

# MEMBERS' BRIEFING

## 24 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](http://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](mailto:communications@southsomerset.gov.uk)

Visit our Website

### Upcoming Meetings

**[Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday 28 February - 10.30am](#)**

**[District Executive - Thursday 2 March - 9.30am](#)**

**[Standards Committee - CANCELLED - Tuesday 7 March - 2.15pm](#)**

**[Area East Committee - Wednesday 8 March - 10.00am](#)**

**[Area South Committee - Wednesday 8 March - 2.00pm](#)**

**[Area West Committee - Wednesday 8 March - 5.30pm](#)**

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



### Planning permission granted for exciting project to create a flagship cultural hub for Somerset

Councillors of South Somerset District Council have voted to approve planning permission for the redevelopment of The Octagon Theatre which will see the venue transformed into a

flagship centre for the creative arts.

[Read More](#)

## National minute of silence to mark one year of Russian invasion of Ukraine

The Government has announced a national one-minute silence at 11am on Friday 24 February to mark the 12-month anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is expected to lead the nation in silence from Downing Street. This national moment of reflection will offer the UK public the chance to pay tribute to the courage of the Ukrainian people and demonstrate the UK's unwavering solidarity with the country.

South Somerset District Council will fly the Ukrainian flag at its offices at Brympton Way. Staff were invited to observe the national moment of reflection in person at our offices or remotely as they wished.

You can read the Government's statement in full [HERE](#).



## New developments to deliver for people and nature

New housing, commercial and infrastructure developments are set to be "nature positive" from November onwards, the government has announced, with the plans backed by £16 million of funding for Local Planning Authorities and guidance to support the new approach.

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## £842 million available to help families in need

Government has announced details of a Household Support Fund extension worth £842 million for Local Authorities to update their websites with specific details of their support offerings in coming weeks.

£842 million of additional funding will be allocated from 1st April to help the most vulnerable households across England.

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## The Coronation Emblem

The official emblem of the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort has been unveiled by Buckingham Palace. The emblem has been designed by Sir Jony Ive KBE.

The emblem will feature throughout the celebrations in May, including the Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey and the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle on Saturday 6 May, as well as national events, street parties and community gatherings.

Paying tribute to The King's love of the natural world, the emblem depicts the flora of the four nations in the shape of St Edward's Crown, and will be used for all official merchandise commemorating the Coronation of The King and The Queen Consort, and across digital and social media.

The official announcement can be found [here](#) and all Coronation emblem resources are available [here](#).

## Featured News



### Michael Zair - Tinkers Bubble founder, commemorated

This week, our Rangers at Ham Hill installed and commemorated a perching bench overlooking Witcombe Valley in memory of Michael Zair.

Michael was a founder of Tinkers Bubble and a Friend of Ham Hill, remembered fondly by many folk in the community.

The Rangers completed the installation of the hand-carved bench aided by students from Strode College (Street). Folks from Tinkers Bubble and the Friends of Ham Hill joined the commemoration.



## December bucket collections raise over £10,000 for local charities | South Somerset District Council

Two local charities, The Foyer Club and Yeovil District Hospital's Breast Cancer Unit Appeal received cheques today totalling more than £10,000. Proceeds from the annual bucket collection at The Octagon Theatre's festive pantomime, along with the ticket income and bucket collection monies from the Christmas Carol Concert will help support two vital charities in Yeovil.

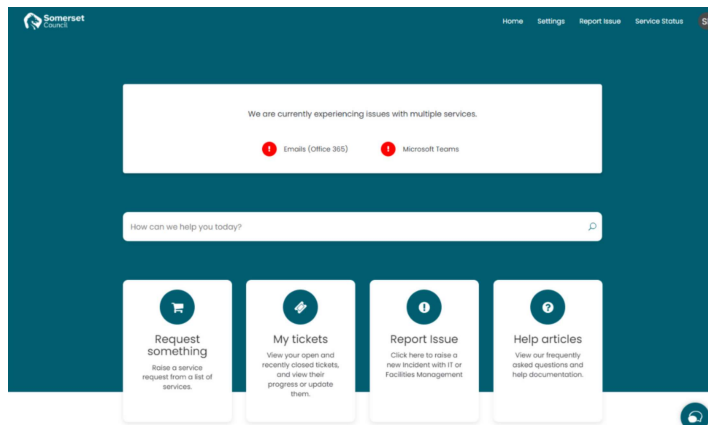
[Read More](#)



## Somerset Urgent Community Response - NHS Somerset

We know, given a choice many people would prefer to be cared for at home. If there is a crisis in your health, for example, if you or someone you care for, has a fall or there is a sudden deterioration in your health, we can help.

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## Message from LGR Technical Asset Optimisation Workstream: Halo IT Service Management

In preparation for our transition to a unitary authority on 1 April, you will begin to receive communications about our new IT service management system (Halo ITSM) to replace all of our existing IT service management systems (including SSDC's HEAT system).

### **Why?**

The new product brings about improvement in functionality that has been missing from our existing system, and the team have worked to make the product as easy to use as possible.

### **When?**

We are working hard to get the system ready to launch and anticipate that Somerset County Council will go-live at the end of February. SSDC and the

remaining Districts will move to the new system in a phased approach at a later date.

### ***How will it affect me?***

We are delivering the new system in a phased approach, so the first version that you see in late February is one that will be developed on an ongoing basis. We think the product is easy to use and we're seeking your feedback on usability, the customer journey and any future developments. You can register your feedback via Halo itself. Keep an eye out for user guidance and how to access Halo ITSM towards the end of February.



## **Have your say in the School Term Dates and Holidays Consultation**

Somerset's residents have been invited to have their say on proposed school holiday, term and staff training dates for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools for the next two years. Somerset County Council has published two separate consultations: one for the 2024/25 academic year and one for the 2025/26 academic year. Both consultations are open to the...

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## **Do you have what it takes to "Step Up" to social work in Somerset?**

It takes a special person to "step up" to social work - are you that person? Somerset County Council is looking for the right people to start a challenging and rewarding career making a real difference to the lives of children and families. Somerset's 'Step Up to Social Work' programme offers a unique opportunity to...

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## **Spring business resilience workshops coming soon**

It is challenging times at present for small and medium Somerset businesses. In response, the five Somerset councils (Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset County Council, Somerset West and Taunton and South Somerset) have devised a programme of support to help businesses develop the skills they need to thrive, whatever the economic environment.

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## **New recycling regulations coming into force: pilot programme launched to help Somerset businesses comply**

New recycling regulations for businesses are coming soon and Somerset is one of five areas nationally to pilot a business support programme, designed to prepare its businesses for the change. The new regulations will require all businesses, healthcare establishments and academic institutions to separate glass bottles and jars, metal food and drink cans, plastic bottles,...

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## Council wants your feedback on transport in rural communities

Somerset County Council is joining forces with About Community Engagement (ACE), to see how engagement on transport in rural areas can be improved. The aim is to make it easier for rural communities to talk the Council about transport and reach solutions that work for everyone.

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## Try out amazing equipment and technology to make daily living easier at Somerset Independent Living Centres

Talking microwaves to help the visually impaired and specially designed lightweight kettles for the elderly are among the fascinating and practical items on display at Somerset's Independent Living Centres (SILCs). The SILCs are filled with useful technology and equipment designed to make daily living at home easier for anyone who may need support living independently...

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## 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](#)

UK Health Security Agency **NHS**

**We're here to help you stay well this winter**

Some important information from the NHS to help you stay well this winter

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

Your health matters **Help us help you**

Nancy Mutai, Staff Nurse

## Local Government Reorganisation Update