

Councillor Update

*From your
Unitary Councillors
Andy Sully and Mike Rigby*



**Somerset
Council**

£22 Million Fund to Help Somerset Residents Through Financial Crisis



Somerset Council has received £22.6 million from the Government over three years to support residents facing financial hardship. Citizens Advice Somerset has been appointed to lead the scheme, working alongside partners including Age UK Somerset and Somerset Community Foundation to provide crisis payments, debt advice, budgeting support and employment guidance. Residents can apply via citizensadvice.somerset.org.uk or by calling 0808 278 7842.

Residents across Somerset who are feeling the financial squeeze can access a range of free local support — from food pantries and help with heating bills to mental health advice and assistance with rent and everyday essentials. Full details at: somerset.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support

Somerset Council Bids to Reopen Cleeve Hill Road



Somerset Council has submitted a bid to the Government's Structures Fund for a £30–40 million scheme to reopen the B3191 at Cleeve Hill near Watchet, which has been closed to vehicles since 2023 due to cliff instability. The funding would go towards either stabilising the existing route or redirecting it inland, with a decision yet to be confirmed.

Are You Making the Most of Your Food Waste Recycling?



If you're already recycling your food waste, give yourself a pat on the back — but a couple of simple checks could make your efforts even more effective. Food waste recycling is one of the easiest ways households can make a real difference to the environment. When food scraps are collected separately, they can be turned into energy and fertiliser rather than ending up in landfill. Find out more at: [somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/join-the-food-waste-revolution-in-somerset](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/join-the-food-waste-revolution-in-somerset)

Somerset Leisure Centres Kept Open After Operator Collapse



Somerset Council has moved swiftly to keep gyms, pools and leisure centres in Frome, Wells, Glastonbury and Street open after operator Fusion Lifestyle went into administration. The Council has agreed funding for three months to ensure time to appoint a new operator. The Shepton Mallet Lido has opened as expected on 1st May. Members are encouraged to keep using the facilities and maintain their memberships as usual.

Record 99% of Somerset Children Get Primary School of Their Choice



Somerset Council has announced that 99.43% of the 4,938 families who applied for a primary school place this year were offered one of their top three preferences — a record high. Of those, 95.38% received their first-choice school. Children will begin at their new schools in September 2026.

Somerset's Public Health Chief Urges Residents to Get Free Heart Check



Somerset's Director of Public Health, Alison Bell, is encouraging eligible residents to book a free NHS Health Check after having one herself. The checks, available to those aged 40–74 with no pre-existing heart conditions, assess cardiovascular health and risk of conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and stroke. Appointments are available at libraries and community venues across the county including Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Wellington, Minehead, Porlock, Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Street, Highbridge, Wells and Wincanton. [Book your appointment here.](#)

For full article see: somerset.gov.uk/news/director-of-public-health-leads-from-the-front-with-nhs-health-check/

*Best wishes to you all,
Andy and Mike*

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