



South Somerset
District Council



Committed to be
Carbon Neutral by
2030

GET SuSSed

Sustainable South Somerset Education

Issue no.14 September 2021

Welcome to our September issue of Get SuSSed, read on for all the latest eco news from SSSDC and across the district, grants, learning, events, recommended reads, hedgehogs and more!



Hello from Councillor Sarah Dyke our Portfolio Holder for Environment

What a beautiful month September has been. I hope you've been able to enjoy it. It's a new start for many and for others it is harvest and the end of the growing year. Yes, autumn is coming, and that brings its own joy, but for the time being, summer lives on, so enjoy everything nature gives us while it lasts.

Earlier this month I attended Shepton Beauchamp Climate event to represent SSSDC and what we're doing to reach our goal to be carbon neutral by 2030. It was great to talk to so many people about environmental matters and hear their views.

I'm also very pleased we have launched our Business Environment Survey to find out where our local businesses are at with their carbon footprint and environmental actions so we can find out where support is needed, along with building our Great Green Directory of eco friendly businesses in South Somerset.

We're also preparing our rewilding sites for next year. I have received a lot of positivity from residents who have enjoyed seeing the wildflower

conservation areas across our district and the beauty and surprises they've brought to communities.

*Best Eco Wishes
Sarah x*

SSDC Green News

South Somerset
District Council

CONSERVATION VERGE TRIAL



www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/how-to-mow-your-lawn-for-wildlife
Enquiries: ssdcenvironment@southsomerset.gov.uk



No Mow Conservation Trial Review

Having seen the overwhelming success of our No Mow Trial this summer, where we developed wildflower verges on selected areas of SSDC-owned land, we are now in the process of reviewing

how the trial went, looking at where we can increase and improve, and how we can extend this offer further next year. In line with this trial we are reviewing our land management across our estate to place an emphasis on new habitat creation whilst also keeping all the other benefits our green spaces provide.

We've already begun cutting and removing the arisings from the No Mow and Bulb areas across the District and now have a machine to prepare the bigger areas. This will help maintain balance between faster growing grasses and slower developing wildflowers, by reducing the nutrients of the soil and limiting the grasses ability to outcompete the other more beneficial flowering species.



This very morning, our Portfolio Holder for Environment Councillor Sarah Dyke met up with Darren Squibb and Jon Chleal from our Environmental Services Team, who were strimming and preparing the No Mow verge conservation area in Cucklington. This work will encourage more wildflowers to grow next year.

We want to work with parishes and landowners to progress this on their land, creating a rich mosaic of habitats throughout our district benefiting both residents and wildlife.

We're holding a virtual wildflower seminar this evening with experts and parish representatives to take this forward. Details are further on.



How is your business reducing its carbon footprint?

Help us understand how we can support.
Take part in our Business Environment Survey.



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Green Business Survey – Addressing the Climate Emergency

SSDC is keen to understand where our business community is at with addressing the climate and ecological emergency, and to gain information that will help us identify where we can offer advice and support going forward.

We are asking local businesses to take part in a [short survey](#) designed with specific focus on this topic. The survey closes on 5th November.

We know many businesses across the district are already working hard to reduce their carbon emissions, but also know others face barriers and challenges or want to learn more. We're encouraging South Somerset businesses from all sectors and varying stages of reducing their carbon footprint to take part. Your input will give us valuable insight and understanding to help us advise and support where needed, and of course, share best practice. Thank you!

And if you're eager to learn more, there is a wealth of practical advice available to improve your carbon footprint:

- Somerset County Council's [Carbon Audit Toolkit for Businesses](#)
- The Government's SME Climate Hub '[Together for our Planet](#)'

- [Green Business Friendly Guide](#), easy steps for retail businesses.

Big Community

Switch

Big Community Energy Switch: Better Offers Together

The Big Community Switch is a group buying platform so people can benefit from the bargaining power of a large group and receive 100% renewable energy at a lower tariff. Once you have registered, *Big Community Energy* hold an energy auction where suppliers compete for the opportunity to offer you the lowest energy tariff. There's no need to compare different tariffs as you'll receive a personal offer.

Why join?

- **Taking part is free;**
- **It is simple and quick to do;**
- **There is no obligation to switch; and**
- **100% renewable electricity.**

The deadline for signing up is the **11th of October**.

And while you are waiting why not check out the best renewable energy supply for your home and business – see what's available and get a best price quote via the [Big Clean Switch](#).



SSDC Partnership Offers Home Improvement & Energy Efficiency Loans

SSDC has a long established partnership with Lendology, an FCA regulated financial services company based in Taunton, to offer home improvement and energy efficiency loans to our local residents.

From improving energy efficiency, installing renewable energy technology, undertaking retrofit projects and supporting landlords to meet Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards, Lendology are able to provide a loan that meets your requirements.

Making your home energy efficient not only reduces your bills and saves you money, but it is also good for the environment. An energy-efficient home can lower your carbon footprint, reduce heat loss and potentially increase the value of your home. Renewable energy is one part of the solution but making smaller energy improvements to your home can also create a big difference.

For more details, please visit the Lendology website [here](#).



Queen's Green Canopy - Plant a Tree for the Jubilee!

Next year marks the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and SSDC are looking to support communities in their celebrations across the District marking this occasion.

One element of the celebrations is a tree planting initiative called '**The Queen's Green Canopy**'. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from November 2021, when the tree-planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

Free trees are available to schools, community groups, and Parish Councils from the Woodland Trust and can be applied for [here](#).

The [Queen's Green Canopy](#) will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate.

If you have the space (and landowner permission) to participate in the tree planting initiative and would like support scoping an appropriate planting scheme, including funding and sourcing trees then please also email the SSDC Environment team as we would like to compile a list and find out how we can help: SSDCEnvironment@SouthSomerset.Gov.Uk

All projects are asked to register via the [Queen's Green Canopy](#) website so an inventory of plantings can be maintained to mark the occasion.

**Did you enjoy a summer event at
Ham Hill?**



There were some fantastic activities at Ham Hill over the summer. We hope you were able to go and had a wonderful time. If you did, we'd love to get your feedback to know how we did so please let us know what you thought! [Follow this link](#) to complete a short survey so that we can plan even better events for 2022. #feedback #wildlife



Recycle More is recycling (a lot) more!

Somerset's new Recycle More service has already delivered thousands of extra tonnes of recycling and proved extremely popular among residents.

Launched in Mendip in October last year and here in South Somerset at the end of June, it is estimated that the expanded weekly collections have produced more than 6,000 extra tonnes of recycling – including more than 1,000 tonnes of extra plastic.

Great that it's not going to landfill, but hopefully now plastic is being separated people can see how much they are using and **choose to refuse to reduce plastic waste.**

Parish Environment Champions

Parish Environment Champions Wildflower Seminar tonight!

We're looking forward to welcoming our parish environment representatives to our online Wildflower Seminar via zoom this evening 7pm - 8.30 pm. You should have received an invite and link to join in your inbox, or you can use this link to join.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93891008286>

Meeting ID: 938 9100 8286

Come along and hear from Plantlife expert Dr Katy Petty, our horticultural lead at SSDC and Stoford and Barwick Parish Environment Champion Jem Langworthy, who will tell us how he created space to go wild in his 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 CLIMATE FORUM



SCOP26+ (Somerset Coalition of Parishes)
CLIMATE EVENT
6th November 2021 1-6pm
EDGAR HALL SOMERTON

The Levels SCOP26+ Climate Forum 6th Nov 2021

In November, more than 190 world leaders will come together for the United Nations COP26 climate summit in Glasgow to try and agree urgent action on climate change.

To support this global effort, the Levels Climate Forum is inviting all Somerset parishes to the SCOP26+ Climate Conference at the Edgar Hall in Somerton on Sat 6 Nov from 1pm-6pm.

SCOP26+ 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. There will be talks on land management and climate adaptation, along with workshops on a number of topics.

Rupert Farthing of the Carymoor Trust will talk about the support the charity gives to schools and Parishes and there will be a DIY guide to making a low cost sensor to measure air pollution levels in your parish, plus more ideas and project examples.

There will also be ample time to network with other parishes, find common ground and share ideas. You can send a councillor, an environment champion, or a community representative.

SCOP26+ stands for the Somerset Coalition of Parishes on Climate Change.

RSVP | SCOP26+ organiser Mo Fletcher
email | mo.fletcher@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk



Mad about the environment? Your parish needs you!

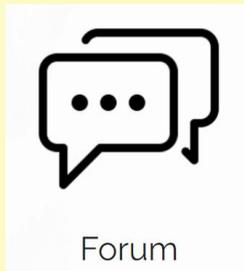
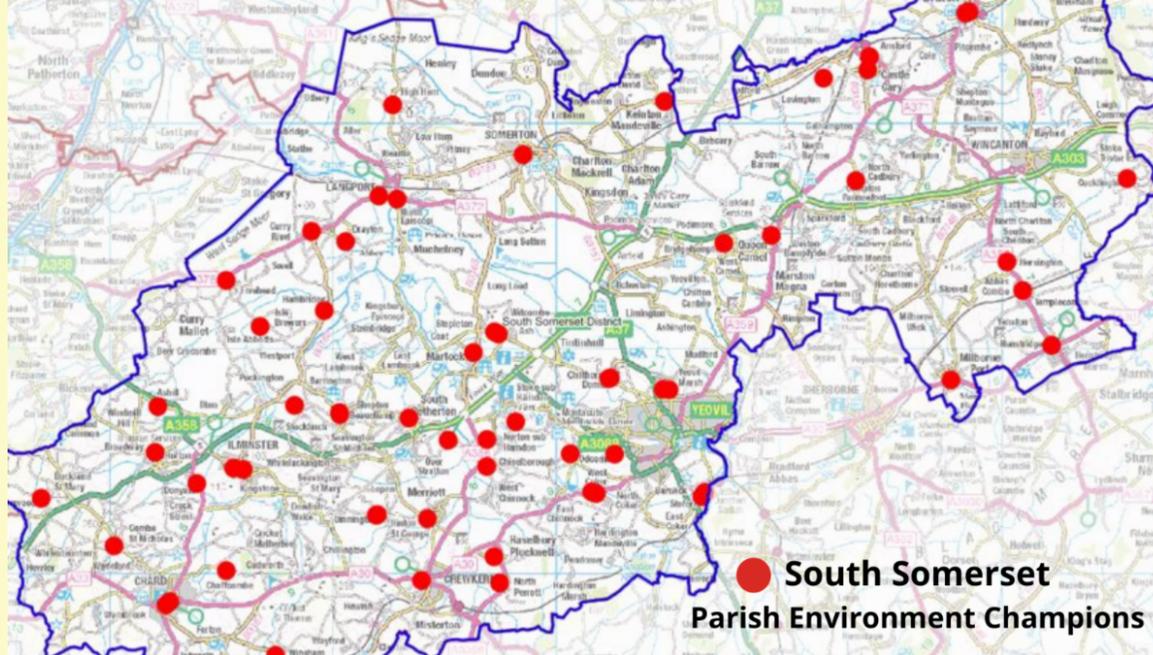
It's brilliant that there are already 68 Environment Champions representing their parishes across the district, however, there are still some gaps where representation would be welcomed.

You do not need to be a parish councillor to become a champion, although links to the local council may be useful.

Champions have engaged with us in a variety of ways whether it be accepting tree packs, nominating no mow spaces, participating in events or providing content for Get SuSSed, and in some places we have champions sharing their own particular areas of expertise.

You can view our map of environment champions on the South Somerset Environment website [here](#).

If you see a need for a champion where you live and would like to nominate yourself or someone in your Parish we'd love to hear from you. **Please get in touch with us at ssdcenvironment@southsomerset.gov.uk**



Forum

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.

COP 26



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 and we'll feature it here!
Email: ssdcenvironment@southsomerset.gov.uk