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| County Councillor Update  Coker Division SCC  Cllr Mark Keating  October 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: Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: 0300 7906275**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | 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 |  | | |

**Corona Virus Update:** Revised Government regulations mean that Somerset will now enter a period of enhanced lockdown measures aimed at stopping the spread of the Corona virus. The measures will be reviewed on or before the 2nd December. Whilst numbers in the County remain relatively lowthere has been a marked increase in the number of positive tests. As at 1st November, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 2,738 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 208. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 65.5 for Somerset with Sedgemoor at 94.8 and SW&T at 70.6. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 17% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.3 and 1.6.

I’m working as a Youth Support Worker in special educational needs, but also waiting to hear if I shall be needed to return to Hendford Court Care Home in the coming weeks to work again specifically with Covid positive patients, leaving the NHS. My time there in spring/summer was an experience, with many of our patients from this County Council area I represent.

**Please all remember: Hand Washing – Face Covering – Space!**

**Covid-19 survey:** The purpose of the Somerset Covid-19 Survey is to understand the barriers people are facing adhering to the government guidance to stop the spread of the virus. Somerset Public Health team and the Somerset Covid-19 Engagement Board want to hear from as many people as possible across the county so that they can use the feedback to further shape the local response to the pandemic. The survey will cover a includes Covid-19 testing, whether people have become more isolated as a result of the pandemic, how the guidance around local alert levels and the Hands, Face, Space campaign has been understood, as well as views on how others are adhering to the guidance. The survey will close on Friday 13 November. To take part go to: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/covidsurvey>

**2021 Primary School Places:** Applications for Primary School places in 2021 need to be made through Somerset County Council’s website: [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/#starting-school) The deadline for submissions is Friday, 15 January 2021.

**Somerset Says NO Child Will Go Hungry:** During October I was speaking/campaigning for Somerset County Council ([www.Twitter.com/CllrMarkKeating](http://www.Twitter.com/CllrMarkKeating)) to do more to ensure that no child in Somerset could fall below the radar and go hungry during half term, the Christmas break or other school holidays during this pandemic. I was delighted on 25th October to have it confirmed that Somerset County Council issued a plea for families in need of urgent food supplies to contact the Coronavirus helpline and confirmed it is stepping up its efforts to provide more school holiday support with a £125,000 scheme. The Council rightly continues to lobby government for further funding.

Currently the council works alongside community organisations and businesses to provide much needed meals and food for families most at need. But families who are struggling should contact the Coronavirus helpline, run by all councils in Somerset, to ask for support. That number is: 0300 790 6275

Please could every Parish Council do all they can at this time to make this information known locally. It’s a common misconception that hardship is only experienced in our towns and not our villages.

**Winter Gritting:** SCC’s fleet of 23 Gritters will be maintaining the extended gritting service of last year, with approximately 900 miles of road up for treatment in 2020/21. SCC treat over a fifth of Somerset’s roads and the main priority is to keep the busiest routes clear whenever ice or snow is expected. For more information about Somerset County Council’s winter service programme, including a searchable map showing all the roads treated, please visit [www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting) and follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter.

**Climate Emergency Strategy:** The Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy which identifies key priorities to reduce the carbon footprint across the County and achieve Carbon neutrality by 2030 has been written with the assistance of over 5,000 residents who took part in the survey and drop in events. The strategy will now be presented to the SCC Full Council meeting on 18th November for endorsement.

**One Somerset:** The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, has written to all council leaders in Somerset inviting them to submit their business cases for Local Government Reform by 9 November 2020 with final supporting submissions to MHCLG by 9th December. It is then expected that the Secretary of State will make a decision in early summer 2021.

**Somerset Youth Parliament:** Somerset Youth Parliament and Somerset County Council are encouraging schools, colleges and youth projects across the county to have their say, make a difference and ensure young people’s voices are heard on key issues. The online British Youth Council survey encourages all young people aged 11 to 18 years to vote on issues which are most important to them. These top issues will then be debated and voted on by elected Members of Youth Parliament, helping create the next UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) manifesto. Individuals, schools, clubs and youth projects are able to register and find out more online at [www.byc.org.uk](http://www.byc.org.uk)

**Family Safeguarding:** A new way to support children and families in Somerset has been launched with the aim of strengthening families to overcome their issues and thereby reducing the number of children needing to come into care. Somerset County Council, in partnership with The YOU Trust and the Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS), has created the ‘Family Safeguarding Team’ – a new way of working that will transform how support is given to children and families in the county. A really helpful YouTube video has been created to explain the approach, which can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/u2WMlCx8KTY>

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**Stepping Stone Placements:** More homes are urgently needed in Somerset to provide vital support to young people as they move from care into adulthood. With more than 300 young care leavers in Somerset currently the demand for placements far outweighs availability. ‘Stepping Stones’ providers receive a weekly fee, starting at £185 per week, plus a little extra for food and utilities (up to £27.50) paid weekly by the young person from their allowance. Providers are also eligible for the same tax exemptions and relief as foster carers, but have much more flexibility to work full or part-time alongside their care role. If you have a spare room and would like to help, please visit www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call 0800 5879900