

**SOMERSET COUNCIL**  
**Frome Town Council**  
**Cllr Dawn Denton**  
**April 2024**

**Somerset Press Releases:** You can view all the Somerset County Council press releases for the last month using this link: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/newsroom/>

**School Crossing Funding:** There was a discussion about the schools losing some of their funding for school crossings. No final decisions have been made post-budget setting for 2024/2025, but we do hope to hear soon.

**B3090:** the road from the Fromefield Co Op into town is in desperate need of tarmacking. There is council money for this work to be completed, but there was a problem with the contractor. As soon as new agreements have been signed, this road will be repaired.

**Frome Leisure Centre energy efficiency upgrades:** Phase 2 of the government's Swimming Pool Support Fund has been awarded to Somerset Council. Frome Leisure Centre, run by Fusion, will get new swimming pool covers and Photovoltaic (PV) Panels installed on the roof.

**Council Tax Band:** If you think your council tax band is wrong, you can challenge your current band. You could move to a cheaper band and may receive the difference in a back-payment lumpsum. But you also risk being put into a lower, and more expensive tax band. More information: <https://www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band>

**Cockey Lamps:** I have met with two members of the Frome Society for Local Studies. They are getting all Frome Cockey Lamps listed as heritage sites and assets. Once this is complete, they will start applying for funding to get them all restored to their original colour, style, and glory.

**Vision for Frome:** over the past year all head teachers and other education organisations have come together monthly to look at the educational provision in Frome. The last session looked at how we can use what has been gathered over the past 12 months to have a positive impact on education in the town and surrounding villages. Getting more businesses to sign up to get involved with Work Experience is often a struggle, and I will be meeting with the relevant people at Somerset Council to see how we can help, especially Frome College, which is in my division.

**Mendip local plan consultation:** Following a High Court Order to make amendments to the Mendip Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2). Somerset Council is undertaking a formal consultation to review and reconsider housing sites for at least 505 dwellings in the Mendip area. The consultation runs until 12 April 2024 and as the Council is making changes to a development plan, proposed sites are subject to formal consultation before submission for public examination. The consultation only makes proposals in the former Mendip District (Somerset East) area and is intended to ensure that views of statutory consultees, communities and other stakeholders are captured and considered. More information can be accessed at <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/mendip-local-plan-part-ii-limited-update-reg-18/>

**Somerset Road Safety:** Tragically, 30 people died while travelling on Somerset's roads in 2023 – nearly 43 per cent up on the figure for 2022 and the highest number of fatalities in 10 years. According to Avon and Somerset Police 76 per cent of the collisions involve one or more of the following five behaviours: Intoxicated driving, (drink or drugs); Careless or inconsiderate driving; Excessive Speed; Mobile phone use or distraction; or Failing to Wear a Seatbelt. Of the 30 fatal casualties, 11 were car drivers, 12 motorcyclists, four were car passengers, and three were pedestrians.

**Britain in Bloom:** Established by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), the Britain in Bloom initiative celebrates the best of community gardening. This year Yeovil in Bloom is a finalist of the Large Town category, after winning gold in the St Bridget Cup at the South West in Bloom Awards 2023. Glastonbury in Bloom is a finalist of the Town category, following their success at winning gold in the Preece Cup in last year's regional awards and Cannington in Bloom is a finalist of the Large Village category, following their win of the Cox Cup in the 2023 regional awards.

**New electric buses:** Twenty-five new electric buses are being funded by a £2.2 million grant from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme, along with a further £12.5million investment from Buses of Somerset. The electric buses will replace part of the current diesel fleet operating out of Hamilton Road depot and service the following routes 28 – Taunton to Minehead; 21 – Taunton to Bridgwater; 22 – Taunton to Wellington; 1 – Taunton Town Service and 2 – Taunton Town Service

**Voter registration:** Residents are being urged to register to vote and check their Voter ID so they can have their say on who represents them in the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner election. The deadline to register to vote is midnight on Tuesday 16 April.

It takes just a few minutes to apply online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm Wednesday 17 April.

**Purple chair scheme:** Purple chairs are being installed in Somerset's libraries in Bridgwater, Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Taunton, Williton and Yeovil to provide a safe space for women and girls to get information about health and wellbeing, as well as support and resources available to them including: Antenatal and postnatal care, breast cancer support, domestic abuse support, cervical screening, anti-social behaviour and harassment.

**Additional funding for swimming pools:** Somerset Council has been awarded £316,700 of grant funding from Phase 2 of the government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF). The ringfenced money from Sport England and the National Lottery will be used to install new energy efficiency measures in four Somerset leisure centres – Wells, Chard, Yeovil and Frome. Somerset has previously been awarded £211,208 in 2023 as part of SPSF Phase 1 funding.

**Go Green Scheme:** Somerset Council has secured £100,000 from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support 150 eligible companies under the Go Green Scheme. This scheme helps businesses to understand their energy consumption and show how it can be reduced. The scheme offers free energy audits and support to develop individual, costed and prioritised sustainability plans. Further information on the Go Green Scheme 'empowering Somerset businesses to go green' is available at [www.gogreenscheme.org.uk](http://www.gogreenscheme.org.uk)

**Green Business Grants:** These grants are available for Somerset based SME's who already have sustainability plans in place. The aim of the grants is to provide financial assistance to take forward identified measures to reduce energy consumption and costs as well as carbon emissions. Grants can fund up to 50% of total eligible project costs, with the remainder funded by the applicant. Round 2 of the Green Business Grants is now open with an application deadline of 30 April 2024. If a grant is approved activity and expenditure will need to be completed by 30 November 2024. More information can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/funding-and-grants-for-business/>

Best wishes,

*Dawn*