

## **SOMERSET COUNCILLOR REPORT FOR FROME TOWN COUNCIL: 12 JULY 2023**

### **ADAM BOYDEN, SOMERSET COUNCILLOR FOR FROME NORTH**

This is a summary, the long read including for villages in Frome North is on my website.

**Waste and recycling strike action suspended:** Strike action which was planned to start on Wednesday 12th July for four weeks by waste collection crews employed by Somerset Council's contractor Suez, has been suspended, after talks yesterday led to an improved pay off from Suez and union Unite agreed to suspend the strike for two weeks to ballot its membership on it. There is a risk of industrial action in the future but the immediate threat of disruption to waste and recycling collections across Somerset has been avoided. Residents are asked to put out refuse, recycling and garden waste as usual. Please see [www.somerset.gov.uk/strike](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/strike) for further updates.'

**'Call for sites' to complete Mendip Local Plan:** Somerset Council's Executive agreed yesterday to a timetable to commence the Mendip Local Plan Part 2 site allocations review, to satisfy a High Court Order. This arose from the successful legal challenge by Norton St Philip Parish Council last year. The review will start with a 'call for sites' in the former Mendip District area, from 24th July for 6 weeks to 4th September. This is to identify sufficient development sites (that are available, suitable and deliverable by 2029) for 505 dwellings to be allocated for residential development in an update to the Mendip Local Plan. Submitted sites will then be assessed, and a Preferred Option site allocations document will be subject to public consultations, Examination and adoption to a set timescale. This will be discussed at Somerset Council's Climate & Place Scrutiny Committee, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Packsaddle:** The deadline for comments on LiveWest's planning application ref. 2023/0864/FUL has now passed. Twenty cattle have been introduced to graze the site and if there are any health and safety issues please contact [estates@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:estates@somerset.gov.uk).

**Fly nuisance around Frome sewage works:** In late June I and other councillors and residents met Wessex Water to review the effectiveness of the trial period of netting over the filter beds. This was judged a success and the netting will continue permanently. Wessex Water stated that the monitoring over the last year had found between 77-87% less chironomids and window gnats above the nets than below the nets. Residents have mainly reported a large fall in the number and frequency of flies, but some still get through. The swift boxes and bat boxes help, and other measures are being looked into to reduce flies further. The Fly Management Plan for the site will be updated and reviewed by Somerset Council. Wessex Water will be writing to residents by letter to give an update, and will also be publishing a scientific paper about the effectiveness of the netting, which could provide lessons for other water companies.

**20 mph speed limits invitation:** Somerset Council has invited all parish/town councils to consider submitting an expression of interest to support the design and implementation of a 20mph speed limit in their areas. The cost would be in the region of £15,000, with a £500 application fee to cover an initial assessment. Some residents in Fromefield have requested a 20mph speed limit for some time.

Please see <https://adamboyden.mycouncillor.org.uk/2023/07/09/julynews/> for other news:

- Selwood Academy significant change consultation
- Somerset Council's survey to review support for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector
- Somerset energy support
- Climate and Place Scrutiny meeting next week
- Have your say on Somerset Council's Licensing Policy (deadline 13th July)

- Grants for rural businesses and organisations
- Somerset Pride
- Car park charges
- Electric vehicle charging delayed
- Transport and fleet policy decisions
- Highways surface dressing underway this year - includes Gypsy Lane and Cuckoo Lane
- Somerset Council Executive meeting – Public Health report, and Medium Term Financial Strategy

Please get in touch if you have any concerns or questions. I hope this is useful.

*Best wishes, Adam*

Adam Boyden, Somerset Councillor for Frome North (Lib Dem)

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