They will always be ready and waiting to send someone to help.



## **Idverde**

### **Bird Boxes and Bug Hotels**

Two insect eco-hotels donated by Idverde have been put up by Williton Parish Council. They have been located on the Memorial Ground, which will be fantastic as the children will be able to watch the activity from the boxes and hopefully learn how important the insects are for pollination and the environment. This project will complement the Parish Council's plans to sow wildflowers at the Memorial Ground later this year.

As part of its aims to support Biodiversity projects, Idverde is donating nesting bird boxes and bug hotels to community groups and organisations who can erect them in a public space for the enjoyment of everyone.

If you would like to find out more about this offer please contact the Idverde Contract Manager in the first instance at [Julie.Lynch@idverde.co.uk](mailto:Julie.Lynch@idverde.co.uk), (Minehead) and/or [Richard.Hopkins@idverde.co.uk](mailto:Richard.Hopkins@idverde.co.uk) (Taunton)

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

### **100 Covid Community Champions helping Somerset stay safe**

The Covid Community Champion Network has been going from strength to strength since it was first launched in October 2020. There are now just over 100 trained Champions across Somerset, sharing messages about COVID-19 and how to stay healthy, happy and safe with friends, family and work colleagues.

The Covid Community Champions scheme is funded by Somerset County Council and delivered by a partnership between Spark Somerset and the Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP).

In a recent Covid Catch-up video, Clinton Rogers highlighted the work of the Covid Champions. Clinton speaks to Helen Fielden, who co-ordinates the programme as well as one of the Champions themselves. He also discussed the work and importance of the new 'Vaccine Buddies' programme with one of Public Health's Consultants Matthew Hibbert. Please [click here](#) to watch a replay.

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

### **Community Building Training Webinars**

The CCS has a full calendar of events for Somerset Community Buildings. With life starting to ease the team have been working up a series of training webinars to keep your facility progressing.

The CCS has a list of calendar events scheduled to occur between April – September.

Topics include:

- Long Road out of lock down – 4 step roadmap out of lockdown
- Trustee's roles and responsibilities

- Governing Documents and How to update them
- Meetings & AGMs
- Incorporation for Community Buildings

Working together the CCS know our amazing facilities will come out stronger on the other side. Please [click here](#) to book your space today.

## **Spark Somerset**

### **Advice and Support for Voluntary Groups**

Spark Somerset is the local infrastructure charity providing free support and advice to voluntary sector groups and organisations across the county. They also run the Volunteer Service, [Spark a Change](#), helping hundreds of people in Somerset to volunteer each year.

If you are a voluntary group or organisation and you'd like to talk about how Spark Somerset could support you then please get in touch with your advisor for the Taunton and West Somerset area, Jenny Hannis on [jenny.hannis@sparksomerset.org.uk](mailto:jenny.hannis@sparksomerset.org.uk) or **07971 912452**.

### **REMINDER- Community Food Forums**

Are you involved with a local food bank or community fridge? Would you like to know how to set one up, or find out what support is available? Then go along to Spark Somerset's regular Community Food Forums. They're an opportunity celebrate the valuable work taking place across Somerset, share ideas and information and discuss common interests. Meet via Zoom on the last Wednesday of the month.

Next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 28 April**, and again on **Wednesday 26 May**. Please [click here](#) to find out more and book.

## **Business West**

### **Business Start-Up Sessions**

The five Somerset councils are running a series of business Start Up sessions via Business West open to any Somerset residents looking to set up and run their own business, each covering a different topic areas.

If you're in Somerset and thinking of, or have already set up your business as a start-up, but are struggling with some of the more daunting aspects, Business West can help!

With the Pre-Start and Start-Up Support Package, you'll have everything you need to get the groundwork nailed and your first customer on the books. Please [click here](#) to read more about the start-up support package.

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

### **REMINDER-Funding opportunity for charities or community groups**

As life slowly returns to normal, SCF is standing by to make sure essential charitable services are not lost. If your organisation is based in Somerset, has been affected by

the Coronavirus pandemic and has an annual income under £250,000 you may be able to apply for a grant of up to £5,000.

Ask for money by **23 April 2021** and SCF will let you know if they can help you by 28 May 2021. Please [click here](#) for full details and to apply.

## **Somerset Skills and Learning (SS&L)**

### **REMINDER- Courses for April 2021**

As the days are getting longer and our natural energy and enthusiasm improves, spring is the perfect time to refocus, plan and refresh.

SS&L are excited to showcase their brand new Level 3 qualifications, with more to follow in the next few months including Management, Counselling, Mental Health, Advanced Digital Skills, Supporting Teaching & Learning in Schools, Childcare and Principles of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

For more information and Featured Courses and Workshops: [Click Here.](#)

## **Health and Welfare**

### **Over-45s now able to book their Coronavirus vaccination**

Everybody in cohorts 1 to 9 has been offered a vaccine, with people aged 45 to 49 now invited to book their appointments. Use this service to book a Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination or manage your appointments.

#### **Who can use this service?**

You can only use this service if any of the following apply:

- you are aged 45 or over
- you are at [high risk from coronavirus](#) (clinically extremely vulnerable)
- you have a condition that puts you at higher risk (clinically vulnerable)
- you have a learning disability
- you get a Carer's Allowance, get support following an assessment by your local authority or your GP record shows you are a carer

If you think you are an eligible unpaid carer who has not been contacted for your Coronavirus vaccination, speak to your GP surgery.

If you are eligible to use this service but cannot get an appointment, speak to your GP surgery. Please [click here](#) to find out more about who is eligible to have a Coronavirus vaccination.

### **Order your free Coronavirus (COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests**

You can use this service to order free packs of rapid lateral flow tests to be sent to your home in England. A pack of tests contains 7 tests. You can order one pack per household each day.

#### **Who this service is for**

You can only use this service if:

- you do not have [coronavirus symptoms](#)
- you live in England
- you're 18 or older
- you have not been told to self-isolate
- you cannot get tests from your work, school, college or university (ask them for rapid lateral flow tests)

Please [click here](#) to order your rapid lateral flow tests.

## **REMINDER- Vaccine and Testing Survey**

People taking part in lateral flow testing on a regular basis will be really important as we move forward especially as society starts to open up again. Regular testing helps break the chain of transmission which might otherwise have gone unidentified and helps to identify and suppress new variants of concern – more people getting a test will increase the ability to identify and control these variants.

Somerset County Council has launched a community survey to seek the views of people across Somerset. The team is keen to hear from as many people as possible about three key areas:

- Testing
- Vaccination
- Self-isolating

Please [click here](#) to respond to the survey.

## **NHS COVID-19 application (app)**

### **Individuals must check in to be alerted of potential exposure**

In line with new regulations, when a group enters a hospitality venue, *every individual* must check in either by scanning the official NHS QR code poster with the NHS COVID-19 app, or by providing their contact details. Previously, only the lead member of the group needed to provide contact details to check in.

If an app user tests positive, they will be asked to share their venue history in a privacy-protecting way via the app. This will allow venue alerts to be generated more quickly and improve the ability to identify where outbreaks are occurring and take steps to prevent the virus spreading.

If a person has been at a venue on the same day as several other people who have since tested positive for COVID-19, they may receive an alert advising them to book a test immediately, whether they are showing symptoms or not. This is to support finding asymptomatic cases who may have caught the virus but are not displaying symptoms.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

## **Latest Vaccination data for Somerset**

You can check Somerset's vaccination data on the Coronavirus dashboard. The information provided by the NHS will be added every Friday. Please [click here](#) to view the latest figures relating to doses that have been administered in Somerset. The dashboard provides an overview of Coronavirus cases, a map, the R number and more detailed district-level information.

### **REMINDER - Please don't drop your guard once vaccinated**

While there are many things that we are still discovering about COVID-19, one thing that we know for certain is that it can be destroyed with simple soap and hot water. That's the reason that the 'hands' part of the 'Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air' message is such an important part of our 'toolkit' for tackling the virus and preventing its spread. The golden rules are: wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water; wear a face covering when required and keeping a social distance of at least two metres.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

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

This 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 including vaccinations
- 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.

If you would like to find out more about the Corona helpers, offer assistance, or need support please visit [www.corona-helpers.co.uk](http://www.corona-helpers.co.uk)

### **Need to seek help during these tough times?**

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 in these tough times:

- Samaritans - 116 123
- CALM - 0800 58 58 58
- ChildLine - 0800 1111
- Anxiety UK - 03444 775 774
- Mind - 0300 123 3393
- National Domestic Abuse helpline - 0808 2000 247

**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**

[Somerset COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan Dashboard](#)

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

[Public Health England](#)

[NHS – Help and Advice](#)

## **FAQS**

**Q. I want to meet up with my friends for a meal. Is this allowed?**

**A.** You can meet up **outdoors only** with friends and family you do not live with, either:

- in a group of up to 6 from any number of households (children of all ages count towards the limit of 6)
- in a group of any size from up to two households (each household can include an existing support bubble, if eligible)

You **must not** meet indoors with anybody you do not live with, unless you have formed a [support bubble](#) with them (if you are eligible), or another legal exemption applies.

Hospitality venues may allow customers to use an inside bathroom and customers can order and pay indoors. At any premises serving alcohol, customers will be required to order, be served and eat/drink while seated (“table service”). Venues will be prohibited from providing smoking equipment such as shisha pipes, for use on the premises.

**Q. Can I now travel internationally from England?**

**A.** You can only travel internationally from England where you have a [reasonable excuse to leave the UK](#), such as work. International holidays are not permitted. If you do need to travel overseas (and have a reasonable excuse to do so), you are required to complete a mandatory outbound ‘[Declaration to Travel](#)’ form unless an exemption applies to you. You must state your reasons for travel on the form before leaving the UK.

### **When returning to England from outside the UK**

All visitors to England are subject to the Coronavirus restriction rules. People planning to travel to England should follow the [guidance on entering the UK](#). Before travelling to the UK, you must [complete a passenger locator form](#) and [have proof of a negative COVID-19 test result](#), unless you are exempt.

All arrivals will need to take a Coronavirus (COVID-19) test on day 2 and day 8 of quarantining. Arrivals must book a travel test package. See the [guidance on how to quarantine when you arrive in England](#).



You cannot travel to the UK if you've visited or passed through a country where travel to the UK has been banned in the last 10 days, unless you're:

- a British national
- an Irish national
- anyone with residence rights in the UK

[Click here](#) to find out more about the red list travel ban countries.

## Crime / Safeguarding

### Action Fraud

#### **REMINDER- Have you completed your Census 2021?**

The Office for National Statistics will send Census branded reminder letters by post to households who have not yet completed their census. If someone receives a reminder letter they should complete their census as soon as possible. If they have already submitted their census form they can ignore any reminder letter.

A census field officer may also knock on the door of your home. The role of field officers is to give help and encouragement to those who have not yet filled in their census questionnaire online, or on paper, and direct them to any support services they might need to complete it. They will not enter the household, and will carry ID to show they are genuinely working on the census.

**Field officers will never ask for payment or bank details.**

Stay safe from potential scams by visiting the [Action Fraud website](#). People still have time to complete the Census 2021 and should do so as soon as possible to avoid getting fined. You will never be issued with a fine by text, phone call or email. Field officers cannot fine you on your doorstep either.

## Avon & Somerset Police (A&SP)

### **Avon and Somerset Police enquiries desk at Deane House open**

The Avon and Somerset Police enquiries desk in the Deane House Hub reopened on **Monday 12 April**. No appointment is necessary but customers may have to queue outside so that social distancing can be observed.

### **Modern Slavery**

Modern Slavery often occurs in plain sight and in everyday situations. Avon and Somerset Police know domestic servitude is happening across the UK but very little information reaches them. Some of the signs to look out for include;

- Someone responsible for children 24 hours a day and forced to do excessive housework
- Appears to be under the control of someone else and reluctant to interact with others
- Has few personal belongings or wears the same clothes every day

- Not be able to move around freely or leave home alone

The police are keen to hear from anyone who suspects domestic servitude is happening. Even the smallest piece of information can help them form part of a bigger picture.

If you have concerns that modern slavery is taking place you can report them via the Modern Slavery Helpline on **08000 121 700** or anonymously via Crimestoppers.

Please [click here](#) to spot the signs of modern day slavery.

## 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)

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 and Fresh Air**