

TOWN AND PARISH BRIEFING

DECEMBER 10, 2021



Here is your fortnightly update on South Somerset District Council news, including meetings, Coronavirus Support, Local Government Reorganisation, and more from the past 14 days. This will be the final update this year but additional key messages may be sent as needed by email.

You can also keep up to date on news with our website 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

[Visit our Website](#)

Upcoming Meetings

[Area North \(Informal\) - Wednesday 15 November 2pm](#)

[Full Council - Thursday 16 December 6.30am](#)

[LGR joint committee - Friday 17 December 2pm](#)

[Regulation \(informal\) - Tuesday 21 December 10am](#)

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



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.

[Find out more here](#)

The countywide support page [can be found here.](#)



Featured News



Prime Minister confirms move to Plan B in England

Move to Plan B confirmed as Omicron spreads across UK, with early analysis suggesting cases could be doubling at a rate of as little as 2.5 to 3 days...

[Read more](#)
www.gov.uk



Make a difference this Christmas in a special raffle

South Somerset District Council is teaming up with Yeovil Hospital Charity this Christmas to offer something a little special to raise a smile and funds for this worthy cause. The Council is supporting a raffle to support in aid of the charity...

[Read more](#)
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SSDC provides young people with a Kickstart

South Somerset District Council has provided 21 employment opportunities to young people facing unemployment with the Government's Kickstart Scheme. The 21 young people are on full-time six-month contracts through the scheme and it is proving a...

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South Somerset District Council welcomes guilty verdicts

The owner and manager of properties that are privately rented in Yeovil have been successfully prosecuted after failing to comply with improvement notices and other offences. In a recent case at Taunton Magistrates Court, David and Joanna Fuller...

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Think outside the box and cut the card this Christmas

Festive shoppers are asked to think outside the box this year as figures reveal the scale of Somerset's cardboard culture. The cardboard collected from the average Somerset home has increased by more than a third compared ...

[Read more](#)

www.somersetwaste.gov.uk



New grant scheme set to open for South Somerset businesses



Boost your Business with a Business Growth Grant

Businesses in South Somerset seeking to grow, innovate and become more productive will soon be able to apply for a Business Growth Grant. The Business Growth Grant is being made available by South Somerset District Council, as part of the support ...

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Local Authority Delivery scheme improves energy efficiency

South Somerset, Mendip, Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton district councils worked together with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) to secure funding to deliver energy efficiency improvements for park homes across Somerset. Funding was ...

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Young people in South Somerset bowled over by success

South Somerset District Council (SSDC) has worked in partnership with Somerset Cricket Foundation to deliver exciting sessions to more than 1500 children and young people over the past 6 months. Working with...

[Read more](#)
www.southsomerset.gov.uk

All adults to be offered COVID-19 boosters by end of January

All eligible adults in England aged 18 and over will be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine by the end of January.

[Read more](#)
www.gov.uk

Coronavirus - further advice

You may find the guidance on the Local Government Association website helpful at this time

[Find out more here](#)

If you need posters or other resources (including new Stay Alert messaging) for your communities at this time, you can create a free account and download resources from Public Health England

[Find out more here](#)

Further support and news

Weekly update: Covid-19

You can continue to keep track of the Covid-19 rates in Somerset using the Dashboard [which can be found here](#) and [the latest news here](#). Infection rates have shown a small decrease across Somerset with cases per 100,000 people falling from 521.1 in South Somerset on November 29 to 479.4 on December 6.

A number of new requirements came into place this week in response to the Omicron variant as the Government announced "Plan B".

You must wear a face covering in most indoor public places, at large venues and events, and on public transport.

From 13 December, you should work from home if you can. This will be observed by SSDC except in instances where essential work needs to be carried out in a workplace.

Where work can only be done in the workplace, the Government has set out tailored guidelines for employers to help protect their workforce and customers from Coronavirus. There are [secure guidelines](#), which have been developed in consultation with businesses and trades unions.

Our Connect office in Yeovil will remain open to the public, but there will be skeleton staff to ensure we can provide a service, while maintaining staff safety.

From 15 December you'll need to show an [NHS COVID Pass](#) at nightclubs, some venues and large events to show you're fully vaccinated, have had a negative test result in the last 48 hours, or you have an exemption.

If you're a contact of someone who may have been infected with the Omicron variant, you must self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of your age, vaccination



status or any negative test results.

People aged 40 and over can now pre-book a booster vaccine 2 months after their second dose. [Book your booster vaccination appointment online](#) or [find a walk-in clinic](#). The NHS will contact you when you are eligible to book your booster dose.

Weekly Update: Local Government Reorganisation

The draft Structural Changes Order, the document that sets the legal basis for the new council, has now been passed over to Parliamentary lawyers. This is due to be published in January and we expect approval by the end of March.

With the Government announcing new restrictions to slow the spread of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, all programme meetings are now being conducted remotely until further notice.

The LGR Advisory Board meeting planned for Stoke St. Gregory on 16 December, will now be held online. A link to the online event will be circulated shortly at www.newsomersetcouncil.org.uk

It is currently anticipated that Notice of Election in 2022 will be posted on 21 March. This means the pre-election period (previously known as purdah) will come into force from 21 March – 5 May. We will provide further information round this when it is available.

Take part in a raffle to support Yeovil Hospital

South Somerset District Council is teaming up with Yeovil Hospital Charity this Christmas to offer something a little special to raise a smile and funds for this worthy cause.

The Council is supporting a raffle to support in aid of the charity that funds new projects, buildings and equipment at the hospital to make a difference for patients.

A range of prizes have been donated by council services from pantomime tickets to a woodland experience with our ranger team.

James Kirton, Head of Fundraising at Yeovil Hospital Charity said: "We have always received a huge amount of support from SSDC, whether that is individual staff members, the councillors themselves or the council as a whole. It is pleasure to be working with them on this Christmas raffle and we hope that as many people as possible can get involved and help us to raise lots of money for our much-loved local hospital."

To keep everyone Covid-safe, the raffle will be run online so you can buy tickets virtually.

The [link to take part is here](#).

Each ticket will cost £1 and every ticket bought will make a difference.

Chard drop-in is a chance to discuss flooding and future resilience

Local people and business owners in Chard are invited to a drop-in event, pending any Covid restrictions, to share their experiences and concerns about flooding.

The drop-in event on Monday, 24 January 2022, hosted by Somerset County Council and Chard Town Council, will give people the chance to talk to representatives from key organisations about the flooding in June and October in Chard and surrounding villages. As well as the County Council and Town Council, South Somerset District Council, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Somerset Rivers Authority and Wessex Water will also be represented.

The event takes place at the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP from 12.30pm to 6.30pm and will be followed by a Chard Town Council meeting at 6.30pm to discuss the formation of a Chard Flood Resilience Group.

Social distancing will be observed and all those attending are asked to please wear a face covering.

SSDC Community Grants

Just a reminder to all Town and Parish Councils that we have funding available through our community grants scheme. You can apply for funding from £101 to a maximum of £12,500. Funding is up to 50% the total project cost.. We accept applications all year round. Look on our website for further details - <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-plan-and-strategies/communities/grants-and-other-support-for-the-voluntary-and-community-sector>

You are welcome to forward the link to any groups in your parish who may be interested in applying for a community grant or include it on your website or Facebook pages.

Consultations

We would appreciate your support in promoting the following active consultations:

On site events at Ham Hill - information will go towards planning our future activities for our National Lottery Heritage Fund project

<https://consultation.southsomerset.gov.uk/countryside/on-site-events-at-ham-hill/>



Latest Coronavirus updates

Latest information and advice on Coronavirus (COVID-19) from Somerset County Council and the NHS in Somerset Somerset Coronavirus Helpline If you can't find the help you need on this website, or your need is more urgent, please phone the Somerset ...

[Read more](#)

www.somerset.gov.uk

Covid-19: Further key links

- [Guidance for local councils and LRFs during the coronavirus outbreak:](#)