



Welcome to our May issue of Get SuSSed to give you all the latest eco news from SSDC and across the district, plus learning resources, funding opportunities and recommended reads and programmes, and more!



Hello from Councillor Sarah Dyke our Portfolio Holder for Environment

This somewhat wet May, feeling more like April, it's been about outdoor projects with the adoption of the county-wide electric vehicle strategy and a new no-mow trial to increase biodiversity at some key sites across the district. We've also got lots to celebrate now that the Council End of Year Report is ready, and I must say it gives me a great sense of pride to see how many green initiatives have been delivered over the last year.

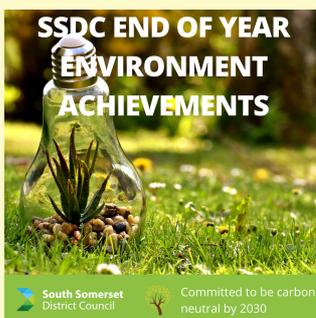
We're also championing and partnering with the national Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean campaign as well as supporting some fantastic local green projects.

I wish you all a great bank holiday weekend, and I hope you will be getting out and enjoying nature whatever the weather!

*Best Eco Wishes
Sarah x*

SSDC Green News

SSDC End of Year Report-Environment Achievements



It's been a year like no other, despite the challenges we have managed to progress our strategy for being carbon neutral by 2030 or sooner. The SSDC End of Year Achievements Report is out now and shows environment is a key priority in the council's 5 point plan, with over 40 green projects delivered over the last 12 months. Check out the environment section of the [report here](#).

SSDC approves Somerset Electric Vehicle Strategy

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STRATEGY



South Somerset District Councillors have approved the adoption of the countywide Somerset Electric Vehicle Strategy which will set out how Somerset moves forward collaboratively to form a joined-up electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the county. The strategy includes forming a working group of the four other Somerset district councils and Somerset County Council.

The Somerset EV Charging Strategy will support the Somerset County Council Highways Authority to plan the deployment of on Street EV Charging for our communities where there is a lack of off-street parking. SCC are the highway authority, so any on-street charge point scheme will be led by them, but with input from the joint working group, we can ensure full engagement and careful consideration of any on-street scheme that meets and addresses all the needs of our residents.

EV Charging Infrastructure Phase 2 Rollout



The adoption of the Somerset Electric Vehicle Strategy also aligns with the work already underway by SSDC and in other Somerset district authorities. SSDC is working with partners to progress this and has already installed the 3 rapid charging stations along the A303 corridor at Wincanton, Ilchester, and Ilminster. The next phase of EV charging stations will be installed in around 25 viable SSDC owned or

operated car parks which will provide at least 50 new charging connectors available for use at any one time. Installations will begin this summer and be completed by the end of the year. This is in partnership with the Devon Low Carbon Energy and Transport Technology Innovator (DELETTI) EV charging project, a partnership of Devon Councils and SSDC. The chosen EV Charging Network installer and operator is Scottish Power who will also provide the renewable energy supply to the dual 22kW Charging stations.

South Somerset District Council No Mow Trials

In support of Plantlife's 'No Mow May' project, we're implementing a No Mow Trial, by letting the flowers bloom and species prosper across

CONSERVATION VERGE TRIAL



www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/how-to-mow-your-lawn-for-wildlife

Enquiries: ssdcenvironment@southsomerset.gov.uk



certain SSDC-owned spaces throughout the summer and beyond. This will create new habitats and a vital source of sustenance for our pollinators and other wildlife. We'll be changing our mowing routine at specific areas maintained by SSDC in Castle Cary, Ansford, Milborne Port,

Cucklington, Ilminster and some of the bulb areas in Yeovil to allow wild plants to flower and set seed, hopefully creating enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators. You're also more likely to spot a greater variety of flowers popping up in your community over the seasons now that these areas are not being cut so frequently during the year.

Look out for the conservation verge signs shown above and scan the QR code to join in and rewild your own patch of land, however big or small! You can also find out more [here](#) at the Plantlife website!

Recycle More starts next Month! Be Box clever and order your extra containers (if needed) in plenty of time

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

You will now have received information through your door on what happens and when.

In the meantime, remember nothing changes until you receive your **BRIGHT BLUE BAG**, an additional new recycling container that will be delivered to your household before the first Recycle More collection. You can read more about it [here](#), however, you can be box clever and be prepared. If you think you'll need more of the existing recycling containers you can order them from Somerset Waste Partnership [here](#).

Get ready for Recycle More

South Somerset
June 2021



Be a Litter Hero with the Great British Spring Clean 28 May - 13 June

We're partnering with Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean! Joining an army of community #Litterheroes on

a #MillionMileMission to clear litter from our streets, parks and beaches. Because what is good for our environment is good for our mental and physical health too. Up for it? Find out more and pledge to pick [here](#)



Do your bit with an SSDC litter picking kit

South Somerset District Council

Need Kit? Borrow from SSDC!

You can borrow a litter picking kit from our Lufton Depot in Yeovil by prior arrangement. We can also collect large amounts of picked litter if arranged prior to your litter picking event. Please contact Nathan Turnbull via email

at nathan.turnbull@southsomerset.gov.uk

at [gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) to request kit and arrange a covid safe collection. Please observe and follow the [Keep Britain Tidy safeguarding policy](#) and [covid safety guidelines at all times](#).

Let's do our bit to keep South Somerset beautiful and clean!
#Lovewhereyoulive

Visiting one of our Country Parks?

If you're visiting one of our beautiful country Parks, you'll see [CPRE Countryside Charity](#) sponsored litter picking stations at Yeovil Country Park, Chard Reservoir and there will soon be one at Ham Hill. Why not give them a go with a #2minutelitterpic. LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE!



Purchase a #2minutelitterpic Station for your Community

The CPRE sponsored litter picking stations are now all spoken for, but Parish Councils and community organisations can still purchase them. To find out more visit beachclean.net.

EuCAN Volunteers Rock!

Our team at Ham Hill Country Park would like to give a big shout-out and say thank you to Dave and his team from [EuCAN](#) who came



to Ham Hill to help continue with the dry stone walling on the flat fields. Despite the wind, rain, or hail, none of it dampened their enthusiasm and EuCAN's volunteers managed to get through an amazing amount of work on the west wall, as you can see in the photo! Big thanks for both their time and all their hard

work. #Eucan #volunteering

Community Green Initiatives

Yeovil Rotary Club Woods Project

Yeovil Rotary Club is donating funds to SSDC to fund 100 trees to create a small area of woodland in the Yeovil area. The club is also electing a dedicated environment

representative to push forward its environmental initiatives. On 18 May our Environment Specialist Josh Bennett met with the club to update on our environment strategy and discuss potential sites and tree species that will create the woodland area, which once created will be open for the public to visit and enjoy. We'll keep you updated when the site is confirmed and when planting begins in the Autumn.



Somerset Climate Action Network - Get Involved

Become a Climate Action Networker

Join Somerset CAN's county-wide network of people taking action on climate change: Share your experiences, find solutions and share community resources. If you have a little or a lot of time you can make real difference to Somerset's climate change, everyone can get involved and be part of the change.

Solar Streets is coming to Ham Hill Villages

Ham Hill villages have joined South Somerset

South Somerset Solar Streets

COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT

CLEAN ENERGY – LOWER BILLS – CUT CARBON EMISSIONS



12 Panel
4kWp system
Installation from
just £4,000*
*av 3-4 bed
house

Solar Streets to enable residents of villages surrounding Ham Hill to purchase solar panels for their homes or business at discounted prices. The scheme helps to increase fossil fuel free, clean energy and helps your local community, as a

donation to the **Ham Hill Plus Community Fund** is given on every install – £50 for a domestic installation and £100 for a commercial one. If you live in this area then the Ham Hill Plus scheme is open to you.

You can find out more at the Launch Presentation and Q&A session via Zoom on Tuesday 22nd June at 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm

You need to Register in advance for this meeting so click [here](#) to find out more and register to attend. See below for information on help with funding too!

Grants and Funding

SSDC Partner Lendology Home Improvement Loans

If you want to make improvements to your home but not sure if you can afford it, South Somerset District Council has worked with [Lendology](#) since

2005 to enable homeowners to access financial help to do this. Lendology will work with you to take the stress out of funding repairs, improvements or adaptations. Their team of advisers will guide you through the process of applying for a home improvement loan, and this won't impact your credit score.



Lending with Heart and Mind

- A range of loan types based on your circumstances
- Borrow from £1,000 to £25,000
- No early repayment charges
- Flexibility to overpay
- Choose your own contractor
- Fixed interest rate (Typical 4.2% APR)
- No upper age limits

They will assess your eligibility, talk through how much you could borrow and the loan best suited to your circumstances. Find out more [here](#)

**Local School Nature
Grants from The
Learning Through
Landscapes Trust**



Learning through Landscapes Local School Nature Grants Programme, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery is providing schools grants of up to £500 to support training in outdoor learning and the purchase of outdoor learning equipment such as bee hotels and bird boxes!

LearningthroughLandscapes is a UK-based charity dedicated to enhancing outdoor learning and play for children.

You can find out more about it