**Somerset Council Report**

**Long Load Parish Council 16th July 2024**

**Somerset News**

**‘Bus it’ to Yeovilton and reach for the sky at popular museum**

Somerset Council is reminding people to make the most of a new bus service to the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovilton.

The Council is running a summer campaign encouraging people to make the most of cheap bus travel, enjoy the fantastic locations and activities the county has to offer and help safeguard routes at the same time.

This week Buses of Somerset confirmed that it has made improvements to the 54 Yeovil to Taunton bus timetable to include a trial service of four return journeys per day Monday to Saturday which call at the Royal Navy base and museum in Yeovilton. The extra services are off-peak and give people the chance to leave their car at home and visit one of the county’s top attractions. The trial service will run until September.

Somerset is blessed with fantastic countryside, historic sites, towns and beaches - as well as fabulous dog walks. And fares are still just £2 for any single journey.

Over the coming weeks the Summer Bus It campaign will highlight great places, days out and activities in our county you can get to by bus.

In addition to the new 54 services, Buses of Somerset has also changed the 28, 28a and X28 timetable to ensure additional journeys at busy times between Taunton and Norton Fitzwarren/Cotford St Luke.

The operator has also revised its 2 and 4 Taunton services to add extra capacity.

James Eustace, Commercial Director, Buses of Somerset, said: “Following feedback from the local community, we’re pleased to be trialling a route to Yeovilton's Fleet Air Arm Museum, to support both those working on the base as well as visitors to the museum. We hope people get out on the bus and enjoy a great day out.”

**Save time and sign-up for a garden waste recycling collection**

As gardening season comes into full bloom, Somerset residents are being reminded that they can sign-up for a fortnightly home garden waste collection.

The service run by Somerset Council has more than 60,000 subscribers and provides convenience for many green-fingered residents, saving time from traveling to a recycling site.

Subscriptions can be started any time during the year and the quickest and easiest way to subscribe is online via: [www.somerset.gov.uk/garden-waste-collections](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/garden-waste-collections/)

Collections are made fortnightly year-round, apart from a short break during Christmas and New Year. Residents can either sign-up to a pre-paid 180-litre wheeled bin or 90-litre compostable paper sacks. The price of a wheeled bin subscription for 2024//25 is £68 for 25 collections and packs of ten garden waste sacks cost, £33.60.

All garden waste stays in Somerset, going to one of several composting sites, including Dimmer and Walpole, where it is shredded, and turned into compost. The end-product is sold as revive soil conditioner through all recycling sites.

There is no need to wait until you receive a reminder, subscriptions can be renewed at any time (you’ll still get a full year service). The simplest way to renew or start a subscription is online. However, residents can also renew and subscribe by calling 0300 123 2224.

Residents who already subscribe to the service will be sent an email reminder at least a month before their subscription ends. For example, a May mailing for those expiring in June. Residents are also able to check when their subscription is due online, [www.somerset.gov.uk/garden-waste-collections](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/garden-waste-collections/)

Garden waste can also be taken to any one of Somerset’s [16 waste recycling sites](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/find-your-nearest-recycling-centre/).

Garden waste should not be put out for collection with rubbish. It is also not advised to burn garden waste, as this can cause pollution and local nuisance.

**Council wins appeal against rogue landlord**

Last year, Somerset Council successfully prosecuted a Taunton landlord for breaching Housing laws by failing to licence their various properties. Read the original story here: [Council’s success in legal action on rogue landlords (somerset.gov.uk).](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/councils-success-in-legal-action-on-rogue-landlords/)

The landlord since appealed their conviction and sentence, but earlier this month at Worle Crown Court, a judge dismissed the appeal.

In a statement, the Judge was clear that the landlord was operating eight Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) properties without a licence, and continues to do so without a reasonable excuse, therefore the guilty conviction is valid and stands.

The Judge adjourned the Crown Court to August for another hearing to review the sentence imposed at the Magistrates court, so they can fully investigate the landlord’s financial situation to ensure the sentence is proportionate.

Somerset Council has a responsibility to protect tenants and ensure homes are safe, and the Council’s statutory duties allow it to take robust action when landlords are not adhering to the law.

The Council’s Private Sector Housing Team work to ensure residents live in homes that are safe, healthy and appropriate for their needs. Support and information is available at: [Housing and homelessness (somerset.gov.uk)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/housing-support/).

Landlords can find out about the regulations for renting HMOs here: [HMO Standards and Regulations (somerset.gov.uk).](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/housing-support/hmo-standards-and-regulations/)

**Somerset Council and Somerset Drug & Alcohol Service go ‘on the road’ for Alcohol Awareness Week 2024**

Somerset Council’s Public Health team have joined forces with Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS) to offer free health checks across the county from 1st - 5th July 2024, as part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

The theme of this year’s campaign is ‘Understanding Alcohol Harm’, exploring how the effects of alcohol can extend far beyond the individual, impacting families, relationships, physical and mental health, and even professional lives.

Throughout the week, the team will be visiting Musgrove Park and Yeovil Hospitals, as well as community settings in Minehead, Chard, Street, Frome and Bridgwater. SDAS’s dedicated team of Nurses, Health Care Assistants and Harm Reduction Key Workers will be offering health checks, along with valuable advice on reducing alcohol harm.

Additionally, Peer Mentors, who are past SDAS clients with lived experience and now in recovery, will be there to share their own recovery journeys and talk about how SDAS can offer support.

SDAS’s Peer Mentor Judith said: "I grew up in a loving family where drinking was the norm—to celebrate or commiserate. My dependency quickly spiralled out of control after the loss of my husband, bringing severe consequences to my health and fear for my family.

Judith continued: “I understand the feelings of shame and guilt, but I also know the importance of moving forward. When we stop stigmatising people struggling with alcohol addiction, they can admit their challenges without fear of judgment. With support like that from SDAS, they can start to take responsibility for their lives, learn from their past and grow. The shame and guilt will fade, replaced with a new confidence and self-respect."

There are a range of support services available in Somerset for those struggling with their substance use, whether alcohol or drug related. Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS), delivered by the leading social enterprise Turning Point and commissioned by Somerset Council, provides free and confidential support for people looking to change their relationship with alcohol and other substances.

Professor Trudi Grant, Executive Director of Public and Population Health, joint appointment between Somerset Council and NHS Somerset said: “Alcohol Awareness Week is always an opportunity to reflect on your drinking habits and the impact it may have on your health and your family. There is fantastic non-judgemental support available in Somerset that is just a phone call or a click away.”

For further updates from SDAS, please sign up to receive ‘Your Health’ the new monthly e-newsletter: [www.turning-point.co.uk/services/somerset/newsletter](https://somersetcc-my.sharepoint.com/personal/emily_pearlstone_somerset_gov_uk/Documents/Parish%20Councils/Long%20Load/www.turning-point.co.uk/services/somerset/newsletter)

For access to support or advice call 0300 303 8788 (24/7 phone line), visit <https://www.turning-point.co.uk/services/somerset>

Monday 1st July Musgrove Hospital 9.00 to 17.00 (Further dates tbc)

Yeovil Hospital 9.00 to 17.00 (Further dates tbc)

Tuesday 2nd July The Hope Centre, Minehead, TA24 8BS 10.00 - 13.00

Chard Community Hub, TA20 1QA 12.00 - 16.00

Wednesday 3rd July Westfield Church, Bridgwater 9.30 - 11.30

The Gateway, Yeovil Community Church, BA20 1QN 10.00 - 16.00

Thursday 4th July Turning Point, 1st Floor, Touts Pharmacy, 82 High Street, Street, BA16 0EN

Friday 5th July Taunton Open Door, 1A Mount Street, TA1 3QB 9.30 - 13.00

Routes, 1A Palmer Street, Frome, BA11 1DS 9.30 - 13.00

**2.0 - Local Issues**

**2.1 - Drainage issues** - Church Lane drainage ditch to be progressed with highways making contact with FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) alongside Richard Vaux to contact landowner. No news as of writing. Ongoing.

**2.2 - Stapleton to Long Load edges** - Highways have reported that at this time ‘Stapleton Bends’ have been noted for repeat inspections. Site inspected by superintendent no safety defects at this time.

**Levels and Moors LCN** – The date for the next LCN is yet to be confirmed.

**Regards**

**John and Emily**