

Monthly Mendip South Division Councillor Report, Aug 2026

Somerset must make its voice heard in the Big Conversation on Care

Baroness Casey of Blackstock, Chair of the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care, has launched the Big Conversation on Care — a national engagement exercise inviting the public to help shape what a National Care Service in England could look like, and how it is paid for.

This lands as Somerset Council published its own new Adult Social Care Strategy for 2026 to 2029, which confirms that adult social care alone accounted for 38% of Somerset Council's budget in 2025/26 (£230.867m).

Council Leader Cllr Bill Revans has long raised this pressure with central Government. Giving evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee at Westminster in March 2025, he told MPs that adult and children's social care combined then accounted for 66% of the Council's budget: "We've almost slow walked into a situation where Council Tax is funding social care – Council Tax based on 1991 property values. Some 66% of our budget goes to fund social care. What we are saying is Council Tax is the wrong way to do it. That's my message."

Council sets out vision for adult social care in Somerset:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/council-sets-out-vision-for-adult-social-care-in-somerset/>

Big Conversation on Care platform: <http://caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation/>

One week left to have your say on the new Somerset Local Plan

With one week remaining before it closes, Somerset Council is urging residents and businesses to take part in the Somerset Local Plan Scoping Consultation before it ends on Sunday 9 August 2026. The Council is developing a new Local Plan that will guide where and how change happens across Somerset's towns, villages and countryside over the next 20 years, and is inviting views on what policies should be included before detailed work gets under way.

The Council has been clear that this stage of consultation is not for comment about specific sites and no sites have been agreed; anyone wishing to put forward a site can still do so separately through the Council's ongoing Call for Sites process.

Have your say: <https://orlo.uk/ZHS0E>

Full consultation and documents: <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/local-plan-scoping-consultation-2026/>

Local Plan background pages: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/somerset-local-plan/>

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New 567 bus service links Butleigh, Lydford and Street to Castle Cary station

A new community responsive bus service, the 567, launches on Monday 3 August, connecting Glastonbury and Street with the rail network via Castle Cary station, stopping at Butleigh, Lydford, Keinton Mandeville. The service will run 15 times a day Monday to Friday, 9 times on Saturdays and 4 times on Sundays, with timings designed to link directly with trains at Castle Cary.

The full stop-by-stop timetable for the new 567 service, alongside the related 667, has been published. Timetable: [567 and 667 Bus Stop Timetable, 3 August 2026 \(xlsx\)](#)

Free bus travel for all 5 to 15 year olds this summer

Throughout August, all 5 to 15 year olds can travel free on participating bus services across Somerset, under the Government's Kids Go Free scheme. This builds on the existing concession for under-5s, who already travel free, and sits alongside the £3 cap on single adult bus fares, making it easier and cheaper for families to get out and about together over the summer holidays.

Not every operator or route is included, so residents are encouraged to check which bus operators and routes are taking part before travelling.

More information: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/bus-it-you-know-it-makes-sense/>

Best Value Notice issued to Somerset Council

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government issued Somerset Council with a Best Value Improvement Notice on 15 July 2026, formally notifying the Council of Government concerns about its capacity to comply with the Best Value Duty. It follows the May 2026 CIPFA review, which found the Council's financial position fragile, and cites continued reliance on Exceptional Financial Support, low reserves, and demand pressures in Children's Services, Adult Social Care and SEND. The Council is expected to engage with the Department at least quarterly on progress; the notice will be reviewed by 15 January 2027.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/best-value-notice-issued-to-somerset-council/>

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Somerset Council awarded funding to explore bus franchising

Somerset Council's transport team has been awarded funding by the Department for Transport (DfT) to carry out a bus franchising pre-feasibility assessment. Bus franchising is a system where the local transport authority — Somerset Council — awards exclusive contracts to private operators to run services on specific routes or areas; unlike the current enhanced partnership arrangement, franchising would mean the Council keeps control over routes, fares, timetables and service standards.

Recent changes to Government legislation and guidance, together with this new funding, mean the Council can now carry out a formal, evidence-based assessment of the different franchising models available, to get a clear picture of whether any could deliver better outcomes for operators and passengers in Somerset.

Selwood Academy wins Somerset's Active Bystander podcast competition

Selwood Academy in Frome has won Somerset's Active Bystander podcast competition, with its entry receiving 477 public votes after standing out among submissions from more than 40 schools across the county. The competition, commissioned by the Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership and delivered by Collaborate Digital, encouraged young people to think about how they can help keep themselves and others safe while building the confidence to speak up and support those around them.

Students who took part first completed workshops on personal safety, anti-social behaviour and the role of the Active Bystander, before writing and producing their own podcasts to share safety messages with other young people; a shortlist of ten entries then went to a public vote. The Council has praised the creativity, teamwork and commitment shown by all the students involved, and thanked every school that took part for helping spread an important message about young people looking out for one another.

Walk for a Life 2026 – suicide prevention walk in Taunton

Somerset Council's Public Health team and partner organisations are inviting residents to Walk for a Life 2026, held to remember those lost to suicide, raise awareness and encourage and empower people in Somerset to take action to prevent suicide. The walk starts at 10.30am from the Quaker Meeting House, 13 Bath Place, Taunton, TA1 4EP, following a wheelchair and pushchair-friendly loop around Taunton and ending at Vivary Park; assistance dogs are welcome inside the venue.

Participants are invited to re-join organisers back at the Quaker Meeting House from 12.00pm to 1.00pm for refreshments and a chance to speak to local support services. Organisations attending include Open Mental Health, Mind in Somerset, Somerset Suicide Bereavement Support Service,

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Somerset Council, Young Somerset, Samaritans, Somerset Sports and Activity Partnership (SASP), and Help for Heroes.

Anyone with queries about the event can contact publichealth@somerset.gov.uk. The Council has also highlighted Mindline, Somerset's 24/7 confidential emotional support and mental health helpline, which can be reached locally on 01823 276 892 or freephone on 0800 138 1692.

Details & downloads: <https://walkforalife.org.uk/>

Somerset Council appoints new Chief Financial Officer

The Council announced the appointment of Lizzie Watkin as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and statutory Section 151 Officer, following approval by Full Council. Lizzie Watkin joins Somerset Council from Wiltshire Council, where she served as Corporate Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer, and brings extensive experience of local government finance, organisational transformation, governance and strategic leadership.

Council Leader reaffirms commitment to safe, welcoming communities in Somerset

At Full Council on 15 July, Council Leader Cllr Bill Revans responded to a question from Cllr Habib Farbahi about a protest march that took place in Taunton on Saturday 27 June, and about concerns that a further demonstration might follow.

Cllr Revans reaffirmed the Council's commitment to community safety, cohesion and respect, describing the scenes witnessed in Taunton in June as "deeply concerning." He went on to say: "While most of those present conducted themselves peacefully and lawfully, I am appalled by the behaviour of a group whose actions and language sought to divide our communities, intimidate others and undermine the values that Somerset stands for. Somerset is a county built on decency, respect and neighbourliness."

He confirmed that the Council would continue to work closely with Avon and Somerset Constabulary, community organisations, faith groups and local leaders to support cohesion, and that he would be seeking assurances from the police that the public would be kept safe in the event of any future marches or similar events, in Taunton or elsewhere in the county. He pointed to existing initiatives, including the Somerset Diverse Communities project, the annual Together events, and the newly formed Interfaith and Belief Network, as practical examples of the Council's ongoing cohesion work, and reiterated the Council's status as a signatory to anti-racist organisation commitments.

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Council spotlights new affordable homes for rural communities (#RuralHousingWeek)

To mark Rural Housing Week, which ran nationally from 6 to 10 July and is led by the National Housing Federation, Somerset Council highlighted the importance of affordable housing in helping rural communities across the county to thrive. According to the 2011 census, 48.2% of Somerset's population live in rural areas, making it one of the ten most rural authorities in England, and the Council's Affordable Housing team works with housing providers, developers, parish councils and community partners to support delivery where it is most needed.

The Council reported that 117 affordable homes were completed in Somerset's rural communities during 2025/26, with a further 25 rural applications currently in progress that could deliver around 450 additional affordable homes, three of which include wheelchair-adapted units. A further 43 sites already have planning consent, with the potential to deliver around 1,600 affordable homes in total, underlining the scale of the pipeline the Council is seeking to bring forward in rural parts of the county.

Somerset Council approves multi-million investment in SEND

The Council's Executive has agreed a major package of one-off investment worth £5.331m over two years to strengthen support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The funding will be used to increase capacity across SEND services, support a restructure aimed at reducing duplication and improving efficiency, and help teams keep pace with rising demand and statutory timescales.

It will also expand capacity within the Preparation for Adulthood function in the Virtual School, including additional Learning Mentors to support young people with SEND who are at risk of becoming, or already are, not in education, employment or training (NEET).

The investment responds to a sharp rise in need: the number of children and young people in Somerset with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) stood at 6,578 at the end of May 2026, with EHCP numbers rising from 2.6% of the school population in 2019/20 to 5.8% in 2025/26, close to the 6% national average. The additional resource is intended to be temporary and time-limited, allowing the Council to reduce current backlogs while it assesses the impact of wider reforms to the SEND system.

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Somerset Domestic Abuse Service and Somerset FA launch new partnership

Somerset Domestic Abuse Service and the Somerset Football Association have announced a new partnership aimed at creating safe, inclusive and supportive environments across grassroots football in the county. The collaboration will focus on raising awareness of domestic abuse among clubs, coaches, players and families, using football's reach into local communities as a platform for prevention and early intervention.

The partnership reflects a growing recognition of the role sports organisations can play in identifying and responding to domestic abuse, and forms part of wider efforts across Somerset to embed safeguarding and support services more deeply within community and voluntary organisations.

More information can be found here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/somerset-domestic-abuse-service-and-somerset-fa-launch-new-partnership/>

Council bangs the drum for Summer Reading Challenge

Somerset Council has encouraged primary school children across the county to take part in the Reading Agency's 2026 Summer Reading Challenge, which launched on Saturday 4 July. The initiative forms part of the wider National Year of Reading 2026 and is aimed at keeping children engaged with books over the summer holidays, helping to prevent the seasonal dip in reading levels that can occur when schools break up.

Somerset's libraries are supporting the challenge locally, offering activities and incentives to encourage participation, with the Council framing the campaign as part of its broader commitment to literacy and childhood development across the county.

More information can be found via this link: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/council-bangs-the-drum-for-summer-reading-challenge/>

Free beach parking in Brean and Berrow

Somerset Council has confirmed that beach-goers visiting Brean and Berrow will be able to park for free throughout the summer season, as part of a joint initiative with Discover Brean and EDF's Hinkley Point C project. The scheme is intended to boost footfall and support the local visitor economy along this stretch of coast, which relies heavily on seasonal tourism.

The move follows engagement between the Council and local tourism and business partners on ways to make the area more attractive to day-trippers and holidaymakers over the summer months, at a time when many families are looking for lower-cost days out.

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Schools Against Waste marks milestone 500th Somerset school visit

The Council's Schools Against Waste (SAW) programme has reached a significant milestone, completing its 500th school visit at Priddy and St Lawrence's Federation school. Delivered on behalf of Somerset Council by Carymoor Environmental Trust, the programme provides practical, curriculum-linked sessions for primary and secondary pupils covering recycling, waste reduction and wider environmental responsibility.

The milestone reflects the scale of the programme's reach across the county since it began, and the Council has highlighted it as evidence of its ongoing commitment to embedding waste-reduction education in schools as part of its broader climate and waste strategy.

Get involved in your Unitary Council

Residents don't have to wait for an election to have a say in how Somerset is run. The Council's Council and Democracy pages set out the main ways to get involved, including having your say through open consultations and engagement, finding and contacting your local councillor, following or speaking at council and committee meetings, checking committee agendas, reports and minutes, submitting or signing a petition, and exploring what's involved in standing to become a councillor yourself.

Find out more: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/>

Upcoming Council Meetings

August 2026 Meetings

- Scrutiny Committee – Children and Education: 3 August at 2.00pm
- Planning Committee – East: 4 August at 2.00pm (Cancelled)
- Executive: 5 August at 10.00am
- Planning Committee – North: 11 August at 2.00pm
- Scrutiny Committee – Corporate and Strategic: 12 August at 10.00am
- Planning Committee – South: 18 August at 2.00pm
- Planning Committee – West: 25 August at 2.00pm
- Planning and Transport Policy Executive Sub-Committee: 26 August at 2.00pm
- Audit Committee: 27 August at 10.00am

Source: democracy.somerset.gov.uk – Council calendar

September 2026 Meetings

- Planning Committee – East: 1 September at 2.00pm
- Executive: 2 September at 10.00am
- Scrutiny Committee – Climate, Environment and Place: 3 September at 10.00am

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- Constitution and Governance Committee: 3 September at 2.00pm
- Scrutiny Committee – Adults, Health and Housing: 4 September at 10.00am
- Scrutiny Committee – Corporate and Strategic: 9 September at 10.00am
- Full Council: 16 September at 1.00pm

Sources: democracy.somerset.gov.uk; [Council calendar](#); ilminster.gov.uk; democracy.somerset.gov.uk (Full Council)

As ever, please check the Somerset Council democracy pages ahead of each meeting for the latest agendas, venue details and any late changes, including cancellations.

Report It First

Useful links to share with your communities

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- **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: [Report a problem with a street light](#)
 - **Road signs, markings and lighting** - Includes bollards, pedestrian crossings, requesting a village nameplate or 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 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](#)
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SOMERSET COUNCIL TELEPHONE NO - 0300 123 2224**

SOMERSET COUNCIL

Community Resilience Action Calendar

2026 to 2027

Every dated event, in order, with one thing to do about each. Written to be forwarded to your parishes and communities.

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

MAR

FOR YOUR COMMUNITIES

Compiled by Cllr Claire Sully, Associate Lead Member for Community Resilience
Version 1.2, 11 August 2026

Each entry has one member action. Most take under ten minutes. If you only do one thing, do August.

At a glance (full details below this table)

August 2026 to summer 2027.

When	What	Your action
Now to Sept	Parish Preparedness Survey. 249 of 328 councils still to return it	Email the paper survey to your parishes (Appendix A), paper survey attached
Now	Drought declared 29 July. High wildfire risk	Share the Fire Service advice
Now	Community Risk Register 2026, newly published	Share the link (below, following this table)
August	Community Resilience Awards open	Nominate a group and a person
Tue 25 Aug	Community Flood Action Fund. Next grant deadline	Alert parishes with a flood scheme
1 to 30 Sept	30 Days 30 Ways UK. Preparedness month	Re-share daily. Prepare in August
1 to 17 Sept	Seeing Through the Rain. Youth exhibition, Ilminster Arts Centre	Share with schools and families
Sat 5 Sept	A Walk for a Life. Suicide prevention walk, Taunton	Share it, or welcome to join us
Fri 11 Sept	SRA Board meeting. Taunton, 9.45am. Open to the public	Submit a public question by noon on Mon 7 Sept
Tue 15 Sept	Act to Adapt workshop. Porlock Village Hall, 7pm to 9.30pm	Share with Exmoor and coastal parishes
Thu 17 Sept	A Walk for a Life evening event, 5.30pm to 8.30pm	Watch for details
Sun 27 Sept	Act to Adapt. Shepton Mallet Sunday Market, 10am to 3pm	Share. No booking needed
All October	Somerset Flood Awareness Month. County library programme	Promote your local library
Tue 6 Oct	Frome Library session	Publicise locally
Tue 13 Oct	Wincanton Library session	Publicise locally

When	What	Your action
Wed 21 Oct	Community Resilience Day. Millfield School, Street. Free	Book on. Send a parish rep
Mon 26 Oct	Taunton Library family workshop, half term	Publicise to families
Wed 28 Oct	Porlock Library family workshop, half term	Publicise to families
Fri 30 Oct	Priorswood Library family workshop, Taunton	Publicise to families
By end Oct	Winter weather readiness	Are your parishes ready?
Tue 24 Nov	Community Flood Action Fund. Second deadline, then 23 Feb 2027	Second and third bid windows
Spring 2027	Cool spaces and heatwave planning	Forward look, not yet live
July 2027	“Love Your River” month	In development. More to follow

August

Survey, wildfire, awards

Parish Preparedness Survey

249 of 328

City, town and parish councils have not yet returned the survey. All 249 are listed in Appendix A. 79 returned. 24 per cent. As at 4 August 2026.

This is a paper survey, so it needs emailing out and chasing rather than linking to. It asks each council to score thirteen hazards, then covers people, plans, equipment and communications.

Where a council has not responded, we plan around it without knowing whether it has a plan, a co-ordinator, a Place of Safety or a phone signal. Non-response is not the same as no risk.

YOUR ACTION

Find your parishes in Appendix A and email the survey to their clerk. Then put it on the agenda of their next meeting.

The survey is a paper form, attached to this calendar. If it has not reached you, email claire.sully@somerset.gov.uk and I will send it over.

Drought and wildfire risk

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service declared drought on 29 July and asked the public to protect water supplies and prevent fires. Vegetation is tinder-dry, and disposable barbecues easily ignite moorland, heathland and woodland.

Their campaign asks people to pack a picnic instead of lighting a barbecue. It asks for a swap rather than a sacrifice, which is why it works.

Four things to share:

- Never light a fire in the open.
- Take all litter home, especially reflective items.
- Never throw lit cigarettes onto dry ground.
- Call 999 immediately if you see a fire.

YOUR ACTION

Share the Fire Service advice with parishes and community Facebook groups this week. Pass the retail guidance to shops, garages and campsites that sell disposable barbecues.

Drought declared: <https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/news/drought-declared-please-protect-water-supplies-and-prevent-fires>

Pack a picnic campaign: <https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/news/firefighters-plea-pack-picnic>

Wildfire safety advice: <https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/safety/outdoors/wildfires>

Disposable barbecue guidance for retailers: <https://brc.org.uk/media/uxonmyq3/brc-voluntary-guidelines-for-disposable-bbqs-june-2026.pdf>

Community Risk Register 2026

Reissued in July by the Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum. It covers eight risks: flooding, extreme weather, animal disease, infectious disease, transport incidents, industrial accidents, utility failure, and malicious threats including cyber crime. Short, plain and readable.

YOUR ACTION

Share the link. Ask parishes to spend ten minutes on it at a meeting and answer one question: which two of these eight apply most to us?

Community Risk Register 2026: <https://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/BD17061-Community-Risk-Register-JULY2026.pdf>

Community Resilience Awards

Running since 2022, the awards recognise people and groups who have gone above and beyond to help their community deal with emergencies. They are presented at the Community Resilience Day in October. Details for 2026 are due shortly.

The examples are usefully ordinary: a flood group that keeps the plan up to date, a councillor who thinks ahead, someone who set up a list of who is vulnerable. Most divisions have one of these people, and they rarely put themselves forward.

YOUR ACTION

Nominate one group and one person from your division. Both categories run, so you can do both.

Awards: <https://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/somerset-community-resilience-awards/>

Community Flood Action Fund

The Somerset Rivers Authority runs a small grants fund for works that reduce flooding in Somerset. Grants of between £3,000 and £20,000 may be awarded, and a total of £520,000 has been approved by the SRA Board since its launch in November 2024.

The next deadline for applications is Tuesday 25 August 2026. After that, deadlines run on a rolling three-monthly basis, four times a year: Tuesday 24 November 2026, then Tuesday 23 February 2027. Somerset Prepared funding bids run to the same schedule, so a parish has only one set of dates to remember.

This is the one item in the calendar that puts money into a parish rather than asking for its time. Most parishes with a recurring flooding problem already know what the fix is. What they usually lack is someone telling them the fund exists and the date it closes.

Pre-application advice is available from the SRA team. Email sra@somerset.gov.uk or telephone 01823 355111, For attention of: Caroline Dunn.

Appendix B lists the schemes approved by the fund so far, so members can check which projects have been successful and show a parish what a fundable scheme looks like.

YOUR ACTION

Tell any parish with a known flooding problem about the fund this week. The August deadline is close, so if they cannot make 25 August, point them at 24 November and get it on an autumn agenda.

Appendix B lists the schemes already approved, which is the quickest way to show a parish the sort of work that gets funded.

SRA Community Flood Action Fund grants: <https://www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/grants/>

September

30 Days 30 Ways UK: preparedness month

A daily preparedness campaign across social media through September, run by the Emergency Planning Society and co-ordinated at Local Resilience Forum level. Topics come from the national and local risk registers, so it maps onto the register above.

Typical prompts: have you got a grab bag? What would you do about your pets if you had to leave in a hurry? Do you know how to turn off your water, gas and electricity?

All materials are Creative Commons licensed, so parish newsletters can lift them directly without asking permission.

YOUR ACTION

Follow #30days30waysUK and re-share through September. Ask parish clerks to put the bingo card in newsletters and on noticeboards. Prepare this in August so something goes out on 1 September.

30 Days 30 Ways UK: <https://30days30waysuk.com/>

A Walk for a Life, Saturday 5 September

A walk in Taunton to remember those lost to suicide, raise awareness, and encourage people in Somerset to take action to prevent it. A second evening event follows on Thursday 17 September, 5.30pm to 8.30pm, with details still to be confirmed.

YOUR ACTION

Share the date through parish newsletters and community Facebook groups. If you can, join us.

A Walk for a Life: <https://walkforalife.org.uk/>

Seeing Through the Rain, 1 to 17 September

An exhibition at Ilminster Arts Centre of young people's visions of Ilminster's life and future. It runs from 1 to 17 September.

Worth flagging beyond Ilminster. Young people describing what they want their town to be is a resilience conversation in its own right, and it is a model other towns could copy.

YOUR ACTION

Share it with schools, youth groups and families in your division, and go and see it if you are nearby.

Seeing Through the Rain, Ilminster Arts Centre:

<https://www.ilminsterartscentre.com/exhibitions/seeing-through-the-rain-young-visions-of-ilminsters-life-and-future>

Somerset Rivers Authority Board, Friday 11 September

The SRA Board usually meets four times a year to make decisions and review progress. Meetings are normally scheduled for three and a quarter hours, though actual durations vary. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

The next meeting is on Friday 11 September 2026 at 9.45am, in the Committee Room at Taunton Town Council Offices, Dean House, Belvedere Road, Taunton TA1 1HE.

Public questions are the part most people do not know about. A parish with a drainage or river maintenance issue can put it directly to the Board, on the record, rather than through a chain of officers.

To speak, a question or statement must be submitted in writing at least three clear working days before the meeting. The Board meets on a Friday morning, so the deadline is noon on the Monday before: **noon on Monday 7 September** for the 11 September meeting. Email it to

sra@somerset.gov.uk and mark it clearly “Public Question for the SRA Board”. Speaking time is normally three minutes, with up to 30 minutes for public questions overall. Agendas are published about 11 calendar days ahead.

YOUR ACTION

Tell parishes with a flooding or watercourse issue that they can submit a public question. For the 11 September meeting the deadline is noon on Monday 7 September. Board papers are published on the meetings page.

SRA Board meetings, papers and public questions:

<https://www.somersetwatersauthority.org.uk/meetings/>

How to submit a public question: <https://www.somersetwatersauthority.org.uk/meetings/public-question-time/>

Act to Adapt, Tuesday 15 and Sunday 27 September

Somerset Wildlife Trust’s Act to Adapt process helps communities write their own climate adaptation plans. Two dates in September:

Porlock, Tuesday 15 September, 7pm to 9.30pm, Porlock Village Hall. A free two-hour workshop to start Porlock’s adaptation plan, working in groups on how climate change is affecting the village and what can be done locally. Wheelchair accessible, hearing loop, parking for around 30 cars, free drinks and snacks. Free to attend, but please register so numbers can be planned.

Shepton Mallet, Sunday 27 September, 10am to 3pm, Sunday Market. Act to Adapt is working with Shepton Mallet on a plan for the local area. Find the team at the market to hear the ideas that came out of the summer workshop and add your own. No booking needed.

YOUR ACTION

Share both dates. Porlock is one for Exmoor and coastal parishes; Shepton Mallet is drop-in, so it suits a newsletter or a Facebook group. If a community in your division would like to run its own process, point them at Act to Adapt.

Porlock workshop, free registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/act-to-adapt-practical-action-in-a-changing-climate-tickets-1995682809004>

Act to Adapt, Somerset Wildlife Trust: <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/act-to-adapt>

October

Somerset Flood Awareness Month

Somerset's own campaign month, running across the county library network. The intention is to build it year on year, so engagement this year sets the baseline.

Date	Event	Where
Tue 6 Oct	Session	Frome Library
Tue 13 Oct	Session	Wincanton Library
Wed 21 Oct	Community Resilience Day, 9.15am to 4pm	Millfield School, Butleigh Road, Street BA16 0YD
Mon 26 Oct	Family workshop, half term	Taunton Library
Wed 28 Oct	Family workshop, half term	Porlock Library
Fri 30 Oct	Family workshop, half term	Priorswood Library, Taunton

Community Resilience Day, Wednesday 21 October

Free, for parish, town and city council and community group representatives. Workshops, networking and equipment demonstrations. Organised by the Somerset Prepared Partnership and funded by Somerset Rivers Authority. The Resilience Awards are presented here.

This is the best date in the calendar for a parish starting from scratch. Free, on a weekday so clerks can arrange cover, and Street is reachable from most of the county.

YOUR ACTION

Book your own place, then ask one representative from each of your parishes to book. Pair this with the survey chase: the councils in Appendix A are the ones who should be in that room.

Book free tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/somerset-prepared-community-resilience-day-2026-tickets-1990766160175>

All month in libraries

Children's flood awareness treasure hunts, flood-themed book collections to borrow, story time sessions, and displays in 10 to 12 libraries. Extra activity at: Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster (displays and drop-ins); Burnham and Bridgwater (displays, rhyme times, Lego club); North Petherton and Nether Stowey (displays); Minehead and Williton (displays).

The three sessions on 26, 28 and 30 October are family workshops, and they fall in half term.

YOUR ACTION:

Promote your nearest library, framed at families for the half-term dates. If a library in your division is not listed and wants to join in, say so. There is still scope to add.

November

Winter readiness

Getting households ready before the weather arrives, not during it. Tinned food and bottled water, a working torch, a wind-up or battery radio, blankets, an alternative means of heating, and a plan for pets.

Priority Services Register. Utility companies must offer priority support to people of pensionable age, with a disability, or in long-term ill health. You have to opt in personally. It is not automatic, and most eligible people are not on it.

Questions to put to a parish directly:

- Where is your place of safety in a power cut? Has the village hall got a generator?
- Who is vulnerable, and who would check on them?
- Where would the council meet, and what are your first three actions?

YOUR ACTION

Put winter readiness on parish agendas in November, not December. Ask in October: most clerks need agenda items a week or more ahead, so a November request usually lands in December. Push the Priority Services Register: it is the highest-value thing a resident can do, and almost nobody knows it exists.

Spring 2027

Forward look

Not yet live. Please do not circulate as a confirmed programme.

Cool spaces and heatwave planning. The June 2026 heatwave prompted real interest from communities offering buildings as cool spaces, mirroring the warm spaces model.

“Love Your River” month, July 2027.

This revives something DEFRA ran some years ago. The idea is simply to improve people’s awareness, appreciation and care of their local watercourses, which will help with flooding and resilience conversations further down the line.

In development at the moment: family-friendly resources for being by the river, a poetry, prose and art competition, and activities aimed particularly at Year 6 students, who always need their time filled once SATs have finished.

More information to follow.

Appendix A

The 249 city, town and parish councils still to return the Preparedness Survey, in alphabetical order, as at 4 August 2026. Of 328 councils, 79 have returned it. Can you spot your parish?

Alford (South Somerset)	Corfe	Knowle St. Giles	Sharpham
Ansford	Corton Denham	Lamyatt	Shepton Beauchamp
Ash (South Somerset)	Cossington (Sedgemoor)	Langford Budville	Shepton Mallet
Ash Priors	Cotford St Luke	Leigh-on-Mendip	Shepton Montague
Ashill (South Somerset)	Cothelstone	Litton (Mendip)	Skilgate
Ashwick	Cranmore	Long Load	Somerton (South Somerset)
Axbridge	Crewkerne	Lovington	South Barrow
Bab Cary	Cricket St. Thomas	Lullington (Mendip)	South Cadbury and Sutton Montis
Barrington (South Somerset)	Croscombe	Luxborough	Spaxton
Barwick and Stoford	Crowcombe	Lydeard St. Lawrence	St Cuthbert Out
Batcombe (Mendip)	Cucklington	Lydford-on-Fosse	Staple Fitzpaine
Bathealton	Cudworth	Lympsham	Stawell
Bawdrip	Curland	Lyng (Sedgemoor)	Stocklinch
Beckington	Curry Mallet	Maperton	Stogumber
Beercrocombe	Cutcombe	Mark	Stogursey
Berkley	Ditcheat	Marston Magna	Stoke St Michael
Berrow (Sedgemoor)	Donyatt	Mells	Stoke St. Gregory
Bickenhall	Doultling	Merriott	Stoke sub Hamdon
Bicknoller	Dowlish Wake	Milton Clevedon	Stoke Trister
Binegar	Downhead	Milverton	Ston Easton
Bishop's Hull	Drayton (South Somerset)	Minehead Without	Stratton on the Fosse
Bradford-on-Tone	Dulverton	Misterton (South Somerset)	Street
Bratton Seymour	Dunster	Monksilver	Stringston
Brean	Durleigh	Montacute	Tellisford
Brent Knoll	Durstun	Moorlinch	The Charltons
Brewham	East Brent	Muchelney	Thornfalcon
Bridgwater	East Huntspill	Mudford	Thurloxton
Bridgwater Without	East Pennard	Nether Stowey	Tintinhull
Broadway (South Somerset)	East Quantoxhead	Nettlecombe	Tolland
Brompton Ralph	Elworthy	North Barrow	Treborough
Broomfield (Sedgemoor)	Enmore	North Cadbury	Trull
Bruton	Evercreech	North Cheriton	Upton (Somerset West and Taunton)
Brympton	Exford	North Curry	Upton Noble
Buckland Dinham	Fiddington	North Petherton	Walton (Mendip)
Buckland St Mary	Fitzhead	Norton Fitzwarren	Wambrook
Burnham Without	Fivehead	Norton St Philip	Wanstrow
Burrowbridge	Glastonbury	Norton sub Hamdon	Watchet
Burtle	Goathurst	Nynehead	Weare
Butleigh	Godney	Oare (Somerset West and Taunton)	Wedmore
Cannington	Great Elm	Odcombe	West and Middle Chinnock
Carhampton	Greinton	Orchard Portman	West Bagborough
Castle Cary	Halse	Othery	West Bradley

Catcott	Hambridge and Westport	Otterford	West Buckland
Chapel Allerton	Hardington Mandeville	Over Stowey	West Camel
Charlton Horethorne	Haselbury Plucknett	Pawlett	West Huntspill
Charlton Musgrove	Hemington (Mendip)	Pen Selwood	West Quantoxhead
Cheddar	Henstridge	Pilton (Mendip)	Westonzoyland
Cheddon Fitzpaine	High Ham	Pitcombe	Whatley
Chewton Mendip	Hinton St. George	Pitney	Whitelackington
Chilcompton	Holcombe	Porlock	Whitestaunton
Chillington	Holford	Priddy	Wincanton
Chilthorne Domer	Holton (South Somerset)	Puckington	Winsham
Chilton Polden	Horsington (South Somerset)	Puriton	Witham Friary
Chilton Trinity	Huish Champflower	Pylle	Withycombe
Chipstable	Ilchester	Queen Camel	Withypool and Hawkridge
Chiselborough	Ilton	Rimpton	Wookey
Churchstanton	Isle Abbots	Ruishton	Woolavington
Closworth	Isle Brewers	Sampford Arundel	Yarlington
Coleford (Mendip)	Keinton Mandeville	Sampford Brett	Yeovil
Combe Florey	Kilmersdon	Seavington St Mary	Yeovil Without
Combe St Nicholas	Kingsbury Episcopi	Seavington St Michael	
Compton Bishop	Kingsdon	Selwood	
Compton Dundon	Kingweston	Selworthy	

Appendix B

Schemes approved by the Community Flood Action Fund, taken from the Somerset Rivers Authority grant status record. Twenty-one schemes are listed, ranging from ditch and culvert clearance to desilting, pumps and river maintenance.

Members can check here which projects have been successful. If a parish is unsure whether its problem is fundable, the nearest match on this list is usually the answer.

Applicant	Scheme	Works dates
Cotford St Luke PC	Desilting and vegetation clearance of the attenuation pond, tree maintenance adjacent to the ponds, and amendments to the ditch and culvert system to reinstate the dry ditch	Jul 2025 to Sep 2026
Creech St Michael PC	Diesel pump	May 2025 to Jun 2026
Long Sutton PC	Install drainage pipe (Parrett: Yeo Isle)	Jun 2025
Stoke St Mary PC	Ditch and culvert maintenance and widening of existing drainage channels	May 2025 to Jan 2026
West Buckland PC	Desilting, vegetation clearance and maintenance in the watercourses off and adjacent to Asham Lane	Jun to Sep 2025
West Camel PC	River maintenance work at Higher Mill	May to Oct 2026
West Monkton PC	Vegetation clearance and ditch maintenance, including gully clearance at Blundells Lane	Apr 2025 to Mar 2026
Ruishton and Thornfalcon PC	Ditch clearance	Sep 2025
Baltonsborough PC	Weed clearing and flailing in Coxbridge Brook	Oct 2025
Croscombe PC	New access chamber on a culvert in Long Street	Jun 2026
Godney PC	Partial desilt along the Decoy Rhyne (north bank only) and a section of the St James Weir River	Sep 2025
Norton Fitzwarren PC	Programme of maintenance works in Norton Brook and Halse Water	Aug to Sep 2025
Carhampton PC	Desilting of two culverts, Eastbury Hill and the A39	Sep 2026
Isle Abbotts PC	Desilting and restoration of 90m of ditch	Sep 2026

Applicant	Scheme	Works dates
Ruishton and Thornfalcon PC	Desilting of pond	Nov 2025
Aller PC	Tree maintenance and ditch clearance	Dec 2025 to Mar 2026
Shepton Beauchamp PC	Jetting of drains feeding into culvert	Jun 2026
West Buckland PC	Desilting, vegetation clearance and maintenance in the watercourses off and adjacent to Asham Lane	Aug 2026
Ilminster TC	Clearance of blocked culvert	Sep 2026
Queen Camel PC	Culvert clearance and removal of silt, Henshallbrook along Sutton Montis Lane	Sep 2026
Yeo Rivers Community Trust	Vegetation clearance, Upper River Cam	Sep 2026

Next update of the Community Resilience Action Calendar: September 2026.

Somerset Council Community Resilience Action Calendar 2026 to 2027. Version 1.2, 11 August 2026. Compiled by Cllr Claire Sully, Associate Lead Member for Community Resilience, Somerset Council.

DRAFT

List of Overgrown vegetation in Pilton village centre with proposed actions

Street	Location	Description of issue	Land owner	Proposed Next steps	
<i>Parsons Batch</i>	Section opposite churchyard	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
	Section next to Manor	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
	Short section opposite Manor	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
<i>A361</i>	Wall of Old School House	Saplings growing on verge over 20m	Somerset Council	Report to SC	
<i>Shop Lane</i>	West side at top – Old Vicarage	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
	West side at bottom	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
<i>St Mary's Lane</i>	Opposite car park entrance	Metal tubs	Somerset Council	Request SC to remove them.	
	Opposite village hall top entrance	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
	Opposite Abbot's Way junction	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
	Left hand side coming up to A361	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
	Large tree on Right hand side coming up to junction	Needs Review		Engage with landowner	
<i>Shutwell Lane</i>	Two sections of Lavender	Light trim required		Engage with landowner	
	Opposite Church House	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
<i>Top Street</i>	Opposite Coffee Shop entrance	Yew Tree etc – needs review		Engage with landowner	
<i>Barrow Lane</i>	Both sides	Narrowing of highway		Engage with landowner	
	Brambles	Maple Tree		Engage with landowner	
	Cedar cottage	Yew		Engage with landowner	
	[Corner property]	Laurel		Engage with landowner	
	The Gable?	Tree next to wall		Engage with landowner	

<i>John Beales Hill</i>	Up towards Top Street	Light trim required		Engage with landowner	
	'Triangle'	Narrowing of highways	???	ASBOs?	
<i>Top Street</i>	Gables?	Narrowing of highways		Engage with landowner	
	South side past stream	Light trim required		Engage with landowner	
<i>East Town Lane</i>	Opposite Chantry House	Narrowing of highways		Engage with landowner	
<i>Lower Street</i>	Right hand side after turning off Neat Lane	Narrowing of highways			
	Pilton House? Cottage	Yew Tree			
<i>Mount Pleasant</i>	Right hand side going up	Drains covered over		Work party?	
<i>Bread Street</i>	Opposite Vicar's cottage	Narrowing of highways		Engage with landowner	
	Box Tree house	Narrowing of highways		Engage with landowner	
	Right hand side into Cumhill	Narrowing of highways		Engage with landowner	
<i>Ford Lane</i>	Mulberry Cottage side	Narrowing of highways		Engage with landowner	
<i>Cumhill</i>	Right hand side past Bier House	Visibility		Engage with landowner	
	Triangle of land below footpath to Tithe Barn	Needs review – state, parking, raised drain covers		PPC discussion	
	Verge outside Church	Light trim required			
<i>Pylle Road</i>	Both sides from postbox up to Orchard House	Narrowing of highways		Engage with landowners	

Annex 4 – Glastonbury Train Link

Dear Pilton Parish Council

We would like to relinquish the £2,000 pledged by Pilton Parish Council towards Glastonbury TrainLink.

We are deeply grateful for the support the Parish Council's pledge has indicated. It helped us to raise funds and pledges from others, which in turn strengthened the campaign. We are very sorry that it has not so far resulted in a bus service through Pilton. We tried, and we will continue to try, because we have found such strong evidence of the need and desire for a Glastonbury - Pilton - Cannards Grave - Prestleigh - Castle Cary service.

Now that the new 567 service has commenced, which links Glastonbury with Castle Cary station and town via Street, Butleigh, Keinton Mandeville and Lydford Cross, we are pausing the Glastonbury TrainLink campaign. We want the new bus to be able to demonstrate the strength of demand for end-to-end transport between Glastonbury and Castle Cary station. Then we can at least use it to further validate the case for a service via Pilton. I attach the timetable for the 567.

Meanwhile, we encourage you to keep asking Pilton residents and businesses how useful a via-Pilton bus would be to them. The opportunity may well arise with little warning, and the better the evidence base we have, the more likely we are to be able to bid for it.

Thank you again for your kind support,

Susannah

City, Town & Parish Preparedness Survey

NAME OF CITY/TOWN/PARISH

PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

RISK

Using a score of 0 (None) to 4 (Very Likely), please evaluate the extent to which you consider your Parish to be vulnerable to the following hazards. Where possible, please also give the date (or month and year) when this last occurred in your Parish.

	Date of Last Known Event	Score (0 - 4)
Property / Business Flooding	April 26	4
Strong Winds		2
Excessive Heat	July 26	3
Excessive Cold, Snow and Ice	Jan 26	3
Road Traffic Accidents	June 26	4
Access limited by Accidents, Road Closures or Excessive Traffic	July 26	3
Animal Disease	—	0
Terrorism and Malicious Threats	—	0
Pandemic	—	0
Radiation Incident	—	0
Industrial Incident	—	0
Power Outage	Aug 26	4
Fire	?	?

For the rest of the survey, please use the same scoring system (0-4) to self evaluate your level of preparedness as a Parish to deal with the risks you have identified.

PEOPLE

We have a very active parish, with many people volunteering in some capacity.
There is a strong sense of identity and togetherness.

2

When it comes to responding to an emergency, we have successfully recruited and retained a team of volunteers that cover all the required roles and requirements.

0

Nature of team (eg; Flood Warden Group):

PPC Triads OPERATE
IN KEY AREAS.

We have an effective training programme that covers all relevant themes, technical knowledge, interpersonal skills, confidentiality and safeguarding and local knowledge.

0

Co-ordinators can access training to give them the skills, knowledge and information they need to work effectively within the team and externally.

0

The team works effectively together and can manage any spontaneous volunteers during an emergency. There is sufficient contingency built in such that effectiveness does not suffer if some members are missing.

PLANS & PROCESSES

We have a good understanding of the hazards we face and have procedures in place to monitor and resolve any factors which might elevate risks still further

1-2

We have a comprehensive and up-to-date emergency / flood plan that informs our activity, communications and organisational structure, including current contact details for all relevant stakeholders.

3

Date when emergency / flood plan was last reviewed:

2025

We have clearly defined trigger points and a robust monitoring system (e.g. of river levels) so that there is a timely alarm that allows our emergency plans and processes to be actioned.

N/A

The organisational structure of our team is flexible, effective and able to respond to local needs and geography.

N/A

Our plans and processes define clear actions for individuals to complete during specific events and there is the necessary level of insurance cover in place to allow this to happen.

N/A

Our plans and processes and assessments of risk mean that team members will be in the right place at the right time and with the right equipment during an emergency situation.

N/A

We have a clear process to record all actions during an emergency and to subsequently review them in order to improve future responses.

N/A

We have a clear strategy and action plan in place to improve our resilience and adapt to new levels of risk as the world around us changes.

EQUIPMENT & RESOURCES

We have procedures such that all equipment and protective clothing is stored, checked, maintained and replaced as needed.

N/A

We have procedures in place that ensures that team members are trained and competent in the use of our equipment and resources.

N/A

We have well publicised and sufficiently equipped Places of Safety in the right locations to be able operate effectively during an emergency.

—

This is/these are:

We have a designated and sufficiently equipped space from which the emergency response can be successfully co-ordinated.

—

We allocate sufficient Parish resource to increasing our preparedness and resilience.

—

Total % of Parish Precept spent on this in previous financial year:
0 %

Total of Preparedness/Resilience/Adaptation Grants spent in the same period:
£ 0



COMMUNICATIONS

Our plans and processes include a clear and effective way of alerting and sharing information with team members.

Yes

All team members have a clear understanding of the significance of different alerts and what will be expected of them

N/A.

We have sufficient capable Somerset Emergency Community Contacts (SECCs) to help manage communications within the community and with external bodies (eg; with emergency services) during an emergency.

No.

Name(s) of known

SECC(s): _____

We have strong emergency response links with neighbouring parishes, keeping each other informed and supporting each other where possible

There is good mobile phone signal in all areas of our parish

No PATCHY

There is good broadband available in all areas of our parish

No

When dealing with an emergency, our chosen method(s) of communication are appropriate for our residents and our geographical context as well as the challenges and changes presented by an emergency situation.

Facebook
Parish Web Pages
Roundabout

Is there anything you else you'd like to tell us about?

Thank you for completing the survey.

As you filled out the survey and reflected on the state of readiness in your Parish, you may have identified areas where you'd like to strengthen. If you require advice, support or potentially even funding to do this, you are very welcome to contact somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk.

August 19th 2026

35	Staff Costs	19/08/2026 Month 5	H Richardson	Pilton parish Council	X	736.72		736.72	
36	Staff Costs	19/08/2026 Month 5	R England	Pilton parish Council	X	-	-	-	None this month
37	Office Costs	19/08/2026 INV20591	Scribe	Starboard Systems Ltd t/a	S	31.00	6.20	37.20	PAID DD
38	Subscriptions	19/08/2026 inv - 4)UB038-000	Parish Online	Local Authority CIC	S	80.00	16.00	96.00	Check acc details - Geosphere last year
39	webhosting	19/08/2026 Auto renew	Reimburse HR for ok-starter for piltonparishcouncil.co.uk	NameCheap	X	81.86	-	81.86	REIMBURSE
40	webhosting	19/08/2026 Auto renew	Reimburse HR for domain privacy for Piltonvillage.com	NameCheap	X	14.46	-	14.46	REIMBURSE
41	Working from Home A	19/09/2026 Month 5	H Richardson	Pilton parish Council	X	26.00		26.00	
42	Office Costs	19/09/2026	Tesco- Lever Arch file, dividers, paper, pens, staples	H Richardson	X	20.90		20.90	REIMBURSE