

County Councillor Update
Coker Division SCC
Cllr Mark Keating
June 2020



Representing you in - Barwick, Chiselborough, Closworth, East Chinnock, East Coker, Hardington Manderville, Hardington Marsh, Hardington Moor, Haselbury Plucknett, Middle Chinnock, Montacute, North Coker, North Perrott, Norton Sub Hamdon, Odcombe, Pendomer, Sutton Bingham, Stoford, West Chinnock, West Coker.

Useful Contacts Resources and Websites: [**Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: 0300 7906275**](tel:03007906275)

Cllr Mark Keating – Somerset County Council	E: MAKeating@Somerset.gov.uk	M: 07767 203968
South Somerset Area Highways Office	E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Report Pothole/Road Defect	E: roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Report Dead Animal/Mud on Road	E: roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Neil McWilliams – Highways Service Manager	E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Lee Norman/Derek Davies – Assist Highways Service Manager	E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Garry Warren/Rebecca Vaughan – Traffic Engineer. Traffic & Transport Development	E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Gully Emptying / Road Sweeper	E: chris.holley@southsomerset.gov.uk	T: 01935 462462
Nick Allen – SSDC Ranger Scheme	E: nick.allen@southsomerset.gov.uk	T: 01935 462462
Road Records & Highway Licensing	E: Roadrecords@Somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224

Report Adult at Risk	adults@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224 T: Emergency: 999
Report Child at Risk	childrens@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224 T: Emergency: 999
Children’s Social Care Worker out of hours Emergency Duty Team		T: 0300 123 2327
Fostering and Adoption www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk	AandFRrecruitmentenquiryline@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0800 587 9900
www.somersetwaste.gov.uk	ssdc@southsomerset.gov.uk	T: 01935 462462
https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/	Travel - Drive Bus Train Walk Cycle Weather	
www.somerset.gov.uk	generalenquiries@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
http://roadworks.org/	Useful website for road works info	
www.facebook.com/somersetcountycouncil	Somerset County Council Facebook page	
https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map	Interactive Rights of Way Map / maintenance reporting	

Hendford Court Nursing Home: you will be aware having retrained, I am currently working 12 hours shifts weekly as a Health Care Assistant at Hendford Court Nursing Home, caring for covid-19 positive patients leaving NHS Somerset hospitals who are not at the stage where they can be at home. Please be assured that I am continuing to undertake my usual duties as your County Councillor, I am available on the phone and by e-mail, although I am not committing to attend any parish monthly meetings either in person or on Zoom. My contact details are on the front page. Regards, Mark.

Pic front page: 10 year old Amelie's picture - she kindly sent to us at Hendford Court. Parents/Teachers we would be delighted to receive and display locals children's art on our bare walls for the enjoyment of nurses, carers and patients. Post to: Hendford Court Nursing Home, 166 Hendford Hill Yeovil BA20 2RG

Please stay safe!

- **Keep 2m apart when out**
- **Keep washing your hands**
- **Keep vulnerable individuals safe**
- **Get tested if you have symptoms**

Test and Trace Scam Alert: Somerset Trading Standards at SCC is warning residents to be aware of scammers looking to exploit the new NHS Test and Trace service. The government system, which launched last week, is designed to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by quickly testing people with symptoms and either phoning, texting or emailing whoever they have had close contact with to tell them to isolate for 14 days. There are concerns that some people, particularly the vulnerable or elderly, could be susceptible to fake calls or messages from criminals looking to get access to personal information or trick them into handing over money.

Contact tracers WILL:

- call you from 0300 013 5000
- send you text messages from 'NHS'
- ask you to sign into the NHS test and trace contact-tracing website
- ask for your full name and date of birth to confirm your identity, and postcode to offer support while self-isolating
- ask about the coronavirus symptoms you have been experiencing
- ask you to provide the name, telephone number and/or email address of anyone you have had close contact with in the 2 days prior to your symptoms starting
- ask if anyone you have been in contact with is under 18 or lives outside of England

Contact tracers WILL NEVER:

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product of any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account
- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- disclose any of your personal or medical information to your contacts
- provide medical advice on the treatment of any potential coronavirus symptoms
- ask you to download software to your PC or ask for control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS

One Somerset Engagement: Surveys of residents and businesses across the county will take place from this week as Somerset County Council gathers views towards disbanding all five councils and setting up a new single Unitary Authority. It follows a decision in February that Somerset County Council will look to reduce duplication and waste across the five councils and instead involve communities more closely in decisions that have an impact in their area through a new One Somerset approach.

Waste crime: The Environment Agency is urging households to play their part in preventing waste crime during the coronavirus pandemic. There are some easy steps the public can take to take to avoid unwittingly contributing to waste crime – more details here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/households-urged-to-play-their-part-in-preventing-waste-crime>

Domestic Abuse: Not everyone recognises they are in an abusive relationship and may worry about being at home or wonder what they might get wrong this time.

Victims begin to doubt themselves and believe the abuse is their fault – or change their behaviour because they are worried how someone at home or a family member might react. Not all domestic abuse is physical.

That's why Somerset County Council is continuing to promote its campaign, #NoClosedDoors2020, which is spreading the word about the different types of abuse, the signs to look out for and where to get support – empowering victims to find a route out of cycles of abuse.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone regardless of race, ethnic or religious group, class, disability, lifestyle, nationality or age and can take many forms: Physical and sexual abuse; Financial/economic abuse; Coercive control; Psychological abuse and 'gaslighting'; Emotional abuse; Stalking or Harassment; Online abuse; Verbal abuse

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, worried about someone you know, or are concerned about the impact of your behaviour towards others, then help is available: www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk or by telephoning **0800 69 49 999**

Council Finances Y.E. 19/20: Positive Financial Results and a major boost to reserves have put Somerset County Council in a strong position to cope with the coronavirus crisis. In the last financial year April 2019 – March 2020, Somerset County Council increased its reserves to £76.2m across the board and delivered efficiencies that enabled a £6.4m underspend.

It comes as councils across the country are struggling with increased costs and reduced income due to the coronavirus pandemic. Looking forward SCC estimates additional costs of around £43.1m to help communities deal with coronavirus, including £16.7m related to adult services and £7.8m for children's services will be required. Further resources will be required in the coming year to support and fund a range of initiatives that support business and families across the county.

Somerset Carers Week: Somerset is celebrating National Carers Week this week (8-14 June) to raise awareness and celebrate the vital role of Somerset's estimated 50,000 carers. The annual campaign was launched to highlight the challenges faced by unpaid carers, and to recognise the vital contribution they make to families and communities across the UK. The campaign also seeks to raise awareness about who should be classed as a carer – helping people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access the support they need.

Carer's assessments can help identify a carer's support needs, and these can be accessed via Somerset Direct on 0300 790 6275. However, a formal carer's assessment is not necessary to access support – the Somerset Carers service is free, open to all, and can provide a range of support to those who need it. The service can be reached by phoning 0800 3168600, or by visiting the website: <https://somersecarers.org/>

This year, Somerset County Council is celebrating Carers Week by asking carers to get creative and share photos of their work via a new Facebook group, Somerset Creative Carers Connect. Groups are also being set up across the county as part of Somerset Creative Carers Connect, so carers will be able to meet others in their area to build a support network and explore their creativity.

For those who are shielding, Somerset-based dementia charity Reminiscence Learning have been offering free weekday activities such as quizzes, story-telling, music, and crafts which can be attended via Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/ReminiscenceLearning/>.

Talking cafés – which offer help, advice and support and previously took place in local venues – have also been moved to Facebook Live, with 11am sessions taking place daily: <https://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/>

Get Digitally Silly This Summer! – 4 – 11 years olds

This year sees the return of the ever-popular Summer Reading Challenge with a slight twist; a new digital platform called the "Silly Squad" will offer lots of fun and exciting adventures to keep children between 4 and 11 years old entertained.

Whilst the Summer Reading Challenge will only be available online in 2020, it still will provide children with the educational value and 'fun factor' it has had in previous years. The "Silly Squad" are a team of animal friends who love to go on adventures and read funny books. This new challenge will allow children to take control of their reading and be rewarded online for their progress.

Children will play an online game to win rewards and create their own reading profile. This will allow them to set reading goals, review books and enjoy a safe forum to chat with friends. There will also be a section where users can download and print some fun activities to complete over the summer.

To get involved, create your reading profile at www.sillysquad.org.uk and start unlocking new challenges and earning your rewards. From 11th July, Somerset Libraries will be releasing local weekly activities that families can also enjoy from the comfort of their own homes! For regular updates on what this year's digital Summer Reading Challenge has in store for you, check for updates on <http://www.somersetlibraries.co.uk> or follow us on [Facebook.com/SomersetLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/SomersetLibraries)