



South Somerset
District Council



Committed to be
Carbon Neutral by
2030

GET SuSSed

Sustainable South Somerset Education

Issue no.21 May 2022

Welcome back from Sarah Dyke

And what a welcome back it is! As the summer season sets in, our environmental teams at SSDC have been doing a huge amount of groundwork, including biodiversity surveys, conservation initiatives and confirming our 2022/23 Environment Action Plan!

We also have a huge variety of upcoming events and opportunities as well as some key environment dates for the diary!

Read on to find out more about the incredible work going in to making our Environment Action Plan a reality.

Best eco wishes from Sarah x



SSDC Green News



Our NEW Environment Action Plan 2022/23

We are excited to announce a new Environment Action plan for 2022/23. The plan sets out the key actions that our team will deliver, and also the things we hope to enable in our communities

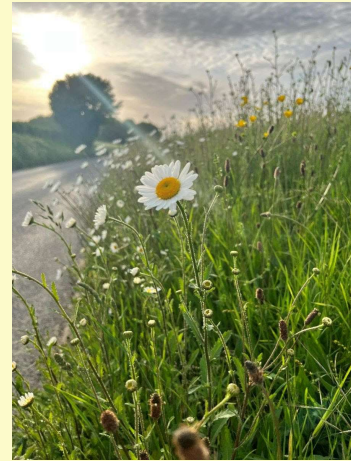
throughout the year. This year the environment is a top area of focus within our Council plan, you can see the ambitious targets that we aim to deliver throughout the year [here](#).

The new action plan is broken down into clear targets and actions under seven main categories including; the overarching plan, our carbon footprint, energy efficiency and retrofitting, transport, resources and recycling, the natural environment, and enabling change through others.

There is also a big section on Business as Usual – all those things that have become part of day job since the adoption of the original strategy in 2019; like bringing you Get SuSSed every month! The team are immensely proud of what has been achieved to date at SSDC but we remain determined to lead the way for sustainable change.

The new Environment Action Plan will be loaded onto the environment web site next week and we will feature a link in next month's Get SuSSed.

UPDATE: No Mow Conservation



To make sure we are delivering against our declaration of a climate and ecological emergency, and in response to the success of last year's 'No Mow' Trials, SSDC is making a number of changes to the way we manage some green spaces!

Currently, SSDC is contracted by Highways Somerset to cut highway verges four times per year, however, we previously chose to cut sixteen times a year to effectively maintain SSDC verges. In rural areas, we will now be decreasing our cuts to six times a year which promotes increased biodiversity and our rewilding programme, whilst in urban areas, we will cut 11 times per year to ensure all areas are frequently maintained so footpaths and visibility are not affected.

This new regime not only reduces our carbon footprint through a reduction in fuel usage, but also promotes flower and grass species to prosper, ensures the areas can effectively sustain our pollinators and provide new habitats for all species. Wild plants can also flower and then set seed, hopefully creating enough nectar for a greater number bees and other pollinators!

**Public Sector
Decarbonisation: Solar
panels incoming!**

We are pleased to announce the estimated completion dates of the solar panel installation works that will take place at our Freedom Leisure Centres as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.



- Work at Wincanton Sports Centre will begin 30 May 2022, and will be completed by 17 June 2022.
- The Goldenstones Leisure Centre solar panel installation will begin 2 June 2022, and finish 29 June 2022.
- Westlands Sports and Leisure Centre work will begin 8 June, and is due for completion on 29 June 2022.

These new PVs will help to reduce the carbon emissions from our leisure centres, providing clean energy direct from the roofs!

To find out more about the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme, [click here.](#)



FIXY: Love your stuff for longer!

From the growing network of Somerset repair cafes to the new FIXY van touring Somerset, repairing possessions is a great way to help people spend less, waste less and connect more.

This month Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) has officially launched its new repair service, Fixy, an initiative aiming to increase the repair and reuse of electrical goods. Recycling is great, but repair and reuse are even better. Electricals are full of valuable raw materials and making new items uses huge amounts of energy. Reusing them helps tackle climate change.

From toasters to tablets, record players to remote controls. If it has a plug or takes batteries, the new Fixy service is about giving your goods a new lease of life if it stops working – making it easier for people to 'love stuff for longer'!

So where's FIXY? For a list of repair cafes across Somerset and events where Fixy will be attending, visit SWP's website [here.](#)

Upcoming events include:

- Saturday 25 June 10am-4pm – [Stoke St Gregory EnviroFair](#)
- Saturday 16 July – [Ecofair Yeovil](#)

Holding a repair cafe or other event you would like Fixy to attend?
Email fixy@somersetwaste.gov.uk to request it's attendance.

Second 'Super Nature Reserve' announced in England.... And it's in Somerset!

Last week, Somerset Wetlands was announced as the second 'super nature reserve' by Natural England, after the first site was chosen in Purbeck, Dorset in 2020. Somerset Wetlands covers an area of 6,140 hectares of salt marsh, heath and wetland, which is home to significant populations of birds and insects.



The status means further work towards increasing biodiversity by improving the quality of habitats and monitoring plant and animal populations. To read more on the subject, [click here](#).

Parish Environment Champions



REVIEW: River Walk

We had a great opportunity for our Environment Champions to see a working and developed river restoration project on Dodham Brook in Yeovil, hosted by Yeovil Rivers Community Trust (YRCT).

We discussed all kinds of topics from where to find funding, invasive species management, riparian landownership and even the best method of insurance. You can see all the details regarding what YRCT are doing [here](#).

We are committed to working together to make a difference

A reminder that we are always looking to expand our Parish Environment Champion network!



Our Environment Champion network is made up of an expanding group of town and parish councillors and residents who are passionate about the environment and are willing to volunteer their time to share best practice and support within their local community.

For more information of how to get involved and to see a list of where our Champions are currently located [click here](#).

Future Environment Events

Check out our [events](#) page on the [South Somerset Environment Website](#) for full details:



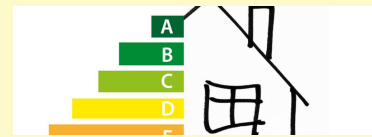
30 May - 1 June 2022: 'Giving Dodham a Hand' activities - Yeovil Country Park

Join the rangers this half term for their 'Giving Dodham a Hand' activity days. Visit Yeovil Country Park for a wild and historic day out for children and adults alike. Pond dipping, heritage handing, seed bomb making, and building minibeast mansions, all for FREE!

Walk, cycle, scoot or skate! If you're able to avoid driving, please do so. We're trying our hardest to keep our carbon footprint down with this project, so we'd really appreciate it. You'll have goodies to take home with you, so please bring a bag.

All the activities will be taking place by the main pond at Ninesprings, in and around the pond dipping zone. Visit the [Yeovil Country Park Facebook Page](#) to find out more!

9 June 2022: Somerset Green Open Homes – Retrofitting webinar: 1965-80 Detached Homes (7:00pm-9:00pm) - Virtual



Thinking of improving the energy efficiency of your home? Do you want to reduce your fuel costs? Join Somerset Green Open Homes for the first of their virtual events looking at retrofitting.

In this webinar, we will be meeting two households in South Somerset to share their experiences so far on their retrofitting journey. Measures that will be discussed include cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, air source heat pumps, solar hot water and solar PV.

Somerset Green Open Homes is a project from the Somerset Retrofit Accelerator project, a partnership between the four District Councils, Frome, Bruton and Glastonbury Town Councils, Somerset Independence Plus and the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Want to find out more? [Book your place here.](#)



12 June 2022: Green Scythe Fair - Thorney Lakes Caravan and Camping Park, Thorney, Langport (all day event)

This volunteer run environment fair, set within the beautiful Somerset Levels, offers workshops, stalls, food, entertainment, and of course a scything competition! Tickets are expected to sell out fast, so grab yours [here](#) to avoid missing out!

17 June 2022: Somerset Water Forum – J24 Conference Centre (10:00am - 4:00pm)

What's different about how Somerset is tackling current and future flooding, drought, biodiversity and water quality challenges?



Attend this event to hear from some of Somerset's most innovative projects surrounding topics such as climate change, water quality, flooding and working with nature. Find out what's being done now – and what needs to be done next at this FREE event (with lunch provided)! You can book your place [here](#).



18 June 2022: Energy Transition Conference: Communities delivering local net-zero - Engineer's House, Bristol (9:30am - 4:30pm)

How do we approach the race to net-zero? How can we effectively deliver low-carbon community projects and implement smart local energy systems?

These questions are just a few of the ones that will be discussed and answered at this FREE energy transition conference. Join Community Energy England, co-organised with Bristol Energy Network on Saturday 18 June at Engineer's House in Bristol. Places are limited so book your place now. The event will include a range of informative, engaging workshops, talks and networking opportunities. [Full details here](#).

15 July 2022: Health and Climate Conference by Green and Healthy Future for Frome - Cheese and Grain, Frome (9:30am - 5:30pm)

Health and climate change - how are they connected? Does taking action to improve one, create opportunities to improve the other?



A unique partnership - Edventure Frome, Frome Medical Practice and Frome Town Council - is working together to achieve health and climate win-wins in Frome. Join them on 15 July to learn about our impact, ways to get involved and models for making change in your own community. To find out more and book your tickets, [click here](#).

In the Community

Launch of Community Adaption Toolkit for Community Halls



Community Adapation Tool Kit

HELPING VILLAGE HALLS PREPARE FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE

The Community Adaptation Toolkit (CATkit) for village halls has been designed by a local student at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) to help village hall committees to carry out an audit of their halls in order to assess its potential vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. To trial it with your community hall please

download the toolkit on our [website here](#).

In addition you can also download the Community Council for Somerset's "*Community Buildings DIY Energy Audit*", a handy starting point when assessing how to reduce energy use in your community building.