

MEMBERS' BRIEFING 10 February 2023



Welcome to your fortnightly update on South Somerset District Council news, including meetings, news updates, Local Government Reorganisation updates, and more.

You can also keep up to date on news through our website www.southsomerset.gov.uk or click the button below. If you would like a PDF version of this newsletter or a URL link, please email communications@southsomerset.gov.uk

Visit our Website



Wincanton Town Centre Regeneration: Successes to date and what happens next

As we approach the transition from South Somerset District Council (SSDC) to the new Somerset Council, the councillors elected to the new authority have undertaken an extensive review of both the revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2023/24 and beyond.

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Upcoming Meetings

[Regulation Committee - Tuesday 14 February - 10.00am](#)

[Area West Committee - Wednesday 15 February - 5.30pm](#)

[South Somerset District Council - CANCELLED - Thursday 16 February - 7.30pm](#)

[Area North Committee - Wednesday 22 February - 2.00pm](#)

[Previous meetings can be viewed on our Youtube channel.](#)

Featured News



Government confirms £60 billion for local authorities to deliver vital services

Councils in England will benefit from almost £60 billion to deliver vital frontline services as the government confirms an average funding increase of 9.4% for town halls over the next financial year.

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Latest Ofsted and CQC review shows improvements in Somerset's SEND services

An Ofsted and Care Quality Commission letter has shown improvements in Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) services in Somerset. Inspectors carried out a re-visit of the SEND Local Area Partnership (Somerset County Council, NHS Somerset and schools) in late 2022, and released their letter, detailing progress to the Partnership on Wednesday 1 February.

[Read More](#)



Somerset: Let's Connect for Children's Mental Health Week

During this year's Children's Mental Health Week (6-12 February), Somerset County Council is sharing some simple tips to encourage parents and carers to consider how they can help children to build meaningful connections as part of this year's 'Let's Connect' theme. Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing and our survival.

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Have your say on how s106 funds are spent on projects in Chard

Under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 **contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure**, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place. Residents are invited to share ideas about how they'd like to see S106 funds spent in Chard. This money can only be spent on new or improved:

- Changing rooms
- Community halls
- Play areas
- Playing pitches
- Youth facilities

If you know a project that could benefit, we would like to hear about it. Your ideas can be submitted at our online consultation from 30 January until 26 February. Please take five minutes to have your say here [Chard Projects - South Somerset District Council - Citizen Space](#)

We're also hosting an open event at Chard Guildhall on Wednesday 15 February from 1pm until 5pm, so do please come along and talk to us in person.

Oak Tree Skate Park

Check out how the Oak Tree Skate park is coming along. It's the first of three new skate parks coming to Yeovil this spring/summer.

The team [@maverickskate](#) are doing an amazing job and the build is moving at pace, with an aim to be completed by mid-March, if not sooner. We can't wait to welcome you. After Oak Tree Park, the team will move on to build the new Yew Tree and Milford skate parks. Start oiling your boards and be ready to make some shapes!



Closure of Springmead Surgery - NHS Somerset

We can confirm that Springmead Surgery in Chard will be closing permanently on Friday 24 February 2023. Patients do not need to do anything. Care will be automatically transferred to Ariel Healthcare in Chard. We are working closely with Ariel Healthcare to ensure the smooth transfer of care.

[Read More](#)

A361 set for urgent drainage and repair work

Essential drainage and repair works are being undertaken next month on the A361 between Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet. The scheme near Havyatt, just outside Glastonbury, will include repairs to the existing drainage system and installation of some additional gullies, raised kerbs and patching to prevent flooding to property.

[Read More](#)

Skate park update - Lorraine



Smoking in pregnancy needs to be treated as an addiction and not a lifestyle choice, say Somerset midwives

Smoking in pregnancy is a sensitive issue which needs to be treated as an addiction and not a lifestyle choice, according to health care professionals in Somerset. Recent statistics suggest that 10% of babies delivered in the county are born to pregnant smokers - bringing a wide range of potential complications and health impacts and...

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Domestic abuse service supports record numbers of young people

Somerset County Council's domestic abuse service has supported a record number of young people seeking support during 2022/23. Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (SIDAS) helpline took 301 calls from people between the age of 16 - 20-year-olds since April last year, compared to 128 in 2021/22 - a nearly three times increase.

[Read More](#)

Sustainable Transport for Business

Online Event
Wednesday 08 March. 2pm - 3.45pm



FREE Online Sustainable Transport for Business Event - delivered by South Somerset District Council and Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership Wednesday 8 March 2023 - 2pm

Transport is one of the most significant sectors for carbon emission, so change is essential if we are to make progress towards net zero. Almost every business is dependent in some way on transport, whether as a means of getting products to market or staff to the workplace.

This event will cover:

- 🔌 Installing EV chargers and solar PV
- 🚛 Transitioning from diesel fuel to Hydro treated vegetable oil (HVO)
- 🚗 Economising on vehicle trips
- 👤 Green employee travel plans
- 🚢 Challenges of shipping goods overseas
- 🚂 Future thinking of better integrating freight via rail
- 😊 Hear from local businesses who will share their sustainable transport journey

If you're a business who wants to learn more about taking action to achieve sustainable transport solutions, then this event is right up your street. Click on the link below to find out more and book your space 📌

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sustainable-transport-for-businesses-online-event-tickets-518630707407>



NHS South West Issues Final Call to Come Forward for Covid Booster - NHS Somerset

The NHS in the South West is encouraging people to come forward for their covid booster before the offer ends next month. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has today advised that, thanks to the success of the programme, the offer of an initial booster dose should end when the current autumn campaign ends, which will be on Sunday 12 February.

[Read More](#)



Somerset Public Health encourages residents to get tested for #HIVTestWeek

Next week marks the start of National HIV testing week (6-12 February), and Somerset County Council are encouraging anyone who may have put themselves at risk of getting the virus to get tested. National HIV Testing Week takes place every year to promote regular testing for HIV and aims to identify those who are undiagnosed, avoid late diagnoses, and enable people to start effective treatment immediately.

[Read More](#)

Further support and news

Coronavirus Support

The Coronavirus Support section on the Government website is a valuable resource to help you support your community, give health advice and keep you updated on COVID-19 news.

[Read More](#)



Local Government Reorganisation Update

Direct LGR updates will continue to be provided through the separate LGR bulletin including an invite to the next Member briefing on 21 February. You will also have received an update from Duncan Sharkey via email on the latest regarding recruitment to Somerset Council. Other key updates include:

Update from Project Beacon

Colleagues braved the cold weather to gather for a celebration of our five Somerset Councils. Eminent Somerset historian, Tom Mayberry, intrigued guests with a talk on the government of our ancient county, including the birth of Somerset County Council in 1889 and the formation of new districts in 1974, all the way up to the present day. An exhibition sharing tales, memories and achievements since the last reorganisation of local government in 1974 was unveiled to mark the occasion. It shows just a small part of what was collected but all the research, along with memories that guests jotted down on postcards at the event, will all be held in the Somerset County Archive, affording future historians the benefit of this living history. The live exhibition will be displayed at council offices and events as we approach vesting day. It will also be placed in public view as it conveys something of the huge role that councils play in our communities, which often goes unseen. [View the Beacon online exhibition here.](#)

Cost of living crisis: Food collection points in South Somerset

As the cost of living crisis continues to impact our communities, food collection points have been set up for members and SSDC staff to donate at two SSDC sites. Donations will be taken to the Lord's Larder at The Gateway in Yeovil.

Places you can donate:

- Canteen, The Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil
- Please hand your donations to a Connect Officer in reception at The Connect Office, Petters Way, Yeovil.

Food items requested by the Lord's Larder include:

- Instant Coffee
- Tins of Baked Beans
- Tins of Ravioli
- Tins of Macaroni Cheese
- Tins of Spaghetti
- Tins of Meatballs
- Tins of Hot Dogs
- Tins of Chilli con Carne
- Tins of Potatoes
- Tins of Sweetcorn
- Tins of Fruit
- Tins of Peas
- Carrier Bags
- Jars of Pasta Sauce
- Long Life Milk
- Sugar
- Rice
- Shower Gel or Shampoo

The Lord's Larder also