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| County Councillor Update  Coker Division SCC  Cllr Mark Keating  March 2020 | |  | |
| **Representing you in - Barwick, Chiselborough, Closworth, East Chinnock, East Coker, Hardington Manderville, Hardington Marsh, Hardington Moor, Haselbury Plucknett, Middle Chinnock, Montacute, North Coker, North Perrott, Norton Sub Hamdon, ​Odcombe, Pendomer, Sutton Bingham, Stoford, West Chinnock, West Coker.** | | |  | |
| **Useful Contacts Resources and Websites**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Cllr Mark Keating – Somerset County Council | E: MAKeating@Somerset.gov.uk | M: 07767 203968 | | South Somerset Area Highways Office | E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk | T: 0300 123 2224 | | Report Pothole/Road Defect | E: roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk | T: 0300 123 2224 | | Report Dead Animal/Mud on Road | E: roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk | T: 0300 123 2224 | | Neil McWilliams – Highways Service Manager | E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk | T: 0300 123 2224 | | Lee Norman/Derek Davies – Assist Highways Service Manager | E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk | T: 0300 123 2224 | | Garry Warren/Rebecca Vaughan – Traffic Engineer. Traffic & Transport Development | E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk | T: 0300 123 2224 | | Gully Emptying / Road Sweeper | E: chris.holley@southsomerset.gov.uk | T: 01935 462462 | | Nick Allen – SSDC Ranger Scheme | E: nick.allen@southsomerset.gov.uk | T: 01935 462462 | | Road Records & Highway Licensing | E: Roadrecords@Somerset.gov.uk | T: 0300 123 2224 | | |  | |

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

**Covid-19 Update:** You link to the lasted updates and information with regard to Covid-19 can be found here

[**https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/**](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/)

**Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline:** A single phone number is now available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus related support from their councils. The Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline number is **0300 790 6275.**

**Urgent appeal for protective equipment:** Businesses across Somerset are being asked to help support the local efforts in tackling COVID-19. The key items required are - Water repellent surgical face masks, Non-latex gloves, Disposable plastic aprons, Eye protection, Hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol content)

* **Public Health England -** [**https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus**](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)
* **NHS Covid-19 Advice -** [**https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/**](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)
* **Healthy Somerset -** [**https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/covid-19/**](https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/covid-19/)

**Staff Redeployment:** More than 1,100 Somerset County Council staff have signed up to be redeployed in vital new roles during the coronavirus emergency. From joining adult social care teams to distributing nearly a million items of PPE, staff are temporarily leaving their ‘day jobs’ in other departments and taking on fresh roles where the need is greatest to support our residents and communities

A total of 1,161 Council staff, along with over 300 external personnel, answered a call put out a few weeks ago and made the commitment to be redeployed as the authority continues to adapt during unprecedented times. So far nearly 100 council staff and Councillors are training to take on important roles, including with our Adult Social Care service. A further 80 staff are poised to support the Council’s registrations service as it adapts to new ways of remote working and increased demand.

Several other staff from the Council’s procurement team have taken key roles distributing vital personal protective equipment to those who need it, and members of our Business Support and Highways teams are joining the Contact Centre to help take calls from our residents.  
There are still many hundreds more staff ready to pitch in and waiting to be reassigned as priorities change over the coming days.

**Foster Carers Urgent Call to Action:** Somerset County Council is appealing for potential short-term foster carers to come forward to help children and young people during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency. Recruits will help care for children looked after, aged 0-18, and will be provided with all the support given to mainstream foster carers including a supervising social worker and weekly fee and allowance. The Council is keen to hear from those who have had an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check in the last 12 months in any other role.

It does not matter if you are single or in a relationship, if you are a homeowner or renting, or whether you have children of your own – anyone can be a foster carer. We need carers as diverse as the children in our care,

The County Council will assess candidates as COVID-19 Short Term Foster Carers completing a condensed assessment and intensive training. A home visit will be required as part of the assessment and social distancing will be maintained.

Once assessed, a panel – meeting virtually – will consider the carer and a decision can be made. If the candidate is approved as a short-term carer, they can care for a child for up to three months. There will be a review every four weeks to make sure the carer has the right support and can still care for the child.

Allowances currently start at £143.57 per week for each child, plus a minimum of £75 per week foster carer fee. Payments are higher for an older child or for those caring for more than one child. At the end of the three months, carers can consider moving towards a full fostering role or end their involvement with the child moving to alternative longer-term carers. To apply or find out more information contact Fostering In Somerset on 0800 587 9900, visit [www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk.](https://www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk/)

**Getting Involved with Virtual Council Meetings:** Somerset County Council is due to hold its first virtual committee meetings next week and people can ask a question or simply listen in. Two Scrutiny meetings are scheduled for 6 May with Scrutiny for Adults and Health starting at 9.30am, followed by Scrutiny for Children and Families at 1pm.

The press and public are welcome to listen in and ask questions as with normal council meetings. However, they must pre-register with the County Council’s Democratic Services and provide a landline or mobile telephone number so they can join the virtual meeting. The Government granted councils temporary powers to hold public meetings virtually, using video or phone conferencing, during the coronavirus pandemic due to the practicalities of social distancing and saving lives. The new regulations apply to all local authorities in England and cover all categories of public meetings including annual meetings, cabinet and committee meetings.

To pre-register or listen in to a forthcoming council meeting, please contact our Democratic Services team on 07790577336 / 07811 313837 or 07790577232 or email [democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk).

**Access Library Services on Social Media:** The number of people joining Somerset’s library service has rocketed during the coronavirus lockdown – despite library buildings being closed to the public. Hundreds of Somerset families are getting involved in a brand-new library offer – run entirely through social media! Library staff are continuing to provide a fun-filled events and activities programme using digital platforms whilst library buildings are temporarily closed.

Video story times are attracting thousands of viewers and there are activities to suit all ages, including quizzes, Lego challenges, book recommendations and even gardening tips!

To get involved, visit ‘Somerset Libraries UK’ on Facebook or find them on Twitter or Instagram and be part of the fun as library staff read live story-times and a host of other activities… all in their PJs of course!

You don’t need to be a library member to take part in any of the events and activities but it has been made even easier to join online for free – just visit [www.somersetreads.co.uk](http://www.somersetreads.co.uk) where you can also get details on how to download free books, audiobooks and even magazines. Support and information are also available by contacting 0300 123 2224 or email [librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk)