

## **Monthly Report from Claire Sully, Mendip South**

### **Consultation on Somerset Council's Electoral Boundaries Reopened**

Somerset residents now have another opportunity to provide their input on new electoral boundaries for Somerset Council, as the Local Government Boundary Commission has reopened its consultation on draft recommendations. The consultation will run from now to January 14, 2026.

The decision to reopen the consultation follows the Commission's misunderstanding of Somerset Council's preference for predominantly single-councillor divisions, which was incorrectly interpreted as a formal request for a uniform pattern. This led to concerns that multi-councillor divisions may not receive adequate consideration, prompting the Commission to ensure a fair and transparent review process.

Cllr Bill Revans commented on the situation, stating, "While it is accepted that mistakes happen, all the submissions to the consultation included multi-member divisions. The chances of anyone being put off commenting by the LGBCE's misunderstanding are infinitesimal. The cost of a new consultation and the delay in publishing the final boundaries makes this a frustrating and strange decision."

Residents are encouraged to participate by sharing their views, including support for multi-member divisions, as the Commission aims to consider all perspectives. Final recommendations are expected to be published in March 2026, with new arrangements set to take effect in May 2027, pending parliamentary approval.

For further details on the boundaries proposals, visit the Commission's website at [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset). Feedback can also be submitted via email at [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by post to the Review Officer (Somerset), LGBCE, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8YZ.

### **Thousands of Driving Offences Logged on Frome Bypass as New Speed Limit is Considered**

In just four months, AI cameras installed on the A361 Frome Bypass have recorded over 4,500 driving offences, raising safety concerns. The offences include 4,407 instances of not wearing seat belts, 119 cases of mobile phone use, and 74 speeding violations exceeding 80 mph.

Currently, the speed limit on the road is 60 mph, but discussions are underway to potentially reduce it to 50 mph. This road has witnessed six fatalities between 2019 and 2024, including four in the past year.

Somerset Council and Avon and Somerset Police are collaborating on a road safety initiative, which includes continued use of AI cameras and a forthcoming engineering scheme aimed at enhancing road safety. Implementation of additional safety measures could begin in late 2026.

## **Monthly Report from Claire Sully, Mendip South**

### **Council's CCTV Team Key in Reporting Incidents to Police**

Somerset Council's CCTV team has reported nearly 700 incidents to police in the last three months, playing a crucial role in community safety. On November 12, the team alerted police to a fire under a climbing frame in a children's play area in Bridgwater, allowing firefighters to prevent the incident from escalating.

In total, the CCTV team has recorded 690 incidents, processed 391 footage requests from police, and proactively detected 408 incidents during this period. Their prompt actions have led to the apprehension of offenders, including one case where an operator guided police to a handbag thief.

The CCTV service, funded by city, town, and parish councils, has recently upgraded systems in Burnham-on-Sea and Street to high-definition cameras, with ongoing upgrades in Taunton, Wellington, and Shepton Mallet.

### **Uniting Somerset: New Traffic-Free Path Completes Somerset Circle**

A new 1.3-kilometre traffic-free path connecting Hamwood Viaduct to Thrupe Lane has officially opened. This scenic route promotes active travel and offers a safe passage for walkers and cyclists to explore the beautiful Mendip area.

The path provides a direct connection and features signposted cycling routes through minor roads, leading riders over the Mendip Hills to Gurney Slade and Chilcompton.

A partnership between local councils and community organisations, this project exemplifies a commitment to increasing connectivity, reducing car reliance, and promoting sustainable travel within Somerset. Under the guidance of the current Lib Dem Somerset Council administration, active travel has gained notable emphasis in recent years, highlighting the dedication to enhancing public health and accessibility.

The overarching active travel vision for a 76-mile traffic-free circuit linking Bristol, Bath, and the Mendip Hills is steadily being realised, creating new opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the stunning landscapes of Somerset.

The route was officially opened by West Mendip Councillor Ros Wyke, and Christopher Somerville, representative of Dinder Estate.

### **Don't Miss Your Chance: Get Your Flu Vaccination**

Somerset Council urges eligible residents to get their flu vaccination, as cases are already rising this season. Vaccination is crucial to prevent serious health complications, especially for those with underlying conditions.

Eligible groups include pregnant individuals, children aged 2-3, school-aged children, those aged 65 and over, and frontline health workers.

To learn more and book your appointment, visit the [NHS Flu Vaccine page](#) or contact your GP practice. Stay protected this flu season!

## Monthly Report from Claire Sully, Mendip South

### **Somerset's Coastal Challenge Celebrates Success**

The second annual "80 Miles in Eight Days" Challenge Walk proved a resounding success, with 23 enthusiastic walkers covering 500 miles along Somerset's stunning coastline.

Organised by the Somerset Trail Partnership in collaboration with Exmoor National Park, the event raised £700 for The Outdoor Guide Foundation's Waterproofs and Wellies Campaign, providing gear for two coastal primary schools.

Richard Taylor and Richard Pinnington completed the entire route, praised by Isobel Pring from the Somerset Trail Partnership for overcoming challenging climbs.

Starting at County Gate in sunny weather and ending at Brean Down, walkers enjoyed the scenic beauty and camaraderie. Looking ahead to 2026, plans include a third challenge walk and new circular routes. For details, visit [somersetcoastfestival.co.uk](https://somersetcoastfestival.co.uk).

### **Council Approves Pupil Referral Unit Merger to Enhance Outcomes**

At a recent meeting of Somerset Council's Executive, members approved a major reorganisation of Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) aimed at improving the quality and consistency of alternative provision for children and young people in the county.

The council decided to consolidate the management of the four existing PRUs to streamline governance and standardise approaches, particularly addressing gaps in provision in Frome and West Somerset.

Tor School will expand to include the South Somerset Partnership School, while The Bridge School will incorporate sites from Taunton Deane Partnership College. A new Partnership Agreement will define the support and challenges needed for ongoing improvements.

All existing facilities will remain open, ensuring that current students continue at their respective sites without needing to change schools or facing longer journeys.

The decision focuses on improving management structures to create a fairer system where every child receives high-quality education support, regardless of location. The changes will take effect on April 1, 2026. For more information, visit [the Executive's Decision Report](#).

### **Somerset Council Invests in Improved Outcomes for Residents**

Somerset Council has approved new contracts for the Discharge to Assess (D2A) service, enhancing support for residents returning home from hospital. This service offers up to six weeks of tailored assistance, promoting independence and reducing long-term care needs.

Currently assisting about 3,000 people annually, the D2A service helps lower hospital bed occupancy and speeds up recovery at home. The new contracts ensure continuity of care after May 2026.

Full details can be found via the Executive's [Decision Report \(PDF\)](#).

## Monthly Report from Claire Sully, Mendip South

### Have Your Say on Somerset's Domestic Abuse Strategy

Somerset Council invites public feedback to shape a new three-year Domestic Abuse Strategy focused on prevention, protection, and recovery. The consultation seeks input from residents, organisations, and professionals on how to effectively support those affected by domestic abuse.

The strategy will build on existing work by the Somerset Domestic Abuse Service and partner agencies, ensuring accessibility and responsiveness to community needs. It aims to outline priorities including preventing abuse, protecting at-risk individuals, strengthening professional responses, and supporting recovery.

The consultation is open until January 26. Feedback will inform the final strategy, which will be published later next year. To participate, visit the [Domestic Abuse Strategy Public Consultation page](#). For support, contact the Somerset Domestic Abuse Service at 0800 69 49 999, or visit [somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk](https://somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk). In emergencies, call 999.

### Ham Hill Celebrates National Tree Week with Successful Tree Planting

Ham Hill recently hosted a week-long tree planting event in celebration of National Tree Week, successfully planting 3,000 native trees to enhance biodiversity and climate resilience.

Running from November 22 to 30, the initiative was supported by Carbon Aware Productions and Ham and Doultong Stone, along with dedicated volunteers from RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset Council, and The Friends of Ham Hill. The collaborative effort concluded with a Community Tree Planting Day.

Throughout the week, focused planting activities included dry-stone walling, ongoing volunteer efforts, and a final push by Somerset Council staff. Lead Member for Public Health, Climate Change and Environment, Councillor Graham Oakes, highlighted the value of trees in supporting wildlife and improving community well-being while representing a step towards boosting Somerset's tree canopy from 8% to the national average of 13%.

### Stepping Stones Team Visits Parliament for National Supported Lodgings Week

Somerset's Stepping Stones team recently attended a parliamentary reception in Westminster to launch the inaugural National Supported Lodgings Week (NSLW), held from November 9 to 16, 2025. The event, titled "Host the Future," attracted over 150 attendees, including hosts and care workers from the Stepping Stones program, along with the young people they support.

The Supported Lodgings scheme allows individuals or families to offer a room and supportive environment to young people aged 18 to 21 who are leaving care. The initiative aims to help these young individuals build essential life skills necessary for independent living, including cooking, cleaning, and financial management.

The NSLW highlights the positive impact of programs like Stepping Stones and encourages more people to consider becoming hosts by sharing inspirational stories from the hosts and young people involved.

## Monthly Report from Claire Sully, Mendip South

In support of National Care Leavers Month, Somerset Council illuminated County Hall in blue alongside other organisations and landmarks nationwide. For those interested in becoming Stepping Stones hosts, more information is available at [fosteringinsomerset.org.uk](http://fosteringinsomerset.org.uk) or by calling 0800 587 9900.

### Somerset Charities Receive Royal Recognition

Four Somerset charities have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) for their exceptional community contributions. The recipients are:

- **Exmoor Community Bus Association**
- **Good Fellowship Club** (Yeovil)
- **Green Wedmore**
- **The Thomas Poole Library** (Nether Stowey)

This prestigious award recognises the significant impact of these voluntary groups and their ongoing efforts to support their communities. The honour will enhance their profiles and help attract further support for their initiatives.

Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life.

### Council Supports Local Communities with Government Fund

Somerset Council is using the national Accelerating Reform Fund to enhance local care networks, securing £616,000 for community projects that benefit aging residents and those with disabilities.

Ten community groups and one Town Council have formed the 'Somerset Cares Alliance,' receiving grants to strengthen local support systems. The fund promotes sustainable infrastructure and access to essential services close to home.

### Voting in Somerset Youth Parliament Elections Begins

Voting is now open for the Somerset Youth Parliament elections, where young people can elect three new representatives for the UK Youth Parliament. Candidates have published manifestos detailing their campaign pledges, available on the Somerset Youth Parliament's [Elections page](#).

This initiative allows elected Members of Youth Parliament to advocate for local and national issues affecting youth, working alongside community representatives and politicians to drive positive change.

Voting is open now and closes on December 15th, 2025. Young people are encouraged to participate and make their voices heard.

## Monthly Report from Claire Sully, Mendip South

### **Somerset Council and Partners Highlight Digital Domestic Abuse During 16 Days of Action**

Somerset Council is partnering with organisations across the county to observe the 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence, focusing on digital domestic abuse, which involves using technology to monitor, threaten, or isolate victims.

Running from November 25 (International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day), the campaign encourages community action to prevent abuse and support recovery for affected individuals. Events, drop-ins, and awareness activities will take place throughout Somerset to highlight online and digital abuse.

The Somerset Domestic Abuse Service, facilitated by the YOU Trust, offers confidential support for those affected by domestic abuse, including digital abuse. For assistance, individuals can call 0800 69 49 999, visit [somersestdomesticabuse.org.uk](https://somersestdomesticabuse.org.uk), or email [domesticabuseservice@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:domesticabuseservice@somerset.gov.uk).

### **New Digital Slinky Transport Service Tops 10,000 Journeys**

Somerset Council's on-demand transport service, Digital Slinky, has reached a significant milestone by completing its 10,000th journey within just 18 months of operation. The service covers Somerton, Langport, and surrounding villages, providing a flexible transportation option funded by the Government's Bus Service Improvement Grant (BSIP).

Launched in May 2024 as a trial, Digital Slinky is designed to be easily accessible for residents, who can book rides online or through a mobile app available on Google Play and the App Store. The service uses existing bus stops and landmarks as pick-up points, enabling users to reach local shops, work, appointments, and social events.

New digital services have recently been rolled out to other areas including Bridgwater, Burnham, Taunton, and Wellington, further enhancing demand-responsive transport options in the county. With the ability to arrange pick-ups directly from home for individuals facing mobility challenges, the service can be booked up to an hour before travel or up to two weeks in advance.

December 2025

## Monthly Report from Claire Sully, Mendip South

**Report it first: useful Links to share with your communities**

**Visit - Report a Problem on the Road:** - A list of all reporting pages to do with roads, pavements, lighting:

[Report a problem on the road](#)

**Potholes and road damage** - Somerset Council repair potholes and other road defects, and maintain our roads, for the safe access of all road users:

[Potholes, road damage and edge loss](#)

**Report a problem with a street light** - We maintain and repair street lights to national standards to provide safe access to all road users:

[Report a problem with a street light](#)

**Roads, travel and parking, road signs, markings and lighting** - Includes information about non-illuminated bollards, pedestrian crossings, requesting a village nameplate or a new road sign:

[Road signs, bollards and road markings](#)

**Speed limits** - Request information about new or existing traffic calming measures:

[Speed limits](#)

**Traffic lights** - We maintain over 200 traffic light locations throughout the County:

[Traffic lights](#)

**Street and roadworks** - We maintain the roads and pavements that are managed at public expense in Somerset:

[Street and roadworks problems](#)

**Traffic - updates and roadworks follow:**

[Travel Somerset on X](#) and [Travel Somerset on Facebook](#).

**All ongoing roadworks** - available on the Somerset Council website interactive map

[Roadworks and travel information](#)

**Somerset Waste** - collection days, replacement bins or recycling bags and missed collection reporting:

[Bins, recycling and waste](#)

**Travel and Tourist Information**

[Travel Somerset - Art, Culture, Events, History & More](#)

**Sign-up for the latest climate news from across Somerset:**

[Climate newsletter sign-up](#)

**Open Somerset Council Consultations** - which anyone can complete and take part in shaping the future of Somerset

[Somerset Council - Citizen Space - Consultations](#)

**SOMERSET COUNCIL TELEPHONE NO - 0300 123 2224**



# Somerset's wildlife needs you

## Somerset Council has launched a public consultation on the county's first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

This draft strategy sets out priorities for nature's recovery, maps Somerset's most valuable areas for wildlife, and identifies opportunities to improve habitats and deliver wider environmental benefits such as cleaner air, flood resilience and access to green spaces.

**Take part in our consultation to help shape the strategy:**



Scan the QR code to take part in the survey or find out more at:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/somersets-nature-recovery-strategy-consultation](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/somersets-nature-recovery-strategy-consultation)

Consultation closes 7 November





# Parish Information Sheet



**Ref: 08/2025**

For use by Somerset Council

<b>From:</b>	<b>Sophie Jones Planning Policy Officer</b>
--------------	---

<b>Date:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> October 2025</b>
--------------	------------------------------------

<b>To:</b>	<b>All Parish, Town and City Councils</b>
------------	---

## **Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and a Built Sports Facilities Strategy (BSFS) Surveys**

Somerset Council (the Council) is currently producing a new Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and a Built Sports Facilities Strategy (BSFS) and has commissioned consultants, Stuart Todd Associates, to help produce them. The PPS and BSFS will help to support provision of high-quality indoor and outdoor sports provision (and any ancillary facilities) across the area. These strategies will play a vital role in encouraging increased sporting activity, as well as promoting health and wellbeing by enabling the Council to work together with National Sports Governing Bodies and Sport England to protect, enhance and provide sports pitches and facilities across Somerset. What the PPS and BSFS cannot do, however, is guarantee that all proposals for improvement and additional pitches/facilities are delivered, with delivery and maintenance of most pitches/facilities requiring joint working and funding from multiple organisations (and not solely the Council).

### **What is a PPS and a BSFS?**

The strategies are designed to set clear way forward for playing pitches and sports facilities in the Council area, including:

- Providing evidence to support management and investment decisions
- Support the Somerset Local Plan (the planning strategy for the Council area)

- Provide guidance in relation to sports pitches and facilities, and quality standards
- Help to support proposals for improvements and additional sports pitches and facilities
- Help to protect sports pitches and facilities from loss through the planning system (where they remain viable, and demand remains for their use)
- Help to support collaborative working with stakeholders for investment into sports pitches and facilities.

The process involves a thorough review of existing provision, including analysing pitch/facility types, their use and condition to assess the supply of and demand for pitches and facilities in Somerset, now and in the future. To ensure a comprehensive evaluation, it is crucial to gather information regarding current usage patterns, pitch/facility quality, and any other significant issues affecting provision. Your insights as a local stakeholder are invaluable, and this data will be supplemented by information from other pitch and facility operators and other relevant sources including community sports clubs (they will be sent their own survey to complete).

## **We need your help!**

***To facilitate this process, we kindly request your participation in our online survey(s) aimed at gathering your insights. We have prepared two distinct surveys: one for grass/artificial pitches and another for built sports facilities.***

The survey links are provided below and we would appreciate your survey response(s) by **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November**.

The PPS covers grass and artificial grass pitches for football, hockey, rugby union, rugby league, cricket, American football, baseball, rounders, softball, Gaelic sports and lacrosse.

- **PPS SURVEY LINK:- [Somerset PPS - Pitch Provider / Operator Survey](#)**

The BSFS covers swimming pools (including lidos), sports halls (including community halls), health and fitness suites (gyms and studios) tennis, netball and squash courts, athletics and cycling tracks and centres for bowls, boxing/martial arts, climbing and gymnastics.

- **BSFS SURVEY LINK:- [Somerset BSFS - Facility Provider / Operator Survey](#)**

Please be advised that you have the option to 'Save and Continue' your survey response(s) should you wish to return to it at a later date. We anticipate that it could take you approximately 20-30 minutes to complete the survey(s) if you have several pitches/facilities.

Should you have any questions regarding the PPS or BSFS or for assistance with any technical issues with the survey(s), please contact us at [localplanningpolicy@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:localplanningpolicy@somerset.gov.uk).

Please feel free to delegate the survey to someone else within the Parish Council who may be better placed to answer the questions should you feel this is necessary.

### **We may also visit your site(s)!**

As part of the PPS and BSFS processes, we are required to conduct an audit of provision. Over the next few months my colleagues and I will be conducting non-technical visual assessments of the pitches and facilities across Somerset. During our brief audit, we will visually inspect:

- The overall condition of the sports pitches / facilities
- Any visible wear and tear
- Surrounding areas and access points.

The visual assessment will help us to gather crucial information for our comprehensive report.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in this important study as we strive to develop a comprehensive and effective strategies for the Somerset area, we look forward to receiving your response to the survey link(s) above, which will help give us greater understanding of your sports provision.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### **For more Information, please contact**

[localplanningpolicy@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:localplanningpolicy@somerset.gov.uk)

# Electoral Services Update

## Community Governance Review

- Following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review (currently being undertaken, recommendations due in December 2025), Somerset Council will be undertaking a county-wide Community Governance Review (CGR).
- This will be commenced during the summer of 2027
- There is insufficient time to undertake the review between the LGBCE recommendations being published and the elections in May 2027

**Changes pursuant of the CGR will be effective from the Somerset Council elections in May 2031**



Somerset  
Council

# Electoral Services Update

## Community Governance Review

### What is a Community Governance Review?

- A Community Governance Review is where Somerset Council will review the governance arrangements of local communities within the county
- A CGR can recommend changes such as:
  - Creating, merging, altering, or abolishing parishes.
  - Changing parish boundaries.
  - Renaming parishes or wards.
  - Changing the number of parish councillors.
  - Adjusting electoral arrangements, such as warding or election cycles.
  - Grouping or de-grouping parishes under a common parish council

# Electoral Services Update

## Community Governance Review

### How will the CGR work?

#### Terms of Reference

- The council must publish a terms of reference outlining the scope and objectives of the review.
- Other relevant authorities are notified.

#### Consultation

- The council consults local electors and interested parties.
- Two consultation phases are typical: one before draft recommendations and one after





# Electoral Services Update

## Community Governance Review

### Draft Recommendations

- Recommendations developed based on consultation feedback and statutory criteria:
  - Reflecting community identity and interests.
  - Ensuring effective and convenient governance.
- Consideration of community cohesion and historic attachments is encouraged

### Final Recommendations

- Council committees and full council review and approve final proposals.

### Implementation

- A Reorganisation Order is made and submitted to SoS to enact changes.



# Electoral Services Update

## Community Governance Review

### What do we need from you?

- Start to review your own current arrangements – e.g. boundaries, number of councillors, warding etc.
- Work with your neighbouring councils to review your boundaries
- Speak to your communities about your current arrangements

### What will happen next?

- LGBCE review recommends scheme for Somerset – December 2025
- Changes made to schemes and system – 2026
- Somerset Council, Town, Parish and City council elections on current arrangements – May 2027
- Formal commencement of the county-wide CGR – Summer 2027

# Electoral Services Update

Elections 6 May 2027

Community Governance Review

## **Changes to the number of Councillors**

- Any requests for changes to the number of councillors, within an existing ward or local council wide, should be made by 31 December 2025. This will enable all such requests to be considered by Somerset Council during 2026 and allow for proper planning for the elections.
- It would not be possible to consider changes to warding arrangements at this time. Such changes could be requested at the subsequent Somerset wide review.
- Justifications for changes should be provided to enable proper consideration
- The Council will also consider the requests against the recommendations in NALC circular 1126/1988
- Requests should be made by email to [cgr@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:cgr@somerset.gov.uk)

# Electoral Services Update

## NALC Circular 1126/1988

Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7
1400	8
2000	9
2700	10
3500	11
4400	12
5400	13
6500	14
7700	15
9000	16
10400	17
11900	18
13500	19
15200	20
17000	21
18900	22
20900	23
23000	24
Over 23000	25

# Parish Information Sheet



**Ref: 01/2025**

For use by Somerset Council

<b>From:</b>	<b>Chris Hall, Executive Director for Community, Place and Economy</b>
--------------	--

<b>Date:</b>	<b>20/10/25</b>
--------------	-----------------

<b>To:</b>	<b>Somerset Parish Clerks</b>
------------	-------------------------------

## **Please find a message below which is being sent on behalf of Somerset Council's Planning Service:**

Thank you for bearing with us over the last 12 weeks while Somerset Council's planning service operated a temporary "Prioritising Decisions Period" (PDP). This was an exceptional response to a significant and growing backlog of undecided applications.

The PDP has now ended. During this time, we reduced the number of on hand applications from around 1,600 to around 1,300 applications, a reduction of 20%. We focused on making confident, proportionate decisions and streamlining our internal processes. Many of those improvements will now continue as standard practice.

Here's what this means for you:

- We will continue to return and refund invalid applications within strict time limits.
- We've published new guidance on when amendments will be accepted (see attached) and how to submit them clearly.
- We will continue to avoid unnecessary pre-commencement conditions wherever possible.
- We will continue to use proportionate judgement and make decisions, rather than waiting for consultees outside the consultation period, where standing advice applies.

We know not everything is perfect yet – we're continuing to work on speeding up consultee responses and improving communication tools and templates.

Thank you again for your cooperation. The PDP was only one step in our wider service improvement programme, and your continued feedback is welcome as we make further progress.

Somerset Planning Service  
20 October 2025



## **Guidance on the submission of amended plans and additional information – October 2025**

We accept that negotiations on proposals are an important part of the application process. However, amendments are not an alternative to well-thought-out, consulted, and properly prepared schemes in the first place. We continue to recommend that applicants use the pre-application service so that issues can be identified and addressed early on. This means that follow-on applications can be determined with the benefit of the pre-application advice if it has been followed and is within reasonable timeframes.

It is the responsibility of applicants and agents to ensure that the correct information is submitted with applications. Failure to do so will result in applications either being unvalidated or refused, due to missing information. The validation checklist is contained on our [web page](#). We will only accept any amendment to the red line site area after an application is validated, where the change relates to the location of the proposed access or involves the reduction in the site area to resolve ownership issues. Any other changes required to the red line will require the application to be withdrawn and resubmitted.

We only accept amendments or additional information after the initial submission and validation of a planning application and during its consideration in the following circumstances:

- If pre-application advice was not obtained or followed, it is unlikely that we will negotiate any changes and the application will be decided based on the information originally submitted
- If pre-application advice has been sought and the proposals do not follow the advice issued, the application will be decided based on the information originally submitted
- If pre-application advice has been sought and the advice has been followed, we will negotiate on minor amendments if required
- In the case of applications for matters reserved by condition we will only allow one attempt at amending the application before issuing our decision, all decisions on Discharge of Conditions will be made within a maximum of 12 weeks
- In the case of householder and non-major applications, case officers may seek one set of amendments to make a scheme acceptable and which would not result in the need for re-consultation and allow the application to be determined within the statutory time limits
- In the case of major applications, case officers will only seek amendments that do not fundamentally change the form of the proposals and if it is a minor matter in

response to consultation responses that can be dealt with within the statutory time limits, any amendments that would result in the need to display new notices will not normally be accepted

- In all cases, if there is an objection to the principle of development, the application will be determined on the information originally submitted
- If a retrospective application is refused, we will take formal action immediately after the decision is issued

13 October 2025

## New footpath

Well after a few months of trying it seems I have a way forward for the footpath build.

It seems that our request for the works is a little bit ahead of the ability of the Somerset Council team to process and respond quickly as they develop new schemes to enable the Parish Councils to fund minor works within their parishes.

As I understand it the Highways team are developing an “Enhanced Maintenance Scheme” (EMS) to enable this kind of works to be undertaken.

This scheme is being written up and is not finalised yet but the essential parts are as follows

1. The Parish Council will need to request the works via the LCN and state they have the funding and the contractor in place to deliver the scheme. I know Pilton Parish Council have already approved the need and the proposal for GFEL to fund the works.
2. The local Highways Officer will take the request made via the LCN and process the application and respond.
3. The teams delivering the works will be given guidance/standards that works need to be delivered to and will also need to prove competence. The competence should not be an issue as we have already delivered the Summer Hill project for the Highways team.
4. Works would have to be carried out using correct TM and materials and checked before signing off

Clearly that is a quick summary for now and there will be more details to come. I also need to confirm if the Parish Council should make the request straight away or wait until the scheme is in a better place.

## **DRAFT**

### **List of Vegetation overgrowing Pilton roads that is considered a safety issue.**

Roger, Richard & I toured village on Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025

#### **Parsons Batch:**

- Section opposite churchyard
- Section along Manor wall and also short section opposite

#### **A361:**

- Visibility out of Parsons Batch
- Saplings on verge – next to wall of old school house

#### **Shop Lane:**

- Section along Old vicarage wall
- Lower section – westerly side

#### **St Mary's Lane**

- Opposite entrance to Village Hall car park and tubs need to be removed
- Opposite Abbots Way entrance
- Coming up to junction with A361:
  - LHS bushes & brambles
  - RHS – tree?

#### **Shutwell Lane**

- Top end – two sections of Lavender needs trimming
- Bottom end – section opposite Church House

#### **A361**

- NB: Not a safety issue but verge on North side near bus shelter needs review

#### **Top Street**

- Opposite Coffee shop entrance – Yew tree in particular

#### **Barrow Lane**

- Most of it needs a good trim (to allow car/pedestrian separation)

#### **Through to John Beales Hill**

- Maple tree outside The Brambles
- Yes outside Cedar Cottage
- Laurel on corner

- Tree next to wall at The Gable

### **John Beales**

- Another trim on Easterly side required
- NB: 'Triangle' bad again – not safety – but needs done by ASBOs?

### **Top Street**

- Along Gables boundary
- Some trimming required at Verona's

### **East Town Lane**

- Opposite Chantry House (part of their land) – take hedge back

### **Lower Street**

- General trim required around culvert area
- Yew Tree at Pilton Tree Cottage (may be on Pilton House land?)
- NB: Hedge along Mount Pleasant was trimmed earlier and is fine for now.

### **Bread Street**

- Some trimming required opposite Vicar's cottage
- Outside Box tree House
- Trimming outside Mulberry Cottage and down Ford Lane
- Trimming outside Ruth's and down Cumhill on RHS

### **Cumhill**

- Section down from Bier House and round corner – bushes over wall impede visibility.  
NB: Can we do something with the muddy triangle of land opposite to create a passing place?
- Bushes outside Church wall on corner need trimming

### **Pylle Road**

- Both sides of road up from post box need trimming

We also visited the Playing Fields and will report back to Trustees separately.

Nick Hall

27 Oct 2025