



Welcome to our August issue of Get SuSSed, with all the latest eco news from SSDC and across the district, plus learning resources, funding opportunities and recommended reads, competitions and more!



Hello from Councillor Sarah Dyke our Portfolio Holder for Environment

I hope you're all enjoying the summer and getting out and about and close to nature.

It was great to meet with the SSDC environment team recently at the new facilities at Yeovil Recreation

Centre. The site is transforming into a haven for wildlife thanks to recent changes to land management – you can find out more on this below. Our meeting was to begin a review of our [Environment Strategy](#), and with many of our projects now actioned or ongoing (see more on the South Somerset Environment website), we are committed to keep driving it forward, so we have the best chance of reaching our goal to be carbon neutral by 2030. We'll keep you updated as it progresses and will be consulting when the time is right.

Before I go, I want to let you know I will be at the Shepton Beauchamp Climate Event on 11th September (read on for more info) where I'm showcasing SSDC's environment work and will taking your questions. Do come along and say hello!

*Best Eco Wishes
Sarah x*

SSDC Green News

New South Somerset Environment Website

Stay in the know about all things environment in South Somerset at our brand new website www.southsomersetenvironment.co.uk



Our new website is live, so do visit to find out what we're doing to deliver our **environment strategy** and reach net zero carbon by 2030. You'll also find a wealth of information about grants, community projects, energy, waste, recycling, and much more. Pop in and have a look around!

SSDC showcases sustainability and sport in harmony

Yeovil Recreation Centre (YRC) has been transformed into an environmental haven, by using a mix of sustainable land management styles to encourage wildlife to flourish within its formal sports environment.

SSDC have demonstrated that recreational and sporting facilities can go hand in hand with nature conservation and environmental sustainability, as well as showing that with the right design, even small areas of green space can provide great benefits. To read

the full case study visit our South Somerset Environment website [here](#).



Key highlights at the site include:

- 2,500 appropriate trees planted, including individual trees, areas of copse and linear hedgerow planting between sports pitches.
- Areas of wildflower planting on marginal banks around the site and 'No Mow' areas on amenity grass, using a reduced cutting regime to encourage wildflowers.
- Creation of a 'bug hotel' located within the golf course.
- The use of natural seaweed liquid fertilisers instead of conventional chemical fertilisers.



This scheme is just one of a number of green initiatives being led by SSDC as part of our overarching Environment Strategy.



BBQ ban at Ham Hill to protect the heritage site

From this summer, barbeques are not allowed at Ham Hill due to the high fire risk and damage they cause at the Iron Age hillfort and wildlife. The decision comes after more

and more barbeques are being used throughout the country park on sensitive grassland and near tinder dry meadows and woodlands, damaging the fragile plants and wildflowers and putting the site at risk of a large fire. Read more [here](#)



Blooming Marvellous Yeovil!

On 23rd July judges from the Royal Horticulture Society visited Yeovil to see the numerous floral displays, wildflower areas, community projects allotments, trees, and loads more!

We'll find out the *In Bloom* competition results later in the year, but right now, let's enjoy all the wonders that have been created by our amazing Environment Services team, communities, volunteers, and friends. Thank you to them all for providing food for our pollinators! Click on the video below to see a showcase of *Yeovil in Bloom*.



Parish Environment Champions

Parish Environment Champions Wildflower Seminar

Calling all Parish environment Champions, here's a date for your

diary. We are holding an online Wildflower Seminar via zoom on 29th September from 7 - 8.30 pm. Come along and hear from **Plantlife expert Dr Katy Petty**, our horticultural lead from SSDC and Stoford and Barwick Parish Environment Champion Jem Langworthy, who will tell us how he created space to go wild in his Parish. Expect an invitation via email soon where you can express your interest, and come along and learn how you can find space to go wild in your Parish.



PARISH ENVIRONMENT CHAMPIONS

WILDFLOWER SEMINAR
29th Sept 7pm - 8.30pm

With guest speakers
Kate Petty from Plantlife
SSDC Experts
and Parish Environment Champion
Jem Langworthy

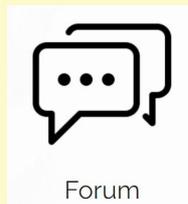


The Levels SCOP26+ Climate Forum 6th Nov 21

Parish Councils are invited to attend the Levels Climate Forum on 6th November 1pm - 6pm during the United Nations COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.

SCOP26+ (Somerset Coalition of Parishes) is a free event that will bring together parish representatives to discuss practical measures that will better prepare the county for a rapidly changing climate. To register your interest in attending, or for more information, contact SCOP26+ organiser mo.fletcher@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk

If you are a Town/Parish Council or community group in South Somerset planning an event for COP26 31st Oct - Nov 12th please let us know!ssdcenvironment@southsomerset.gov.uk



Let's Talk and Tackle Climate Change

Visit the new forum on the **South Somerset Environment Website**, a space where we can interact, share knowledge, ideas, case studies, and photos or ask questions.

If you have a story to share, want to start a conversation about a project you're involved in or get started, or anything related to climate and ecological action then please share. Head on over and start or join a conversation.



Get to know other Parish Environment Champions

We would like to help you get to know other environment champions across the district. If you're interested, let us know and we'll link you up. Just email ssdcenvironment@southsomerset.gov.uk

In Our Community

Green Recovery fund secures the future of YRCT's Dodham Brook project

The Yeovil Rivers Community Trust has received a grant from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund for phase 3 of the Dodham Brook Restoration Project of £193,600!



With the continued aim to rehabilitate a heavily modified urban water body in Yeovil, Phase 3 focuses on works in the concrete flood channel that poses the most significant barrier to connectivity for wildlife. You can learn more about the project [here](#).

Volunteering



Much loved Yeovil Country Park Volunteer retires

The team at Yeovil Country Park (YCP) recently said a huge 'Thank you & Happy Retirement' to the amazing friend & volunteer, Robin (pictured in the pale coat). At 90 years young, Robin has been a

stalwart volunteer at YCP for 16 years so he definitely deserves to put his feet up! Robin, we salute you - and everyone is really glad you are staying on as a valued member of the Friends of Yeovil Country Park. Read the full story on www.visitsouthsomerset.com

Great British Beach Clean Be a Beachwatch volunteer!

Here in South Somerset, we're so lucky to be a short distance from the coast.

The Marine Conservation Society Great

British Beach Clean is asking us to be Beachwatch volunteers, which includes litter picking and recording types of litter to track the common items found back to the source, enabling them to campaign for change. There are beach clean ups taking place throughout the week commencing 17th September with some happening before. Find out how and where you can join in [here](#) or organise your own! And don't forget our rivers and waterways lead to the coast, so if you want to stay local, you can do your bit near you. You can borrow litter picking kits from SSDC. Please contact Nathan.turnbull@southsomerset.gov.uk.



Grants and Funding



New Website Grants Page

You can find all information on grants and funding on the new South Somerset Environment website.

Please click [here](#) for details. Some key ones this month are listed below:

Environment Business Grants - Businesses in Somerset can apply for a carbon reduction grant of between £500 and £1,000 to help improve their carbon footprint. The grant must be 'match funded' by the business applying for the grant on a 50:50 basis. The grant is being made available by the five councils in Somerset as part of the Climate Emergency Strategy. For details and to apply, visit: [here](#).

The Tree Foundation UK – Tree Planting Programme - Funding up to £6,000 is available to support grassroots community projects across the UK that engage local people in tree planting. UK community-based organisations can apply, including registered charities, community, and voluntary groups and schools. For further details visit [here](#).

The D'oye Carte charitable trust – Funding of up to £5,000 for UK registered charities working to improve and protect the environment (including conservation of the countryside and woodlands). For more information visit [here](#).

Woodland Trust – Offering free trees to schools and community groups to plant over the winter 2021/22 as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. For details and to apply, visit [here](#).

Together for Our Planet grants - advance notice of a new £2.5 million National Lottery Community Fund grants programme, which will open for applications on Wednesday 1 September 2021. Grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 are available to locally based UK charitable organisations and social enterprises, including CICs, for small-scale projects that address climate change in their area. The deadline for applications is 5pm on Thursday 18 November 2021. Details [here](#).

Somerset County Council - has allocated £500,000 for town and parish councils to help support the safe reopening of parish/community facilities including improving the energy efficiency, low carbon heating

and insulation of the buildings. Find out more about the Parish Communities fund [here](#).

FREE Trees, Grants & expert Advice

Reimagining the levels planted over 20,000 trees and shrubs, including almost a mile of hedgerow across Somerset in 20/2021! This season they hope to **double**

