

Welcome to our April issue of Get SuSSed. We're really excited to share all our eco news with you and showcase the brilliant work happening across the district as we work towards our goal to be carbon neutral by 2030. We'll be sharing news of some exciting SSDC and local green projects, plus some great learning webinars and funding opportunities.



Hello!

Now that we are allowed to meet in an open space under the rule of six we were able to have our first face-to-face team meeting in months! The team met at Ham Hill with Environment Portfolio Holder Cllr Sarah Dyke and reflected on this challenging year, one like no other, and how far we've come and overcome to deliver sustainable solutions for our communities and as an organisation.

The last year's environment achievements will all be captured in the SSDC End of Year Report which will be published soon. Don't worry, we're not resting on our laurels, we're looking forward to exciting future projects and opportunities which we will share with you all here in due course. We're committed with your help, to continue at pace to deliver carbon neutrality by 2030 or sooner!

PS. We forgot to take a team photo, so here is an older pre-lockdown one we took at a previous meeting at beautiful Ham Hill!

*Best Eco wishes
The Environment Team x*

SSDC Green Initiatives

Recycle More is coming to South Somerset!

We're working with Somerset Waste Partnership to bring Recycle More to all 78,000 South Somerset households at the end of June.

This means we'll be able to literally Recycle More, like plastic pots, tubs and trays, food and drink cartons, small household batteries, and even small electrical items. Because we'll be able to recycle more during the weeks in between, it will mean 3 weekly big bin collections, as in theory if we recycle more there's less space needed in the big bin.

Nothing changes until you receive your BRIGHT BLUE BAG, a new recycling container that will be delivered to all households before the first Recycle More collection. You can read more about it [here](#). Or check out the video below and get ready for Recycle More

**Get ready for
Recycle More**
South Somerset
June 2021



Get a good recycling system in place

Tips and Tricks for home recycling - It can be so confusing! But it's a lot easier if you create a good system at home. Check out this [WHICH](#) guide on 'How to Recycle' which also shows ways to adapt

our consumption so we're not purchasing unnecessary products and packaging.

Despite our best efforts to recycle as much as we can, there are still some difficult to recycle items. For items not yet included in Recycle More, there are still ways we can recycle them.

Check out [TerraCycle](#) who recycle crisp packets, coffee capsules, pens, plastic gloves and much more. These waste plastics undergo extrusion and pelletisation to be moulded into new recycled plastic products.



PARISH ENVIRONMENT CHAMPIONS
RECYCLE MORE SESSION
With guest speakers from
SWP



Recycle More Presentation Recording

Earlier this month we held a Recycle More session with our Parish Environment Champions where Mickey Green, Mark Ford and Beth Prince from Somerset Waste Partnership told us all about the new ways we'll be able to Recycle More from June. Many of our Parish Environment Champions are getting a blue bag early to test it out, so they can share their findings with fellow parish residents and instill knowledge, confidence and reassurance when the change comes.

Why not check out the recording below to watch the presentation along with Q&A's .



Help influence producers to clean up their act



It's fantastic that we will soon be able to Recycle More, but equally, we should strive to reduce our plastic use as much as we can, and also help influence major waste sector reforms. Now we can all have our say by taking part in government consultations.

A Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, where consumers will be incentivised to take their empty drinks containers to return points hosted by retailers. Every year across the UK, consumers go through an estimated 14 billion plastic drinks bottles, nine billion drinks cans and five billion glass bottles. The scheme would cover England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with a separate scheme already under development in Scotland.

Consultation closes 04 June 2021.

Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging, where manufacturers will pay the full costs of managing and recycling their packaging waste, with higher fees being levied if packaging is harder to reuse or recycle. In 2019, approximately 11.7 million tonnes of packaging was placed on the UK market. We must ensure that more of this is recyclable or reusable. The scheme is being developed on a UK-wide basis. Closes 04 June 2021

DfT e-scooter trial launched in Crewkerne and Chard

Last month South Somerset District Council, in collaboration with micromobility operator Zwings' expanded the Department for Transport South Somerset rental e-scooter operation into Chard and Crewkerne. This scheme, which is part of the government's wider project plan for improving sustainable transport options across the UK, has proved very popular in the month since launch.

The Department for Transport e-scooter trials were established as part of their COVID-response, as well as to inform future policy and gauge how this new mode of travel can be safely integrated into the UK's transport ecosystem. E-scooter operators Zwings, who are fully funding the trial, took the opportunity to help with this research with a trial in Yeovil. Chard and Crewkerne were also selected as trial locations to ensure the benefits of e-scooters were extended beyond the major metropolitan areas for which such transport innovation is typically reserved, as well as to help meet the Council's climate emergency pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030. You can read our full press release [here](#).



Check Out The 'New Blue' e-scooters in Yeovil, Crewkerne and Chard

Responding to public and rider feedback and high demand, our partners in the Department of Transport e-scooter trial, micro-mobility operators @Zwings, are launching their Generation 2.0 e-scooter in Yeovil. Riders will now find new sky-blue coloured e-scooter vehicles that come with a host of technological and safety advancements and to



compliment this, all existing e-scooters in operation including those in Zwerker and Chard will get a makeover, and have the new distinctive Zwings sky-blue applied. This will make it much easier to differentiate between the legal DfT trail Zwings e-scooters and privately owned ones, which are illegal to ride in public.

Our Street Scene Team has switched to electric!

Our Street Scene team now has a new electric Goupil vehicle to carry out removal of litter in difficult to access areas around in Yeovil Town Centre.

The little Goupil (yet to be named!) has a high power traction battery and on-board battery charger giving the vehicle a range of up to 60 miles on a single 8 hour charge. We met with Dave Gillingham (pictured) who told us he is impressed with how the Goupil is performing despite the extra litter generated by more people going outdoors, it can fill up very quickly but as things level out it should be perfect for keeping the streets and public areas of Yeovil in ship shape.

As existing vehicles are gradually stood down, SSDC will explore ways of replacing them with more sustainable vehicles wherever possible.



Last Chance To Take Part! Electric Vehicle Share Scheme Survey

It's your last chance to have your say on a potential Electric Vehicle and e-bike sharing scheme. Please do take a couple of minutes to complete the survey [here](#) with [Co-Cars](#). Your input is really valuable to evaluate the viability of such a scheme based on public interest.



Great British Spring Clean 28 May to 13 June 2021

This spring, we're supporting Keep Britain Tidy and our community of #Litterheroes on our #MillionMileMission to clear litter from our streets, parks and beaches.

What is good for our environment is good for our mental and physical health too. Find out what you can do to join in. Pledge to pick and join the Keep Britain Tidy [Litter Heroes Facebook Group](#), a community of active volunteers driving the litter-picking movement

across the country!

[There's also loads more info here on the Keep Britain Tidy website](#)

And for more inspiration, listen to Steve Bachshall and other litter heroes in this video.



Do your bit with an SSDC litter picking kit



Need Kit? Borrow from SSDC!

We are lending litter picking kits in a covid safe way.

Kit can be collected from our Lufton Depot in Artillery Road Yeovil.

Remember to follow covid safety guidelines according to the [government roadmap out of lockdown](#), where as of 29th March, outdoor gatherings of up to six people (the rule of six) or two households is allowed. In line with this guidance, we are happy to once again to support litter picking activity in small groups of up to six volunteers, or two households and continue to follow the existing [hygiene and social distancing measures](#).

If you'd like to do your bit to keep South Somerset beautiful and clean please contact Nathan Turnbull via email nathan.turnbull@southsomerset.gov.uk to request kit and arrange a covid safe collection.

New CPRE #2minute litter picking stations at Yeovil Country Park

Next time you visit Yeovil Country Park lookout for the new CPRE sponsored #2minutelitterpick station, situated just outside the cafe. If you can do a two-minute litter pick or a little more, it's always much appreciated by our rangers. If it wasn't for the army of litter pickers helping to keep the park in tip-top condition they would be chasing their tails.

A BIG thank you to The Countryside Charity CPRE for funding this litter pick station!

Love Where You Live! Join the #2minutelitterpicking Facebook page [here](#) and find out about all the other great work and initiative CPRE do [here](#)

Stop Press! There is now a CPRE sponsored station at Chard Reservoir and another coming to Ham Hill soon! Let's get wombling!



New Ham Hill Secret Stories GET THE APP!

Who doesn't love to explore Ham Hill Country Park? Well now you can explore it's wonders with digital help through an app.

SSDC's countryside rangers from Ham Hill have partnered up with Ordnance Survey to launch a digital trail through a free to download OS 'Secret Stories' app. The trail is called 'Ham Hill's Pits of Perils and Rampaging Romans tour'. The app allows you to discover more of Ham Hill's spooky nightlife, fantastic fossils and buried treasures along a trail that is approximately 1.3 miles long. It is packed full of activities and takes around 11/2 half hours to complete. And of course you'll be connecting to nature along the way!



You can explore the Deep Quarry and learn about its inhabitants, create your own hibernation shelters in the hazel forests, and find out about the war scars and ancient dwellings which are still visible on Ham Hill today. The stories along the trail are told in a similar way to Horrible Histories, which make them fun and engaging for children and adults alike.

Ranger Edd Chilcott said "This is the first time we have trialled a digital app at Ham Hill and we would love some feedback on what people think of it. If you download and use the app, please let us know what you think and [complete our short questionnaire](#). There is a chance to win a £5 Ninesprings Café Voucher for surveys submitted by Friday 28th May."

If you have an Apple device, simply [download the app via the App Store](#).

If you have an Android device, [download the app via the Google Play Store](#).

And don't forget to follow [Ham Hill Country Park](#)