

- APM 23/24 1 **PRESENT** - Cllr Tilbury (in the Chair) 9 members of the public and SCllrs Munt and Martin.
- APM 23/24 2 **APOLOGIES** were received from S Vine, C Andrews and P Chaplin.
- APM 23/24 3 **IN ATTENDANCE** - the Clerk to the Council.
- APM 23/24 4 **WELCOME** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- APM 23/24 5 **MINUTES** of the previous Parish Meeting dated 12th May 2022 were confirmed and signed.
- APM 23/24 6 **REPORTS** were given as follows and will be attached to the minutes as appendices. After each report there was an opportunity for questions.
- a. Parish Council - Chairman's report.
 - b. Parish Council - Accounts. Everyone had a copy of the accounts. There were no questions.
 - c. JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity - Catherine Andrews (read by the Clerk). The Chairman noted that Mrs Anne Bassi has resigned as our other representative on the charity and her place has been taken by Rev. Andrew Stevens.
 - d. Edington Village Hall - Sam Gilbert (Vice Chairman)
 - e. Edington and District History Group - the Chairman, Phil Chaplin, said there was no report to give this year.
 - f. Edington School Room - John rigler
 - g. St George's Church - Rosie Tilbury
 - h. Somerset Council - SCllrs Munt and Martin
 - i. Police - PCSO Georgia Coles

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Chairman

Date

EDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022/2023

My report covers the Parish Council's financial year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 .

During the past year, the Parish Council met in the evening of the second Thursday of every month except August when no meeting was held.

We continue to monitor any overflow from the Pumping Station and the village sewer network generally and continue to be in contact with Wessex Water regarding this.

Finance:

At our January 2023 meeting, our annual precept was set at £7,500 for the 2023/2024 year, an increase of £500 in order to meet increased costs anticipated. The precept has not been increased for eight years. We continue to monitor our expenditure monthly.

The Holy Well:

The refurbishment required for this site has still not been undertaken and cannot be undertaken without funds. We continue to not consider this project to be a priority and continues to be "on hold". We continue to keep the grass area strimmed.

Planning:

A small number of planning applications were received during the past year including tree preservation orders. In each case our report and recommendations were submitted to Sedgemoor District Council.

Defibrillator:

The defibrillator installed on the outside wall of the Village Hall, Edington is inspected monthly and our report is returned direct to the South Western Ambulance Service to ensure it continues to meet the requirements of the Ambulance Service.

Speed watch:

As last year, no sessions have been held during the past year due to the continued lack of police co-operation in the recognition of the previous agreed sites for such sessions to be held together with police training for our new volunteers. As soon as we receive positive assistance from the police, we will be able to restart watch sessions. We are hoping to install two Speed Indicator Devices on Broadway very soon and having waited for a contractor to install poles for many months. Poles were installed very recently but the contractor used their own poles rather than those bought by us and the poles installed are not large enough for our SID's and we are now awaiting the replacement poles to be installed.

Village Maintenance and Footpaths:

Our annual village spring clean in 2023 was held on 2nd April 2023.

We continue to fund the cost of maintaining the grass cutting within our village. Cllr Martin Olive has monitored the footpaths within our parish and continues to conduct an excellent job keeping a watchful eye on any repair work required and dealing with all reports received from members of the public.

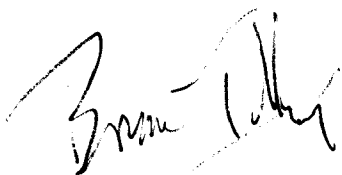
Nydon Land:

The trees purchased and planted in March 2020 continue to grow well. The willow saplings have now been planted by the local business man who manufactures cricket bats from willows. A problem had arisen as to whether planning permission was required for this exercise and an application was submitted to Sedgemoor DC regarding this which was successful.

During the year, a map of the parish of Edington was acquired to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11 and is now installed adjacent to the bus shelter at the cross roads at Edington.

I repeat what I said in my report last year all members of our village community are very welcome to attend our monthly meetings which are held on the second Thursday of the month with the exception of August.

Finally and as always, I thank all my fellow Councillors for their commitment and support to me and the Parish Council, and last but not least, to thank Julia Marshall, our Clerk for all her hard work in keeping us in order.



Brian Tilbury
Chairman - Edington Parish Council

11th May 2023

Edington Parish Council

Ring Fenced Balances at 1st April 2022

	Prev Year	£	£	£	£	Precept set	Rem Precept
Environment		98.77					
Holy Well		330.00					
CIL							
Highways		1,274.18					
Total Ring Fenced		1,702.95					

Bank Balances at 1st April 2022

Current Account			0.00				
Reserve Account			11,477.75				
Less Ring Fenced Balances			1,702.95				
Net Funds Available				9,774.80			

Receipts

Input VAT repaid by HMRC			0.00				
Precept			7,000.00				
CIL			0.00				
CPC Defibrillator			0.00				
Nat West Interest			43.82				
Environment/booklets			55.00				
Jubilee grant			200.00				
Balance required from Climate Fund			0.00				
			0.00				
				7,298.82			

Payments

Staff Costs:						17,073.62	
Clerk's Salary			3,989.76			3,400.00	
Administration:							
Telephone		114.00				120.00	
Broadband		92.04				95.00	
Postage		29.06				60.00	
Office Equipment & software		92.65				150.00	
Ink & office sundries		4.00				80.00	
Stationery & Printing		57.65				50.00	
Website x 2 years		147.87				100.00	
Office Accommodation		120.00				120.00	
Subscriptions		183.44				220.00	
Data Protection		40.00				40.00	
			880.71				
Other:							
Monthly Meeting Room Hire		90.00				135.00	
Mileage Allowance		103.14				70.00	
Insurance		418.39				285.00	
Fees - audit		220.00				20.00	
Environment		529.14				270.00	
Training & Courses		25.00				100.00	
Election expenses		100.00				100.00	
Bus Shelter		0.00				0.00	
Nidon Land		77.15				500.00	
Defibrillator		0.00				0.00	
Neighbourhood Watch		0.00				0.00	
Holy Well		0.00				0.00	
Poppy Wreath		25.00					
Special Events		436.59					
Contingency		0.00				60.00	
Sundry		0.00				15.00	
			2,024.41				
Solar Panels Village Hall			2,562.59				
St George's Churchyard grant		500.00				510.00	
Village Hall		0.00				500.00	
S137	None	34.00					
			534.00			7,000.00	
				9,991.47			
VAT input tax				783.12		10,774.59	
						6,299.03	
						6,299.03	

Bank Balances at 31/03/23

Represented by:

Unpresented cheques

Environment/Nidon Land/Trees		98.77	Current account	0.00		
Holy Well		330.00	Reserve Account	8,041.98		
CIL		0.00	Total bank	8,041.98	984	40.00
Highways		1,274.18	+ Unshown income	0.00		
			- Unpresented cheques	40.00		
Total Ring Fenced		1,702.95		8,001.98		
			Less Ring Fenced	1,702.95		
			Working balance	6,299.03		40.00

JAF LUTTRELL MEMORIAL CHARITY

The JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity (not to be confused with the Luttrell Trust as we are not connected in any way) was founded in 1898 by Mrs Luttrell of Edington Manor to benefit the sick poor of the parish (changed in 1989 to those in Need, Hardship or Distress), within the neighbourhood of Edington (now interpreted to extend to Chilton Polden, Catcott, Burtle & Cossington and to be assistance in times of difficulty). All grants are in confidence and paid on receipt of invoice or in some circumstances a money grant is awarded.

The Trustees are continuing to cover all the work previously carried out by the clerk and any applications can still be sent to JAFLMCclerk@hotmail.com or by contacting a Trustee as detailed in our local advertising.

As in previous years the trustees continue to be proactive by advertising locally, to seek out people and organisations who may benefit under the conditions laid down. We advertise on a regular basis in the Polden Post, and in the village hall PowerPoint presentations at local events, prior to our twice yearly meetings. We also post notification of the next meeting in all villages in the area of benefit and on the Parish Council and village websites and with the co-operation of Gill Bertolucci, the Carers Champion, we have details in the surgery at Edington. At all times we ensure we are compliant with Charity Commission recommendations regarding safeguarding, and data protection. Much work has been done over the last few months to update the Charity's guidelines and procedures and one Trustee has completed a course on GDPR.

The prime purpose of this charity is to award grants to individuals in need. Over the past 12 months we have seen the effect of the cost of living crisis in the grant applications. This year grants have assisted with installations of a downstairs toilet, wood burner, oil boiler, and replacement doors and windows. Heating oil, home refurbishments, funeral expenses, car repairs, and, household appliances as well as flowers following bereavements and gifts at Christmas to help lighten burdens and show support. The Charity will continue to support general grants if funds are available.

Finally we wish to convey our thanks to Anne Bassi who has been one of the two Edington Parish Council appointed trustees since 2007. She has been an invaluable member of the team, recently responsibility for keeping abreast of all Charity Commission guidelines. Regretably, she wishes to retire, and we will miss her, but look forward, very much, to welcoming and working with the new appointee.

The Trustees meet twice yearly and normally all applications need to be with the Clerk in good time to be included, enabling Trustees to portion the assets to the greatest need. We are flexible and in an emergency, applications can be considered at other times. If you live in villages previously mentioned and would like to be considered for help or know of someone who might benefit from the Charity's assistance, then please talk with one of the Trustees, or for an application form e mail the address given previously.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Friday 6th October 2023

Report to Edington and Catcott Parish Council Annual General Meeting
by Catherine Andrews, Edington Parish Council representative. May 2023



Vice Chairs report May 2023 for The Village Hall, Edington

It has certainly been a busy year for us at the hall, with the sad departure of Ros Dolding from the committee after many years of dedicated service. Handover to a new committee has now fully happened, with the new addition of Stephen Fry as chair in October and myself moving from a fundraising role into the Vice Chair position. In addition to this, we have a new booking secretary, minute secretary and some new trustees to the Hall.

With so much change, we have restructured and have placed focus on the inner workings of the hall as Covid has taken its toll, with community events and fundraising also taking a high priority. With the increases in running costs we have also had to alter our hire charges, noting that this has not been done in many years prior to now. Our goal being to reduce outgoings, increase use and income while streamlining how it is run. Something we have made good headway with so far.

We have this month launched a new website on a new domain www.edingtonvillagehall.com and have begun reaching out more to other establishments and committees in the area to form closer working bonds. For example a very successful collaboration between ourselves, The CVA and Edington Parish Council was just held for the kings Coronation with many from our local communities coming out and celebrating together. This is something we will continue to progress with as we believe strongly in community and forming bonds with others close by with a few projects hopefully happening very soon.

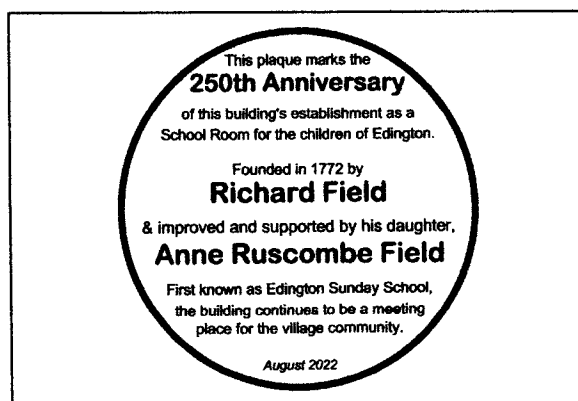
In the last year we have continued use by our regular users, have welcomed some new classes and have already had a number of fund raising events to help support the hall. We have some exciting events coming over the course of the year, The Somerset Day biggest ever quiz, a community free music festival, Open day fete and family BBQ and much more. We still have Polden Productions and Village Voices using us and our committee are still supporting Coffee Stop, Bingo, Film Night, Happy Companions and Pop up

EDINGTON SCHOOL ROOM
Church Road, Edington, Somerset, TA7 9JT
Charity No 1098952
(Incorporating the Vale Charity)

Chairman's Report for the 2023 Annual General Meeting

While the worst of the pandemic has passed, it is clear that the virus still circulates within our community confirmed with recent experience. There is no doubt that this discouraged the close gathering of local people at small events, for which the Edington School Room is eminently suited. However, we must be positive and the building remains available and well placed for any small groups to meet and socialise.

During the year, we were able to have a modest celebration of the 250th anniversary of the building's founding as an early village educational initiative. Some fifty people came on a lovely August summer day to see the erection of a plaque to record the occasion. Our grateful thanks go to those who provided financial support for this event, which will help cement this building's place in the village story for a long time I'm sure.



A further contribution to the Edington village heritage was made with the permanent siting of four Dole Stones against the roadside wall. The stones originally placed as part of the Edington Moor Enclosure in the late 18th century, are now safe

We continue to welcome the Edington Parish Council for their monthly meetings of course, and the regular Book Swaps and Coffee Morning attract a good number of those seeking fresh reading and a conversation.

To date this year, we have not seen the Catcott school children for the usual annual visit but our Winter Warmer was again successful with a full house to enjoy the various soups on offer.

While our building remains in good order, I know that the Committee will be diligent in keeping close watch that financial position remains stable. Increased charges are being experienced by all but our relatively static income is challenged by the electricity and insurance costs rising. At present, the situation is manageable, but there is some uncertainty with regard to a sustainable future.

In the meanwhile, I can only once again my thanks go to those who have continued to carry out such tasks and help as needed, and as always this is appreciated for the support given to conserving this valuable small building of ours...!

John Rigler, Chairman, ESR, 1st May 2023

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, EDINGTON -ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The monthly coffee mornings, held throughout the year are well attended and provide a well needed hub for the community.

It has become tradition to hold a cream tea annually with a small amount of stalls to help keep the interest. We usually have about 100 people attending.

Other events, including a harvest supper and Christmas card delivery around the village.

Church members hold an annual charity event for McMillan Cancer Research. This year we raised £230.95

The nativity service on Christmas Eve was especially well attended and heart-warming as we had a change in the leader who did very well to recruit young mothers from around the villages to bring their children along and take part. The script was adjusted slightly, with all the children remembering their lines and enjoying the songs. We had about 60 adults and 25 children in attendance.

We welcome newcomers to the village in the form of a hand delivered letter and invite them to the next coffee morning.

Building work.

No work was carried out this last year, however we do have a plan to repoint the wall on the west side of the church as it is allowing damp to occur on the plaster inside.

The quinquennial report of 2018 recommended two cowls to be fitted on the bell rope to stop the rain coming through, which we intend to do this year.

The fire extinguisher checked and lightening conductor inspected. We are due a full electricity check this year.

Thank you for the grant of £500 to attend to fees for the upkeep of the churchyard

Rosemary Tilbury

Church Warden

MAY 2023

Deadline approaches for two Alternative Fuels Energy Payment

Householders in Somerset could be due for government payments to help towards the costs of heating their homes, under two separate schemes.

The first scheme is for those who heat their homes with an alternative fuel such as wood pellets, LPG or oil, as many do in rural and some urban areas. Those householders could be due a £200 one-off payment from the government, but they must apply by 31 May.

The payment is aimed at people who do not use electricity or mains gas for domestic heating and who have not received a payment from their electricity supplier. The payment isn't means tested. Householders must supply an invoice or receipts to show that they have purchased at least £200 of alternative fuels since June 2022.

The second scheme is for households that have not received a £400 discount on their energy bills from an electricity supplier (in six instalments from Oct 2022 to March 2023). They may be entitled to a £400 one-off payment from the government.

The scheme is aimed at those who don't pay directly to an electricity company for the energy they use in their home, for example residents of care homes, park home sites and people living above commercial property that does not have a separate meter for the domestic part. The payment isn't means tested.

To find out more about both schemes and to make an application, search 'Apply for energy bill support if you do not get it automatically' into the GOV.UK webpage search bar.

For anyone who may qualify for this support but does not have access to the internet, they can make an application to the government by telephone on 0808 175 3287, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

All applications must be made to the government and not to the council. There is more information here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/benefits-and-payments/alternative-energy-bills-support-scheme/>

Somerset primary school admissions to primary school for 2023

Nearly 99% of Somerset's youngest children were offered a primary school place at one of their top three choices, Somerset Council's latest school admission figures show. Overall, 98.94% of the 5,182 applicants were offered a place at one of their top three choices, with 94.54% receiving their first choice.

Of the 5,182 primary school applications received this year:

1st preferences met – 94.54 % (4,899 offers)

2nd preferences met – 3.88% (201 offers)

3rd preferences met – 0.52% (27 offers)

Last year 5,296 applications for primary school places were received. Of those, 98.62% of applicants received one of their top three preferences, with 93.4% receiving their first primary school preference.

Bus It - the bus service is popular in Somerset following government's

Figures show more people in Somerset are choosing to 'Bus It' following the introduction of lower fares and evening buses as part of Somerset Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Since the introduction of a £1 fare for a single journey in Taunton, along with evening bus services on some routes, both funded by BSIP money, as well as a sustained 'Bus It' campaign by Somerset Council and the Somerset Bus Partnership, passenger numbers have increased by nearly 25 per cent on First Bus/Buses of Somerset services in Taunton area.

Similarly, following the introduction of the £2 fare for a single journey in Somerset, funded by the Government's Help for Homes scheme, passenger numbers have increased by around 14 per cent across the county. The Government has also officially announced its intention to continue the £2 fare across the country until 30 June.

Somerset Council and the Somerset Bus Partnership launched the 'Bus It' campaign last summer to try and encourage more people to 'Bus It'. You can find out more about it here, along with the various initiatives: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/bus-it-you-know-it-makes-sense/>

Somerset's recycling rates up

Somerset's green-minded residents have helped the county climb into the top 30 councils for recycling.

In Defra's recently published league tables, Somerset's 2021-2022 recycling rate of 56.2% ranks it 28 out of 228 local authorities – putting it in the top 15%.

In 2020-21 Somerset ranked 59 out of 228, with a recycling rate of 52.4%.

And, with the full impact of Recycle More's expanded collections yet to be felt, Somerset Council is confident that the 2022-23 figures will see it climb even further.

The Council is committed to a greener, more sustainable county working hard to help homeowners recycle more and waste less.

In 2021-22, almost 150,000 tonnes of waste was recycled or reused, saving around 133,000 tonnes of carbon – the equivalent of taking more than 51,000 cars off the road for a year.

Of that, 97.2% was recycled into new products and package in the UK. Of the 5,771 tonnes of plastics collected, 99.4% were reprocessed in the UK.

Somerset's hard-working crews make more than 350,000 collections a week. For more information about what happens to the recycling they collect, check the Somerset Recycling Tracker on the Somerset Council website [somerset.gov.uk/waste](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste).

Sign-up for the latest climate news

Somerset Council is asking residents to sign-up for its new climate newsletter.

The new Somerset Council cross-county monthly newsletter was launched near the end of April, and you can sign-up to receive it on the Somerset Council website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/climate-and-ecological-emergency/newsletter-sign-up/>.

Sent on the last Friday of every month, it will be full of news, project updates, and inspirational ideas about the work going on in the county in response to the Climate Emergency, along with information and tips to help us all live better, waste less and reduce our environmental impact. If we all do our bit and love where we live, we can keep Somerset clean, green and attractive.

Making Somerset a greener, more sustainable place is one of the Council's top priorities, working with the Somerset Climate Network and other organisations, networks and individuals keen to make a difference.

Greener homes project (part of the Green Deal)

A ground-breaking project to help Somerset homes become more energy efficient has won crucial funding.

Somerset Climate Action Network (SomersetCAN) in collaboration with Somerset Council and Frome, Glastonbury, and Bruton Town Councils, have successfully bid for a £50,000 grant to set up a not-for-profit service promoting and supporting 'retrofitting'.

Retrofitting means making changes to an existing home that help reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions, making the homes more comfortable to live in.

Backed by the grant from MCS Charitable Foundation, Retrofit Somerset aims to speed up retrofitting delivery across the county by:

- Bringing together existing climate groups, Parish Councils, not-for-profit organisations, and others to develop a workable model for delivering retrofit across the county.
- Enhancing Retrofit Somerset as a one-stop website that helps to inform and connect homeowners and community groups with local retrofit contractors.
- Accelerating the widespread adoption of low-carbon technologies like heat pumps and PV panels.
- Helping groups of homeowners to work together to achieve practical solutions, including grouping together to get discounts on retrofit works.

Retrofit Somerset will have its own dedicated project manager, as well as local advocates in communities trained to engage locally to raise awareness of the benefits of retrofit for homeowners to start their retrofit journey.

In its first year, the project aims to create an investable business plan to attract further funding to help continue essential work to decarbonise Somerset homes.

For more information about Retrofit Somerset, including retrofit stories from Somerset residents and a directory of retrofitting suppliers and contractors, visit retrofitsomerset.info

12.7. "Golden Hello" for new childminders in Somerset

Somerset Council is offering a "Golden Hello" grant worth £250 to those who would like to be a childminder. The £250 can be used to help with training and set up costs. Childminding is a rewarding occupation for anyone who likes working with children.

The post is ideal for new parents who wish to spend more time fitting work around their own children. It can also be a useful first step into other childcare and education roles, and may also suit people leaving teaching or other education support roles, but who still want to work with children. Deciding your own working hours and charges means the role can be flexible.

The Council offers guidance and training to newly registered childminders and supports them through Ofsted registration and beyond.

If you are looking for a change, would like to work from home and have a passion for supporting children to learn and grow through exciting play opportunities, why not consider childminding?

To find out more about becoming a childminder, and for an information pack please call 0300 123 2224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/register

12.8. How a small Somerset town grew its care and support workforce and brought in a cool £1m in unclaimed benefits

A small Somerset town has brought in more than £1.4m in unclaimed benefits and seen its community care workforce expand from just 3 to 35 since its homegrown care scheme was established in 2018.

Wiveliscombe - or 'Wivey' as it's known to locals - is a small town in Somerset which responded to the crisis in care by creating a 'connector' scheme signposting people who need help to self-employed carers.

These carers are known as 'Micro-providers', help local residents with a range of activities, from personal care such as help with staying clean, ensuring meals are provided and medication is taken, as well as providing company and conversation.

Wivey Cares is the brainchild of David Patterson, a retired social worker who founded the scheme as a way of providing a very local solution to the crisis in care.

Mr Patterson said: "Wivey is a rural town, and the conventional model of care at home just doesn't work here for this reason. We believed that there must be people who lived locally who could meet the need for care, which would support the work of government agencies, reducing the cost of services provided and helping people live independently in their homes for longer.

"As a result, we now have more than 35 carers who can access meaningful self-employment, live locally, and offer really personalised support. To date we have managed and helped more than 300 people fill in forms and claim their Attendance Allowance. This is financial support the government offers which can help people with extra costs if they have a disability where they need someone to help look after them. At any one time we believe we are supporting between 120 and 140 clients to stay in their own homes, keeping them close to friends and family.

"This has resulted in nearly £1.4m of previously unclaimed benefits being received by Wivey residents, creating jobs, and stimulating our local economy."

People who are interested in setting up their own local care scheme can contact communityenterprise@somerset.gov.uk for more information.

BT handed heavy fine for roadworks violations

Nearly £15k of fines were handed to BT for roadworks offences in Frome. The telecommunications firm was found guilty of two offences which included failing to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

Somerset Council is responsible for managing the road network and prosecuted BT earlier this year as part of its commitment to minimising disruption and keeping the public safe.

The case, heard at Taunton Magistrates on Thursday 16 March, related to the following:

On Friday 21 October 2022, in contravention of S65 of NRSWA 1991 by failing to install traffic management to ensure the safety of pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities and the travelling public affected by the works. BT was fined £8,000 for this offence.

In addition, BT carried out the works, at Butts Hill, Frome without a valid or deemed permit contrary to Regulation 19, The Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007. BT was fined £500 for this offence. The fines against BT totalled £8,500, with costs of £4,319.86 and a surcharge of £2,000 awarded against them. A combined total of £14,819.86.

In passing the sentence, the court gave full credit to BT for guilty pleas entered at the earliest opportunity and accepted in mitigation that BT took the following steps: it had issued guidance for its sub-contractors to take account of and to adhere to when conducting street works; and that it has since increased its training of operatives.

For more information and news about Somerset Council's Waste Services visit somerset.gov.uk/waste and follow @somersetwaste on Facebook and Twitter.

Soft plastic recycling collections piloted in parts of Frome

A small-scale pilot of the collection of plastic bags and wrapping for recycling will soon be starting in Somerset – for invitees only. Following the success of expanded Recycle More collections, Somerset Council successfully bid to be part of a national 'FlexCollect' trial of kerbside collection of these soft plastics. The trial collections will be available to around 3,600 homes across two locations in Frome, starting near the end of May.

Those able to participate will receive information in the post shortly. No other householders, in Frome or elsewhere in the county, can participate or request to take part.

The pilot collections will pick-up a wide range of plastic bags and wrapping, including carrier bags, bread bags, confectionary wrappers, crisp packets, food wrapping and cling film. They will be part of the usual weekly recycling collections, to be put out for collection in plastic sacks provided to participating households.

The costs of the pilot collections are funded nationally. The only costs to the council are time and resources. Depending on how the trials progress, it is expected that they will be expanded to more Somerset homes next year.

For more information and news about Somerset Council's Waste Services visit somerset.gov.uk/waste and follow @somersetwaste on Facebook and Twitter.

Somerset Youth Parliament organ schools to promote new mental health app for students

A new mental health app for young people has been launched in Somerset. The free Tellmi app is now available for all local 11-18 year olds, and gives young people the tools to manage their own mental health and support others.

Commissioned by NHS Somerset, Tellmi is the only fully pre-moderated, dedicated, peer support app which is considered safe for children aged 11+. Posts are approved by human moderators within an average of 30 minutes, and in-house counsellors intervene to support when needed. Local young people who download the app will have 365-day access to support, where they can anonymously discuss their feelings in a safe environment.

Data is showing the app to be improving mental health outcomes for young people across the county already, with 83% of users reporting feeling less isolated, 45% who self-harm saying they had stopped or reduced self-harming, and 1 in 3 young people who felt suicidal experiencing fewer suicidal thoughts as a result of using the app.

Working with the Youth Parliament, Young Somerset, Somerset Council and CAMHS (Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services), the project aims to support young people on waiting lists, but also anyone who might benefit from further support.

So far, Tellmi has been promoted in eight schools and colleges across Somerset, but members of Somerset Youth Parliament are calling for more schools to sign up, as 75% of children and young people with mental health issues don't get the treatment they need.

The app can be downloaded at Google Play or the App Store. To find out more about Tellmi, visit www.tellmi.help

GET INVOLVED

Help make Somerset more accessible for Disabled people

A year-long project to make Somerset more accessible for Disabled people was launched on 1 April 2023.

'Accessible Somerset' is an ambitious project which will ask Disabled people how their life could be improved in various areas. The project is seeking volunteers to share their views and is asking for individuals and organisations to get involved by contacting Disability.Inc@wecil.org.uk.

'Accessible Somerset' will begin by working with local Disabled people and organisations to help map the areas of need across Somerset. This will help to identify the key areas of focus for the project.

To deliver this project, Somerset Council has teamed up with WECIL Ltd - a Disabled People's Organisation who offer a range of services which support independent living. WECIL have been working with both public and private sector organisations since 2016, supporting senior management teams, HR professionals and Equality Diversity and Inclusion officers to create accessible, inclusive environments.

If you would like to be involved in the project, please contact Kinny Chinangwa or Alison Browning at Disability.Inc@wecil.org.uk.

City break escape is new bonus lottery prize

Somerset West Lottery is taking part in an initiative that could secure a city break for the lucky winner. It is the new, national bolt-on prize - the third prize initiative to launch this year.

Everyone who signs up to buy one or more lottery tickets from 2 - 27 May 2023 will be in with the chance to win a European city break: seeing the architecture and nightlife of Barcelona, sampling the art and food of Florence, soaking up the culture in Paris - or simply unwinding and seeing the sights. The prize is courtesy of the external lottery management company Gatherwell.

All tickets bought in the qualifying period will automatically be entered into the bonus prize draw as well as being in with a chance to win up to £25,000 in the weekly lottery run by Somerset Council. There were seven cash prize winners and 32 winners overall in the last draw on 22 April.

The Somerset West Lottery offers registered good causes the opportunity to raise income for their organisation by selling tickets to the public.

It gives 50p from every £1 ticket sold to local registered good causes with 10p from every ticket sale going into a community grant fund for which local good causes can apply.

If you know of a good cause wishing to raise funds or would like to buy a ticket contact the Somerset West Lottery on 0300 30 20 666; support@somersetwestlottery.co.uk or visit www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk

SEDGEMOOR POLICE NEWSLETTER



EPM

Meet your local Neighbourhood Policing Team for Sedgemoor South East

If you have any queries, the team can be contacted via our website: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/



PCSO 6761 Georgia Coles



PC 1456 Jessica Pettitt



PCSO 8127 Benjamin Simpkin

Crime Statistics

74 Crimes recorded in the last 12 months in Sedgemoor South East

Assaults (including Domestic) 10

Public Order Offences 13

Sexual Offences 1

Theft 20

Violence Against Persons 4

Burglary 44

Vehicle Offences 27

Domestic 46

Malicious Comm 20

Carriage of Weapons 15

Fraud 5

Robbery 1

News from the Beat

- Edgington and surrounding villages have seen a rise in Burglary and Theft in recent months. A variety of items have been stolen and burglaries consist targeting outbuildings. Patrols have increased due to the rise and we are asking the communities to remain vigilant and keep their properties secure.
- The neighbourhood team often receive complaints of speeding in rural villages or dangerous driving. If you have video or dash cam footage you can report via the below link: [Report an accident or incident on the road | Avon and Somerset Police](#)
- If you have a speeding concern you can report via this link: [Avon and Somerset Police](#)

More Stats

- Crime stats for Edgington in the last 12 months:
- 1 Assault
- 3 Burglary
- 2 Vehicle Offences
- 2 Harassment
- 1 Malicious Comms
- 1 Sexual Offence
- 2 Fraud
- 1 Theft

Priority Patrol Areas

- Housing Estates
- School Patrols
- Rural areas- Theft/ Burglary Prevention
- All parks/playing fields

Beat Surgeries /Upcoming Events

- **First Saturday of the month-Coffee morning- Edgington School Room**
- All subject to change due to shifts and demand**

NHW

The local beat team are in regular communication through neighbourhood watch. We attend E-watch meetings throughout the year and discuss concerns, events and incidents affecting the community.