

District Councillor Report to East Chinnock PC, April 2021

District Council News

- **Dates for your diary! 19th April is the deadline for:**
 - **Registering to vote:** <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>
(applying for a postal vote deadline is 20th April:
<https://www.gov.uk/.../publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>)
 - **Responding to the gov's unitary consultation:** <https://bit.ly/unitaryauthority>
Don't forget:
 - Taking powers away from Taunton, and bringing them closer to the areas they affect, is the way to make Somerset stronger than it is now
 - On the other hand, centralising power and handing it over to fewer councillors/officers in Taunton will be bad for our rural area and result in worse services
 - A recent IPSOS MORI poll clearly showed the 2 unitary option was more popular amongst residents
- **The Zwings e-scooter trial is now in Crewkerne (and Chard)!** Users need to download the Zwings app, as well as hold a driving license. It costs £1 to unlock a scooter, then you pay 15p per mile. More details can be found [here](#)
- **Help with Council Tax.** Council Tax bills have been hitting door mats across the district. South Somerset DC is one of the few councils in the country that offers a 100% discount to the most hard-up. Anyone who is struggling to pay can seek help and advice here: <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/discountsandexemptions>
- **£23million redevelopment of the Octagon Theatre has been given the green light!** SSDC's bid for a £10 million grant from the Government was also successful, meaning less financial risk for the Council. These are exciting times for the Octagon, the local economy, and the arts & culture scene in South Somerset. More info [here](#).

Coronavirus response

- Numbers appear to be rising in Crewkerne, Yeovil, and Chard - **please remain vigilant with mask wearing, and handwashing** - particularly as lockdown eases
- *There is still one Somerset-wide contact number for covid enquiries: 0300 790 6275*

Planning

- Nothing on my desk at the moment.

Casework relevant to East Chinnock

- n/a

Upcoming Events

- Next Full Council - 15th April
- Area West - 19th May

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