

Somerset West and Taunton

Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils

Issue 67 Week ending 18/07/2021

#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. Step 4 of the Roadmap to go ahead on Monday 19 July

England will move to Step 4 of the roadmap on **Monday, 19 July**. Everyone should be cautious whilst managing the risks as cases of COVID-19 remain high. Please [click here](#) to find out what will change and what you should do to protect yourself and others. From 19 July fully vaccinated people returning to England from amber list countries will not need to quarantine. For further information, [click here](#).

COVID-19 has not gone away, so when you take part in these new activities it's important to remember the actions you can take to stay safe.

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 couple of weeks, which are as follows:

- Monday 19 July – Strategic Tenant Group, 6pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Wednesday 14 July)
- Tuesday 20 July – Special Meeting of the Taunton Charter Trustees, 6pm (deadline for public questions is 10am on Thursday 15 July)
- Wednesday 21 July – Executive, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Friday 16 July)
- Thursday 22 July – Planning Committee, 1pm (deadline for public questions is 4 pm on Monday 19 July)
- Monday 26 July – Special Audit and Governance Committee, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Wednesday 21 July)
- Tuesday 27 July – Full Council, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions is 4pm on Thursday 22 July)

From 7 May 2021, meetings can no longer be held virtually.

These meetings will take place in the Chamber at Deane House following the Government COVID-19 safety guidelines. As we are very limited to the number of people we can safely get into the Chamber, we are asking people to register if they wish to attend in person.

Information on speaking at public meetings is available on the SWT website. This also gives alternatives to participating without attending in person.

The 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.

Contact the Governance Team via governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk.

Please see the dates listed above re deadlines for submitting questions or statements.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release and participate in the survey.

3. West Somerset district councils discuss preparation for unitary future

Leaders, Executive members and Chief Executives of Somerset West and Taunton Council and Sedgemoor District Council have come together to discuss

next steps in the preparations for a Western Somerset unitary council. It is now almost one month since the clear preference of Somerset voters was revealed in the result of the local poll, with voters choosing Stronger Somerset over One Somerset by 65% to 35%.

While the Local Government Secretary, Robert Jenrick MP, is yet to announce his decision on the future of local government in Somerset, it is evident he will need to take account of the expressed views of local people.

With that decision expected by 22 July at the latest district council leadership teams are keen to have things in place to move quickly to begin the necessary arrangements for transition to the new unitary councils.

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

4. SWT sets out process for Community Governance Review

Councillors are being asked to approve formal arrangements for undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the Unparished Area of Taunton. A cross party Member Working Group was set up following a decision by full council in March to carry out the review with a view to creating a new town or parish council(s) in central Taunton.

The Working Group is bringing its first report to a special meeting of the Taunton Charter Trustees next week (20 July) asking members to approve the Terms of Reference (TOR) and arrangements for the consultation process.

The Taunton Charter Trustees are the 16 Somerset West and Taunton councillors elected to represent wards in the unparished area of Taunton which has no town or parish council of its own. They are being asked to support the proposals which will then go before Full Council at its meeting on **27 July 2021**.

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

5. New grants to boost tourism in West Somerset and Sedgemoor

The Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership (HTAP) is offering grants to help fund business projects aimed at boosting tourism in the West Somerset and Sedgemoor area. Led by SWT, the Tourism Innovation Grant Scheme has been set up by the HTAP partners in response to the impact on tourism from COVID-19.

The new grant scheme is specifically designed to support SMEs in offering a greater range of visitor products and experiences. Grants between £5,000 and £10,000 will be made available to businesses and organisations operating in the tourism, hospitality and events sector. Applications for the Tourism Innovation Grant Scheme will open week commencing **12 July 2021** until **10 September 2021**, or until all the funding has been allocated.

Please [click here](#) for further information, eligibility and for details on how to apply.

6. SWT shortlisted in national award for neurodiversity work

SWT has been shortlisted for this year's MJ Achievement Awards in recognition for its work to support neurodiversity in the workplace. SWT's People Business Partner team will attend a live awards ceremony along with five other nominees for the 'Innovation in Building Diversity and Inclusion' category, taking place at the London Hilton on **Friday, 17 September**.

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

7. Reminder- SWT announces further design guide consultations

SWT is seeking the public's views on the latest additions to its draft design guides for Taunton and the wider district. Draft documents for a Districtwide Design Guide and a Public Realm Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town were previously produced in line with the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), to encourage a higher standard of design in the applications it receives from developers, the Highway Authority, utility companies and their agents and contractors.

The Council is now re-consulting on both documents following amendments made in response to feedback from earlier consultations, updated government guidance in relation to active travel and standards in conservation areas, and the Council's continued commitment to achieving a zero-carbon district by 2030.

New consultations for both design guides will run concurrently for six weeks from **5 July until 16 August**. Responses can be made using the Council's online consultation portal available at yoursay.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk. Please [click here](#) for further information and to read the full SWT press release.

8. Reminder- SWT Summer Housing News

The latest housing newsletter produced for all SWT tenants and leaseholders is available to view now on the [website](#). Printed copies will be sent directly to tenants' homes.

9. Reminder - Recycle on the go

SWT is making it easier for people to help keep our parks and open spaces clean and green. As part of its drive to tackle litter the Council will be introducing new replacement waste bins in public spaces which also have compartments for recycling in line with its environmental priorities.

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

10. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

Somerset's 2020-21 Recycling Tracker report

Somerset's 2020-21 Recycling Tracker report shows what happened to the thousands of tonnes of recycling that residents added to kerbside collections or dropped off at recycle sites during the year. Each year since 2008 this pioneering report - Somerset was the first; others have followed that lead - has tracked every tonne to the location and company of first use, whether within the county, elsewhere in the UK or anywhere overseas, offering transparency and trust in the management of waste.

Somerset's 52.4% recycling rate puts it in the top fifth of authorities for recycling, with 60% or more within reach with the growing success of the expanded Recycle More weekly kerbside collections. And it also makes Somerset one of the very best areas for carbon saving, at 123,036 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

Somerset's success demonstrates the value of kerbside sorting by you and SWP's collection crew, and the importance of you recycling with care. This ensures that SWP have the kind of high-quality, low-contamination materials that the market demands. If you were wondering how much of that 137,146 tonnes of recycled waste was recycled in the UK, please [click here](#) for statistics and further information.

For more information on kerbside services, recycling sites, and on COVID-19 and waste, visit: somersetwaste.gov.uk, sign up for the SWP e-newsletter or follow @somersetwaste on Facebook or Twitter.

Partner Engagement – Key messages from other Public Service Areas

Somerset County Council (SCC) SCC Highway Maintenance Update

After the severe floods of recent weeks, there has been a complete change around and we are now into a spell of dry, sunny and hot weather. In fact, the Met Office has now issued a weather warning for extreme heat. St Swithin's Day passed fair so let's hope that is a good omen!

Of course, another feature of summer is growth on the verges and hedgerows of Somerset. We are now entering the period when the noxious weed ragwort is starting to display its distinctive yellow flowers. This can be poisonous for horses and livestock so please report occurrences on highway verges to SCC Highways, either on-line at [Report a problem on the road](#) or by email to countyroads-westsom@somerset.gov.uk or countyroads-tdeane@somerset.gov.uk.

The carriageway patching on the road running along the top of the Blackdown Hills, in the Otterford and Castle Neroche area has now been completed, as has the drainage schemes at Holywell Lake Road in Langford Budville and Ashbrittle Road, Stawley and also the kerbing and drainage repairs on the B3187 Station Road, Wellington.

The preparatory work on the **B3187 Station Road, Wellington** now leads on to the resurfacing of the carriageway and this will be carried out under a series of evening road closures between Monday 19 July and Thursday 22 July. On these evenings the road will be closed between 6.30pm and 11.30pm.

Another road closure commencing on 19 July is at **Hartford Road, Brompton Regis** where SCC Highways will be repairing the verge and embankment which support the road. This will be in force for two weeks until 30 July. Operating under temporary traffic signals between 19 July and 23 July are drainage works at **B3224 Exford**

Road, Wheddon Cross and kerbing and drainage repairs on **Magdalene Street** and **Duke Street, Taunton.**

The carriageway surface dressing programme in Somerset is scheduled to commence on 22 July and the first phase includes: **Ritherdons Farm Lane;** **Rumwell Park Lane;** **Wheaton Lane;** **Barr Lane;** **Frethey Lane (all Bishops Hull);** and **Ruggin Road (West Buckland).**

For more information on highway maintenance works and to stay up to date visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk or follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter.

Reminder- Temporary Road Closure: Coal Orchard, Taunton

The order becomes effective on 8 July 2021 and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to commence on **12 July 2021** and last for 33 days to enable Wales & West Utilities to carry out works to upgrade gas main.

Please follow the [link](#) to view the above road closure and the [Notice 2](#). For any further information about this closure please contact Wales & West Utilities on **0800 9122 999**, quoting reference: ttro446242.

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

Extension of Temporary Road Closure: Yallands Hill, Cheddon Fitzpaine

Here is a notification of an **extension of dates** to a temporary road closure at **Yallands Hill, Cheddon Fitzpaine** for approximately 656.00 metres. The date for the works is now: 5 May to **25 July** (24hrs) - 11 weeks.

These works are for CJL Construction Ltd to carry out all construction and associated works in connection with the Western Relief Road, their works reference is LG111PD01409-001. For any further information about this closure please contact CJL Construction Ltd on **(01934) 853227** quoting reference: ttro431060TD - S50 - Yallands Hill, Cheddon.

Useful links to report faults

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.](#)

Reminder- £500k fund to help Somerset's communities open up safely

A new £500,000 fund is being launched by SCC to help towns and parishes reopen community facilities safely and bring people back together. As national Coronavirus restrictions ease, SCC is working in partnership with Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) to help towns and parishes open up village halls, meeting rooms and other facilities in a Covid-secure way.

The safe reopening will reassure people that they can reconnect with their communities after long months of isolation and remove some of the anxieties they may have around social mixing. The money is being allocated by SCC from Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF), provided by the Department for Health and Social Care to support public health activities directly related to the COVID-19 response. Please [click here](#) to read the full press release.

Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP)

The Get Outside in Somerset project

A new project has been launched to help people gain confidence to get back outdoors and to move more. The Get Outside in Somerset project is a joint initiative from Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership (SASP), The Community Council for Somerset (CCS), Spark Somerset, and Somerset Wildlife Trust, funded by Somerset County Council Public Health.

Being outside brings huge benefits for physical and mental health, but for a large majority of people, the COVID-19 pandemic has created many barriers to getting outside. It has seen an unprecedented disruption to people's lives and has had an impact on people's engagement in physical activity. For more information on the project and to get involved, please visit www.GetOutsideInSomerset.co.uk.

Beat the Street – The game has now finished!

Well done to the 5076 players who took part in the game and covered 62,645 miles in Taunton. The leader boards have been hidden while the final scores are verified. The winners will be announced very soon. Please [click here](#) to stay tuned.

Reminder- Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset

The Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset Programme Activity Finder will be available to use from **Monday 5 July**. To book an activity, you will need to have received your unique Booking Code from your child's school. You will not be able to make a booking without it, so please ensure you have done this first. Please [click here](#) for further information.

Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS)

Farm Fire Safety

DSFRS are seeing quite a number of barn fires at the moment, many of them due to the spontaneous combustion of hay. When hay is stored with a high moisture content, the temperature can build. If it rises above 55 degrees Celsius a chemical reaction begins to produce a flammable gas that can ignite if the temperature gets high enough.

Please [click here](#) to see photographs taken at an incident earlier this week in Crewkerne where 50 tonnes of hay and 50 tonnes of straw caught fire. DSFRS are asking farmers to be aware of the fire risk when making and storing hay - particularly at the moment due to recent damp weather. Please [click here](#) for more information relating to farm fire safety.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Cliff Safety

Next time you are visiting the coast please take extra care. Wet weather and heavy rain means that cliff slips and mud slides are more likely and paths and tracks may have deep, unstable gullies. Cliffs are unpredictable and can give way at any time, with no notice. Periods of intense rainfall followed by drier, warmer weather often mean that cliff edges are more vulnerable. Pieces falling can be just a few rocks or as large as a car. So please stay well back from cliffs.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency offer some easy tips to keep you safe:

- Don't climb up or down cliffs unless you are properly equipped and trained to do so. And please don't climb cliffs as a short cut back to the top and again.
- Do take notice of warning signs and fences – they're there for a reason
- Keep your dog on a lead to help avoid them getting into trouble, but if they do, please don't put yourself in danger too by trying to rescue them. Call the Coastguard and they will send help quickly.

If you see anyone in difficulties around the coast, please don't hesitate to call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. They are on call 24/7.

The Woodland Trust

Pledge to end the use of all plastic tree shelters

The Woodland Trust is working to revolutionise the conservation sector with their pledge to end the use of all plastic tree shelters from their sites by the end of the year. The Woodland Trust have worked with top academics to launch the UK's largest body of research on plastic free tree protection. The Woodland Trust's focus is to remove any need for tree tubes, plastic or otherwise, implementing a range of techniques that afford sustainable solutions to tree protection, but they are trialling all types of non-plastic alternatives that come to market.

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

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

Spark Somerset

Covid Confident Communities Booklet

When COVID-19 hit, many groups based in cafés, community halls and public venues across Somerset, were forced to close. We lost the opportunity to socialise and enjoy human contact and friendship. For many people the pandemic has made exercising a real challenge. As we emerge from lockdown, there are lots of ways that you can support people in your community move more safely.

Please [click here](#) to take a look at the Covid Confident Communities booklet for ideas and inspiration. Whether you're running a community group, managing volunteers, or are a volunteer working directly with the public, this booklet has been designed to help you get out and about and gather safely again. It will also be useful for anybody who is looking to reopen a community building and accommodate everyone safely.

Young Somerset

Looking for something to do this summer?

Young Somerset love to see young people getting stuck into Bushcraft and Conservation, out and about in beautiful Somerset. If you're looking for something to do over the summer why not join Young Somerset for a summer full of free activity days. Please [click here](#) to find out more and to sign up.

Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

Support the CCS next time you shop in Tesco

The CCS are very proud to be in the customer vote for a Tesco Community Grant. They are doubly thrilled that Tesco wanted them in all of their stores across the county, to support a charity that could work on supporting food resilience across a wide area which is one of the many things they have worked hard on over the pandemic; supplying food to Community groups, schools and individuals / families in need.

Tesco customers can now vote in any Tesco store in Somerset during July, August and September, so the CCS are asking you to support them next time you shop and pop your blue token in their collection box.

The token box will have the following details:

- Community Council for Somerset
- Somerset Food Resilience - Village Agents
- Providing food security for people in Somerset.

For more information, please visit www.tesco.com/communitygrants.

Do you have a perching stool that you no longer use?

Please call Millbrook Healthcare on **0333 003 2407** Monday - Friday between 9am - 5pm, to arrange a free contactless collection – it'll only take a few minutes, and could help someone else who needs it.

Reminder- Meal and food boxes

Meal and food boxes are available in your community. Anyone can request a meal or food box, regardless of your financial situation. You can access these free meals by contacting your local Village Agent call – **01823 331222**. Please [click here](#) for further information.

Reminder- Do you need an emergency delivery of fuel?

The CCS Oil Scheme partners AF Affinity have a great scheme where they can deliver a fast, emergency parcel of fuel to tide you over until you can get a full delivery! Call them on **01603 881888** between 9am – 4.30pm to order or email somersetbuying@af-affinity.co.uk. For more information, [click here](#).

Reminder - Glastonbury Festival Solidarity Fund

The Glastonbury Festival Solidarity Fund is now open to applications. If your group raised money at previous Glastonbury Festivals, usually runs on less than £100k per annum and is based in Somerset (or just over the border) you may be able to apply.

Organisations can apply for £250 - £2,500 which can be spent on revenue costs such as insurance, rent, utility bills etc. You must submit your application by **5pm Friday 23 July 2021**. Please [click here](#) to view the eligibility criteria and find out more information.

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) Deadline for Vacancies for Trustees Looming

SCF currently has vacancies on the Board of Trustees for up to three people, who share a commitment and passion for Somerset, and who can give time and support to their philanthropic services and grant making programmes. For more information please visit [Somerset Community Foundation - Vacancies \(somersetcf.org.uk\)](http://somersetcf.org.uk)

The deadline to apply is by 5pm **Monday 26 July 2021**.

HPC Community Fund Small Grants Programme

The HPC Community Fund Small Grants Programme supports projects and work that will help mitigate the impacts and increase the opportunities of the Hinkley Point C project in your community.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for organisations or community groups with an annual income of less than £100,000.

If you run a local community project in Somerset and would like to find out more about funding opportunities from the HPC Community Fund, please contact Peter: **01749 344949** or email: peter.stolze@somersetcf.org.uk.

Reminder- HPC Community Awards – Panel Member Needed

Are you passionate about Somerset? Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) is looking for an individual to volunteer on the Hinkley Point C (HPC) Community Fund Awards Panel - and applications from people with knowledge of West Somerset are particularly welcome.

The HPC Community Fund - managed by Somerset Community Foundation - awards grants to those seeking support for projects and initiatives that will help to mitigate the impacts and increase the opportunities of the Hinkley Point C build in their community.

To find out more about this exciting voluntary role, visit: www.somersetcf.org.uk/about-us/vacancies or apply by sending your CV and a covering letter to: info@somersetcf.org.uk or post to Carolyn Phimister, Somerset Community Foundation, Yeoman House, Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet BA4 6QN, to arrive by noon, **Friday 30 July**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Help and support for businesses affected by COVID-19

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has made available webinars and videos about the support available to businesses to help them deal with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

HMRC cover the following government schemes:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Job Retention Scheme
- Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)
- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Rebate Scheme

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

Health and Welfare

Every Mind Matters

11 tips to cope with anxiety about coming out of lockdown

Easing of lockdown will allow us to get back to the people and things we love, but it's OK if you feel worried about going back to something more "normal" as lockdown restrictions loosen. The Coronavirus outbreak has been hard for us all and we have all experienced the effects differently, including those of us who have been shielding. Even positive change can lead to anxiety, and it can take time to readjust to things we have not done for a while.

Feelings of post-lockdown anxiety are likely to pass with time as we get used to the "new normal" but it's important to do what we can to take care of our mental health. There are lots of things that can help you to manage these feelings and make it easier to adjust. Please [click here](#) to read Every Mind Matter's top tips for taking care of your mental health as things change.

COVID-19 infection rates three times lower for double vaccinated people

The interim findings of a study just released show that COVID-19 infection rates for double vaccinated under-65s are three times lower than in unvaccinated under-65s. The prevalence of infection in under-65s who had received two doses of vaccine was 0.35% compared with 1.15% among those who had not received any, demonstrating the importance of vaccination. The latest data also shows infections in England have increased fourfold from 0.15% to 0.59% since the last report. Please [click here](#) for further information.

Order your lateral flow tests online

You can order one box of lateral flow tests per household each day. A box contains 7 test packets. [Please click here to order your rapid lateral flow tests.](#)

Please remember – if you are taking the tests at home it is very important for you to [log your results here](#). Please make sure that if you are symptomatic in any way take a confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test as quickly as possible.

The importance of regular testing

There are five good reasons for regular testing:

- It finds and isolates people early who have Coronavirus but don't have symptoms (asymptomatic), helping to stop the spread of the virus
- Alongside the vaccine rollout and social distancing, it is key to reducing infection and transmission, helping the country to keep moving
- It helps to identify and suppress new variants of concern, playing a vital role in limiting the spread of Coronavirus
- It protects you and your loved ones
- When done correctly, the tests are at least 99.9 per cent specific, which means that the risk of false positives is extremely low – less than one in a thousand

In short, it's a simple and effective way for everybody to do their bit in stopping the spread of the virus. Testing regularly, even when you do not have symptoms, means we can keep infection levels low.

How to do a COVID-19 Self-Test

Rapid lateral flow tests are for people who do not have symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Please [click here](#) to watch a video on how to test yourself for Coronavirus using a self-test kit, as well as how to read your result and report it to the NHS. Actual test kits may vary slightly from the version used here, so please always check the instruction leaflet in your kit.

Reminder- Lateral Flow Testing Available in Local Pharmacies

A **full list** of participating pharmacies can be found [here](#). If you are unable to get to a pharmacy or test centre to collect a test kit, you can order a home testing kit to be sent to your home [here](#). If you are taking a Lateral Flow test, please report to your managers how often you are testing.

Reminder- Do you need to book a PCR test?

Somerset residents are being reminded that they need to book a PCR test if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive using a 'lateral flow' (rapid) test kit. You can [book or request a PCR test online](#) or by calling 119.

Vaccinated? You still need to take care

Vaccination is a vital part of moving out of the Coronavirus pandemic, so getting your vaccine when offered is something to celebrate. Although the COVID-19 vaccine gives the best protection against becoming seriously ill if you catch Coronavirus, it's important to remember that it doesn't make you invincible. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective, but it doesn't take full effect immediately. The first dose should give you good protection from three or four weeks after you've had it. But you need to have the two doses to give you longer lasting protection.

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.

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.

Need to seek help?

If you, or someone you know are feeling like things are too much, please know that you / they don't have to be alone. Here are some numbers of organisations that can help:

- Samaritans - 116 123
- CALM - 0800 58 58 58
- ChildLine - 0800 1111
- Anxiety UK - 03444 775 774
- Mind - 0300 123 3393
- 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. Where can I get a comprehensive list of what I can do and not do when restrictions are lifted on Monday, 19 July?

A. Most legal restrictions to control COVID-19 will be lifted at step 4 on Monday, 19 July. COVID-19 has not gone away, so it's important to remember the actions you can take to keep yourself and others safe. Everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious. Please [click here](#) to see what will change from Monday, 19 July.

Q. In terms of COVID-19, what is meant by ‘close contact’?

A. A close ‘contact’ is a person who has been close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and who may or may not live with them. Your family and household members living with you will also need to self-isolate for the rest of the 10-day period from when your symptoms began.

If you have had close contact with anyone other than the members of your household – those in the 48 hours before you developed symptoms and the time since you developed the symptoms.

This means:

1. having face-to-face contact with someone less than 1 metre away (this will include times where you have worn a face covering)
2. spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of someone
3. travelling in a car or a small vehicle with someone (even on a short journey) or close to them on a plane
4. if you work in or have recently visited – a setting with other people (for example, a GP surgery, a school or a workplace). The use of face masks and other forms PPE does not exclude somebody from being considered a close contact, unless they are providing direct care with patients or residents in a health and care setting.

Please [click here](#) for more information on NHS Test and Trace.

Crime / Safeguarding

Barnardo’s

Racism can take many forms

Some think racism is always visible and obvious, and mostly comes from individuals through physical and verbal abuse and an open contempt for those of a certain ethnic or cultural background. While this is definitely a form of racism, other elements of racism are widespread but harder to spot.

In the UK, major institutions operate in ways that discriminate against Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people including children. This is what you might have heard of as systemic, structural or institutional racism.

Please [click here](#) to find out where systemic racism affects children in the UK. It’s important to acknowledge these facts to improve our understanding of what racism looks like and how to help tackle it. We’re highlighting this in our commitment to becoming an anti-racist organisation.

Reporting hate crime

A hate crime is when someone commits a crime against you because of your disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion, sex or any other perceived difference.

Hate crimes can include:

- Cyberbullying
- Offensive letters or text messages (hate mail) or phone calls
- Offensive leaflets and posters
- Physical attacks such as assaults
- Sexual harassment
- Threats of an attack
- Vandalism, criminal damage, graffiti or arson
- Verbal abuse or abusive gestures

If you have been a victim of a hate crime, or suspect a hate crime has taken place, report it to:

- online — fill in the [report a crime or incident form](#)
- by phone — call **101**
- in person — [visit a police station](#)

Action Fraud

Reminder- Vaccine Passport Scam

Action Fraud have received over 370 reports from members of the public who have been sent emails purporting to be from the NHS, offering them a vaccine passport. The fake emails claim that the passport will allow you to travel safely and freely around the world without having to self-isolate. The emails ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases the online form has looked very similar to the real NHS website.

Please [click here](#) to read more on how you can protect yourself.

Avon & Somerset Police (A&SP)

Thefts of Catalytic Converters in Wellington

Wellington Neighbourhood Policing Team are asking the public to remain vigilant following the thefts of Catalytic Converters from four vehicles in Wellington overnight between Thursday 8 and Friday 9 July 2021. Catalytic Converters were stolen from a Toyota Auris parked in Red Lion Court, a Toyota Rav 4 parked on South Street, a Honda Jazz parked on Owen Street and a Honda Jazz parked on Wellesley Park. Anyone with any information that could help police with their investigation is asked to call 101 quoting crime ref no 5221154065.

Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Advice

Did you know a thief can take the catalytic converter from your car in a matter of minutes and leave you to foot the bill? Precious metals such as rhodium, platinum and palladium are used in catalytic converters. The price of some of these metals has risen sharply in recent years and as a result has led to an increase in the theft of catalytic convertors.

Cars that are most often targeted are hybrid vehicles, as these vehicles have two power sources, so the catalytic converter is used less frequently. The metals are less

likely to corrode, meaning they are worth more and therefore more attractive to thieves.

Hybrid cars, Vans and SUV's are particularly at risk, as the ride height makes access to the exhaust system beneath them easier. The **Toyota Prius, Toyota Auris, Honda Jazz** and the **Honda CR-V** are often targeted.

Please [click here](#) to find out how to reduce the risk of having your catalytic converter stolen.

REMEMBER: If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, call 999 or 101 and report it to the Police. Be sure to obtain as much information as possible, including the registrations of any vehicles being targeted or being used by the persons involved.

Reminder- Is your vehicle taxed and insured?

Please [click here](#) if you wish to report a vehicle in your community that's not taxed or that's being driven without insurance or an MOT.

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](#)

Finally

The below link may be useful to you, should there be a requirement to convert files to jpg format: <https://www.adobe.com/uk/acrobat/online/pdf-to-jpg.html>

It is important to keep up to date with the latest [information and advice from the Government](#).

For quick up to date information regarding SWT services please follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SWTCouncil/ or Twitter [@swtcouncil](https://twitter.com/swtcouncil)

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